

McDowell Co. Tourism Dev. Authority & Visitor Center

828-668-4282

www.mcdowellinc.org

25 West Main Street

Old Fort

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management and Reduction

Choose local vendors to reduce transport of items

Utilize and provide staff and customers video conferencing/teleconferencing to minimize travel to meetings

Solid Waste Management, Reduction, Reuse, & Recycling

Purchase products in reusable, returnable containers

Eliminate use of Styrofoam and other difficult to recycle products

Donate leftover cookware, silverware, and linens to charity

Donate unused food to a community food bank/compost site

Purchase products such as condiments, cleaning supplies, and other products in bulk/concentrated form

Offer reusable products such as glass cups, cotton linens, and refillable condiment dispensers

Distribute condiments and napkins from behind the counter/on request

Give preference to products with high post-consumer recycled content

Ensure that printed materials are printed on paper with high recycled content (at least 35%) and print using soy-based ink

Purchase antiques and furniture from local vendors

Recycle damaged towels and sheets as cleaning rags and craft torn linens into other usable items (e.g. sheets into pillowcases)

Reuse newspaper, shredded paper, and incoming packaging materials for packing/shipping needs

When reusable options are not feasible, use disposable products that are compostable such as corn-based cutlery

Purchase recyclable toner cartridges

Use non-bleached paper napkins, towels, and coffee filters

Provide alternatives to individual plastic water bottles such as water pitchers/point of use water filters

Install high-efficiency air hand dryers, cloth/roll-up type to minimize paper towel usage

Use rechargeable batteries

Provide cigarette disposal bins in smoking areas

Purchase durable goods of sufficient quality to allow reuse, refinishing, or reupholstering

Ensure proper disposal of hazardous materials

Use preventative maintenance on equipment to reduce risk of replacement

Selecting printers/photocopiers able to print on both sides

Distributing information to guests/participants via email and avoiding hard copy

Avoid use of fax cover sheets

Distribute inter-office documents using routing slips, bulletin boards, or email distributions rather than printing copies for staff members

Using both sides of printing paper and using the reverse side of printing paper for printing rough drafts

Streamlining operational systems that rely on paper or hard copies

Reuse envelopes for inter-office mail

Set and use fax and copy machines to copy documents directly to computers rather than printing a new copy

Recycles the Following: Aluminum, Glass, Office mix, Batteries, Yard waste, Electronics, Plastic, Corrugated cardboard, Newspaper, Printer cartridges

Freshwater Consumption Reduction

Conduct regular inspections and establish preventative maintenance schedules to ensure maximum efficiency

Educate staff on water conservation and best practices

Discourage water-based cleanup and use alternatives such as microfiber technology

Install low-flow aerators on sinks (1.5 gal/min)

Use air-cooled ice machines rather than according to an established schedule

Establish frequency schedule according to local climate, season, and landscaped area in order to maximize water use efficiency

Limit lawn areas and/or use xeriscaping

Water landscapes only when necessary

Time watering to occur in the early morning or evening when evaporation is the lowest

Remove any thatch and aerate turf to encourage the movement of water to the root zone

Do not water on windy, rainy, or overly hot days

Mulch around plants to limit evaporation and discourage weed growth

Avoid hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots

Wastewater Management

Ensure proper use, storage, and disposal of cleaning products and other potentially harmful chemicals such as fertilizers and paints

Limit the number of chemical products used and stored

Ensure that all chemicals are securely stored and clearly marked

Use less harmful alternatives if possible such as organic substitutes for chemical fertilizers

Monitor equipment and products for potential chemical leaks

Use latex paints rather than oil based paints

Use environmentally safe cleaning products