



## **County wins some green for going green**

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### **FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

In its continuing effort to Go Green, York County recently won some green for its ongoing environmental initiatives.

At the Virginia Municipal League's annual conference this week, the county was awarded \$2,000 for winning second place in its population category for VML's "Go Green Virginia" Green Government Challenge.

The Green Government Challenge sorts environmental programs and initiatives into various categories and then awards a certain number of points for each completed element. The maximum achievable number of points is 200, with 100 being the qualifying number for "Green Government" designation.

The county started the challenge last year, and earned the Green Government title. VML continued the competition this year, challenging participating localities to strive for different levels of certification.

Always up for a challenge, General Services Director Bob Peters led his staff in conducting internal energy audits of various county buildings and making adjustments to improve energy performance, to include installation of more energy-efficient lighting. This year's submission also included two other ongoing county programs – the county's Blueways initiative, which promotes environmental awareness on the York River, and the paperless on-line-only job application program, a web-based program that eliminates the use of paper job applications. These initiatives helped earn the county the necessary points to be Gold Certified in the Green Government Program.

The effort also put the county in second place for the 15,001 – 90,000 population category.

"This has been a great challenge for us, both to see how environmentally-friendly the county has been for years, and to look for areas where we can be even better," Peters said. "To win a cash prize on top of that is just icing on the cake."

For more information on the steps York County has taken to become a "Green Government," please contact Director Bob Peters at 890-3833. For more information on the Virginia Municipal League's "Go Green Virginia" initiative, visit [www.gogreenva.org](http://www.gogreenva.org).

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