



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Ayers Creek Adventures

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www.ayerscreekadventures.com

Eco-tours, canoe and kayak outfitters

Member since February 2010

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

"Ayers Creek Adventures is committed to limiting its impact on the environment. We are committed to initiating and completing projects to further reduce our environmental impact. Our commitment extends our staff, our customers, and the community in which we operate.

We are committed to:

- *Comply with all applicable environmental regulations*
- *Reduce waste through reduced consumption, reuse, and recycling*
- *Purchase carbon offsets in compensation for all electric usage*
- *Follow the "Leave No Trace" principles*
- *Communicate our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community*
- *Continuously improve over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year."*

Signed by Ayers Creek Adventures Owners, Lari Sue Taylor and Steven B. Taylor

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Ayers Creek Adventures purchasing policy is designed to minimize our ecological footprint while maintaining business viability and supporting local businesses.

It is our policy to make local vendors our first choice for all equipment, supplies, and services. This policy serves several purposes including:

- *Reduction in carbon footprint for manufacture and transport of equipment and supplies, and*
- *Support for local business and economy – keep dollars circulating in the OC/Berlin area*

In addition to purchasing local products, we purchase environmentally certified products when available and financially practical. Examples include

- *Company shirts, hats, etc made with organic materials and dyes,*
- *FSC or other certified lumber and building materials,*
- *Energy Star qualified appliances, and*
- *Energy Star qualified CFLs, LEDs, and other lighting solutions.*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Our business is an environmental based business. Our primary mission is to increase awareness and appreciation of the magnificent natural resources along Maryland's Eastern Shore through the offering of eco tours and improved access to Ayers Creek and the waterways of Maryland's coastal bays. Our customers will take away an appreciation for the waterways and improved knowledge on how they can better care for the bays and the overall environment.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

We are active in the Maryland Coastal Bays program and will be participating in the annual beach sweeps, sponsoring events such as the Osprey Challenge Triathlon, and providing several free or discounted trips to schools and children's groups.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction

It is our policy to only use refillable water bottles for our staff. We will also encourage our customers to use reusable water bottles. We will have refillable water bottles available for sale, which we will fill with filtered tap water for clients wishing to purchase water for their trip.

Where possible we will purchase gently used gear and equipment for our business. We will also resell or donate used gear and equipment after it has reached the end of its business life.

Recycling

We have designated containers for both staff and customers for recycling of glass, metal, plastic, and paper products. We also compost appropriate food waste.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Our office is also our home and is new construction. We will begin measuring energy efficiency once we take occupancy. We have employed as many green building practices as possible including:

- *Spray Foam Insulation 7 inch R value (twice that of fiberglass)*
- *Geothermal heating/cooling system*
- *Strictly limited use of vinyl and plastic products – used cement fiberboard siding and wood trim only.*
- *Go Green Painting and Home Improvements (another Maryland Green Registry member) which uses certified low VOC paints*
- *Orientation of building – Most of the glass is on southern exposure with virtually no glass on the northern exposure. We are also taking advantage of the many deciduous trees on the southern exposure.*
- *Reforestation ½ acre of property with native trees*
- *MEASUREMENT – Using a Home Energy Saver Calculator, our annual energy savings estimate based on the use of spray foam insulation over traditional fiber glass is*

Energy: 4,181 kWh and 25 therms

CO₂ Emissions: 6,032 lbs.

Transportation

Employee Commute

We run our business from our own property so there is zero commute for the two primary employees. One part time helper lives only one mile away and walks or bikes weather permitting.

Other



We are members/supporters of:

- *DLITE – Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences*
- *Leave No Trace – We run our company according to the leave no trace principals found at <http://www.Int.org/programs/principles.php>*

We will be purchasing carbon off sets through our web hosting provider when our site is up and running within the next month.



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

