



Regulations governing use of sustainable practices and products, recycling and energy conservation for The Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust.

The Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust was founded thirty years ago, in part to conserve the natural resources of our island. In our community efforts and educational programs, we have tried to promote the message of sustainability both locally and globally. We serve as a recycling center for the community and are founding members of the Vieques Recycling Partnership a subset of the Puerto Rico Recycling Partnership. We are also members of the Working Group of the White House Sustainability Vieques. Our award winning Manta program teaches young people about the environmental crisis, effects and possible remedies to the problems related to waste, pollution, waste of water and electricity. Among our many projects on sustainability and reduced environmental impact, we are starting a program in the hope to reduce the use of disposable products and increase recycled material.

In 2015 the scientific community has established, with no level of doubt, that our pollution, waste management and energy consumption is directly affecting the nature of our planet. Scientists and governments ensure that these impacts are reaching levels that would cause irreversible loss of organisms, ecosystems, human life and innumerable economic and social costs that will severely alter the way we live.

It is for these and many other reasons we should be setting an example necessary for all citizens to improve our quality of life and monumental negative impact never seen before that we are suffering worldwide. How can we preach environmentalism and conservation if we do not start in our own home?

I formally and respectfully request that a board member presents a motion to the board of directors of the VCHT to use the following rules will be adopted in all activities carried out in the Trust or sponsored by our organization. These rules shall be considered official rules of the organization and must only be amended according to new scientific information or laws established by the local, state or federal government. The rules must apply not only to employees of the VCHT, but also its volunteers, interns, board members. exceptions based on approval of emergency situations where there is not a viable option as an alternative is determined. On these occasions singular exceptions are allowed and which are accompanied by a talk on why we have the rule.

The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust prohibits the use of the following products or practices in their facilities, excursions, educational programs and other activities sponsored by the organization:

- the use of disposable plastic food or beverages is prohibited

- the use of disposable water bottles is prohibited
- using "Styrofoam" for all applications except packaging or to isolate or protect equipment or products is prohibited
- the use of disposable plastic bags is prohibited, except garbage bags of trash cans
- using disposable straws is prohibited, except when a medical condition or special requirement
- It requires that all recyclable material is deposited in the designated containers
- Any office should keep the light off while no staff in it
- All electronic equipment must be completely turned off by closing operations except security equipment, aquarium, laboratory or other equipment requiring stay on for its function.
- The VCHT will not install indoor and outdoor lights that are considered noctiluminic pollution
- only install or purchase equipment and products that are considered high efficiency under "*Energystar*" parameters were purchased or similar certifications
- The use of rechargeable batteries is promoted and should be pursued as a policy
- installation and seeking funds for alternative energy is promoted and should be pursued as a policy
- the use of chemicals or substances that are considered highly harmful to the environment and the use of green cleaning promotes is prohibited. Ecologically accepted guidelines or certifications should be established for use and disposal of products
- Spills or dumping are prohibited on the street
- proper use of water is encouraged and excessive or unnecessary use of water is prohibited. Installation of water catchment mechanisms is promoted and compliance with the recommendations of the guide "*watersense*"
- It requires that all office paper meets the SFI and have a level of recycling

It is recommended that all family members composing members, employees, volunteers, students, interns and collaborators Conservation and Historical Trust of Vieques, join this effort in their households and other affiliations, to make significant changes in order to improve our quality of life in the natural environment, local and planetary health.

We are part of the last defenders of nature that can save the planet and its inhabitants from a loss of all that we love. Including humans.