

## Be part of the solution

So much of the progress we have made in restoring our waterways is a result of the great work our residents are doing to change their practices and adopt more sustainable behaviors. These PEARL HOMES are all over Virginia Beach. PEARL HOMES are places where people care about our community and our environment and want to do what they can to live responsibly and help protect our resources.

Our daily habits and decisions make a difference. Whether you have installed a rain garden or rain barrel, made a pledge to "Scoop the Poop" or switched to a reusable water bottle and reusable grocery bags, you are helping to bring our waterways back to life, and we would like to recognize your efforts.

It takes a community to restore and protect our waterways. We know how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful place. Water is a large part of our daily enjoyment, our recreation, our local food and our livelihoods. We all want to do our part to restore the health of all of our waterways and protect them for future generations to enjoy.

Virginia Beach residents, please fill out this application to become a PEARL HOME and help us show the community the great work you are doing.

### Check off the things you are doing to Make a Difference.

If you are a Virginia Beach resident and can check off **at least 15 of these actions**, you qualify as a PEARL HOME. To thank you for your environmentally friendly actions, Lynnhaven River NOW would like to present you with a Pearl Home flag or magnet to proudly display in your yard or on your front door.

## I have and/or continue to:

### IN MY HOME

- Use a reusable, refillable bottle instead of single-use bottled water
- Consistently recycle or reuse items
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Purchase energy-efficient (Energy Star) appliances
- Install low-flow faucets and/or toilets
- Install energy-efficient windows
- Increase insulation inside home
- Install a new, energy-efficient heating/cooling system
- Dispose of household hazardous waste (batteries, paint, etc.) properly
- Keep a grease can in kitchen for proper disposal
- Reduce or eliminate use of the garbage disposal
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use
- Unplug electronics when not in use
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs
- Compost kitchen waste
- Recycle old, used electronic devices, and printer cartridges
- Open blinds/curtains to help with heating in winter, close to help with cooling in summer
- Use non-toxic, environmentally safe, biodegradable cleaning products
- Grow house plants to improve indoor air quality
- Turn off water in bathroom sink while brushing teeth
- Take short showers to conserve water
- Install a low-flow shower head
- Replace kitchen paper towels and bathroom tissues with 100% recycled rolls
- Run only full loads in dishwasher
- Run only full loads of laundry
- Participate in recycling programs in addition to municipal recycling (i.e. Gimme 5, H & M, plastic bags)
- Install aerators in faucets to reduce water use
- Buy groceries and household items in bulk packages to reduce packaging and/or shipping materials
- Use washable, cloth napkins and towels instead of paper
- Replace plastic wrap with waxed-cloth alternatives
- Purchase package-free foods
- Replace disposable items with eco-friendly versions (biodegradable floss, bamboo toothbrush, etc.)
- Reuse shipping materials when sending packages
- Repurpose packaging for storage or other household uses

## I have and/or continue to:

### OUTSIDE MY HOME

- Pledge to Scoop the Poop
- Display Scoop the Poop sticker on city trash can or in building common area
- Reduce lawn area by converting to planted, landscaped beds
- Choose native plants for landscape
- Remove non-native, invasive plants from landscape
- Plant a tree
- Install a rain barrel or cistern to reduce storm water runoff from property
- Install infiltration trench or dry wall to reduce runoff from property
- Install a rain garden to reduce runoff from property
- Get soil test results before applying any fertilizer and reduce, as able
- Use Bti dunks to kill mosquitos in standing water
- Implement a nutrient management plan for property
- Install a buffer garden between lawn and waterway and/or street
- Compost leaves and grass clippings
- Raise mower blades to 3-inches or higher to slow runoff and keep turf grass healthier
- Turn off sprinklers and irrigate only when soil probe specifies need
- Keep gutter area clear of dirt, leaves and debris so rain doesn't transport them to the storm drain
- Redirect downspouts into planted beds and away from paved (impervious) surfaces
- Install pervious pavers in place of concrete or blacktop
- Install homes, such as brush piles and native bee houses, for challenged wildlife populations
- Create backyard habitat for wildlife
- Switch to electric mower or manual push mower
- Line dry laundry whenever possible
- Grow some of my own vegetables, herbs or fruits
- Install a bat box to encourage native bats for natural insect control
- Convert swimming pool to saltwater system
- Discharge pool into a sanitary sewage drain (not storm drain) or across yard
- Install solar panels for electrical needs
- Use a certified "Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional" for lawn and landscaping needs
- Ask lawncare provider for waterway-friendly, low-fertilizer plan option
- Wash car on lawn instead of driveway or use carwash that recycles water
- Recycle motor oil from oil change
- Sweep fertilizer off driveways, sidewalks and road

There are many ways to "green" a home and be kind to our local waterways. Here's what I am doing in my home that isn't listed in this application:

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Pearl Home flag and magnet

## I have and/or continue to:

### ON THE WATER

- Grow oysters for conservation reefs in Virginia Beach waterways
- Install oyster castles or an oyster reef along shoreline
- Display a Lynnhaven River NOW Clean Boating sticker on boat
- Pump out holding tank on boat
- Use marine-approved cleaning products for boat
- Obey all "no wake" zones to reduce shoreline erosion
- Remove broken fishing line, hooks and derelict equipment from environment; dispose of properly
- Install Turtle Excluders on crab pots
- Maintain shoreline as a natural, vegetated buffer
- Replace failed bulkhead or hardened shoreline with living shoreline



\* Virginia Green is a state-run program. Get details at [Virginia.org/green](http://Virginia.org/green).

## I have and/or continue to:

### IN THE COMMUNITY

- Purchase a yearly membership in Lynnhaven River NOW to help support their work
- Support Lynnhaven River NOW by registering my Kroger Rewards Card or shopping AmazonSmile
- Help with a Lynnhaven River NOW cleanup or another community cleanup
- Serve on a Lynnhaven River NOW committee
- Attend a Lynnhaven River NOW presentation through my club or civic organization
- Participate in a Lynnhaven River NOW workshop or program
- Participate as a Lynnhaven River NOW Citizen Science Volunteer
- Install watershed storm drain markers in neighborhood or adopt a storm drain
- Own a more fuel-efficient vehicle
- Drive fewer miles, eliminating unnecessary trips
- Use public transportation, walk or bike for regular transportation
- Communicate with one of my elected officials about an environmental issue
- Pick up litter and dispose of properly
- Do not release balloons into the environment; instead, dispose of properly
- Do not feed ducks and geese
- Properly dispose of cigarette butts (even if not mine)
- Join Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program
- Buy locally made or grown food and products
- Buy organically grown food products
- Take my own, reusable carryout containers to restaurants
- Eat at Virginia Green-certified\* restaurants
- Use Virginia Green\* website when planning to travel in-state
- Support restaurants that participate in an oyster shell recycling program, such as LRNow's Save Our Shell program
- Refuse plastic, disposable straws at restaurants
- Buy secondhand goods at thrift and consignment stores
- Support Lynnhaven River NOW Pearl Businesses in our community
- Support restaurants and grocers that locally source food items
- Consistently use reusable grocery bags when shopping
- Recruit other Pearl Homes and/or encourage Pearl Neighborhood Program

## Want to be a Pearl Home?

Every person and every home can make a difference. This program is free to all Virginia Beach residents.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood/Community Association \_\_\_\_\_

School Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Which would you prefer to receive to display at your home?

Flag  Magnet

*Garden flag comes with stand. Magnet is appropriate for metal exterior doors.*

My home is a:

- Single-Family Home
- Townhome
- Condominium
- Apartment
- Mobile Home
- Tiny Home
- House Boat
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

And I:  Own  Rent  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your application in person or by mail to the Lynnhaven River Now office at the Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

Or, scan it and email it to [office@LRNow.org](mailto:office@LRNow.org). An e-version of the application can be completed at [LRNow.org](http://LRNow.org).

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date application rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Event or method rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Flag or magnet? *(Circle which was distributed)*

Date distributed \_\_\_\_\_



[LRNOW.ORG](http://LRNOW.ORG)

# Pearl Home Application

ANY VIRGINIA BEACH HOME CAN BE A PEARL HOME



[LRNOW.ORG](http://LRNOW.ORG)