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## For Immediate Release

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### Governor Kaine Signs Executive Order to Efficiency and Reduce Environmental Impact of Government

–Directs executive branch agencies to further reduce energy consumption and costs, announces "Green Commonwealth"–

**RICHMOND** — Governor Timothy M. Kaine today issued **Executive Order 53** to significantly expand efforts to reduce the energy and environmental impact of state agencies and institutions. As part of the Governor's Renew Virginia initiative, the order encourages energy and water efficient buildings, encourages reductions in employee travel and will minimize the use of disposable materials.

"Virginians are blessed to inhabit a state with tremendous natural beauty that support our economy," Governor Kaine said. "Because the Commonwealth's operation is so large, any action we take to reduce our environmental impact will have a significant effect. I am hopeful that by reducing the environmental impact of government operations, the Commonwealth can inspire private businesses and industry to take similar measures."

### Green Commonwealth Challenge

As part of the Executive Order, Governor Kaine also issued the "Green Commonwealth Challenge" to engage the state workforce in the greening of government. Agencies that choose to participate will report to the Secretary of Natural Resources on the following for the period of June 15 through November 15, 2009:

- The number of in-person meetings avoided through the use of video conferences and conference calls, as well as an estimate of travel miles avoided
- The number of different materials included in the agency's inventory
- Electricity bills for the months of July, August and September 2009

The Secretary of Natural Resources will develop a scoring system and will identify the three highest-scoring agencies by December 15, 2009.

State employees are also invited to submit suggestions to reduce the environmental impact to the Department of Human Resource Management.

Suggestion Program. The employee who submits the best idea, determined by the Governor and Secretaries of Administration and Natural Resources, will receive

## **Environmental Management Systems**

Executive Order 82 directs all executive branch agencies and institutions to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) or adopt and post to their websites policies concerning the use of energy and water, waste reduction and travel that address their environmental impacts. If an EMS is not developed, adopted policies

- Reduce energy use by powering down computers when not needed, and reducing after-school and exterior lights when not needed, and reducing after-school and cooling systems.
- Reduce water use by eliminating leaks, minimizing use of water, and reduced frequency of watering, timing of watering, and use of drought-tolerant plants.
- Reduce waste by reducing consumption of paper and disposing of paper, plastic, batteries, and other waste through recycling of white and mixed paper, plastic, batteries, and other waste.
- Reduce travel expenses by encouraging carpooling, video conferencing, and by purchasing alternative fuels.

## **Green Buildings**

The Governor also ordered all executive branch agencies and institutions to enter a phase for construction or renovation of a building to meet certain criteria for silver or Green Globes two-globe standards.

When a Commonwealth agency or institution is to lease space or build a building in a metropolitan area with public transportation, it will seek to lease or build a building near a transit or commuter rail stop and also seek locations that are pedestrian-friendly.

## **Procurement Standards**

The Department of General Services and Virginia Information Technologies Agency will issue specifications to encourage the use of recycled content, durable equipment, and energy-efficient components. Agencies will also work to reduce the use of toxic substances, thereby minimizing the discharge of pollutants. Agencies must also work to reduce the weight and toxicity of packaging.

The Department of General Services will also require new vehicle acquisitions to meet the following standards:

- Beginning July 1, 2010, the procurement of diesel fuel containing 20 percent biodiesel fuel or green diesel fuel, except for public safety and other essential uses;
- Banning the purchase of individual sized plastic water bottles for use in offices;
- The purchase or leasing of Energy Star rated appliances as required in Executive Order 48;
- The purchase of only recycled paper for use in copiers, fax machines, and other office equipment, as previously required in Executive Order 48;
- The use of "Virginia Green" certified facilities for meetings and other events.

## **Commuting to Work**

The Executive Order requires that all agencies implement transit and programs, such as incentivizing transit by providing free passes while parking. Agencies and institutions should also use telecommuting to t traffic congestion and reduce emissions.

To encourage this initiative, Governor Kaine has declared Monday, A Telework Day" and requests that the directors of state agencies and i sector employers allow as many citizens as possible to telecommute

Executive Order 82 expands on Executive Order 48, which Governor To view both executive orders, visit the Governor's website at: [www.g](#)

Today's signing comes as Governor Kaine continues to move forward initiative, a series of legislative and executive actions focused on pror creating green jobs, and encouraging preservation of the environmen

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