



PATRICK EVANS-HYLTON PHOTOS

Croc's 19th Street Bistro was commended for being the state's first certified green restaurant. Owners Kal and Laura Habr show off their certificate, with Virginia Green outreach coordinator Tom Griffin and Duff Kliever of Cox, Kliever and Co., the agency that did many of the renovations.

Croc's Bistro is winner of green certification

Just a few weeks back I told you that Croc's 19th Street Bistro was planning to go green, making the place more environmentally friendly. Well, word from proprietors Kal and Laura Habr is mission accomplished – and recognized.

Last week, the state of Virginia awarded the Oceanfront eatery its first Virginia Green restaurant certification. Virginia Green is the commonwealth's new campaign promoting environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of the Virginia tourism and hospitality industry. The program is voluntary.

The certification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Pollution Prevention marks Croc's as the first restaurant in the state to meet the program's core activities for restaurants, which includes recycling bottles and grease, minimizing use of Styrofoam and other disposables and being more water and energy efficient.

Croc's has also gone through a series of renovations that include adding carpet tiles containing 45 percent re-

cycled content, color-corrected fluorescent lighting, water-efficient toilets and urinals and Freon-free bar service coolers.

"We are proud of the recognition, and of our other efforts, like adding sustainable and organic items to the menu, instituting a recycling program and establishing a smoke-free environment," said Laura Habr.

The Virginia Beach Convention Center also received recognition for its green efforts, getting the commonwealth's first convention center Virginia Green certification.

This includes all aspects of the facility, including the building's food and beverage operation. Part of the initiative includes using bio-degradable and recyclable materials in concession stands, and donating food overages to homeless shelters.

The Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, operator of the convention center, has officially joined as a Virginia Green partner and encourages other area restaurants and hotels to implement the program.

About the business

Croc's is at 620 19th St. Call 428-5444 or visit www.crocs19thstreetbistro.com.

For more information about the convention center, visit www.vbfun.com/conventioncenter

For more information about Virginia Green, visit www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen



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