* Content pulled from Pearl Homes online application, hosted here:
* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYWTCSP?sm=GCT6sSkzH45yvWUCSPZVzA%3d%3d>
* Landscape:
* Reduced my lawn area and converted it to a planted bed
* Chose native plants for my landscape and avoided invasive species
* Planted a tree
* Installed a rain barrel or cistern to reduce the runoff from my property
* Installed a rain garden to reduce runoff, hold storm water and give it a chance to infiltrate
* Grew oysters for our conservation reefs
* Consistently recycle or reuse
* Reduced my fertilizer use to be more water friendly
* Got a soil test before applying any fertilizer
* Installed a Buffer Garden between my lawn and the waterway or between my lawn and the street
* Raised the mower blades to 3 inches or higher to keep the lawn a little longer and healthier
* Turned off the sprinklers and irrigated less frequently, only when really needed
* Redirected my downspout into a planted bed away from paved surfaces
* Installed pervious pavers in place of concrete or blacktop
* Switched to an electric mower or a push mower
* Installed a living shoreline
* Grow some of my own fruits and vegetables
* Community:
* Helped with one of LRNow's River Cleanups during the past year
* Installed Lynnhaven River storm drain markers in my neighborhood
* Became a member of Lynnhaven River NOW and helped support our work
* Serve on one of LRNow's Committees
* Communicated with one of my elected officials about an environmental issue
* Kept the gutter area in front of my home clear of dirt, leaves and debris to prevent these from going into the storm water drain
* Did not feed ducks and geese
* Created a backyard habitat for wildlife
* Pledge to "Scoop the Poop" if you are a pet owner
* Installed a "Scoop the Poop" sticker on my black trash can
* Composted leaves, grass clippings and kitchen waste
* Dispose of hazardous waste properly (batteries, paint, etc)
* Buy locally made products whenever possible
* Appliances & transportation:
* Installed a programmable thermostat or purchased energy efficient appliances
* Installed low-flow faucets and/or toilets
* Did an energy efficiency renovation on my home (new windows, increased insulation, new heating and air conditioning system, etc)
* Keep a grease can in my kitchen and reduced or eliminated my use of the garbage disposal
* Line dry my laundry whenever possible - contrast with car washing
* Turn off lights and appliances when not in use
* Drove fewer miles, consciously eliminating unnecessary trips, used public transportation or a bicycle
* Chose a more fuel efficient vehicle
* Pumped out the holding tank on my boat
* Switched to marine approved cleaning products for my boat
* Switched from bottled water to a reusable water bottle that I refill
* Consistently use reusable grocery bags
* 1. Springtime often brings new furry critters and feathered friends to the neighborhood! What’s the most responsible way to welcome them?
* Correct: Create a backyard habitat for wildlife with their favorite wildlife and plants.
* Incorrect: Feed the ducks and geese so they’ll come back and visit all season.
* > Feeding wild animals can be unhealthy for their diets, and dangerous for both the critters and for your family and pets. it might be nice to see them every day, but the better choice is to create a backyard space that encourages them to come and go as they please!
* 2. When it comes to mowing your lawn, what’s the best practice?
* Correct: Switch to an electric mower or a push mower.
* Incorrect: Always set your mower blades to 2 inches or less to keep your grass shorter.
* > Electric or push mowers are a better choice for the environment because they run without gasoline or oil. And if you have the option, raise your mower’s blades to 3 inches or higher to keep the lawn a little longer and healthier.
* 3. Deciding how much water to dedicate to your landscaping can be a tricky balance. What option would you choose to be more environmentally friendly?
* Correct: Turn off the sprinklers and irrigate less frequently.
* Incorrect: Use more fertilizer on your plant beds so they are healthier and require less water in the long run.
* > It’s always a good idea to minimize the use of sprinklers to water the lawn and plants only when really needed. But when it comes to fertilizers, less is always better for the environment, and fertilizer use will not reduce your plants’ water dependency. Before deciding to fertilizer your lawn or plants, always get a soil test first.
* 4. Your plants have a bigger impact on the local environment than you might think. Can you guess which option below is true?
* Correct: Reduce your lawn area by dedicating the majority of your yard to plant beds and trees.
* Incorrect: Choose a blend of exotic plants from different areas around the world to diversify your garden and introduce new species.
* > The smaller your lawnspace, the less chemical maintenance and water you’ll need. And when you are deciding what to plant in your yard, always choose native plants and avoid invasive species which have a tendency to overgrow and harm the natural ecosystem.
* 5. Composting is a great way to reduce your household waste and recycle nutrients back to the earth. But what’s the right way to do it?
* Correct: Compost your kitchen waste, grass clippings, and leaves in a dedicated compost bin/pile.
* Incorrect: If you are a pet owner, compost your pet waste in the garden instead of discarding it.
* > Learning how to properly compost your food waste from the kitchen and from yard maintenance will give you a great source of nutrients for the garden. But pet waste is a different story — take the pledge to “Scoop the Poop” and always dispose of pet waste in the trash.
* 6. Not all of your household waste products can be recycled. Choose which of these options is the right choice for the environment:
* Correct: Make sure you keep dirt, leaves, and debris away from the gutter area in front of your house.
* Incorrect: Use any leftover cooking grease to help your kitchen’s garbage disposal run more smoothly and save electricity in the long run.
* > It’s important to keep your gutters clear of all debris and waste products because they are direct outlets to the storm water drains that lead back to our community’s waterways. And in the kitchen, it’s a good idea to keep a grease can, and reduce or eliminate your use of the garbage disposal altogether.
* 7. We can’t control the weather, but we do have control over how to use and redirect the rain that collects on our property. What is the better choice:
* Correct: Install a rain barrel or cistern to reduce the rain runoff from your property.
* Incorrect: Redirect your downspout to a paved surface or blacktop so it doesn’t drain directly into your propery’s gutters or drains.
* > Redirect your downspout away from paved surfaces and onto plant beds or rain gardens where storm water can infiltrate the soil. Rain barrels can also be a great way to collect and reuse clean water around the house.
* 8. Households with property bordering the bay or the river have an important opportunity to make choices that keep our waterways healthy. If you live on the water, which would you choose?
* Correct: Start growing oysters on your own reefs.
* Incorrent: Install a bulkhead at the edge of the water to create a responsible barrier between your property and the marine life.
* > Restoring our waterways’ natural oyster population benefits everyone in the community, so we encourage waterfront residents to help grow oysters for conservation reefs. We also recommend avoiding bulkheads, which cause erosion problems, and install a living shoreline as a natural buffer instead.
* 9. You can help everyone in your household make more sustainable choices by encouraging the right habits. Which investment do you think is better?
* Correct: At the hardware store, look for “low-flow” faucets and toilets to install in your own home.
* Incorrect: At the grocery store, choose disposable water bottles, utensils, and bags that are made with newer plastic material that is easier to break down.
* > Disposable plastic products are not good for the earth, and reusable bottles, shopping bags, etc. are a much better solution for the environment and for your wallet. Another smart choice is installing appliances that run more efficiently with less water required.
* 10. When it comes to chores around the house, how can you help make sure what’s clean for your home is also clean for the environment?
* Correct: Avoid washing your car at home because it is not the best use of resources.
* Incorrect: Avoid line-drying your laundry in the yard because it can introduce chemicals from the detergent into the environment.
* > Line-drying laundry is a great way to take advantage of natural renewable resources like wind and solar power, and it poses no threat to the environment. Washing your car in the driveway, though, can wash harmful chemicals right down the stormdrain and into our waterways. Instead, many local carwashes use filtration and recycled water systems to help with this problem.
* **User Story**
* As a user, I want the brand identity of the parent organization for this application to be easily identifiable, so that I can trust where the information is coming from and understand their motivations.
* As a user, I want the questions and answers to be easy enough for a child to understand, so that I can get my whole household involved in the learning experience.
* As a user, I want to see an automatic followup explanation after each question so that I can learn more about why my answer is right or wrong.
* As a user, I don’t want the answers to be too obvious or predictable, so that the quiz will be interesting and fun.
* As a user, I want a button to get from the explanation screen to the next question, so that I can read at my own pace and continue the quiz when I’m ready.
* As a user, I want to see my score updated throughout so that I can keep track of my progress.
* As a user, I want to see my final score at the end of the quiz so that I can have a better sense of how well I did overall.
* As a user, I want an easy way to share the quiz with my friends and family after I’m done so that they can learn what I learned.
* As a user, I want an easy way to apply for the Pearl Home certification, so that I can make my sustainability commitment official.
* **Task Timeline**
* **> user story**



* complete by Saturday night
* **> wireframes**



* complete by Saturday night
* **> project file setup and repo initialization**



* complete by Saturday night
* **> pseudocode**



* complete by Sunday night
* **> content for questions written out (at least 10)**



* complete by Sunday night
* **> basic framework coded**



* complete by Tuesday morning
* **> full functionality working**



* complete by Tuesday afternoon
* **> additional features/effects**



* complete Wednesday, if MVP has been achieved