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City of Austin a Green Leader Among Municipal Governments

***City of Austin custodial services is first government program
to be awarded Green Seal certification.***

Washington, DC, April 8, 2016. The City of Austin is the first municipal government in the United States to have its custodial program recognized under the Green Seal Standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services (GS-42).

The Building Services Department staff for custodial services manages the City's cleaning program for 78 city buildings in Austin. The Custodial Services team achieved Green Seal certification for its leadership in sustainable cleaning. Green Seal is a nationally recognized organization that provides stringent standards and certification to protect human health and the environment.

"This recognition not only acknowledges the great work of our Building Services staff but it also highlights the City of Austin's commitment to being a responsible steward of our environment," Austin City Manager Marc A. Ott said.

"Our custodial staff has been working diligently to achieve this goal," Building Services Officer Eric Stockton added. "This certification is a part of our effort to become a leader within the industry and furthers our goal for Austin to be the best-managed city in the country."

Green Seal's thorough review and on-site audit have verified that the City's cleaning program helps protect human and environmental health, operates efficiently, and communicates with staff and visitors about their activities. Specifically, the City uses nontoxic, biodegradable products and limits exposure to chemicals and contaminants. It has implemented a building-specific green cleaning plan, trains staff on effective cleaning and green purchasing, and has waste minimization policies in place.

Green Seal President & CEO, Dr. Arthur Weissman said “The City of Austin’s custodial program demonstrates real leadership among municipal governments. We commend their achievement and encourage other cities to follow their example.”

The full list of criteria and details for the GS-42 standard and certification can be downloaded at www.GreenSeal.org.

ABOUT GREEN SEAL, INC.

The original “Green Seal of Approval” was founded in 1989 to help safeguard the health of people and the planet. As an independent, nonprofit science-based standard developer and certification body, Green Seal identifies products and services that are environmentally preferable, and provides public education for creating a more sustainable world. Call (202)872-6400 for more information, or visit www.GreenSeal.org for links to all Green Seal standards and certified products and services.

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