



September 5, 2008

**CALL FOR COMMENTS: Proposed Green Seal™ Environmental Standard for Residential Cleaning Services, GS-49**

Green Seal™ is developing a new environmental leadership standard for Residential Cleaning Services, GS-49. Green Seal is a non-profit organization established in 1989 devoted to working towards environmental sustainability through environmental standard-setting, product certification, and public education. The intent of Green Seal's standards is to reduce, to the extent technically and economically feasible, the environmental impacts of services and the manufacture, use, and disposal of products.

The cleaning industry, consisting of commercial and residential cleaning service, is a \$48.4 billion dollar industry with expected annual growth of 5.3% through 2011<sup>1</sup>. This represents a historic increase in demand for the years 1996, 2001 and 2006 and forecasts for 2011 and 2016. Accompanying the increase in the demand for residential cleaning services is the potential for greater environmental and health impacts. As a result, Green Seal is proposing the development of a new environmental standard for Residential Cleaning (GS-49).

**The Proposed Standard is now available for public review.** The proposed standard, the background document, and additional information on this project can be found at the project web site:  
[http://greenseal.org/certification/g49\\_residential\\_cleaning.cfm](http://greenseal.org/certification/g49_residential_cleaning.cfm)

The public review process is a key step to involve all stakeholders in the development of this standard. Green Seal welcomes comment from all interested parties. Green Seal is soliciting comments on the proposed standard from the diverse stakeholders, including producers, users, and general interest groups. For public review of its standards, Green Seal considers each written comment, conducts follow-up research as needed, and modifies the proposed standard accordingly, with a written response to the comment or group of comments on the issue. In Green Seal's experience, the process of commenting, discussing issues, and resolving issues is most critical for the success of a standard. Green Seal, therefore, encourages all interested parties to provide substantive comments on the proposed standard.

**Comments will be submitted through an online forum system until October 10, 2008.** To post comments on the on-line forum, one must register to use the forum. All users will be able to view all comments and the username of the commenter. Forum registration is open to all interested parties until the deadline. To register as a user and access the forum:

- Type in the following URL: <http://green-seal.org/standards>
- Register an account; for the username please use first initial and full last name (e.g., J Smith); select "GS-49 Residential Cleaning Services"; include your organization (this will not be viewable by other users); review the disclaimer information; click Register.
- You should receive a welcome email within one business day (please plan for this time when posting your comments close to the deadline).
- Then post your comments in the appropriate section of the standard

By participating in the process of setting environmental standards, you play an important role in our efforts to encourage the design, manufacture and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,  
Nana Takyi Wilberforce, PhD  
Environmental Scientist  
Green Seal, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.freedoniagroup.com/commercial-And-Residential-Cleaning-Services.html>