

January 7, 2008

CALL FOR STAKEHOLDERS: Revision of Environmental Standard for Reusable Bags (GS-16)

Single-use plastic bags have become a concern due to impact they have on ocean wildlife, visible litter, the clogging of waterways, spreading of disease and landfill space demand. Some 80-100 billion single-use plastic bags are estimated to be consumed annually in the U.S., with 500 billion to 1 trillion bags used worldwide per year. In many cities this concern has translated to the enactment of legislation to prohibit the use of these bags.

Green Seal™ is proposing the revision of its environmental leadership standard for reusable bags which will help consumers and purchasers identify these environmentally-preferable products. Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization established in 1989 devoted to promoting 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 associated with the manufacture, use, and disposal of products.

Green Seal is inviting the participation of stakeholders to assist in the development of the revision of the standard for reusable bags (GS-16). To participate in this project you will need to register to the online forum during the scoping phase of the project. Scoping comments (and registration to be included in email list for the scope of this project) will be submitted through an online forum system. Once registered on the forum for this project, one can post contributions to the scope. All registered users will be able to view all the comments and the name of the commenter.

Comments will be posted on an online forum and interested parties may register as a forum user at <http://green-seal.org/standards>. Please use your first initial and full last name as your user name (e.g. J Smith). You will receive a welcome email within one business day.

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

Additional project information is available at:
http://greenseal.org/certification/g16_reusable_bags.cfm