



October 13, 2008

CALL FOR COMMENTS: Revision of the Proposed Green Seal™ Environmental Standard for Reusable Bags (GS-16)

Green Seal™ is proposing the revision of its environmental leadership standard for reusable bags. Green Seal is an independent 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 associated with the manufacture, use, and disposal of products. The purpose of revising GS-16 is to update the standard to make it more comprehensive and pertinent to the current marketplace. With the rapid growth and high consumer demand, an environmental label could provide clarity on which products are environmental leaders and assist consumers and retailers in purchasing decisions.

The Proposed Standard is now available for public review. Accompanying this letter is background information about the proposed standard. The Proposed Standard is available in a separate document. 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 suggestions and comments on these proposed revisions 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 revises 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 proposal.

The Proposed Standard is open for comment until December 8, 2008.

Comments will be submitted through an online forum system. 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 name of the commenter. Forum registration is open to all interested parties until the deadline. To register as a user and access the forum:

- Get on the following URL: <http://green-seal.org/standards>
- Register an account; for the username please use first initial and full last name (e.g., G Seal); select "GS16 Reusable Bags"; review the disclaimer information; click Register.
- You should receive a welcome email from the Green Seal Development Forum within one business day. (Please keep this in mind as the deadline approaches.)
- Then post your comments in the appropriate section of the standard.

Additional information on this project and the proposed standard can be found at the project web site: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs16_reusable_bags.cfm

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,
Christine Chase
GS-16 Project Coordinator