



THE ORIGINAL GREEN SEAL OF APPROVAL SINCE 1989

**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REVISION:
Green Seal Standard for Hotels and Lodging Properties (GS-33)**

January 9, 2014

Green Seal invites the public to participate in the development of proposed revisions to the Green Seal Standard for Hotels and Lodging Properties. The purpose of revising this standard is to clarify the requirements, modify criteria that were impractical to certify, and make editorial changes.

Green Seal is a non-profit organization devoted to working toward environmental sustainability through standard setting, product and service certification, and public education. Green Seal's mission is to advance a green economy by recognizing products and services that demonstrate sustainability leadership in their industry. Our goal is to develop science-based standards that are applicable and appropriate for the relevant industry, with criteria that are unequivocal and accessible.

Green Seal is proposing a revision to the Standard for Hotel and Lodging Properties in order to ensure that the requirements for certification are clear and appropriate. This proposed version maintains the same level of leadership and protection, without making major changes or increasing the stringency of the criteria.

The goals of our revision were as follows:

- Ensure that the requirements are clear and equitable to all applicants, while upholding leadership and protection levels
- Ensure that the criteria are defined precisely in order to minimize the need for interpretation
- Modify requirements where necessary, so that they are practical to review and enforce
- Update the standard to reflect innovations and current practices in the hospitality industry
- Streamline the certification review process, where possible

The proposed revision includes the following changes:

- Reorganize the standard so that each criterion includes the requirements for all three certification levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) in a single section
- Consolidate all of the purchasing requirements into one section
- Add third-party certified products as an option for meeting the purchasing requirements
- Modify criteria that were vague or impractical to certify
- Add a Gold-level optional criterion for Management of Resource Use

The Proposed Revision is now open for comment until Thursday, January 30, 2014.

In order to submit comments and review the proposal, please register as a stakeholder at <https://collaborase.com/gs-33-revision2014>

Full details of the Proposed Revisions are available for public review on Green Seal's website (no registration required): <http://www.greenseal.org/GS33Revision2014.aspx>

The public review process is a key step to involve all stakeholders in the development of this revision. Green Seal welcomes comments from all interested parties. Green Seal is soliciting suggestions and comments on these proposed standard revisions from diverse stakeholders, including producers, users, and general interest groups.



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During public review of its proposed standards, Green Seal considers each written comment, conducts follow-up research as needed, revises the proposed standard if appropriate, and provides a written response to the comment or group of comments on the issue. We at Green Seal consider the process of commenting, reviewing, and resolving issues to be essential the success of a standard, and we encourage all interested parties to provide substantive comments on the proposal.

Commenting will be conducted through Green Seal's online forum. Once registered on the forum for this project, participants can post comments on the proposed revision.

To register as a stakeholder for the project, review the proposal, and submit comments:

- Go to the project web page: <https://collaborase.com/gs-33-revision2014>
- At the bottom of the webpage, enter your e-mail address to register as a stakeholder for this revision.
- You will receive a confirmation e-mail. Click the link provided in the e-mail, and create a User Account.
- After creating your User Account, you will be directed to the project page.
- To post your comments in the appropriate section of the proposed standard: choose Comments, then Add Reviewer Comment; enter your comments; and click Publish.
- By clicking on the Resources tab, you can access attached documents in PDF form (Revision Proposal, Proposed Standard Edition 5.2, and more).

If you have any questions, please email us at standards@greenseal.org. If you have an urgent problem regarding this commenting process, please call Green Seal at (202) 872-6400.

Please forward this notice to anyone you know who might be interested in this revision.

Thank you for your interest and assistance with this process.

Sincerely,
Lauren McDevitt, Environmental Scientist