



GS-33

Green Seal™ Environmental Leadership Standard for Lodging Properties, 4th Edition

An Overview

Since it was first published in 1999, Green Seal's lodging standard has represented leadership in the industry. This fourth edition enables properties to be certified at 3 different levels of achievement: a Bronze entry level recognizes those with a strong foundation of sustainable practices; a Silver level for those that have substantially reduced their environmental impact and practice at the leadership level of sustainable practices; and a Gold level to recognize those who are moving the bar of leadership and practicing the top levels of sustainability.

The Scope of GS-33

This standard applies to facilities offering accommodations to travelers in the USA. The standard does not include swimming pools, golf courses or restaurants associated with the properties.

Key Areas of the Standard

The specific criteria in this standard cover waste minimization, reuse, and recycling, energy efficiency and conservation, management of fresh water resources and waste water, and reduction and handling of hazardous substances. It also requires creation of an environmentally sensitive purchasing policy.

BRONZE Entry level

Waste Minimization

- Establish recycling program for guests and staff recycling all materials accepted locally
- Use refillable amenity dispensers or smallest practical in recyclable containers, donate used amenities
- Set printer/copier default on double-sided
- Avoid single-use products, purchase in bulk, especially concentrated cleaning products
- Where applicable: donate leftover food, minimize disposable foodservice items

Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Management

- When equipment is replaced, upgrade to energy efficient models for the following equipment:
 - Office and Room
Equipment: fax machines, copiers, printers, computers, monitors, televisions, video players/recorders
 - HVAC Equipment: chillers, packaged terminal air conditioners, central air conditioners, central heat pumps, split ductless heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, water heaters



Bronze level, continued

- Kitchen Equipment (where applicable): freezers, refrigerators, cooktops, ovens, dishwashers
- Laundry Equipment: boilers, washers, dryers, extractors
- Use energy-efficient lighting or have a plan to replace existing
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC, in-room units and kitchen and laundry appliances

Management of Fresh Water Resources

- Use 2.2 gpm faucets and aerators, 1.6 gpf toilets and 2.5 gpm showerheads or have a plan to replace current fixtures within 2 years
- Use plants and trees tolerant to local conditions and natural water available. Control time and location limitations on watering
- Offer towel and/or linen reuse option to guests
- Where applicable, set laundry and dishwashing equipment on coolest effective setting and fill to capacity

Waste Water Management

- Use environmentally preferable laundry and cleaning products

Hazardous Substances

- Have adequate and secure storage for chemicals with water available, drains and ventilation

Environmentally and Socially Sensitive Purchasing Policy

- Establish a policy:
 - Appoint steering committee (Green Team)
 - Include EPP in dealings with suppliers
 - Consider life-cycle costs in purchasing decisions
 - Evaluate and test green options
 - Make policy available to public
- Use environmentally preferable paper or sanitary paper products
- Use quality, repairable durable goods
- Find and use suppliers that take back packaging and pallets
- Minimize use of products with packaging that isn't reusable or recyclable

Labeling Requirements

- The Green Seal Certification Mark may appear in the hotel and on promotional materials and must be accompanied by the following:
"This property meets the Green Seal Environmental Standard for U.S. Lodging Properties for waste minimization, water and energy efficiency, hazardous substances handling, and environmentally responsible purchasing."

SILVER Level

Property must achieve the SILVER level criteria within 1 year of certification under the Bronze level

Waste Minimization

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- Establish recycling and/or composting program for food waste for guests and staff, and yard waste

Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Management

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- When windows are replaced, upgrade to energy efficient models.
Use window film where climate appropriate



SILVER

Silver level, continued

- Install programmable timers and sensors for lighting and HVAC in low traffic areas

Management of Fresh Water Resources

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- Sweep or use gray water when cleaning sidewalks, drives, etc.

Waste Water Management

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- Only use chlorinated chemicals (minimum amounts) when alternatives aren't available
- Use environmentally preferable dishwashing products
- Look for organic pesticides, fertilizers & biocides

Hazardous Substances

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- Replace hazardous substances with alternatives, maintain accurate inventory
- Clearly mark all chemicals, check for leaks and use spill containment measures
- Use environmentally preferable paint

Environmentally and Socially Sensitive Purchasing Policy

All criteria at Bronze level with the addition of:

- Develop environmental mission and purchasing targets
- Evaluate and modify policy regularly
- Use environmentally preferable paper and sanitary paper products
- Buy low VOC building and maintenance products where available
- Use suppliers that are environmentally responsible (e.g., alternative fuel taxis, bicycle rentals, landscaping service)

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GOLD Level

Properties must achieve all criteria at the SILVER level with the addition of:

- Have a plan for continuous improvement
- Any THREE of the following:
 - Set goals for energy reduction or be an ENERGY STAR Leader*
 - Pursue LEED Certification* or be an ENERGY STAR Building*
 - Use 25% renewable energy or a Green-e Member*
 - Achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions through partnerships or carbon offsets
 - Reduce solid or water by-product waste disposal by 90%
 - Meet the requirements for GS-42, Green Cleaning Standard

- Monitor water use and use EPA WaterSense* fixtures and procedures

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* see links to resources on back



ENERGY STAR Leaders: Those ENERGY STAR partners who demonstrate continuous improvement organization-wide

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=leaders.bus_leaders

ENERGY STAR Building: Buildings achieving a rating of 75 or higher and professionally verified to meet current indoor environment

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_bldg_design.new_bldg_design_guidance



USGBC LEED: A third-party certification program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>



GREEN-E: A voluntary certification program for renewable energy

http://www.green-e.org/getcert_re.shtml



GS-42: Green Seal Environmental Leadership Standard for Commercial Cleaning Services

http://www.green-seal.org/certification/cleaning_services_gs_42.pdf



EPA WaterSense: Products that carry the WaterSense label meet criteria for water efficiency and performance carry a special label.

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/index.htm>

For more information visit www.green-seal.org or call (202)872-6400

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