

MAIN CHANGES BETWEEN GREEN KEY CRITERIA/EXPLANATORY NOTES 2016-2021 (HOTELS & HOSTELS) AND GREEN KEY CRITERIA/EXPLANATORY NOTES 2022-2025 (ALL CATEGORIES)

Criterion	Change
Introduction	Specified that the category must be officially registered as the main activity.
1.2	Changed from environmental policy to sustainability policy (including all sustainability aspects). Requirement of review of sustainability policy every third year.
Former 1.5	The requirement of the environmental manager must ensure annual criteria review has been removed (as it is given as part of the Green Key renewal process).
1.6	Calculation of carbon footprint changed from guideline to imperative for hotels & hostels.
1.7	New guideline criterion encouraging establishments to set targets to reduce carbon footprint.
1.8	New guideline criterion acknowledging carbon neutral establishments.
1.9	New guideline criterion encouraging establishment to offer guests to offset carbon emissions.
Former 2.4	The requirement that the environmental manager must ensure that staff is aware of the environmental work is removed (and incorporated into 2.3 and 2.5).
2.5	New imperative criterion requiring that information about responsible behaviour is displayed in the staff area.
2.6	New guideline criterion giving staff the opportunity to evaluate the sustainability performance of the establishment.
Former 3.7	The requirement is integrated into criterion 3.4.
4.2	Strengthened criterion so that newly purchased toilets have a 3/6 l dual flush.
4.3	Add check of leaks also in swimming pools.
4.4	Max water flow of 9 l/min in at least 75% of showers in all parts of the establishment (not only guest rooms).
4.5	Max water flow of 8 l/min in at least 75% of taps in all parts of the establishment (not only guest rooms).
Former 4.8	The requirements of displayed information about water/energy saving at dishwasher is removed (and replaced by 2.5).
4.10	The imperative criterion of having grease traps is required for all categories (except small accommodations).
4.12	New guideline criterion encouraging that swimming pools are cleaned with chemical-free alternatives.
4.14	Guideline criterion strengthened to include 75% of all taps having max water flow of 5 l/min.
Former 4.15	Criterion removed as guideline criterion and added as imperative criterion in 4.2.
Former 4.16	The requirement of having swimming pools follow national standards on water quality, health and safety removed as an establishment must always follow national standards (part of criterion 11.1).
4.17	New guideline criterion encouraging an establishment to conduct a water risk assessment and follow the recommendations from the assessment.
Former 4.18	Criterion regarding leaks of swimming pools removed and integrated into criterion 4.3.
5.1 and 5.2	Former imperative criterion regarding change of sheets and towels split into two imperative criteria.

5.3	Criterion changed to require 75% of daily chemical cleaning products having an eco-label (and removal of check of non-blacklist compounds).
Former 5.5	The requirements in criteria 5.4 and 5.5 regarding EU versus non-EU countries are gathered into one criterion 5.5.
5.6 and 5.7	Former criterion 5.6 regarding eco-labelled laundry and dishwasher detergents split into two criteria 5.6 and 5.7.
5.8	New guideline criterion encouraging the use of concentrated cleaning products with a dosing system.
5.10	New guideline criterion encouraging use of chemical-free cleaning and disinfection methods.
5.12	New guideline criterion encouraging the establishment to offer its guests to forego housekeeping.
6.1	Added that if the authorities guarantee that waste is separated after collection, then the establishment does not need to separate waste on-site.
Former 6.3	Former requirement of an establishment ensuring safe transportation of waste (if local authorities do not collect) is removed and integrated into 6.2.
6.9	Criterion requiring that a maximum of five food/beverage products are in individually packaged single servings is changed from guideline to imperative and slightly strengthened.
6.10	Criterion requiring registration of total amount of waste are changed from guideline to imperative for some categories.
6.11	Criterion requiring dispensers (instead of individually packaged containers) are changed from guideline to imperative for some categories.
6.13	New guideline criterion encouraging that toiletries, vanity kits, etc. are only available upon request.
6.14	Guideline criterion encouraging suppliers to use reusable packaging changed from 3 to 5 products.
6.17	Guideline criterion regarding soap, shampoo, etc. having an eco-label specified that it must be 75%.
6.18	New guideline criterion encouraging that at least five products are not packaged in plastic or with plastic that is with at least 50% recycled plastic.
Former 6.16	The guideline criterion regarding biodegradable disposable cups, etc. is removed and integrated into criterion 6.5.
7.3	Added requirement that 50% of the light bulbs must be LED.
7.3, 7.11, 7.18	“EU Energy Label A or better” changed to “one of two most energy efficient classes in the EU Energy label system” (as EU has changed its labelling system).
Former 7.5, 7.6	Integrated into one criterion 7.5.
7.7	New imperative criterion for all categories that freezing equipment must be regularly defrosted.
7.11	Requirement of newly purchased electronic devices in guest rooms must be energy efficient changed from guideline to imperative.
7.12	Outside lighting is minimised or with sensor changed from guideline to imperative.
7.17	Guideline criterion strengthened from insulation of windows must correspond to local regulations to at least 75% of all windows having higher standards than legislation (as Green Key is more than following regulations).

7.13, 7.14	Former guideline criterion 7.16 requiring 75% renewable energy replaced by two guideline criteria encouraging compliance with 50% or 100% renewable electricity.
7.15	New guideline criterion encouraging no use of fossil fuels for heating/cooling.
Former 7.15	Former guideline criterion not requiring electric heating has been taken out (and included in new criterion 7.15).
7.16	New guideline criterion encouraging that least 75% of guest rooms have no mini bars.
Former 7.17	Former guideline criterion of ventilation plants having a low-energy ventilator removed (included in 7.18).
7.18	Guideline criterion changed from one department of an establishment have only energy efficient devices to all newly purchased electric devices being energy efficient.
7.20	New guideline criterion encouraging that the establishment has a green building rating system.
7.22	New guideline criterion regarding lighting in public areas combining the former criteria 7.19 and 7.20.
Former 7.24	Former guideline criterion encouraging insulation above national requirements is removed (as it was difficult to measure).
Former 7.25	Former guideline criterion encouraging good water pipe insulation removed (as it was difficult to measure).
Former 7.26, 7.27	Former guideline criteria regarding energy efficient computers, etc. removed and integrated into criterion 7.18.
7.26	New guideline criterion encouraging access to charge electric vehicles.
Former 7.28	Former guideline criterion encouraging to switch off vending machines are removed (as it is not always energy efficient to switch off these machines).
7.28	New guideline criterion encouraging restricted use of outdoor heating or air-conditioning.
7.29	New guideline criterion encouraging that establishments not connected to the electric grid uses energy efficient generators.
8.1	Requirement changed from three to five food/beverage products that are organic, etc.
Former 8.2	The former criterion of having an increased among of food/beverage products that are organic, etc. are removed (and integrated into criterion 8.1).
8.2	The requirement of not buying products from threatened/protected species is changed from guideline to imperative.
8.3	The requirement of having a vegetarian/vegan menu is change from guideline to imperative.
8.4	The requirement of taking initiatives to reduce food waste is changed from guideline to imperative.
8.5	The requirement of offering tap water (where the quality makes it possible) is changed from guideline to imperative.
8.8	New guideline criterion encouraging that at least 25% of the main dishes are vegetarian.
8.9	New guideline criterion encouraging that a vegan main dish is offered.
8.10	New guideline criterion encouraging that at least 50% of all food/beverage products are organic, etc.
8.11	New guideline criterion encouraging that only sustainability certified meat/seafood products are offered.
9.3	The requirement of a smoking policy for staff is changed from guideline to imperative.
9.4	New guideline criterion encouraging the monitoring of indoor air quality.
9.6	New guideline criterion encouraging the use of authentic elements of local culture in operation and refurbishment (was originally part of 9.5, but now separated).

10.2	Criterion changed so that unleaded petrol or catalyst is no longer sufficient. Made exception for lawns >4000 m2.
Former 10.4	Is now part of criterion 6.19.
10.4	New imperative/guideline criterion requiring initiatives to protect/support local biodiversity.
Former 10.5	Is now part of 4.15 and 4.16.
Former 10.6	Is now part of guideline criterion 10.5 encouraging only purchase of native species and active removal of alien species.
10.6	New guideline criterion encouraging a local fruit/herb/vegetable garden.
11.1	Criterion changed to a confirmation that the establishment complies with all relevant legislation (and CSR policy moved to be part of criterion 1.2).
11.2	Requirement of not using child labour moved from being part of 11.3, and criterion changed from guideline to imperative.
11.3	Criterion regarding not selling or displaying threatened species changed from guideline to imperative.
11.6	Specified that two activities are needed to comply with the criterion.
11.8	New guideline criterion encouraging that entertainment with animals is not offered.
11.9	New guideline criterion encouraging establishments with animals follow animal welfare guidelines.
11.10	New guideline criterion encouraging establishments to formulate a sustainable purchasing policy.
12.4	New guideline criterion encouraging establishment to promote responsible tourist behaviour in the destination.
Former 12.5	Criterion regarding promotion of nearby Blue Flag sites integrated in new criterion 12.4.
Former 13.1	Criterion that staff areas must fulfil same requirements as guest/public areas is removed and integrated into other relevant criteria.
13.3	Criterion regarding initiatives to reduce the use of paper changed from guideline to imperative.
13.4	Criterion regarding information/engagement of suppliers in sustainability changed from guideline to imperative.
13.6	New guideline criterion encouraging environmentally friendly textiles.
Former 13.7	Criterion regarding local/fairtrade services/goods are removed (as it was a bit unclear requirement).
13.7	New guideline criterion encouraging that any outsourced laundry service is located less than 100 km away.
13.9	New guideline criterion encouraging that own durables are refurbished, or second-hand durables are purchased.
13.10	New guideline criterion encouraging the establishment to use environmentally friendly vehicles.
13.11	New guideline criterion encouraging that vehicles entering the establishment have a max idling period of two mins.