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

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| **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 dishwater 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 will 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. |
| 13.1 | Criterion regarding information/engagement of third-party operated businesses in sustainability changed from guideline to imperative. |
| 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. |