



## FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (FEE)

FEE is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education.

FEE is an international umbrella organisation with one national member organisation per country representing FEE at the national level and in charge of implementing FEE programmes nationally. FEE has currently member organisations in 60 countries worldwide.



FEE has since 1981 actively promoted and delivered environmental education through our international programmes: Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests and Green Key.

## WHAT IS GREEN KEY?

Green Key is an eco-label for tourism facilities that aims to contribute to prevention of climate change and sustainable tourism by awarding and promoting good initiatives.

Green Key aims to change the practices and behaviours of tourism actors including guests, enterprises, authorities, local communities and to involve them in increasing their responsibility towards their own environment.

## HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Green Key is an international eco-label for tourism products. It was originated for hotels in Denmark in 1994. In 1998 France joined the Green Key Programme and started labelling camping sites.

From Denmark the Green Key Programme has been adopted by countries in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and the Caribbean. Currently FEE runs Green Key programmes in 30 countries with around 1800 accommodations in 2011.

Different sets of international criteria have also been developed for different categories of tourism facilities, including hotels, camp sites, hostels, conference centres, holiday centres and attractions. In the future there will be international criteria developed for restaurants and amusement parks.

## GREEN KEY CRITERIA

The Green Key criteria consist of a number of a baseline standardized international criteria, which are mandatory or optional in each country, and more specialized national criteria, adjusted to national legislation, infrastructure, climate and culture. The criteria focus on environmental management, technical demands, and the involvement of guests, staff, and suppliers.

The award is voluntarily applied for and granted for one year at a time, during which control visits are made to check that certain standards

are upheld and that all criteria are met.

The criteria have been designed so as to be easily understood by tourists, feasible for the tourism industry, and clearly verifiable through control checks. Some of the fields covered are: Water, Waste, Energy, Involvement and Awareness of Guests, Environmental Management, Staff Involvement, Use of Chemicals, Open Spaces and Food and Beverages.



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## GREEN KEY PROCEDURES

An accommodation wishing to apply for the Green Key award will through the national Green Key operator receive an application form and information about application procedures.

In Germany, please visit [www.umwelterziehung.de](http://www.umwelterziehung.de) and download the application form under Green Key -> Download. All criteria have

to be answered; special circumstances can be explained by short comments.

Your application will then be reviewed and your accommodation will be contacted by our staff, if necessary.

After a successful application your accommodation will be awarded the Green Key, together with a certificate and a flag / plaque valid for one year.

Within 2-4 months after the award, an audit will be carried out. The criteria have to be confirmed every year in order to keep the Green Key certification.



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## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GREEN KEY

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Please visit our websites and get more information



national:

[www.umwelterziehung.de](http://www.umwelterziehung.de)



international:

[www.green-key.org](http://www.green-key.org)