

# Green Key audit

## Content of the audit

The Green Key certificate requires commitment to the Green Key criteria by the applicant. Going Green Ltd checks the application on non-audit years. An external auditor checks the application and its attachments and performs an on-site audit on audit years. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the applicant abides to the Green Key criteria.

In the audit, all imperative criteria has to be met. After the first year, when re-applying, the establishment has to meet the assigned amount of guideline criteria.

The audit is a great chance to share thoughts on the Green Key programme and together brainstorm ideas for further improvement, including possible communicative benefit that the programme brings. In addition, the audit is a chance for the establishments to raise questions that concern them regarding sustainability.

The audit takes 2–3 hours. The audit is done by an independent third-party auditor accredited by Green Key.

How to prepare:

During the audit, the following aspects will be reviewed, taken into account the functions of the establishment and the Green Key category they are in:

- discussing the application and its attachments
  - going through the application, single points of the criteria, yearly checked criteria and new guideline criteria filled during the past year
  - we will discuss
    - especially about new sustainability goals and the acts to meet the goals
    - the objectives of the establishment towards the Green Key programme
    - communicating environmental and sustainability matters
  - the audit round
    - reception / another guest service point
    - other common areas (for example in restaurants and attractions the water flow is measured from guest toilets)
    - rooms / cabins



Green Key

- have a minimum of 2 rooms / cabins free for inspection during the audit
- water flows are checked in the rooms / cabins: shower and faucet (min. 2 accommodation units)
- kitchen (restaurant / cafe)
- waste disposal and recycling points
- cleaning closet
- office spaces / employee spaces
- green areas
- service building: common washing, living and cooking spaces
- instruction texts
  - make sure that the Green Key binder and all required instruction texts (for example in rooms, next to the dishwasher, recycling points) are available for inspection
- storage facilities for cleaning supplies
  - make sure it is accessible so that detergents can be inspected

**Personnel who should be reachable during the audit round (or equivalent information from the environmental manager):**

- manager
- kitchen manager
- person responsible for cleaning
- property manager (electricity, heating, lighting, water, hazardous substances)
- representative of the reception or another staff representative (short interview, see criteria 2.3/2.4/3.4/3.5/3.6)

## Certification process

The auditor writes an audit report based on his / her visit and delivers it to the establishment and the jury, who decides on granting the certificate. The external auditor is independent and has the power to make decisions. This ensures that all establishments are treated impartially and equally by an external, third party auditor. The jury and external auditors meet regularly for joint meetings, where decisions on the granting of the certificate are made based on applications and audit reports.



The members of the jury represent national operators related to the tourism business and environmental responsibility. The composition of the jury on 1.1.2026 is:

- Riitta Rönn (chair)
- Visit Finland, Hanna Muoniovaara
- Finnish Association for Fair Tourism, Mia Halmén
- Finnish Campingsite Association, Antti Saukkonen
- Sitra, Lotta Toivonen
- Oulu University Business School, José Garcia-Rosell

Accredited external auditors on 1.1.2026 are:

- Päivi Pälvimäki, Kiara Oy
- Mikko Äijälä, University of Lapland
- Iina Pälväjärvi, independent auditor
- Minna-Maria Mäenpää, Brickan Oy / Suupohjan koulutus kuntayhtymä Vuoksi
- Petra Tuovinen, Lappset Group Oy
- Katja Vaulio, Sustainability expert

## Background and more information

Going Green Oy, which manages the Green Key programme in Finland, is a social enterprise fully owned by the Foundation for Environmental Education, FEE Finland.

On Green Key Finland's website you can find application information and for example communication material. [www.greenkey.fi](http://www.greenkey.fi).

Even though each establishment has its own contact person, you can best reach our staff through email [info@goinggreen.fi](mailto:info@goinggreen.fi).

### Going Green LLC's social media pages:

Facebook: [@greenkeyfinland](https://www.facebook.com/greenkeyfinland)

Instagram: [@greenkeyfinland](https://www.instagram.com/greenkeyfinland)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/going-green-finland/>



Green Key

**The certificate is monitored globally:**

FEE, Foundation for Environmental Education  
Programme Director, Finn Bolding Thomsen  
[www.greenkey.global](http://www.greenkey.global)