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## **The Westin New York at Times Square Awarded Green Seal Certification for Sustainable Operations**

New York, NY – December 2, 2015 – The Westin New York at Times Square has achieved the most stringent sustainability certification for hotels in today's marketplace. After recently completing a \$33 million renovation that put many environmentally sound practices into place, the hotel was certified by Green Seal based on the Sustainability Leadership Standard for Hotels & Lodging Properties (GS-33) Gold. The work is helping Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide reach its aggressive 30/20 by 20 environmental goals of reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions by 30% and water consumption by 20% by 2020 globally.

Green Seal's thorough review and on-site audit verified that The Westin New York at Times Square protects human and environmental health, conserves water and energy, reduces waste, and demonstrates leadership while delivering a luxury guest experience. Specifically, the property uses non-toxic, biodegradable housekeeping products and non-toxic paints with minimal VOCs. The hotel has an environmental mission and responsible purchasing policy, and uses energy-efficient appliances, lighting, windows, fixtures and water-efficient landscaping measures. The hotel has a recycling and composting program and minimizes the use of disposable items.

The Westin New York at Times Square, the first hotel in New York City to receive a Silver Green Seal in 2009, has long been committed to sustainability and environmentally-friendly practices. During the recent renovation, the hotel made significant enhancements on the energy conservation front that lead to the Gold Green Seal certification. New chillers, boilers and water heaters were installed, along with an energy-efficient thermostat monitoring system. Throughout the course of the project, thousands of LED bulbs were put in place, which translates into an overall reduction of energy consumption by over 30%. The guest rooms and meeting space feature water-saving sinks, dramatically reducing water consumption. Underfoot in the guest rooms and corridors, the carpeting is fully recyclable, eliminating unnecessary waste down the line when it needs to be replaced.

"Being an environmentally conscious hotel has been a core part the property's operation from our inception," said Westin New York at Times Square General Manager Sean Verney. "We were proud to be the first Silver Green Seal hotel. We wanted to do more so we created a comprehensive plan to get to the next level. For an 873-room hotel such as ours to achieve Gold recognition from Green Seal is a significant accomplishment that our team is incredibly proud of. We will continue to do all we can to conserve, reuse and support sustainability efforts."

A distinguished AAA Four Diamond ranked hotel, The Westin New York at Times Square stands at the crossroads of the world and is located at 270 W. 43rd Street amid the brilliance of Broadway. The hotel is within walking distance to over 40 theatres and many famous New York City attractions. All 873 Westin New York at Times Square hotel rooms and suites feature the luxurious Westin Heavenly Bed® and Heavenly Bath™, and offer incredible views of the city skyline and the Hudson River. The hotel features Bar 10 lounge, and is interconnected to a 200,000 square-foot entertainment and retail complex featuring movie theaters, restaurants, and shopping. For more information please visit [www.westinny.com](http://www.westinny.com).

The full list of criteria and details for this certification can be downloaded at [www.GreenSeal.org](http://www.GreenSeal.org).

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### **ABOUT GREEN SEAL, INC.**

The original "Green Seal of Approval" was founded in 1989 to help safeguard the health of people and the planet. As an independent, nonprofit science-based standard developer and certification body, Green Seal identifies products and services that are environmentally preferable, and provides public education for creating a more sustainable world. Call (202)872-6400 for more information, or visit [www.GreenSeal.org](http://www.GreenSeal.org) for links to all Green Seal standards and certified products and services.