



GREEN BURIAL COUNCIL

Certification and You

Why Certification Matters to Funeral Professionals

As today's families increasingly embrace funeral services with a lighter hand on the land, they need trustworthy stewards and ambassadors to provide accurate information and ethical guidance. Your commitment to supporting sustainable after-death options will make your firm the first choice for eco-conscious families in your community. With certification from the Green Burial Council (GBC), the globally recognized authority on natural burial, you will be able to lead challenging conversations about affordable, eco-friendly, and spiritually meaningful green burials.

About Certification

GBC certification is awarded to providers who demonstrate compliance with established standards that are designed to support sustainable practices in funeral service, such as:

- offering the decedent's family the option of a public viewing without embalming, or use only GBC approved post-mortem fluids;
- carrying at least three GBC approved or rated burial containers;
- accommodating families choosing to conduct home vigils prior to viewing on site without embalming, or use only GBC approved post-mortem fluids;
- offering sanitation and temporary preservation of a decedent using only noninvasive techniques and materials.

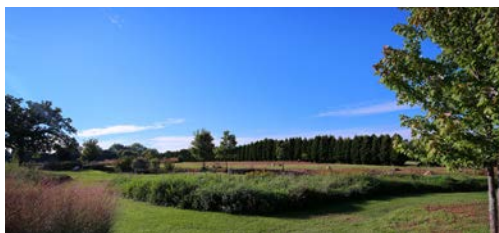
Approved providers receive:

- the trusted Green Burial Council logo on their website;
- promotion in our newsletter and social media platforms;
- access to downloadable marketing materials; and
- free listing on the GBC website.

Learn about funeral home certification at:

www.greenburialcouncil.org > Certification > Our Standards

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BECOME A *Green Burial Expert*



What Families Need to Know About Green Burial Practices

The Green Burial Council believes cemeteries, preserves, and burial grounds can broadly be considered green if they meet the following criteria:

- caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources;
- reduction of carbon emissions;
- protection of worker health; and
- the restoration and/or preservation of habitat.

Specifically, the green burial community is committed to:

- Foregoing toxic embalming
- Doing away with liners and vaults
- Choosing biodegradable containers, caskets, shrouds, urns
- Discontinuing herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers
- Encouraging sustainable management practices
- Using GPS units, non-native stone markers to mark grave sites
- Supporting land conservation and restoration with burial

The Beauty of Green Burial Vessels

The growing variety of eco-friendly products is expanding families' options in ways that bring greater connection and beauty to the funeral experience while contributing to sustainable practices. Biodegradable shrouds, caskets, and urns crafted from willow, seagrass, linen, cotton, wool, and other biodegradable materials offer unique opportunities to families seeking more personalized vessels. To see GBC certified products to carry in your showroom, go to: www.greenburialcouncil.org > [Find Providers](#) > [Products Providers](#)

Connect Families to Green Burial Cemeteries in Your Area

The GBC lists cemeteries throughout the US and Canada that meet our certification standards in three categories: existing cemeteries that allow vaultless burial (hybrid), cemeteries that follow additional green burial guidelines (natural), and burial grounds that are located within conserved land affiliated with a land trust (conservation). To locate certified green burial opportunities near you, go to:

www.greenburialcouncil.org > [Find Providers](#) > [Cemeteries by State/Province](#)

Learn More About Green Funeral Service

GBC310, *Changing Landscapes in Green Funeral Service* is a ten week course designed to teach funeral professionals how to curate environmentally sustainable business practices. Offered through Mid-American Mortuary College.

Learn more at www.greenburialcouncil.org > [Education](#) > [Green Funeral Course](#)