



# Green Burial Council Planning Guide

This document was created to assist in the planning and facilitation of your green burial. It addresses the components of a green funeral/burial, and should serve as a supplement to any other end-of-life planner you may be using. A full list of GBC approved funeral establishments, cemeteries, product manufacturers, and cremation disposition programs can be found at: [www.greenburialcouncil.org/finding-a-provider/](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org/finding-a-provider/)

## Environmental Aims

Environmental benefits that mean the most to me in order of importance (#1 most important, #4 least important):

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Conservation of natural resources | ___ Reduction of carbon emissions       |
| ___ Protection of worker health       | ___ Preservation/restoration of habitat |

## Funeral Service Provider

My preference is to have my funeral coordinated by:

- A funeral establishment that is part of the Green Burial Council's network of approved providers prepared to conduct my green burial:\*

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- A family member/friend whom I have chosen to handle my arrangements:\*\*

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you have prearrangement with a funeral home that is not part of the GBC list of providers, discuss your intentions with your funeral director to determine if they can meet your current needs. The GBC will be happy to help the funeral home understand the procedures for facilitating a green burial.

\*\*Please check to ensure that your state allows for a funeral to be facilitated without a licensed funeral director. As of 2010 the list of states that require families to use a licensed funeral director are as follows: CT, IN, IL, LA, MI, NE, NJ, and NY.

## Body Preparation

I approve of the following practices/products to disinfect, deodorize and temporarily preserve my body after my death:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Ice  | <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigeration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topical application (i.e. sprays, compounds) using nontoxic, essential oils approved by the Green Burial Council                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topical application and/or internal injection (excluding arterial injection) using nontoxic, essential oils approved by the Green Burial Council |  |
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## Burial Container

My preference is for use of Green Burial Council approved:

- Casket  Shroud  
 Casket and shroud  Urn  
 Burial container that will be obtained from  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of Service/Viewing

My preference is for a:

- Private open casket funeral  Private closed casket funeral  
 Public open casket funeral  Public closed casket funeral  
 Public closed casket funeral with a private viewing of my body prior to the funeral  
 Public closed casket funeral with a private viewing of my body after the funeral  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## Place of Funeral Service

My preference is to have:

- A graveside funeral only  
 A funeral at my home  
 A funeral at the funeral home handling my arrangements (identified above)  
 A funeral at the following specified location:  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## Disposition

- I have made arrangements for burial at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have not made arrangements for burial at a cemetery  
 I would like to be buried on my property (at the location identified on the map attached to this document) and have verified with my local county planning department that burial is allowed to take place on this property.  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## Contingencies

If there is no green burial ground near where I live, I would be willing to have my body transported to:

- A GBC approved burial ground within 1000 miles of my home  
 A GBC approved burial ground within 500 miles of my home  
 A GBC approved burial ground within 100 miles of my home  
 Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorialization\*

I would like to have:

- A tree as a marker
- A rock as a marker
- Wildflowers or native plants planted on top of my grave instead of a marker
- A rock as a marker engraved with the following words:
- Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- No marker on top of my grave
- My name listed on a central/memorial marker

\*These choices will not be available at all cemeteries. Please check individual cemeteries for what memorializations are available.

## Cremation (if applicable)

I would like to:

- Chose a cremation facility that recycles medical parts
- Offset the carbon emissions from cremation by making a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to a carbon fund\*  
I have specified here: \_\_\_\_\_
- Chose a cremation facility that mitigates for mercury pollution (available in 2013)
- Have my ashes given to: \_\_\_\_\_  
with the request that they be committed in the following manner : \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_

It is suggested that you email and/or give hard copies of this completed Green Burial Planning Guide to a family member/friend, your next of kin, attorney, estate planner and the funeral home and/or cemetery with whom you have made your final arrangements along with any other specific instructions you have made regarding your funeral/burial. If you need further help or have any questions, please email the Green Burial Council at [info@greenburialcouncil.org](mailto:info@greenburialcouncil.org) or call 888-966-3330.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_