

## FOR CEMETERY OPERATORS

The Green Burial Society of Canada (GBSC) recognizes four (4) categories of *Approved Provider*:

- **1.** Green Burial Service Provider
- 2. Green Burial Cemetery (Small)
- **3.** Green Burial Cemetery (Large)
- **4.** Green Burial Conservation Cemetery

The criteria for each of the categories are set out below:

- Please refer to the GBSC Glossary of Terms regarding terminology used in the criteria descriptions.
- Please refer to the FAQs, following the Glossary of Terms, which address questions about the application process.
- The GBSC recognizes that, province to province, there may be operational and governance differences between cemeteries. Applications for *Approved Provider* status will be evaluated on the completeness of the application, which should include any notes about special considerations particular to a jurisdiction that the GBSC may need to address in providing recognition status.
- Criteria will be reviewed by the GBSC on an annual basis. Criteria may change as environmental and sustainability best practices, standards and trends emerge and evolve. The GBSC will communicate proposed changes directly to *Approved Providers* through the Society's internal communication network.

### **Terms & Benefits of Recognition**

**Application Fee:** The one-time application fee covers GBSC time and resources to vet, set-up and administer the initial application process. *Approved Provider* status is location-based, as opposed to ownership-based. An application fee must be paid for each cemetery for which *Approved Provider* status is sought. The application fee must be paid at the time an application is filed.

**Renewal Fee:** Renewal of *Approved Provider* status will require the cemetery operator to provide an affidavit to the GBSC confirming that the cemetery continues to provide green burial services in compliance with the category of recognition being renewed. Also, to retain *Approved Provider* designation, a renewal fee is payable annually, on the anniversary date of the applicant's original designation of *Approved Provider* status by the GBSC. The annual renewal fee covers GBSC costs to administer the recognition program, maintain the GBSC website and social media accounts, and to promote GBSC goals (per the GBSC Constitution) within the public realm.

Approved Provider Benefits: Upon designation, an Approved Provider will enjoy the following benefits:

- the ability to use (subject to terms of use) the GBSC *Approved Provider* designation, the GBSC logo and GBSC URL (web link) in the marketing of their cemetery;
- a listing (for each recognized location) on the GBSC's website;
- promotion of Approved Providers through the GBSC social media accounts;
- provider-only access to exclusive GBSC on-line content and access to subject matter experts for advice and assistance;
- opportunities to participate as hosts/sponsors of GBSC's public education events, and
- discounts to attend/participate in GBSC events.



### Category 1: Green Burial Service Provider

The following five (5) criteria **MUST** be present for a burial to qualify as a "GREEN BURIAL":

**The BODY:** Remains for green burial must be in a natural state so as to permit natural, unimpeded decomposition. (Arterial embalming, in any form, is not permitted.)

**The CONTAINER:** Remains for burial must be enclosed in a fully biodegradable shroud, casket or other container. (Ideally, the container will be made from locally-sourced, sustainably-produced fabrics and materials.)

**The BURIAL:** Remains will be placed and buried directly into the earth. (Use of an outer burial container, such as a rough-box, grave liner or vault of any type, is not permitted.)

**The MEMORIAL:** If permitted, a memorial will PREFERABLY in the form of a communal memorial. (If individual memorials are permitted, they must be minimally intrusive on the landscape and made from locally-sourced materials.)

**The CEMETERY:** Shall have active and ongoing community outreach to provide and advocate for Green Burial service practices across the community. Advocacy for green burial shall be made in good faith, and without reservation or the creation of barriers, such as restrictive bylaws or pricing intended to discourage families from choosing a green burial option. FURTHER, a cemetery with this designation shall strive to use electric or fuel-efficient cemetery vehicles and/or bio-fuels in standard cemetery equipment to be used in services; shall have a program for cemetery-wide, on-site recycling and/or composting of landscape and organic debris, as well as general waste; and continuously engage in cemetery-wide, ongoing initiatives to increase its sustainability.

Operators that commit to providing burials within their cemetery under the above criteria may apply for *GBSC Green Burial Service Provider Approved Provider* recognition/designation.

APPLICATION FEE: \$350 CAD ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE: \$125 CAD



## **CATEGORY 2: Green Burial Cemetery (Small)**

*In addition to meeting all of the criteria of Category 1* a cemetery applying for Category 2 recognition will have a section within the cemetery set aside exclusively for green burial that is at least one quarter (1/4) of an acre and up to one (1) acre in size AND will also meet at least eight (8) of the following additional criteria:

- □ Individual burials will be made at a depth of 1.2M (or less).
- □ Communal memorials only, no individual memorials permitted.
- □ Family/Public Participation in Green Burial service encouraged (including filling of grave, selecting plant materials for grave, planting of graves, etc.)
- □ Use of seed (in place of sod) and/or native plant species on grave surfaces.
- □ No supplemental watering (in-ground irrigation systems) of green burial areas.
- □ No use of herbicides or pesticides in green burial areas.
- □ No use of non-organic fertilizers or soil amendments in green burial areas.
- □ Use of xeriscape principles, cemetery wide, in site planning & maintenance.
- □ Use of electric or fuel-efficient cemetery vehicles and/or use of bio-fuels in standard cemetery equipment.
- □ Cemetery wide, on-site recycling and/or composting of landscape & organic debris, and general waste.
- □ Cemetery wide, ongoing greening initiatives.
- □ Native Species Habitat Restoration, preferably on-site OR as part of a local community habitat restoration project at an off-site location.
- □ Grave Re-Use / Time Limited Grave Lease, where/if permitted by regulatory jurisdiction or historical practice, encouraged as a function of sustainable land use.
- Double-Depth interments are permitted when used as a function of sustainable land use.

Cemeteries that commit to providing burials under the above criteria AND provide written evidence of a conservation easement/commitment placed on the green burial area(s) in the cemetery protecting them against any future change of use may apply for *GBSC Green Burial Cemetery (Small) Approved Provider* recognition/designation.

### APPLICATION FEE: \$350 CAD ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE: \$125 CAD



## CATEGORY 3: Green Burial Cemetery (Large)

*In addition to meeting all of the criteria of Category 1* a cemetery applying for Category 3 recognition will have a section(s) within the cemetery set aside exclusively for green burial that is at least one (1) or more acres in size AND will also meet at least ten (10) of the following additional criteria:

- □ Individual burials will be made at a depth of 1.2M (or less).
- □ Communal memorials only, no individual memorials permitted.
- □ Family/Public Participation in Green Burial service encouraged (including filling of grave, selecting plant materials for grave, planting of graves, etc.)
- □ Use of seed (in place of sod) and/or native plant species on grave surfaces.
- □ No supplemental watering (in-ground irrigation systems) of green burial areas.
- □ No use of herbicides or pesticides in green burial areas.
- □ No use of non-organic fertilizers or soil amendments in green burial areas.
- □ Use of xeriscape principles, cemetery wide, in site planning & maintenance.
- □ Use of electric or fuel-efficient cemetery vehicles and/or use of bio-fuels in standard cemetery equipment.
- □ Cemetery wide, on-site recycling and/or composting of landscape & organic debris, and general waste.
- □ Cemetery wide, ongoing greening initiatives.
- □ Native Species Habitat Restoration, preferably on-site OR as part of a local community habitat restoration project at an off-site location.
- Grave Re-Use / Time Limited Grave Lease, where/if permitted by regulatory jurisdiction or historical practice, encouraged as a function of sustainable land use.
- Double-Depth interments are permitted when used as a function of sustainable land use.

Cemeteries that commit to providing burials under the above criteria AND provide written evidence of a conservation easement/commitment placed on the green burial area(s) in the cemetery protecting them against any future change of use may apply for GBSC *Green Burial Cemetery (Large) Approved Provider* recognition.

### APPLICATION FEE: \$350 CAD ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE: \$125 CAD



### CATEGORY 4: Green Burial Conservation Cemetery

*In addition to meeting all of the criteria of Category 1* a cemetery applying for Category 4 recognition will be stand-alone cemetery (of any size) dedicated exclusively to green burial AND will meet at least twelve (12) or more of the following additional criteria:

- □ Individual burials will be made at a depth of 1.2M (or less).
- □ Communal memorials only, no individual memorials permitted.
- □ Family/Public Participation in Green Burial service encouraged (including filling of grave, selecting plant materials for grave, planting of graves, etc.)
- □ Use of seed (in place of sod) and/or native plant species on grave surfaces.
- □ No supplemental watering (in-ground irrigation systems) in the cemetery.
- □ No use of herbicides or pesticides in the cemetery.
- □ No use of non-organic fertilizers or soil amendments in the cemetery.
- □ Use of electric or fuel-efficient cemetery vehicles and/or use of bio-fuels in standard cemetery equipment.
- □ Cemetery wide, on-site recycling and/or composting of landscape & organic debris, and general waste.
- □ Cemetery wide, ongoing greening initiatives.
- Cemetery wide application of xeriscape principles in site planning & maintenance
- □ Native Species Habitat Restoration, preferably on-site OR as part of a local community habitat restoration project at an off-site location.
- Grave Re-Use / Time Limited Grave Lease, where/if permitted by regulatory jurisdiction or historical practice, encouraged as a function of sustainable land use.
- Double-Depth interments are permitted when used as a function of sustainable land use.

Cemeteries that commit to providing burials under the above criteria AND provide written evidence of a conservation easement on the land title of the cemetery protecting against any future change of use may apply for GBSC *Green Burial Conservation Cemetery Approved Provider* recognition.

### APPLICATION FEE: \$125 CAD ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE: \$50 CAD



#### **GBSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Biodegradable** means capable of decaying through the action of living organisms. e.g. *biodegradable paper; biodegradable detergent.* 

**For green burial:** A biodegradable container can be a shroud, casket or other form of container made from plant or animal sources (wool, cotton, linen, silk, hemp, bamboo, seagrass, willow, etc.)

**Bio-fuel** means a fuel made from a living source.

*For green burial:* If or where motorized equipment is used in the performance of a green burial the equipment will ideally use advanced bio-fuels (where available).

**Care Fund** means a fund, generally required by law, established, held and invested by a cemetery to fund current and future care and maintenance expenses.

*For green burial:* In a green or natural burial ground this fund will cover stewardship of the land and the costs required to maintain the land in a natural state.

**Cemetery** means a place where human remains or cremated remains are buried, scattered or entombed.

**For green burial:** A Green Burial Conservation Cemetery will be an entire cemetery dedicated to green and natural burial, incorporating green practices in all components of its operations, including but not limited to landscape design and maintenance, use of bio-fuels for vehicles, green building principals in all structures, comprehensive site-wide reduce, re-use and recycle programs, etc. (Increasingly, traditional cemeteries are incorporating green burial areas – see **Green Burial Cemetery** below.)

**Communal Memorial** means a memorial (monument, structure, edifice) where numerous memorial inscriptions can be made.

**For green burial:** In a green cemetery or burial area, a communal memorial will be the only form of memorialization permitted, will be made from naturally and locally sourced materials and will be unobtrusive in size so as to allow the landscape to remain in as natural a state as possible. Ultimately, it is the green burial site as whole that becomes a living memorial to the persons interred there.

**Community Outreach** means the process of educating and informing the wider community to form mutually beneficial relationships that work toward a common goal.

**For green burial:** As a component of the function of a green cemetery or burial ground, this will mean actively working with and educating the general public and all levels of government to promote and advocate for environmentally sustainable burial and funeral services. Such advocacy will encourage creation of practices, policy and legislation that empowers and creates options, including options that allow for meaningful, participatory ritual and ceremony, for people to choose with ease.



### **GBSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS (cont.)**

**Conservation Easement** means a legal agreement, normally registered on the title of a parcel of land, between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

**For green burial:** For a green cemetery, or a green burial area within an existing cemetery, a conservation easement will be registered against the land used for green burial purposes to guarantee it will be kept in a natural state and will never be repurposed for another form cemetery (or non-cemetery) purpose.

**Container** means a shroud, casket, coffin, urn or alternate form of containment used to enclose human remains or cremated remains for burial.

*For green burial:* Burial containers are made of natural, biodegradable materials and where the materials are ideally locally sourced and the containers locally manufactured.

**Decomposition** means the process of decay, the breakdown of organic components by natural means.

**For green burial:** In green burial, the goal is to have as little interference with the natural effects of soil, water, oxygen, fungi and microbes on the decomposition process. This is why, for green burial human remains are not embalmed, are placed in a biodegradable container (and clothing) and have a more shallow burial than a traditional burial.

**Double-Depth Interment** means a single grave is used for the burial of the human remains of two (2) persons, normally is two caskets, one over top of the other. This form of lot is relatively common in cemeteries across Canada.

**For green burial:** Ideally a single green burial will be made at a shallower depth (1.2M) to create optimal conditions for the decomposition of the remains buried. However, as double-depth interment lots represent a more sustainable form of cemetery land use, and with a strong landscape plan, double-depth interment lots can be used for green burial.

**Embalming** means an artificial process of preparing human remains for final disposition. Embalming is achieved through arterial injection of embalming chemicals and the removal of natural bodily fluids. Embalming chemicals (even so-called "green" chemicals) commonly contain highly toxic components including, but not limited to, formalin (formaldehyde), alcohol compounds, surfactants, disinfectants, solvents and artificial colour. The manufacture and transportation of embalming fluids also carry a considerable carbon footprint, for a single use product, for both the chemicals and containers used.

**For green burial:** Embalming is not a natural process and so is contrary to the most fundamental ideals of green burial. A green alternative to embalming is the topical (surface) bathing and disinfection of human remains (using natural, environmentally safe soaps and essential oils) and then making use of modern refrigeration, dry ice or Techni-ice (trademark) to keep the human remains cool and in a reasonable state for the purposes of a viewing, wake or vigil.



## **GBSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS (cont.)**

**Grave Reuse** (sometimes called grave leasing) means **t**he act of reusing graves for future burials, on a continuous basis, after previously interred remains have fully decomposed. The purpose of this practice, common throughout the world, is to conserve land and promote the long-term sustainability of a cemetery.

**For green burial:** While not yet an accepted practice in Canada (North America), grave re-use is a way to make cemeteries more environmentally sustainable and counteract what many consider to be a waste of land resources, namely, the modern, traditional, perpetual interment right cemetery.

**Green Burial Cemetery** means a pre-existing cemetery that has set aside and created an area of the cemetery dedicated exclusively to green burial.

**For green burial:** While the creation of a stand-alone Green Burial Conservation Cemetery is the ideal (but can difficult to achieve), the addition of green burial areas in existing cemeteries is often the quickest, simplest and most effective means of establishing green burial availability in a community.

**Green Burial** means an environmentally sensitive practice where body in a natural (unembalmed) state is buried directly in the earth thus allowing it to decompose naturally and contribute to new life.

**For green burial:** As well as being a simple form of disposition it is also, as a final act of life, a reflection and statement of personal values for those who seek to minimize their impact on the local and global environment.

Greening Initiative means the processing of offsetting Greenhouse gases emitted by human activity.

**For green burial:** For a green cemetery this would include (but is not limited to) using xeriscape design for the grounds, removing and replacing hardscape (paved roads, sidewalks, grave caps, etc.) where possible, tree and habitat restoration using local and indigenous plant materials, using alternative sources of fuel and energy for buildings and equipment, etc.

**Greenwashing** means a business or service that promotes environmental goods or services but actually provides those goods or services in a manner opposite to the stated goal of the announced environmental benefit or initiatives or in a way that is damaging to the environment.

**For green burial:** This can mean misleading customers about the environmental benefits of a product or service through misrepresentation of the facts, misleading advertising or making unsubstantiated claims about their cemetery or services.

**Lower and Fill** means the process of lowering a shrouded body, or a body in a casket or alternative container into a grave, and then filling the grave.

**For green burial:** In a green cemetery policy may allow for this to happen without the assistance of a mechanical lowering device (where safety considerations and practical circumstances permit) and then the family and attendees at a green burial service could assist in the partial or complete filling of the grave (see 'Opening and Closing').



## **GBSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS (cont.)**

**Memorial Monument or Marker** means, in a traditional cemetery setting, an upright headstone or monument ("tombstone"), a tablet or plaque installed flush with the ground, or other form of inscription installed in a cemetery to memorialize individual graves.

*For green burial:* Individual memorialization is discouraged in green burial cemeteries, and where it may be allowed, the memorial is normally small in size and made from a natural, local source.

**Native Plant** means a species of plant within the geographical boundaries of a community that, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation, existed locally prior to European contact. Native plants include those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.

**For green burial:** A green burial cemetery will in its green burial areas, and throughout the entire cemetery, actively source and use native plant species wherever practicable. The green cemetery will also be able to provide a plant list, to families choosing green burial, of native species (with a description) that may be used in planting the surface of green burial graves.

**Native Species Habitat Restoration** means the process of restoring a native plant eco-system to a site that, through human interference, has been significantly and artificially altered from its natural state.

**For green burial:** The creation and development of green burial sites by *natural* extension is a form of native species habitat restoration. Through careful planning, xeriscape design and using only native plant species in a green burial area or cemetery, restoration is being achieved as a benefit arsing from accommodating this form of final disposition.

**Natural** means the state which a naturally occurring object, landscape or living organism (living or dead human body) is in before any human intervention.

**For green burial:** A dead human body in its natural state is one that is not embalmed. A natural fibre can be a fibre made without chemicals, from materials occurring in nature. A natural memorial can be a large stone that was discovered in a gravesite during the excavation of the grave.

**Opening and Closing** means the process of excavation (digging), and after remains are placed, filling in a grave used for the burial of human remains or cremated remains.

**For green burial:** A green burial cemetery or service provider may, as circumstances, procedures and safety considerations permit, offer a family the option to participate (partially or completely) in the opening, and most commonly, the closing of a green burial grave. If only mechanical means are used for opening and closing then ideally the equipment will be run using bio-fuels.

**Outer Burial Container means** a wooden (rough) box, concrete grave liner or vault, or other form of vault (metal / resin) used to enclose a casket or container in a grave. This form of container is primarily used to allow for ease of maintenance in traditional cemeteries.

**For green burial:** A fundamental of green burial is that the buried human remains have direct contact with the earth so as to permit natural and rapid decomposition. Outer burial containers, of any type, are not permitted for green burials.



## **GBSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS (cont.)**

**Planting of Graves** means the landscaping of individual graves, often limited to a specific space or design format in a traditional cemetery.

**For green burial:** The use of memorialized individual, non-native plantings in this manner is discouraged or disallowed. Green burial cemeteries will only plant graves with native species of plants or seeds as their planting plan suggests.

**Recycling** means the process of diverting waste from a landfill and instead finding a means to repurpose or reuse the waste.

*For green burial:* This will encompass the recycling of landscape debris (composting) and general waste (plastics, paper, containers, etc.) generated at the cemetery generally.

**Shroud** means a large sheet of cloth or specially made garment in which human remains are enclosed (wrapped) for final disposition.

**For green burial:** A shroud will be made of natural fibre (unbleached cotton, linen, hemp, bamboo, wool or silk), may be either plain or can decorated with natural, organic or vegetable based paints, dyes, and could have ornamentation (herbal sachets containing aromatic plants, seagrass, shells, bone, etc.). In a green burial, a body wrapped in a shroud can be buried directly in the earth or, if preferred by the family, can be placed into a fully biodegradable casket for burial.

**Stewardship** means the concept of maintaining a natural landscape with care and concern for use and function.

**For green burial:** The concept of stewardship allows for the natural control of potentially harmful species in a green cemetery or burial site. This might would include (but is not limited to) removal of invasive weeds and non-native plant species that might appear, eliminating pests (e.g. ticks), encouraging plant health and propagation, etc.

**Xeriscape** means a form of environmental design of residential and park land using various methods for minimizing the need for water use.

**For green burial:** A key component of a green burial cemetery operation is to limit the use of water in the green burial area. Normally this would mean that in-ground irrigation systems are not installed and other than for the purposes of making new plantings (native plants only) and allowing them to become established, no watering of the green burial site is done. Only natural rainfall is relied upon to 'deliver' water to the site.



# APPLICATION FAQS

# How can my cemetery acquire Green Burial Society of Canada (GBSC) Approved Provider status?

The application process has been designed to be as simple and straightforward as possible. These are the steps that must be taken to acquire GBSC *Approved Provider* recognition.

- After reviewing the four (4) categories of *Approved Provider* classifications available, an applicant cemetery will choose under which category they wish to apply.
- Applicant cemeteries will then complete an application form and as part of the application process sign an affidavit / declaration committing the cemetery to providing without limitation or restriction the green burial services they intend to provide.
- Applicants will also commit to providing their green burial services in a principled and ethical manner and, as part of the application package, include a signed copy of the *GBSC Principles of Ethical Service* document.
- After completing and signing the application and all related documents, the Applicant will submit documents with payment to the GBSC for review.
- When the GBSC has completed its review of the application, a representative will notify the Applicant whether they have been designated with *Approved Provider* status, or if there are deficiencies in their application that need to be addressed before such status can be inferred.
- *Approved Provider* status will be subject to an annual renewal, on the anniversary date of the original designation.

### What is the application process?

- Applications are available through the GBSC website, and the entire application process must be completed online, including payment of fees.
- Upon submission of an application and payment of fees payable the GBSC will,
  - within 72 hours acknowledge receipt of the application and payment, and;
  - within 14-21 days make a ruling on granting (or not) of *Approved Provider* status.
- In the instance applicants are not successful, the applicant will be advised why the application failed and what is needed to correct the deficiency in their application in order to acquire *Approved Provider* status.

### How are applications for Approved Provider status assessed?

- The application process and Approved Provider status is based on an *in good faith*, selfreporting and self-regulating model which relies on the honesty and integrity of every applicant.
- The GBSC will review each application for completeness, signature(s) and commitments made to providing and following the green burial services and environmental programs, as described in the applicable category, in a principled and ethical manner.
- Also, *Approved Provider* status will not be granted to any applicant until payment in full due with the application has been received.
- Upon approval of an application *Approved Provider* status will be conferred on the cemetery and retained for a period of one year where such status is maintained with payment of an annual, nominal renewal fee (*TBD*).



# **APPLICATION FAQS (cont.)**

## What does GBSC Approved Provider status entitle my cemetery to?

As an Approved Provider, a cemetery will be granted the following:

- A listing of their cemetery on the GBSC website indicating they are a GBSC Approved Provider;
- A referral to their cemetery (based on location) when inquires are made of the GBSC from the public;
- A reciprocal URL link of their cemetery website to/with the GBSC website;
- The right to use, as governed by the GBSC, the GBSC name, logo and marketing materials, either separately or as part of any marketing materials that their cemetery uses to promote green burial;
- Access to exclusive GBSC resources and subject matter experts to assist in researching or discussing green burial matters related to their cemetery or green burial in general;
- Access to the GBSC network of green burial providers across Canada;
- Additional benefits as they may be developed by the GBSC.

\*Approved Providers should be aware that as part of the listing of their cemetery on the GBSC website, a copy of their approved category and the signed commitment to GBSC Principles of Ethical Service will be viewable by consumer visitors to the GBSC website.

# How are Approved Providers monitored?

- The GBSC, *in good faith*, is relying on the honesty, integrity and good reputation of every *Approved Provider* cemetery to deliver green burial services and facilities to their community, in fulfillment of the category for which they were approved and in the full spirit and intent declared by their signing the GBSC's *Approved Provider Statement of Statement of Ethical Practice*.
- The GBSC will rely on each *Approved Provider* to self-report and self-regulate the provision of green burial services. *Approved Providers* will be invited, on an annual/voluntary basis, to provide to the GBSC a report itemizing the number and types of green burials they performed, and any challenges they faced in providing their green burial services. The collection of this data, which will be held in confidence, will be used by the GBSC to develop reports about the acceptance and adoption of green burial services across Canada.
- The GBSC will actively engage with the general public and with death care service consumers, and these people will be invited to share their comments and experiences with *Approved Provider* firms. The GBSC believes the public and actual green burial consumers will be the Society's best form of monitoring of *Approved Providers*. The GBSC is considering development of an on-line consumer review page for *Approved Providers* (similar to "Trip Adviser" etc.);
- The GBSC is not a regulatory or certification agency and has no intention to interfere or insert itself into how any cemetery is managed or operated. The GBSC is dedicated solely to ensuring that green burial services are made available to Canadians in an honest and ethical manner, free of false claims and "greenwashing".



# **APPLICATION FAQS (cont.)**

### Once acquired, can Approved Provider status be lost or rescinded?

- Once initially granted, the simplest way to lose *Approved Provider* status is to fail to complete and pay for the annual renewal of the status on or by the renewal date, or;
- The next would be the GBSC being provided with evidence or otherwise made aware of information indicating a cemetery having acquired *Approved Provider* status based on false or misleading statements in their application or renewal, or;
- Most significantly, GBSC, through direct public and consumer feedback, is in receipt of or made aware of a provider's regular and consistent actions that are contrary to green burial, not living up to, or not providing green burial services in fulfillment of their *Approved Provider* status.
- In the instance where the GBSC proposes to rescind an *Approved Provider* designation, the cemetery will be notified in advance and given the opportunity to appeal the rescinding of this status.