

# Green Cleaning Program

## Torrington Public Schools

### PURPOSE:

Green cleaning products have increased in importance as health studies have documented what ill and adverse effects most commercial chemical cleaning products have, not only on the janitorial staff that use them every day, but also on building occupants such as an occupant in an office or a student in a school. The purpose of this policy is to prevent ailments caused by using harmful and toxic chemicals, increase knowledge of those who use them, and ensure that the products are not detrimental to the environment, water supply, or soil. As stated by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), the overall intent of a green cleaning policy should be to “reduce exposure of building occupants and maintenance personnel to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants that adversely impact air quality, occupant well-being, and the environment.”

### OVERVIEW:

Cleaning standards and practices for the district include:

- Purchase **sustainable cleaning products and disinfectants** that comply with criteria in ‘Industrial and Institutional Cleaner Specification’s.
- Purchase **sustainable cleaning tools**, particularly microfiber or recycled cotton tools and wipers.
- For new equipment purchases, select **sustainable cleaning equipment** meeting criteria in ‘Sustainable Cleaning Equipment Specifications’
- Create a **listing of sustainable products approved for purchase** for the facility including industrial and institutional cleaners, floor care products, disposable paper products and trash bags and liners
- Create a **listing of prohibited products and chemicals** that will not be permitted nor purchased for use in the facility
- Develop **requirements for staffing and training of maintenance personnel** appropriate to the needs of the building. Specifically address the training of maintenance personnel in the hazards of use, disposal and recycling of cleaning chemicals, dispensing equipment and packaging.
- **No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product that is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize, or disinfect.**

### CURRENT GREEN CLEANING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

David Bascetta , Director of Facilities

## **PURCHASE OF SUSTAINABLE CLEANING PRODUCTS & MATERIALS:**

### **Industrial and Institutional Cleaner Specifications:**

General purpose, bathroom, glass, and carpet cleaners used for industrial and institutional purposes will meet the requirements of Green Seal 37 (GS-37) and/or Title 17, CARB 94509 for Bathroom Cleaners (< 5.0% VOC), Title 17, CARB 94509 for General Purpose Cleaners (<4.0%VOC).

Industrial and institutional floor care products will meet the requirements of Green Seal 40 (GS-40) and/or ), Title 17, CARB 94509 for Floor Polishes/Waxes - products for flexible flooring materials (< 7.0%VOC).

### **Sustainable Cleaning Tools:**

#### **Microfiber Cleaning Cloths and Dry Mops:**

Microfiber cleaning products use static electricity to hold dust and particles without leaving dirt or streaks on the cleaned surface. They do not require the use of chemicals, can be used dry for dusting and light dirt, and cloths may be dampened with hot water for cleaning glass, mirrors, painted surfaces, etc. Microfiber cloths come in numerous styles in order to best fit the intended use, and can hold up to 7 times their weight in liquid. These reusable cloths will also replace the need for paper towels, reducing overall waste.

#### **Recycled Cotton Cloths:**

Recycled cotton cloths are always helpful to have when using a microfiber cloth is not necessary. These reusable cloths will also replace the need for paper towels, reducing overall waste.

### **Sustainable Cleaning Equipment:**

The custodial department possesses several pieces of "green" cleaning equipment. However, it is understood that the wholesale replacement of all existing custodial equipment is cost prohibitive and impractical. Therefore, the use of "green" cleaning equipment shall continue to be phased in with the purchase of new and replacement equipment.

**When replacing custodial equipment, the following guidelines shall be followed:**

#### **Vacuum Cleaners:**

Vacuum cleaners shall be certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) "Green Label" Testing Program for vacuum cleaners and operate with a sound level of less than 70dBA.  
<http://www.carpet-rug.org/residential-customers/selecting-the-right-carpet-or-rug/green-label-vacuum-list.cfm>

#### **Carpet Extraction Equipment:**

Carpet extraction equipment used for restorative deep cleaning shall be certified by the CRI "Seal of Approval" Testing Program for deep-cleaning extractors.  
[http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/cleaning-and-maintenance/seal-of-approval-products/extractor-list.cfm?product\\_type=o&manuf\\_id=o](http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/cleaning-and-maintenance/seal-of-approval-products/extractor-list.cfm?product_type=o&manuf_id=o)

**Powered Floor Maintenance Equipment:**

Powered floor maintenance equipment, including electric and battery-powered floor buffers and burnishing machines shall be equipped with vacuums, guards and/or other devices for capturing fine particulates and shall operate with a sound level of less than 70dBA.

**Automated Scrubbing Machines:**

Automated scrubbing machines shall be equipped with variable-speed feed pumps reducing the amount of chemical and water.

**Approved Products:** \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a list of products that has been approved for purchase .If possible, all industrial cleaning products will meet third party certification standards. Third party certification shall come from organizations such as Green Seal, Eco Logo or Designed for the Environment (EPA DFE). Products, for which no standards have been set, will be purchased with regard to the health and safety of all and with an eye to environmental impact.

|                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                              |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Master Cleaning Chemical List:                                                      |                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                              |                        |
| Product Usage Summary                                                               |                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                              |                        |
| <b>REGULATED PRODUCTS</b>                                                           |                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                              |                        |
|                                                                                     | <b>Product Name</b>                                                         | <b>Product Type</b>                | <b>Usage Areas</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>Usage Frequency</b> |
|  | <b>Earth Sense®<br/>ASPIRE<br/>Metal Free<br/>Floor Sealer /<br/>Finish</b> | <b>Floor Finish</b>                | Finish is applied to floors that are newly stripped or have been deep scrubbed. All vinyl floors including offices, hallways and classrooms. | As needed              |
|  | <b>Earth Sense®<br/>GREEN<br/>IMPACT<br/>Speed<br/>Stripper</b>             | <b>Floor Finish<br/>Stripper</b>   | For use in stripping processes only to remove all floor finish on a floor. All vinyl floors including offices, hallways and classrooms.      | As needed              |
|  | <b>Earth Sense®<br/>#16 pH<br/>NEUTRAL<br/>ALL-<br/>PURPOSE<br/>CLEANER</b> | <b>General Purpose<br/>Cleaner</b> | Routine daily cleaner for all floors with floor finish. General Purpose Cleaner for any water washable surface. All vinyl floors             | Daily                  |

Master Cleaning Chemical List:

Product Usage Summary

|                                                                                     |                                                  |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |                                                  |                                          | including offices, hallways and classrooms.                                                                                                                                                                     |                                              |
| <b>Title 17, CARB 94509 for Bathroom Cleaners</b>                                   | TWIN POWER™ #15 ORGANIC ACID HD RESTROOM CLEANER | <b>Restroom Cleaner</b>                  | Use on showers, porcelain, chrome and other restroom fixtures to remove lime, scale, hard water deposits and soap. May also be used on water fountains, in locker rooms and for most hard water stain problems. | During shutdown periods.                     |
|    | <b>Earth Sense® #18 Multi-Surface Cleaner</b>    | <b>General Purpose Cleaner</b>           | Uses the power of hydrogen peroxide, all-natural citrus solvents and environmentally preferred detergents to safely, yet effectively, clean almost any washable surface you can imagine.                        | Daily                                        |
|  | <b>Earth Sense® #19 Glass and Window Cleaner</b> | <b>Glass Cleaner</b>                     | Use for all types of glass, windows, mirrors and Plexiglas™.                                                                                                                                                    | Shutdown. (Water and microfiber used daily). |
|  | <b>Earth Sense® #35 Degreaser Cleaner</b>        | <b>General Purpose Cleaner/Degreaser</b> | Use for all surfaces not harmed by water.                                                                                                                                                                       | Daily                                        |

**NON-REGULATED PRODUCTS BY CT 09-81**

|                                                      |                             |                          |                                                                 |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Title 17, CARB 94509 for Floor Polishes/Waxes</b> | POP & SHINE™ Gloss Restorer | <b>Finish Maintainer</b> | Concentrated Interim maintenance product for finished surfaces. | Weekly, As Needed |
| <b>Title 17,</b>                                     | SHA-ZYME Grease             | <b>Bio-Enzymatic</b>     | Daily degreaser,                                                | Daily, As needed  |

|                                                            |                                                     |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Master Cleaning Chemical List:                             |                                                     |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Product Usage Summary                                      |                                                     |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <b>CARB 94509<br/>for General<br/>Purpose<br/>Cleaners</b> | Attacking / Anti-Slip<br>Deodorizing<br>Bio-Cleaner | <b>Degreaser Cleaner</b> | cleaner, deodorizer<br>for use on porous<br>hard surfaces such<br>as concrete, quarry<br>tile, ceramic tile,<br>brick and any<br>grouted floor<br>surface without<br>floor finish or wax.<br>Includes Kitchens<br>and restrooms. |  |

**Prohibited Products:** \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a list of products that are prohibited for use in Torrington Public Schools

- Aerosols and other ozone depleting products
- Non-concentrated cleaning products (if concentrated is available)
- Products containing heavy metals
- Alkyl phenol ethoxylates
- Phthalatates

**TRAINING PROGRAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

Custodial training is an integral part of a green cleaning policy. If the janitorial staff is not trained to use products correctly, results can lead to excessive use of chemicals (using higher cleaner concentrations when not required for the task at hand), wasted time (for over-cleaning) and wasted resources, all of which can have a negative effect on the environment and the facility's maintenance budget.

