8th Annual EPA Tools For Schools Symposium December 7, 2007

Allan T. Wakefield
Interim Director of Facilities
North Merrick Union Free School District
Long Island, New York
awakefield@nmerrick.org
(516) 292-3095

Mission Statement

To be leaders in maintaining the highest standards of a safe, healthy learning environment. To support educational excellence through the prudent management of resources.

New York State Association for Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds, Inc.

Implementing a Cleaning For Health Program

BECAUSE IT JUST MAKES SENSE

OUR JOBS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY

A Hands On Point of View

- NY State Regulations, Laws
  - Effective September 2006
  - Allowed to finish existing inventory
  - Independent 3rd Party product certification (minimum standards)
  - NYS OGS approved product list
  - Procure new approved products
  - Guidance & training
  - Surveys & follow up
- How Did We Get Started?
- How Did We Implement On A Daily Basis?
- How Do We Sustain The Program?

Starting A Program

- Get all the stakeholders onboard
  - Board of Education (policy makers)
  - Superintendent
  - Building Principals
  - Teachers
  - Students
  - Custodians
  - PARENTS !
- = Commitment and Ownership

Establish A Committee To

- Establish goals, standards and training
- Identify responsibilities, guidelines and best practices
- Review and evaluate the custodial chemical inventory and the products used
- Establish a plan to purge & dispose of materials not used
- Recommend products and equipment to test
- Assist in policy development
- Establish realistic outcomes or milestones that can be measured and compared

Cleaning For Health

- Develop and define cleaning procedures and techniques
- Establish a protocol to receive feedback from the workers
- Procure new products and equipment for testing (the bidding process)
- Labor – This could mean failure before getting starting
- The custodial staff are the "Environmental Guardians"
  - Crucial to the process
  - Sometimes they find change difficult (creatures of habit)
  - Stress the importance of their role
  - Staff should be involved early in the process
  - Demonstrate that protection of their health is priority #1
  - and need to be **TRAINED!**
- Follow Up

Cleaning For Health

- Document benchmarks to help determine potential improvements in
  - Student and staff attendance
  - Number of student visits to the nurse for asthma treatment
  - Number of worker compensation cases related to chemical exposure
  - Building appearance
  - Worker productivity
  - Cost

Stakeholders Meeting

- Board of Education
- PTA
- Administrators
- Faculty
- Custodial Staff

Custodial

District Buildings are utilized 17 Hrs. a day, 350 days a year

District Square Footage - 394,734

Average Home 1,800 – 2,200 Sq. Ft.-
Divide 394,734 by 2,000 = 197 Homes

197 Homes Divide by 24 Staff = 8.2 Homes a Day are Cleaned and Maintained Daily Per Staff Member

District Students and Staff 3,063 (Does not include approx. 500 Daily Visitors,Parents,Seniors,Visiting Teams, Adult Ed. Classes or out side use by the Community)

Training for Staff

- New products procured (This is a good time to remove the more hazardous products from use)
- Extremely Important – This will determine the success of the program
- Work in small groups
- Include practical hands-on demonstrations
- Vendors are a great training resource and are willing to get involved
- Insures proper product usage
- Empower the environmental guardians to become the experts

Training – Small Groups

Purchasing Environmentally Preferable Products

- State Contracts (NYS OGS) Environmentally Preferable Products

  http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/purchase/EnvironmentPurchasing.asp
- District purchasing through competitive bidding
- Preferred Sources – NYSID & NYSIB

	Item # Description	Brand Offered	North Merrick Quantity	North Bellmore Quantity	Bellmore Quantity	Merrick Quantity	Unit Packaging	Unit Price	Name of Third Party Certifier
1	**"MULTI-TASK" Super-Concentrated Cleaner** Substitute Product Provides Orange Oil and Water Biodegradable Surfactants ONE Concentrate = Multi-tasking Makes four (4) Ready-to-Use Cleaning Products which PERFORMS over 20 different cleaning Functions. Minimum Acceptable Hydrogen Peroxide % = 8 %. Bio-based Cleaning Concentrate Brand offered MUST DILUTE PROPERLY AT the pre-set Dilution Rates of a 1801-12-04/5 Automatic Dispensing System **OR EQUAL**		16	50	0	0	5 gal. / pail		
2	**" BOTANICAL DISINFECTANT "** An EPA registered, Plant-derived, Multi-purpose, Broad Spectrum Spray Disinfectant . Contains NO Ammonium Chlorides, Chlorines, Iodophors, Quaternary Ammonium Compounds , or Phenolics Effectively Cleans and Kills Bacteria (Gram +ve & -ve), Fungi, Tuberculosis, and HIV-1 . Contains ONLY Food Grade Ingredients . Product MUST BE LESS Toxic than Vinegar Must be EPA registered - EPA Registration # : Must be registered with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Certificate of Pesticide Registration- (Expiration Date : _____/_____/_____) **OR EQUAL**		30	20	1	10	2 / 1 gal		

June 2007 Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning and Maintenance Product School Impact Report Pursuant to Chapter 584 of the Laws of 2005

- What has been the overall fiscal impact of procuring green cleaning and maintenance products? (check one)

	Responses	%
Greater than 25% increase in spending	11	(4.0)
10-25% increase in spending	170	(62.3)
No change in spending	75	(27.5)
10-25% decrease in spending	15	(5.5)
Greater than 25% decrease in spending	2	(0.7)
Total responses	273	(88.1)

Product and Equipment Sampling and Testing

- Backpack vacuum cleaners
- Vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters
- Multi-product dilution control center = fewer products

EPA TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

ADDITIONAL WALK OFF MATTING

TRAPING MORE DIRT AND DUST BEFORE IT ENTERS THE BUILDING

Tools for the arsenal

Works good on graffiti

Green Seal approved foaming hand soap

Chemical free sponges

Micro Fiber cloth wipes

SAFER, LEAST TOXIC, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

CONTROLLED DILUTION - REDUCED RISK OF SPILL OR SPLASH

NO MEASURING

USER FRIENDLY

Simple & Easy Instructions

PROPER LABELING

Environmentally Friendly Alternatives

Made From 100% Recycled Paper

Biodegradable Bags Made From Corn

Cleaning For Health

- Establish a review and evaluation time line
  - Keep it simple – A check off form with room for comments
- Make adjustments – Customize
  - More training, a change in products or procedures
- Expand program
  - Share your results…the other schools will want to be included
- Feedback to the district and community
  - Benchmarking will help you develop statistical data
  - Share your successes out loud

As a parent, teacher, administrator, facilities director or board member...

- …what 3 things will you do next week to promote or begin green cleaning in your school district?
- …what 3 things will you do next month to promote or start green cleaning in your schools?

Conclusion

Starting a Green Cleaning program in public schools by introducing environmentally preferable products and methods is…

"…It's hard work." President Bush

&

"…It's the right thing to do." Wilfred Brimley