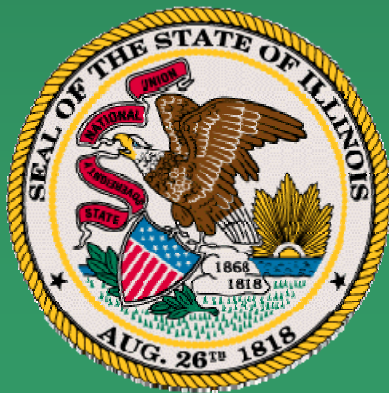


# Green Cleaning in Schools and Sustainable Schools Compact

ILCSWMA 2008 Fall Meeting

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**ILLINOIS**  
**GREEN GOVERNMENTS**  
**COORDINATING COUNCIL**

# What is Green Cleaning?

Cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.

- Products
- Equipment
- Cleaning methods
- Complementary practices



# Why Green Cleaning?

- Students' health & learning environment
- Health of custodial staff, teachers, and administrators
- Environmental protection
- Natural resources conservation
- Lifetime & performance of school facilities



# Children are not little adults.

- Developing immune systems and organs are more vulnerable
- Behaviors cause greater exposures
- Breathe, eat and drink proportionally more per pound of body weight than adults



# Benefits for all school building occupants

Better indoor air quality

## *Students*

Better health;  
less asthma

Increased  
attendance

More learning

## *Employees*

Fewer injuries &  
illnesses due to  
toxic chemicals

Increased  
attendance and  
morale

Higher  
productivity

# Benefits for the planet, too!

- Production cycle is less harmful

**FACT: Cleaning industry uses 6 billion pounds of chemicals annually**

- Efficient packaging reduces waste

**FACT: 4.5 billion pounds of janitorial paper used annually**

- Products and waste streams are not hazardous to water supplies

**FACT: Phosphates cause excessive plant growth in water bodies**



# Green Cleaning Schools Act (Illinois Public Act 95-0084)

- Passed both houses by wide margins
- Signed by Governor Blagojevich on August 13, 2007
- Broadly supported by
  - Environmental health organizations
  - School wellness groups
  - Unions and cleaning supply companies
- Tasked the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council with developing guidelines & specifications



# Scope of coverage

- Applicable schools:
  - Elementary and secondary
  - Public and non-public
  - 50 or more students
- School buildings as defined in the guidelines
- In-house cleaning staff & school employees
- Contract cleaners



# Structure of the guidelines

- **Requirements:**
  - Mandatory for school compliance
  - Focus on qualified products
- **Recommendations:**
  - Green cleaning principles
  - Guidance on products that are *not* mandatory
  - Recommended practices



# Six categories of pre-qualified supplies

1. Bathroom Cleaners
2. Carpet Cleaners
3. General Purpose & Hard Floor Surface Cleaners
4. Glass, Window & Mirror Cleaners
5. Hand Cleaners & Hand Soaps
6. Paper Products



# Requirements for supplies

Requirements for chemical formulations	Requirements for paper products
Green Seal certification	Green Seal certification
EcoLogo (Environmental Choice) certification	EcoLogo (Environmental Choice) certification
U.S. EPA Design for the Environment recognition	U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines compliance



# Alternatively qualified supplies

- Application form
- **Testing data** from an accredited lab to prove compliance with the applicable standard:
  - Green Seal standards:
    - GS-37 or GS-41 for chemicals
    - GS-9 for paper
  - EcoLogo standards:
    - CCD-104, CCD-146 or CCD-148 for chemicals
    - CCD-86 for paper



# Exemptions for schools

- Depletion of existing supply stocks
- Notification if green cleaning is not “economically feasible”
  - Completed notification form
  - Price quotes for current conventional product(s) & substitute green product(s)
  - Annual renewal



# Recommendations in the guidelines and specifications

1. Guiding principles
2. Formulations for all other product categories
3. Equipment
4. Green cleaning best practices

# 1.) Guiding principles

- Include environmental factors
- Emphasize pollution prevention early
- Consider multiple environmental attributes
- Compare relative environmental impacts
- Apply accurate and meaningful information



## 2.) Formulations for other products categories

- Minimal presence of harmful chemicals
- Neutral pH
- Low VOC content
- Biodegradable
- Low toxicity
- Low flammability
- Bio-based / renewable
- Designed for use in cold water



## 3.) Equipment

- Vacuum cleaners
- Carpet extraction equipment
- Powered floor maintenance equipment
- Powered scrubbing machines
- Propane powered floor equipment



## 4.) Best practices

**Green cleaning** best practices include special considerations for...

- Disinfectants and sanitizers
- Floor strippers and finishes
- Microfiber cloths and mops
- Trash can liners
- Air fresheners
- Entryways
- Food service areas
- Nursing areas



# Implementation process

- May 9, 2008 – deadline for schools to comply with guidelines or seek exemption
- Statewide dissemination of final guidelines
- Outreach efforts & ongoing assistance
- Annual amendments to guidelines may include...
  - Green cleaning practices
  - Inspection processes



# Relationship to Other Laws

The Green Cleaning Schools Act *does not* waive or supersede other legal responsibilities.

- Safety and health
- Food sanitation
- Procurement preferences



# Does green cleaning cost more?

- Green cleaning chemicals
  - Competitively priced
  - Don't forget the dilution!
- Equipment
  - Costs more but operates more efficiently
  - Tends to last longer
- Recycled paper and plastic
  - May cost more
  - Offset with roll towels vs. C-fold
  - Appropriate usage, e.g., trash can liners



# Procurement methods

- Direct from distributors or manufacturers
- Through an invitation for bid process
- Through cooperatives or consortiums
- Through the Joint Purchasing Program managed by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services

# Resources

- **Green Governments Coordinating Council**  
**[www.GreenSolutions.il.gov](http://www.GreenSolutions.il.gov)**
  - Green Cleaning Schools Act
  - Guidelines & Specifications document
  - Sample invitation for bids
  - List of qualified supplies
  - Implementation forms and training documents
- **Healthy Schools Campaign**  
**[www.GreenCleanSchools.org](http://www.GreenCleanSchools.org)**
  - Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)
  - National Green Cleaning Summit
  - Green Cleaning in Schools Awards

# Sustainable Schools Compact

- Features best practices that K-12 schools can voluntarily pursue to help lead the way to a greener, cleaner future.
- To participate, principals or superintendents should check off practices the school or district is now pursuing and aims to pursue, sign two copies of the compact, then send to:
- Office of the Lt. Governor  
Attn: Jon Zirkle  
100 W. Randolph  
Suite 15-200  
Chicago, IL 60601-3220
- Lt. Governor Quinn will sign both copies, then mail one copy back to the school

IN COOPERATION WITH THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

AGREES TO THIS VOLUNTARY COMPACT TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY  
AND ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING MARKED GOALS BY DECEMBER 31, 2010.

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**Operations**

- Conserve energy and lower carbon emissions by shutting off lights and computers when not in use and adjusting thermostat settings.
- Encourage recycling (including batteries and electronics), composting, and purchasing products with minimal packaging.
- Reduce fuel consumption and pollution from school transportation by limiting car and bus idling, encouraging carpooling, and increasing the fuel efficiency of school vehicles.
- Practice sustainable grounds maintenance by minimizing use of chemical fertilizers and following a conservative watering schedule.

**Buildings & Grounds**

- Install solar panels, wind turbines, and/or geothermal units on school property.
- Convert a school rooftop to a green roof or a white reflective roof.
- Retrofit existing electric and water fixtures with high-efficiency models.
- Conserve soil and water resources by:
  - Incorporating rain barrels and swales into landscaping to slow and filter stormwater runoff.
  - Planting drought-resistant native species in landscaped areas.
  - Installing or retrofitting parking lots with permeable paving.

**Curriculum**

- Participate in environmental community service projects, field trips, and assemblies.
- Start an environmental club to promote green awareness and track school-wide sustainability measures.
- Integrate environmental studies and green career development programs into the school curriculum.
- Lead students, teachers, and staff in creating a rain garden on school property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Lt. Governor Pat Quinn*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School or School District*

**Thank You**

**Questions?**

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