

CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools

A nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting policies, practices and resources that protect school occupants from environmental health hazards

www.pollutionfreeschools.org

888-420-5526

Green Cleaning: Safer, Affordable and Effective

NO ADDITIONAL COSTS

The official position of the National Work Group for Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools is that the process of switching from traditional cleaning products to safer alternatives (certified by an independent third party) is cost neutral. This workgroup coordinated by the Healthy Schools Network, Inc. is comprised of the American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees International, Green Purchasing Institute, Green Schools Initiative, New York State United Teachers, INFORM, Green Seal, National Association of School Nurses, American Lung Association of Maine, and Massachusetts Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and MA Healthy Schools.

The following government procurement agencies have reported that switching to safer cleaning products (certified by an independent third party) did not cost more (US EPA, 2005):

- The US Dept. of Interior (including several National Parks)
- The states of Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Vermont
- The city of Seattle, Washington
- Sarasota County, Florida and Alameda County, California
- Chicago Public Schools

COST SAVINGS and OTHER BENEFITS

Santa Monica, California:

- Documented a five percent savings after switching to safer cleaning products.
- Eliminated the use of 3,200 pounds of hazardous materials by replacing traditional cleaning products with safer alternatives (New American Dream)

PRODUCT and COST EFFECTIVENESS VERIFIED

Green Seal, Inc., an independent, third-party certification organization, conducted highly controlled onsite evaluations in Santa Monica, California, the Chicago Public Schools and the state of Massachusetts. These evaluations not only demonstrated that the safer cleaning products were “cost competitive” or “cost neutral” but they worked as well, if not better. (New American Dream)

Endorsed by the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut www.safehealthyct.org