

Introduction:

Many industrial cleansers contain chemicals that can cause skin, eye and respiratory irritation in not only those using the products, but also those exposed to them. The use of hazardous chemicals and potentially unsafe disposal practices can pollute the air, deplete the ozone layer and pollute the water supply as well as damage wildlife habitats.

Purpose:

Dickinson College has achieved a position of national leadership in sustainability, in no small part as a result of the efforts of our facilities staff to “green” the campus. As we continue to improve our sustainable protocols and consider the following objectives:

- *Life-cycle benefits and ‘true costs’ including the health consequences implicit in each decision concerning campus improvement;*
- *Transition to environmentally healthy options through decisions on buildings, landscape, maintenance and resources;*

we established a Green Cleaning Policy to enable us to provide an exceptionally clean and sanitary environment for the campus community while affirming our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Goals and Strategies

- Use cleaning products that meet Green Seal standard GS-37 or products with low-volatile organic compounds (VOC) whenever applicable.
- Eliminate phosphates and aerosol products.
- Use equipment with good filtration.
- Use concentrated cleaning products when available.
- Use chemicals that are automatically and accurately diluted using cold water.
- Educate, train, and motivate Housekeeping staff to work in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Ensure that all Housekeeping staff is aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy.
- Conserve energy, water, and other resources while still providing a clean and sanitary environment.
- Complying with all relevant current legislation and industry standards.