

Gators
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Greenwich Academy

CHALLENGE

- Talk to your school's maintenance team or an administrator to gain insight on school cleaning practices.

- List three of the school's purchasing criteria for cleaning products, which may include cost, health, efficiency, or otherwise.

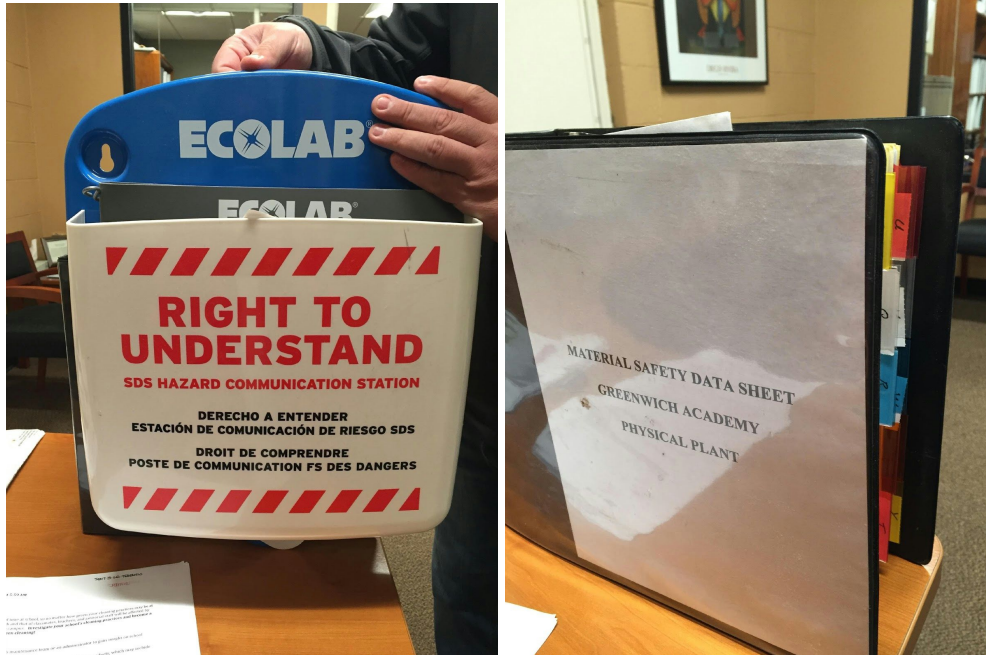
First of all, the cleaning product has to be a green product. This means that it must meet Connecticut's green cleaning in schools requirements. The only exception to this is the disinfectants used in specific areas (i.e bathrooms) because disinfectants cannot be green to clean. Secondly, the product obviously must be effective and do its job well. If said product does not perform the job best then it does not meet the purchasing criteria and the staff will continue to search for an alternative. Lastly, once the checked product is found to be both green and effective the price is checked, in the case that it may be too expensive or does not meet the specification number.

- Ask for a list of cleaning products currently used in classrooms, common spaces, and/or dorms. Write down all names and brands.

When speaking with the custodial department manager he stated that 99% of the products used is peroxide, which is used as a surface cleaner/ disinfectant spray. The other 1% is tough shot. This is a degreaser and also helps to remove stains. The brands of these products are EcoLab.

- Are ingredient lists available for those products? These are typically called MSDS sheets.

Yes, all the ingredients of the products used at our high school are available in what were previously known as MSDS sheets but are now the new SDS sheets. Here are pictures of the books our maintenance has for the products:



- Based on your findings, draft a letter to your school's head of maintenance. Include whatever information you have learned about the health and environmental impacts of those products, and ask them to consider eco-friendly alternatives
Hi Mr. Fabara,

It was nice to meet you today. Thank you so very much for helping me with project Green Challenge (PGC) on Greenwich Academy's cleaning practices and products. If you want to check out the site, it is: <http://projectgreenchallenge.com>. GA's use of peroxide is a good source of cleaning especially because I've learned that when it breaks down in the environment it breaks into oxygen and water, two things that are not harmful to our planet. I do not assume that you need a more eco-friendly alternative to this considering you and the rest of the staff have surely put a lot of thought into using the most sustainable and safe cleaning products at our high school! For the tough stuff spot and stain remover/ degreaser, I am not totally positive it is the absolute best substance to be in close quarters with/ inhaling the smell. I was happy to hear that you only use it about 1% of the time while most of the time you clean with the peroxides. Have you researched any further about alternatives to this stain remover? Or have already figured out an alternative

solution of special spot product that I had not heard about yet? Have you ever thought about using the eco-friendly Better life Natural Stain and Odor Eliminator. It is able to remove stains such as food, dirt and sweat. If you'd like you can read more about it here:

<http://www.cleanhappens.com/products/natural-stain-and-odor-eliminator>. Let me know what you think. Lastly, I'd really like to congratulate you and our staff on their amazing work with finding sustainable products to help make GA a greener school and provide a safer environment for student and faculty. I'm proud that GA has a LEED Silver Rating and is a Connecticut Green LEAF school!

Sincerely,
Mia Nixon

Greenwich Academy's Green Cleaning Note on their website:

GREEN CLEANING

Greenwich Academy has partnered with Sodexo to provide green cleaning services in all our buildings. These practices provide a safer environment for everyone and reduce the environmental impact.

Our green cleaning program includes:

- Environmentally safe cleaning products
 - Green equipment
 - Green cleaning procedures that reduce chemical usage and overspray
 - Paper and plastic products with recycled content
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