

Making sense of green cleaning:

A “green” white paper

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Advance

What is “green cleaning?” Why “go green?” How do I “clean green?” And who is “cleaning green?”

There is a lot of talk going on in building construction and facilities management circles today about green buildings and, specifically, green cleaning. Our purpose with this “green” white paper is to help you make sense of all the discussion, guidelines and regulations and to help you comply with and benefit from the green cleaning movement.

WHAT IS GREEN CLEANING?

“Environmental impact.” “Sustainability.” These terms are being used more and more, not just by conservationists, but by industries, trade associations and government agencies alike. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a coalition of leaders from across the building industry, defines its mission as working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defines sustainability this way: “Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”

Green cleaning is one aspect of the growing initiative to reduce negative effects on our environment.

These are lofty goals, to be sure, but they are also goals that individual and corporate actions can combine to affect. And green cleaning is one of the actions that can minimize impact on the environment and on future generations while maximizing health and productivity for today’s workers and building occupants.

WHY CLEAN GREEN?

The contribution of green cleaning to meeting environmental goals is clearly recognized in the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Building Rating Systems that have been developed by the USGBC. (For more information on LEED Rating Systems, see page 3.)



*“...the number
of LEED certified
buildings will increase
500 percent by 2009.”*



Jerry Yudelson
*The Insider's Guide to Marketing
Green Buildings*