Sustainable purchasing of cleaning products and materials

EQ3.3 | Possible point

Glossary

Intent

To reduce the environmental impacts of cleaning products, disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags.

Reduce exposure of building occupants and maintenance personnel to potentially hazardous chemical, biological and particle contaminants, which adversely impact air quality, health, building finishes, building systems, and the environment.

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Requirements

Implement sustainable purchasing for cleaning materials and products, disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags. Cleaning product and material purchases include items used by in-house staff or outsourced service providers. One point is awarded for each 30% of the total annual purchases of these products (by cost) that meet at least one of the following sustainability criteria:

- The cleaning products meet one or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
  - Green Seal GS-37, for general-purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners used for industrial and institutional purposes.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-110, for cleaning and degreasing compounds.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-146, for hard surface cleaners.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-148, for carpet and upholstery care.
- Disinfectants, metal polish, floor finishes, strippers or other products not addressed by the above standards meet one or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
  - Green Seal GS-40, for industrial and institutional floor care products.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-112, for digestion additives for cleaning and odor control.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-113, for drain or grease traps additives.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-115, for odor control additives.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-147, for hard floor care.
  - California Code of Regulations maximum allowable VOC levels for the specific product category.
- Disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags meet the minimum requirements of one or more of the following programs for the applicable product category:
  - U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for Janitorial Paper and Plastic Trash Can Liners.
  - Green Seal GS-09, for paper towels and napkins.
  - Green Seal GS-01, for tissue paper.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-082, for toilet tissue.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-086, for hand towels.
  - Janitorial paper products derived from rapidly renewable resources or made from tree-free fibers.
- Hand soaps meet one or more of the following standards:
  - No antimicrobial agents (other than as a preservative) except where required by health codes and other regulations (i.e., food service and health care requirements).

- Green Seal GS-41, for industrial and institutional hand cleaners.
- Environmental Choice CCD-104, for hand cleaners and hand soaps.

The materials and products described above must be purchased during the performance period to earn points in this credit.

Utilize over the performance period entryway systems (grills, grates, mats etc.) to reduce the amount of dirt, dust, pollen and other particles entering the building at all entryways, and develop the associated cleaning strategies to maintain those entryway systems, as well as the exterior walkways.

Have in place over the performance period structural deck-to-deck partitions with separate outside exhausting, no air re-circulation and negative pressure in all janitorial closets. Provide hot and cold water and drains plumbed for appropriate disposal of liquid waste in areas where janitorial equipment and chemicals are stored and/or water and cleaning chemical concentrate mixing occurs.

Have in place over the performance period a low-impact environmental cleaning policy addressing:

- Sustainable cleaning systems.
- Use of sustainable cleaning products.
- Use of chemical concentrates and appropriate dilution systems.
- Proper training of maintenance personnel in the hazards, use, maintenance and disposal of cleaning chemicals, dispensing equipment and packaging.
- Use of hand soaps that do not contain antimicrobial agents (other than as a preservative system), except where required by health codes and other regulations (i.e., food service and health care requirements).
- Use of cleaning equipment that reduces impacts on IAQ.
- Provide a copy of the low environmental impact pest management policy adopted by the organization:
  - The plan shall promote safer alternatives to chemical pesticides while preventing economic and health damage caused by pests. The plan shall implement the use of IPM techniques to reduce the need for reliance on chemical pesticides. When pesticides may be necessary, the plan shall ensure that clear and accurate notification concerning the use of pesticides be made available so that measures may be taken to prevent and address pest problems effectively without endangering occupants, janitorial workers or visitors.
  - The plan should address:
    - Integrated methods.
    - Site or pest inspections.
    - Pest population monitoring.
    - An evaluation of the need for pest control.
    - One or more pest control methods, including sanitation, structural repairs, mechanical and living biological controls, other non-chemical methods and, if nontoxic options are unreasonable and have been exhausted, a least toxic pesticide.
  - The plan shall include a communication strategy to provide notification of the IPM system. This shall include information and notice to tenants or directly to occupants in an owner-occupied building. The notice shall include a description of the integrated pest management system and a list of all pesticides, including any least toxic pesticide that may be used in the building as part of the integrated pest management system; the name, address, and telephone number of the contact person of the building; and a statement that the contact person maintains the product label and material safety data sheet (MSDS) of each pesticide used by the building, that the label or MSDS is available for review upon request, and that the contact person is available for information and comment.
  - The communications strategy shall address “Universal Notification,” which requires notification not less than 72 hours before a pesticide, other than a least toxic pesticide, is applied in a building or on surrounding grounds that the building maintains.
  - The plan shall address under what circumstances an emergency application of pesticides in a building or on surrounding grounds being maintained by the building can be conducted without complying with the earlier provisions. In addition, address notification strategies to ensure that occupants and janitorial workers are notified 24 hours in advance of the pesticide application.
- Provide documentation that the Low Environmental Impact Pest Management Policy has been followed during the performance period.

Implement a policy for the use of janitorial equipment that maximizes effective reduction of building contaminants with minimum environmental impact.

Cleaning equipment policy needs to specify that:

- Vacuum cleaners meet the requirements of the Carpet & Rug Institute “Green Label” Testing Program- Vacuum Cleaner Criteria and are capable of capturing 96% of particulates 0.3 microns in size and operate with a sound level less than 70dBA.
- Hot water extraction equipment for deep cleaning carpets is capable of removing sufficient moisture such that carpets can dry in less than 24 hours.
- Powered maintenance equipment including floor buffers, burnishers and automatic scrubbers is equipped with vacuums, guards and/or other devices for capturing fine particulates, and shall operate with a sound level less than 70dBA.
- Propane-powered floor equipment has high-efficiency, low-emissions engines.
- Automated scrubbing machines are equipped with variable-speed feed pumps to optimize the use of cleaning fluids.
- Battery-powered equipment is equipped with environmentally preferable gel batteries.
- Where appropriate, active micro fiber technology is used to reduce cleaning chemical consumption and prolong life of disposable scrubbing pads.
- Powered equipment is ergonomically designed to minimize vibration, noise and user fatigue.
- Equipment has rubber bumpers to reduce potential damage to building surfaces.
- A log will be kept for all powered housekeeping equipment to document the date of equipment purchase and all repair and maintenance activities and include vendor cut sheets for each type of equipment in use in the logbook.

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  - The plan should address:
    - Integrated methods.
    - Site or pest inspections.
    - Pest population monitoring.
    - An evaluation of the need for pest control.
    - One or more pest control methods, including sanitation, structural repairs, mechanical and living biological controls, other non-chemical methods and, if nontoxic options are unreasonable and have been exhausted, a least toxic pesticide.
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- Provide documentation that the Low Environmental Impact Pest Management Policy has been followed during the performance period.

Implement sustainable purchasing for cleaning materials and products, disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags. Cleaning product and material purchases include items used by in-house staff or outsourced service providers. One point is awarded for each 30% of the total annual purchases of these products (by cost) that meet at least one of the following sustainability criteria:

- The cleaning products meet one or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
  - Green Seal GS-37, for general-purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners used for industrial and institutional purposes.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-110, for cleaning and degreasing compounds.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-146, for hard surface cleaners.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-148, for carpet and upholstery care.
- Disinfectants, metal polish, floor finishes, strippers or other products not addressed by the above standards meet one or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
  - Green Seal GS-40, for industrial and institutional floor care products.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-112, for digestion additives for cleaning and odor control.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-113, for drain or grease traps additives.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-115, for odor control additives.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-147, for hard floor care.
  - California Code of Regulations maximum allowable VOC levels for the specific product category.
- Disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags meet the minimum requirements of one or more of the following programs for the applicable product category:
  - U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for Janitorial Paper and Plastic Trash Can Liners.
  - Green Seal GS-09, for paper towels and napkins.
  - Green Seal GS-01, for tissue paper.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-082, for toilet tissue.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-086, for hand towels.
  - Janitorial paper products derived from rapidly renewable resources or made from tree-free fibers.
- Hand soaps meet one or more of the following standards:
  - No antimicrobial agents (other than as a preservative) except where required by health codes and other regulations (i.e., food service and health care requirements).
  - Green Seal GS-41, for industrial and institutional hand cleaners.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-104, for hand cleaners and hand soaps.

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- Environmental Choice CCD-110, for cleaning and degreasing compounds.
- Environmental Choice CCD-146, for hard surface cleaners.
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  - Green Seal GS-40, for industrial and institutional floor care products.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-112, for digestion additives for cleaning and odor control.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-113, for drain or grease traps additives.
  - Environmental Choice CCD-115, for odor control additives.
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  - California Code of Regulations maximum allowable VOC levels for the specific product category.
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  - U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for Janitorial Paper and Plastic Trash Can Liners.
  - Green Seal GS-09, for paper towels and napkins.
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  - Environmental Choice CCD-082, for toilet tissue.
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- Hand soaps meet one or more of the following standards:
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Establishment

None.

Performance

Purchase green cleaning materials and products such as floor finishes and strippers, disposable janitorial paper products, and trash bags. Include items used by in-house staff or outsourced service providers.

At least 75%, by cost, of the total annual purchases of these products must meet at least one of the following standards.

Cleaning products must meet one or more of the following standards, or a local equivalent for projects outside the U.S.:

- Green Seal GS-37, for general-purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners used for industrial and institutional purposes;
- UL EcoLogo 2792, for cleaning and degreasing compounds;
- UL EcoLogo 2759, for hard-surface cleaners;
- UL EcoLogo 2795, for carpet and upholstery care;
- Green Seal GS-40, for industrial and institutional floor care products;
- UL EcoLogo 2777, for hard-floor care;
- EPA Design for the Environment Program's Standard for Safer Cleaning Products; and/or
- Cleaning devices that use only ionized water or electrolyzed water and have third-party-verified performance data equivalent to the other standards mentioned above (if the device is marketed for antimicrobial cleaning, performance data must demonstrate antimicrobial performance comparable to EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and Design for the Environment requirements, as appropriate for use patterns and marketing claims).

Disinfectants, metal polish, or other products not addressed by the above standards must meet one or more of the following standards (or a local equivalent for projects outside the U.S.):

- UL EcoLogo 2798, for digestion additives for cleaning and odor control;
- UL EcoLogo 2791, for drain or grease trap additives;
- UL EcoLogo 2796, for odor control additives;
- Green Seal GS-52/53, for specialty cleaning products;
- California Code of Regulations maximum allowable VOC levels for the specific product category;
- EPA Design for the Environment Program's standard for safer cleaning products; and/or
- Cleaning devices that use only ionized water or electrolyzed water and have third-party-verified performance data equivalent to the other standards mentioned above (if the device is marketed for antimicrobial cleaning, performance data must demonstrate antimicrobial performance comparable to EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and Design for the Environment requirements, as appropriate for use patterns and marketing claims).

Disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags must meet the minimum requirements of one or more of the following programs, or a local equivalent for projects outside the U.S.:

- EPA comprehensive procurement guidelines, for janitorial paper;
- Green Seal GS-01, for tissue paper, paper towels and napkins;
- UL EcoLogo 175, for toilet tissue;
- UL EcoLogo 175, for hand towels;
- Janitorial paper products derived from rapidly renewable resources or made from tree-free fibers;
- FSC certification, for fiber procurement;
- EPA comprehensive procurement guidelines, for plastic trash can liners; and/or
- California integrated waste management requirements, for plastic trash can liners (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 4, Article 5, or SABRC 42290-42297 Recycled Content Plastic Trash Bag Program).

Hand soaps and hand sanitizers must meet one or more of the following standards, or a local equivalent for projects outside the U.S.:

- no antimicrobial agents (other than as a preservative) except where required by health codes and other regulations (e.g., food service and health care requirements);
- Green Seal GS-41, for industrial and institutional hand cleaners;
- UL EcoLogo 2784, for hand cleaners and hand soaps;
- UL EcoLogo 2783, for hand sanitizers;
- EPA Design for the Environment Program's standard for safer cleaning products;

For projects outside the U.S., any Type 1 eco-labeling program as defined by ISO 14024: 1999 developed by a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network may be used in lieu of Green Seal or Environmental Choice standards.