Cleaning for Healthy Schools

- **Prevent dirt**

- **Use less-toxic, third-party certified cleaning and paper products and hand soaps.**

- **Cleaning with an all-purpose product removes most germs. Disinfect only target areas.**

- **Update and maintain equipment.**

**Breathe easier –
Clean doesn't have an odor.**

National Collaborative Work Group on Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools
Milestones

New York State led the nation in 2005 with a state Executive Order on green cleaning for state agencies, then enacted a state wide law requiring all public and all private schools to use green cleaning products. Today there are eleven states promoting or requiring green cleaning in schools, and countless individual schools engaged. In 2010, New York State reported that no agency or district had complained of new costs; some reported cost savings.

The national Coalition for Healthier Schools' meetings in 2004-06 led to a **Collaborative Work Group** in 2006 sponsored by Healthy Schools Network that published a free training toolkit and state model bill text in 2008. Members are championing policies in states, and have successfully challenged chemical industry-supported or conducted "greenwashing". The **Collaborative** helped **Green Seal**, an ISO-compliant third party certifier strengthen its standards through an intensive 22 month process involving 399 stakeholders (2006-2008). **UL-Eco-Logo**, an international certifier, harmonized its cleaning product standards. Northeastern and western states have created regional green purchasing consortia that include green cleaning products. The Work Group published guidance on state model bills in 2008, endorsed by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators*****, leading to laws enacted in CT, VT, MD, and voluntary programs in ME, CA, and MA.

Greenwashing. The chemical industry has warned to green cleaning, but prefers its own definition of "green". The **Collaborative** documented multiple errors in a *Journal of Environmental Health* 2009 article that confused general cleaning with disinfecting; the article helped win Maryland's industry-supported law in 2009, amended in 2012 with pro-environment text. The **Collaborative** also documented lapses in **US EPA's Design for the Environment/Safer Choice** labeling program, many which persist to this day. The program does not meet EPA's own guidance on quality green labeling. The Collaborative also led a **Green Products v Greenwashing** peer-reviewed panel for the American Public Health Association (2010).

See New York State **case study** at:
http://safemarkets.org/assets/media/images/Documents/Safe%20Mkts%20Success%20Story%20Green%20Cleaning%20FINAL.pdf

---

2005 ~ Policies in Eleven States + DC ~ 2012

Connecticut* 2009, mandated, http://pollutionfreeschools.org/docs/greencleanlawsummary2010.pdf; **District of Columbia** 2010, mandated, schools must use environmentally preferable cleaning products; **Hawaii** 2009, "… give first preference, where feasible, to the purchase and use of environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products that have been approved by the Green Seal program…" http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB1538_sd1_.pdf; **Illinois** 2007, mandated; http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=095-0084; **Iowa** 2010, voluntary; http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-CE/default.asp?Category=BillInfo&Service=Billbook&ga=83&menu=text&hbill=HF823; **Maine** 2007, voluntary; http://www.mainelegislature.org/ros/LOM/LOM123rd/RESOLVE32.asp; **Maryland** 2009, amended 2012*****, requires products used be third party certified http://mlis.state.md.us/2009rs/bills/hb/hb1363e.pdf; **Missouri** 2008, voluntary; http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C100-199/1610000365.HTM; **Nevada** 2009, mandated, floor cleaners only; http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Legal/LawLibrary/NRS/NRS-386.html#NRS386Sec4195; **New York** 2005, mandated; https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Docs/s5435.pdf; **Tennessee** 2010, directive to study green cleaning; http://state.tn.us/sos/acts/106/resolutions/HJR0767.pdf **Vermont*** 2012, mandated, http://www.vpirg.org/news/

---

www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org

National Work Group on Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools