

Development Authority of the North Country Governance Policies

Subject: **Green Cleaning Products Use Policy**

Adopted: **February 17, 2011**

Resolution: **2011-02-03**



Green Cleaning Products Use Policy

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The Development Authority of the North Country (Authority), by Board Resolution No. 2009-10-09, adopted an Authority Environmental Policy Statement. This Environmental Policy Statement commits the Authority, and its employees, to act as responsible stewards of the environment. It further requires the integration of environmental protection and enhancement into planning, design, procurement, construction and operations. The objective of this policy is to further strengthen the Authority's environmental stewardship by developing standard policies on the use of environmentally sound cleaning products.

SECTION 2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 If properly used, approved green cleaning products will minimize the adverse impacts on human health, property and the environment.
- 2.2 New York State Office of General Services is promoting the implementation of green cleaning programs through its online program toolkit (1). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is also encouraging the use of green cleaning products through its final federal guidance on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (2).
- 2.3 Several federal and state agencies have implemented green cleaning programs to reduce the potential impacts on public health and the environment including the NYS State Education Department, NYS Department of Labor, NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Department of Interior, and U.S. General Services Administration.

SECTION 3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Cleaning Products

For purposes of this policy, *cleaning products* are defined as products such as general cleaners, floor finish, floor finish strippers, and hand soap. General cleaners include all purpose cleaners, restroom/toilet cleaner, glass cleaner, and carpet cleaners. *Green* products are defined as those that consider the content of heavy metals, ozone depleting chlorinated compounds, organic solvents, reactivity, corrosiveness, flammability, acute and chronic toxicity, substances that can bioaccumulate, volatile organic compounds, phosphorous and favor the use of reduction in packaging, biobased products, and biodegradability upon disposal.

3.2 Green Products

The Authority shall only use cleaning products that have been reviewed and approved by the Green Innovation Committee or that are on the NYS OGS approved list of cleaning products. (<https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Product/Default.aspx>)

SECTION 4.0 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Green Cleaning Management

- A. The Authority's green cleaning product policy includes the following elements to reduce environmental impacts including:
1. Education for employees to understanding the benefits of using green products.
 2. Evaluation of effective options so products with the least risk to health and the environment can be selected. The Authority's Green Innovation Committee has completed the evaluation of several cleaning products and identified suitable green alternatives.
 3. Effective purchasing to ensure the use of green products.
 4. Monitoring and inspection programs to ensure consistent adoption of this policy across all Authority facilities.

4.2 Exception

- A. An exception to this policy may be exercised upon the recommendation of the Green Innovation Committee and approval by the Executive Director, following a determination that the use of preferred products is not appropriate or effective.
- B. Upon approval of an exception, documentation of the exception will be noted in committee meeting minutes.

SECTION 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1. This policy is a continuation of the Authority's overall commitment to environmental stewardship.
- 4.2. This policy is applicable to all divisions, facilities, management, and employees of the Authority.
- 4.3. To the extent the Authority has the opportunity and the choice, it shall be applicable to all contractors of the Authority while operating at the Authority facilities.
- 4.4. Copies of the policy will be posted to the public website and made accessible electronically through the Authority's network.

SECTION 6.0 REFERENCES

- 1) <https://greencleaning.ny.gov/entry.asp>
- 2) <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/cleaning.htm#f>

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