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GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES

JOHN C. EGAN
COMMISSIONER

MAYOR ERASTUS CORNING 2ND TOWER
THE GOVERNOR NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12242

June 25, 2010

Dear School Superintendent:

In 2005, New York was the first state in the country to pass legislation, known as the Green Cleaning Law, requiring all public and non-public schools to use environmentally sensitive (green) cleaning products. The New York State Office of General Services (OGS), in tandem with the Departments of Education (SED), Health, Labor, and Environmental Conservation, was given the responsibility of executing and overseeing the mandate.

Since its enactment, we have made great strides in publicizing the Green Cleaning Law and assisting schools in meeting its requirements through the use of the Green Cleaning Guidelines and OGS-Approved Green Cleaning Products list. As with any large initiative, there is a wide range of compliance among the state's school districts. The New York State Office of State Comptroller has conducted audits of schools' green cleaning practices in accordance with the legislation. We suggest you revisit the Guidelines and approved products list to confirm your cleaning products and practices are consistent with the Green Cleaning Law. This information is available to you on the revised New York's Green Cleaning Program website at: <https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Entry.asp>.

In addition, the website contains several other features to help school administrators and maintenance personnel implement a Green Cleaning Program. Highlights include:

- The Benefits of Green Cleaning;
- Relevant Policies, Guidelines and Reports;
- Green Cleaning Best Practices;
- Frequently Asked Questions;
- Five Steps to a Green Cleaning Program Toolkit; and
- Customizable Documents and Templates.

The website also offers a series of online training courses designed to educate and prepare maintenance staff. We are pleased to announce the addition of a new course, titled "Enhanced Green Cleaning Guidance to Reduce the Spread of Communicable Disease." Training courses are available to all registered users free of charge.

Lastly, we would like to comment on the conflicting reports concerning the cost and efficacy of green cleaning products compared to traditional cleaning products. The first page of SED's 2007 Green Cleaning Report has been updated to address these concerns. In summary, it is our experience that in cost and effectiveness, green cleaning products are equal to their traditional counterparts. Please view the revised report at:

<https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Docs/GCSurveyFinalReport072707Revised030910.pdf>

At OGS, we believe green cleaning in schools is an opportunity for cultivating a deeper understanding among our children of the interrelatedness of the environment and their well-being. Our goal is that students will carry this knowledge back to their homes and throughout their future lives. However, we also acknowledge the fiscal challenges school districts are facing in the 2010-2011 school year. New York's Green Cleaning Program is committed to providing you with the tools necessary to create and sustain an effective green cleaning program, and are here to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have along the way. Please contact us at: nysogsesu@ogs.state.ny.us or (518) 408-1871. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John C. Egan