

## **Our Commitment**

The University of St. Thomas is committed to promoting environmental stewardship through implementation of practices of the Strategic Plan for Sustainability. The Green Cleaning Program is the Facilities Services commitment to purchase and use cleaning products and methods sustainably. Facilities Services pledge to purchase industrial cleaning products, janitorial paper products and janitorial materials that are designed to be the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. We pledge to adhere to cleaning methods and practices that support environmental health and encourage sustainable behaviors.

## **Purchasing Sustainable Cleaning Products**

The purchase of industrial cleaning and janitorial paper products will meet Green Seal certification standards or other multi-criteria sustainability standards when the products will not compromise the safety of the campus environment or quality of service. Solvents, surfactants, and detergents purchased shall be readily biodegradable, bio-based, and phosphate free when their use will not compromise safety or quality of service. The process of which the industrial cleaning chemicals, janitorial paper products, liners, and janitorial materials are manufactured, packaged, and distributed will be considered. Prioritizing and evaluating purchases for janitorial material will include those that will have minimal environmental impact, minimizes the consumption of non-replaceable natural resources, and stimulates the demand for post-consumer or postindustrial recycled material. The preferred guidelines to purchase these materials include:

- Green Seal Certified
- S. EPA Safer Choice labeled
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified
- ECOLOGO certified (UL Environment)
- Carpet and Rug Institutes (CRI) Seal of Approval (SOA) program
- SCS Global Services recycled content certification
- Other multi-criteria sustainability standards

## **Sustainable Cleaning Methods & Practices**

The Green Cleaning Program includes the use of methods to clean and maintain soft and hard floor surfaces through techniques and products that have the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. The methods, strategies, and metrics that have been adopted to ensure the effective implementation of the Green Cleaning Program include:

- Determine how to meet the overall goals of the Green Cleaning Program
- Assess areas to be maintained for high/low traffic and usage patterns
- Develop a comprehensive approach of routine cleaning and floor surface maintenance of a facility to determine product specification to be used
- Ensure that Facilities Services staff are educated on the techniques of cleaning procedures and products
- Ensure that environmental, health, safety practices, and waste disposal are compliant with applicable regulatory requirements
- Development of cleaning strategies will focus on the following:
  - Efficient use of chemicals
  - Efficient use of supplies
  - Efficient use of equipment
  - Meet the hygiene and appearance goals of the facility
  - Protect the building's occupants, systems, and finishes from contaminants that cause adverse effects
  - Address the frequency of cleaning standards