

# 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.

**INFORM**



**NASN**

National Association of School Nurses



HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK

Connecticut Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools

**wysut**  
A Union of Professionals



**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION**  
of New England



Mass**COSH**



# 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 report cost savings.

**The national Coalition for Healthier Schools'** meetings in 2004-06 evolved into a **Collaborative Work Group** in 2006 that published a free training toolkit in 2008; members are championing policies in states, and are challenging chemical industry-inspired "greenwashing" or false environmental marketing claims.

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). **Eco-Logo**, also an international certifier, harmonized its cleaning product standards. Northeastern state and western states have each created regional green purchasing consortia that include green cleaning products.

**Greenwashing.** The chemical industry supports green cleaning as long as it can define "green" and avoid oversight. The **Collaborative** documented multiple errors in a *Journal of Environmental Health* article that confused general cleaning with disinfecting; the article helped win Maryland's industry-supported law. The **Collaborative** also documented serious misrepresentations by **US EPA's Design for the Environment** program where reforms are still needed and later led a **Green products v Green washing** peer-reviewed panel for the American Public Health Association. But, this spring the **New York City Mayor's Contract Office** ignored the state's exemplar program (and other public information) and proposed industry-friendly draft specifications that could erode standards.

**Model state bill text\* endorsed by National Caucus of Environmental Legislators in 2011**

### 2005 ~ Eleven State Laws ~ 2012

**Connecticut\*** 2009, mandated, <http://pollutionfreeschools.org/docs/greencleanlawsummary2010.pdf>; **Hawaii** 2009, voluntary, vetoed by governor but overridden by legislature; <http://lrhawaii.info/reports/legreports/lrb/2009/stats09.pdf>; "... 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](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, allows DfE and "any other accreditation the county board determines to be appropriate."; "to the extent practicable, and economically feasible,.." <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](http://www.CleaningforHealthySchools.org)

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