

Kennesaw State University Green Cleaning Program

Kennesaw State University implements Green Cleaning practices across all campus buildings. The program is designed to reduce exposure of students, faculty, staff, and custodial employees to potentially hazardous chemical, biological, and particulate contaminants that can negatively impact air quality, human health, building finishes, building systems, and the environment.

Our goal is to protect health while promoting environmental stewardship.

Program Overview

The program began with a reduction in the number of cleaning chemicals by switching to **Gen-Eon (EPA Registration Number: 91112-2, EPA List N Registration)**. GenEon disinfecting solution is a sustainable and toxic-free cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting solution. Using GenEon's On-Site Generating (OSG) Technology, the solution produces hypochlorous acid through electrochemical activation. This process generates a powerful, broad-spectrum virucidal and bactericidal disinfectant safely on-site, without harmful chemicals. The three core products used are:

- Sanitizer Disinfectant Cleaner
- Glass and General-Purpose Cleaner
- Heavy Duty Cleaner Degreaser

KSU has taken steps to further reduce chemical use through the practices outlined below.

Steps Toward Green Cleaning at KSU

Practice	Advantages	Results
Transitioned from night cleaning to day cleaning	Reduces energy use	Lowers energy costs and fossil fuel consumption
Installed proper entryway matting (minimum 8-10 feet)	Creates healthier interior environments	Improves indoor air quality
Converted to Green-certified paper towels and toilet paper	Reduces natural resources used	Effective products that support environmental health

Practice	Advantages	Results
Installed hand dryers in new building restrooms	Reduces paper product use and supply costs	Lowers total cleaning costs
Implemented trash liners with minimum 10% recycled content	Uses fewer natural resources	Liners are more easily recycled, reducing hazards
Adopted Carpet & Rug Institute-certified HEPA vacuums	Improves cleaning performance and air quality	Cleaner carpets and healthier indoor environment
Equipped floor burnishers with dust control	Reduces airborne particulates	Improves air quality and reduces costs
Introduced low-water carpet cleaning technology	Uses less water	Lowers utility costs and reduces mold/mildew risks
Use of microfiber cloths	Cleans effectively with water only	Lowers chemical use and costs; improves environment
Expanded recycling (including compactors)	Reduces waste sent to landfills	In 2013, KSU recycled 139.41 tons; nearly 50% of materials diverted from landfills monthly

Chemical and Supply Products

Product	Advantages	Results
Gen-Eon engineered water	Cleans without traditional chemicals	Reduces environmental impact
HOST carpet cleaning system	Green-certified cleaning	Improves efficiency and indoor air quality
Kaivac system	No-touch restroom cleaning with Green Seal-certified products	Increases efficiency and employee safety

Getting Started with Green Cleaning

A Green Cleaning program can be developed by following these steps:

1. Inventory current cleaning products.
2. Identify Green-certified and non-Green products (chemicals, vacuums, etc.).
3. Replace non-Green products where possible at the most efficient cost.
4. Audit cleaning practices to evaluate chemical use and identify opportunities for improvement.
5. Involve custodial staff in the evaluation and implementation process.

Equipment Standards

Green Cleaning requires custodial equipment that minimizes environmental impact and reduces contaminants. Equipment must meet the following standards:

- Powered floor equipment includes vacuums, guards, or other devices to capture particulates and operates below 70 dBA.
- Automated scrubbing machines use variable-speed feed pumps and onboard metering, or operate with water only.
- Battery-powered equipment uses environmentally preferable gel batteries.
- All equipment is ergonomically designed to minimize vibration, noise, and fatigue.
- Safeguards such as rollers or rubber bumpers protect building surfaces.
- Maintain a log of all powered equipment, including purchase dates, repairs, and vendor specification sheets.

Training and Engagement

Training is essential for success. KSU provides Green Cleaning education for custodial staff, employees, and faculty to ensure that sustainable cleaning practices are consistently implemented and supported across campus.
