

A Resolution Adopting Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy

By Benson, Gordon

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis is committed to ensuring a healthy environment for its citizens, visitors and employees; and

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis can use its purchasing power to create a greater demand and awareness of high quality, environmentally friendly products at a reasonable price; and

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis has passed resolutions related to green building standards and there exist state requirements for the purchasing of recycled products; and

Whereas, Environmental considerations should be a part of normal purchasing decisions, consistent with standard practices such as safety, price, performance and availability; and

Whereas, Environmentally sensitive cleaning products mean those products that minimize adverse impacts on health and the environment; and

Whereas, Green Seal, an independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment has established minimum standards for low environmental impact cleaning products and procedures; and

Whereas, Successful pilot programs utilizing low environmental impact cleaning products and procedures have been successfully completed in the City's own facilities; and

Whereas, City cleaning service providers include both City employees and external contractors primarily responsible for the cleaning of the interior of City facilities; and

Whereas, The City's Operating Departments and the Purchasing Department - having the primary responsibility for hiring of cleaning service providers, and the purchasing of cleaning products - have made strong efforts to reduce cleaning product impacts on the environment.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City of Minneapolis that the City will follow a Low Environmental Impact Cleaning policy; and,

Be it further resolved that the Purchasing Department , in cooperation with the City's Operating Departments, shall establish by January 1, 2007, and

regularly update guidelines and specifications for purchase of environmentally sensitive cleaning products, and cleaning procedures regarding City facilities; and

Be It Further Resolved that these products/procedures to the extent practical, must meet the minimum standards established by Green Seal, or alternative standards determined by the Purchasing Department to be equivalent; and

Be It Further Resolved that Purchasing Department shall disseminate to all City departments information on these guidelines, low environmental impact product specifications and sample lists for standard cleaning products that are commonly purchased by departments; and

Be it Further Resolved that if cleaning or disinfecting products must be used that do not meet the City's standards, Operating Departments must ensure that proper health and safety measures are utilized to limit human exposure and only the minimum product amounts are used and the product is disposed of properly. When applicable, bid specifications should require that suppliers, manufacturers and/or jurisdiction contractors and workers be trained in the proper use of cleaning and disinfecting products for worker health and safety, compliance with regulatory requirements, and cost-efficient product use and disposal; and

Be It Further Resolved that nothing contained in this resolution shall be construed with requiring products that do not perform adequately, or not available at a reasonable price (within 10% of existing product cost) in a reasonable amount of time; and

Be It Further Resolved that Low Environmental Impact Cleaning practices shall be a requirement as part of all new and renegotiated leases for office space utilized by the City of Minneapolis; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution is effective January 1, 2007 and that Purchasing and Public Works shall report regularly to the Environmental Coordinating Team as to progress/challenges including environmental benefits, safety concerns and pricing issues and the first such report shall be no later than December 31, 2007.