



Sustainability Initiative by Custodial Services:

Sustainability Mission:

Our mission as Custodial Services of Columbus State University is to maintain high quality cleaning standards to the students, faculty, staff and visitors of our campus. We aim to fulfill this mission by using environmentally responsible cleaning techniques as well as use sustainable products and equipment. Our hope is that with this mission we can maintain a safe and healthy environment for Columbus State University.

Purpose:

Our Sustainability Initiative re-affirms our commitment to being a responsible member of the Columbus, GA and University community and solidifies our dedication to providing a safe and healthy environment for those communities now and with future generations.

Our Goals:

Research and Use Environmentally Preferred Products. It is our responsibility to ensure there is still a healthy learning community offered to students in future generations. We commit to finding and using the best products to meet this goal.

Practice Sustainability: We aim to use procedures as well as products that allow for a lower waste usage and higher cleanliness outcome.

Support Conservation: We commit to conserve energy, water, and other resources while maintaining a high quality service.

Our Vision:

Custodial Services will improve our goals by placing emphasis on safe and environmentally healthy practices when using cleaning products. We will research and test the application of new products and procedures in the cleaning industry as they emerge and we will adopt any concepts help us attain our goals to sustain and conserve the resources of the community around us.



Strategies to meet our Environmental Goals

1. Aerosols, abrasive powder, and flammable products have been limited within the workplace.
2. The cleaning product line has been minimized. We use Green Seal GS-37-approved products. A tracking system is in progress to monitor chemical use.
3. All hand soaps used do not contain antimicrobial agents.
4. All products used by Custodial Services are packaged in cardboard and plastic containers. All containers are recycled after use.
5. Disinfectants are used only minimally on skin-contact areas in restrooms and for cleaning blood and body spills.
6. Cleaning frequencies and work schedules have been optimized for areas of greatest use.
7. Daily floor care maintenance is performed on a set schedule to prolong floor finish life. Periodic floor stripping and refinishing projects are performed as needed rather than on a set schedule to conserve resources and minimize the use of chemicals.
8. The broad use of new-technology reusable microfiber cleaning cloths, wet mops and dust mops minimizes waste, reduces the use of chemicals, and increases the effectiveness of the cleaning procedures.
9. Color-coded tools are used to prevent any cross-contamination from restrooms.
Color-coded tools include:
 - Microfiber cloths which are color-coded for specific uses.
 - ◇ Red cloths are used in restrooms on toilets, urinals, and other bathroom surfaces.
 - ◇ Blue cloths are used for window cleaning.
 - ◇ Green cloths are used for other general cleaning areas and surfaces.
 - Labeled, color-coded containers, which correspond to the microfiber color code, are used to organize cleaning tools on custodial carts and identify where the tools are to be used.
 - Cleaning chemicals on custodial carts are dispensed from labeled bottles or dispensers.



- Color coded microfiber mop heads are also used to prevent cross contamination
 - ◇ Red for Restroom mop buckets and mop heads
 - ◇ Blue for General mop heads and buckets
 - ◇ Blue and White for wax buckets and mopheads

10. Personal Protective Equipment including protective gloves, safety goggles or eyewear, and dust masks are provided to all custodians and are highly encouraged to use when cleaning restrooms, mixing chemicals, when working overhead, or when stripping floors. Non-slip foot wear is provided and required for use by all custodial staff.

11. Safeguards and sustainable strategies are emphasized in all custodial training as all employees are encouraged and supported to work in an environmentally responsible manner. Employees are directly involved in the testing of new products and equipment.

13. We use pre-measured chemical units to limit employee exposure to chemical concentrates. Chemical dilution systems are mounted and labeled in ALL custodial rooms.

14. All building entryways receive priority cleaning. High-performance entrance mat systems are installed to trap dirt, moisture, and pollutants before they can migrate into the buildings. These mat systems are professionally cleaned weekly to maintain effectiveness.

15. Dual, large-roll paper towel and toilet tissue dispensers are used to minimize packaging and waste. Paper products must meet the EPA standards for post-consumer recycled content:

- Paper Towels – 40% post-consumer recycled content.
- Toilet Tissue – 100% post-consumer recycled content.

16. High density trash liners are used only on a minimal basis in vending areas.

17. High filtration vacuum cleaners are used and carry the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval for vacuums. These vacuum cleaners employ HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters, sealed casings and hose connections, and disposable paper collection bags.



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18. Our low-moisture carpet extractors are equipped with high pressure and high vacuum suction and are utilized to decrease drying time, extend the life of the carpet, and protect against mold and mildew. We also supply air movers when needed to facilitate faster drying times.

19. Powered floor scrubbing machines are equipped with variable-speed feed pumps on board chemical metering. FAST and other low moisture and metered solution systems to optimize the use of water and cleaning chemical.

20. Electrical-powered cleaning equipment is evaluated on a set schedule to maintain safe and efficient operation as well as an extended working life.