

SPOTLIGHT

NC STATE HOUSEKEEPING: AN A+ IN CLEANING PRACTICES

In 2019, North Carolina State University Housekeeping earned Green Seal's GS-42 Cleaning Services certification for effective and responsible cleaning practices that are among the healthiest and most sustainable in the nation. At NC State, ergonomically correct microfiber mops reduce water use by up to 95 percent, and electrolyzed water cleans most campus surfaces without harsh chemicals. Vacuums have HEPA filters for superior indoor air quality and noise reduction, and dispensing stations premeasure chemicals to reduce employees' exposure and ensure proper dilution. Green Seal-certified cleaning products and hand soaps are yet another feature of NC State's program, which includes rigorous staff training.

"Green Seal examines absolutely everything you do. They verify every chemical, every piece of equipment, your cleaning process, your training program. They leave no stone unturned," says

Vincent Taylor, a deputy assistant director with NC State Housekeeping. "We are very proud of this process. It was rigorous and comprehensive and helped us standardize our cleaning program in every building."

The university began its shift toward green cleaning more than a decade ago, responding to growing public concern about environmental and human health. Although the primary goals were improving air quality and reducing exposure to harsh chemicals, the university says its green cleaning program has also reduced operational costs and improved employees' health by reducing chronic illnesses and injuries.

Another benefit? Higher employee morale, says Housekeeping supervisor Tony Brown: "This certification process has given our staff greater pride in what they do."



"Green Seal Certification affirms our dedication to sustainability and the health of our employees and the campus community. It also demonstrates that environmentally responsible services and products can meet or exceed quality expectations and performance."

- Ada Baldwin, Director, University Housekeeping,
North Carolina State University.