

Requiring The Purchase And Use Of Green Cleaning Products In All County Facilities

Legislator Robert Parete, Co-Sponsors: The Environmental Subcommittee (Co-Chairmen Petit and Shapiro and Legislators Belfiglio, Robert Parete and Rodriguez), and Multi-Sponsors: The Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Petit, Ronk, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Rodriguez and Shapiro) and Legislators Briggs, Donaldson, Gregorius, Hochberg, Lomita, Loughran, Madsen, Richard Parete, Provenzano, Sheeley, Stoeckeler and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature’s Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee is tasked with setting policies that pertain to environmental issues, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature is committed to providing safe and healthy facilities for employees, customers and visitors, and

WHEREAS, Green cleaning products are cleaning and maintenance products that minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment and yet clean effectively, and

WHEREAS, a Green Cleaning policy can reduce the levels of cleaning chemicals, mold, and airborne dust, major indoor triggers of asthma attacks, and

WHEREAS, as the green cleaning product market continues to expand, more cleaning products and competition are available in the marketplace which will lower costs, and

WHEREAS, facilities that implement a Green Cleaning Program may realize a reduction in overall cleaning cost due to:

- Reducing chemical waste and waste disposal requirement;
- Reducing the amount and number of cleaning products needed;
- Causing a reduction in sick time and at-work injuries; and
- Instituting an overall green cleaning training program that includes training about product use to reduce waste and obtain the best results.

WHEREAS, Green Seal is an Independent, non-profit organization, “Third Party Certifying” organization, and

WHEREAS, Third Party Certified (TPC) products are cleaning products have been certified by an established and legitimate, nationally-recognized program developed for the purpose of identifying environmentally preferable products. Any such TPC certification program shall:

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- Have an open, transparent process for setting standards that involves the public and key stakeholders
- Clearly define the fees a manufacturer must pay for certification;
- Clearly identify any potential conflicts of interest;
- Have criteria for certification that are publicly available and transparent;
- Certification is based on consideration of human health and safety, ecological toxicity, other environmental impacts, and resource conservation, as appropriate, for the product and its packaging, on a life cycle basis;
- Require periodic revisions and updates of the standards;
- Monitor and enforce the standards, provide for the authority to inspect the manufacturing facilities, and periodically do so;
- Have a registered/legally protected certification mark;
- Make the standards easily accessible to purchasers and manufacturers (e.g. available for download on the program's website);
- Be developed by consensus, if possible;
- Establish leadership levels in standards for products, and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby establishes a "green" cleaning policy that mandates the purchase and use of cleaning products in all county facilities. Green Cleaning Products shall meet GS-37 standard as provided by Green Seal or equivalent. Green Seal, a non-profit organization that provides science-based environmental certification standards, has developed the "Environmental Standard for General-Purpose, Bathroom, Glass, and Carpet Cleaners Used for Industrial and Institutional Purposes"(GS-37), which establishes certification requirements for safer and less harmful cleaning products. Under the GS-37 standard for Green Seal Certification, products must meet requirements for toxic compounds, carcinogens and reproductive toxins, skin and eye irritation, skin sensitization, and combustibility, as well as life cycle analysis from production to disposal, and be it further

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RESOLVED, product categories certified under GS-37 include the following:

- General Purpose Cleaners
- Glass Cleaners
- Bath Cleaners
- Carpet Cleaners
- Carpet Spot Removers
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners

and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County policy on green cleaning does not supersede or change existing health, labor, education and environmental regulations related to cleaning and maintenance practices and disposal of hazardous chemicals. However, in certain locations (e.g., food service areas) and for special circumstances (e.g., blood spills) different products and practices may be needed to satisfy the requirements of existing public health, labor, education and environmental conservation regulations, and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Purchasing Department shall issue an Annual report to the Legislative Committee responsible for Environmental issues on the procurement of green cleaning products, and, be it further

RESOLVED, Ulster County staff is permitted to deplete existing inventories of cleaning products. Implementation shall take effect by June 1, 2011,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Shapiro)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 16th day of November, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 18th Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this

18th Day of November, 2010.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this

23rd Day of November, 2010.

/s/ Michael P. Hein
Michael P. Hein, County Executive