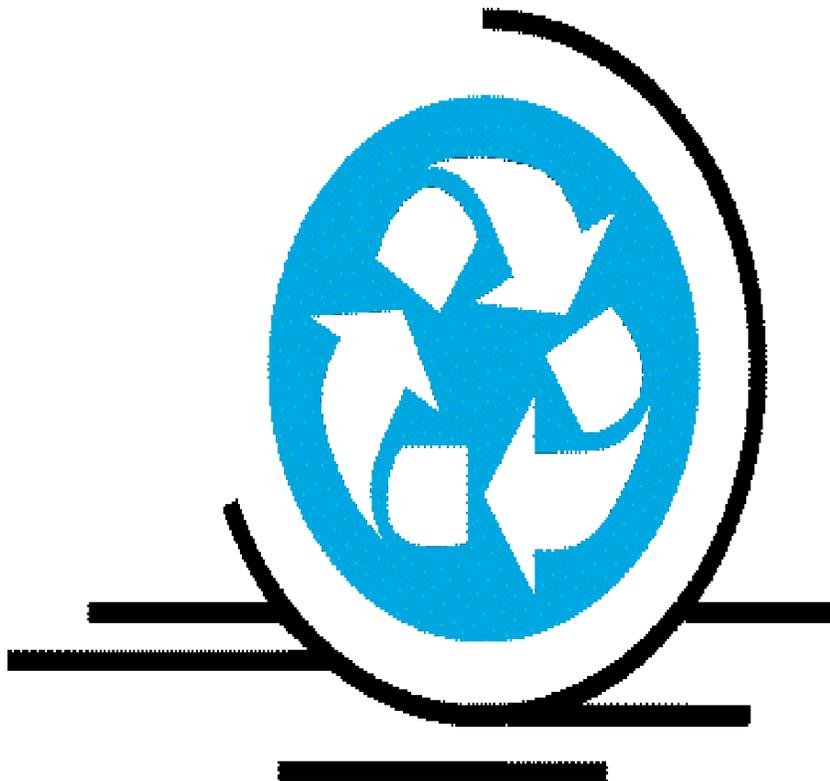


**Ottawa Elementary**

**Green Plan**

**Adopted on July 15, 2008**



# Ottawa Elementary School District #141 “GREEN PLAN”

## MISSION

*To provide excellent custodial services using environmentally preferred cleaning products and equipment that will produce exceptionally clean and sanitary learning, teaching, and working environments for students, faculty, staff and visitors.*

District Statement: Going “Green” is a global concern which needs to be addressed now for future humanity.

Plan Designed by Mr. Marc Tabor, Maintenance Director and reviewed by Mr. Craig M. Doster, Superintendent. Adopted on July 15, 2008, by the Ottawa Elementary Board of Education.

On August 13, 2007 House Bill 895 (Green Schools Cleaning Act) was signed into law in the State of Illinois. This law will change the way Public and Non-Public Schools will be cleaned and the chemicals and equipment to clean them. After May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 all schools must implement the obligations set forth in the (105 ILCS 140) Guidelines and Specifications for the Green Cleaning Schools Act. The purpose of the Green Cleaning Guidelines and Specifications is to facilitate a healthy environment for the students, staff and visitors at all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois. The guidelines require the use of Green supplies in the following areas:

- ~Bathroom cleaners.
- ~Carpet cleaners.
- ~General purpose and hard floor cleaners.
- ~Glass and mirror cleaners.
- ~Hand cleaners and hand soaps.
- ~Paper products.

Green cleaning is about examining the entire custodial operations based upon an assessment of spaces, products, and work practices to maximize cleanliness both in terms of dirt and germs, while at the same time reducing consumption of natural resources and unnecessary hazardous cleaning chemical exposures to students, staff and visitors. Green cleaning has been proven to be very important. It will help protect the health of our Custodial staff, increase the lifespan of our

facilities, and improve our environment. Healthy environments also boost staff and student performance.

Green Equation: Healthy Environments + Healthy Children = Quality Education.

We are fortunate that over the last several years we have made many improvements in the areas of cleaning chemicals, equipment, and energy efficiency that are required in the Green Schools Guidelines and that fall under the Green building standards. Listed are a few of those areas.

- ~Cleaning chemical dilution systems.
- ~Proper MSDS on file at each building.
- ~Started to use micro fiber dust mops.
- ~New entry mats at each building.
- ~Vacuums with Hepa filters.
- ~High efficient lighting in classrooms, hallways, and gyms.
- ~Paper recycling at all buildings.

The following changes will start to take place in our schools immediately:

- ~Cleaning chemicals and dispensers.
- ~Hand Soap and dispensers.
- ~Paper products and dispensers.
- ~Training for our custodial staff.

Ottawa Elementary has always kept a high level of cleanliness and has taken great pride in the conditions of our school buildings. This tradition will not just continue but will blossom into a cost effective means to clean buildings while educating and protecting our staff and environment while reducing waste. While we are required to follow the Green Schools Act Guidelines, Ottawa Elementary will implement a more comprehensive Green Program that will not only focus on cleaning but will look at district wide departments and ways to be more environmentally responsible.

Implementing our Green Program will not happen overnight. This is a program that will constantly change as new developments in efficiency and environmental methodologies and strategies are developed. Our goal will be to continue to reform and improve as these beneficial improvements are available.

## Future Green Plan Considerations and Implementation

Due to the new state guidelines, our school district is being proactive in developing a continuous green plan. Below are some examples of the district's focus on continuous improvement as we forge ahead with this important endeavor.

1. Create a district-wide "Green Committee," which will include key stakeholders such as Director of Maintenance, administration, custodial staff, teaching staff, outside vendor/resource, and parent(s).
2. Reviewing of chemicals and continuous research with green methodologies and strategies.
3. Updating facilities, equipment, training, and district green awareness.
4. More District Recycling
5. Cooperation with Ottawa's Chamber of Commerce's City Green Plan
6. Transportation Operations
7. Cafeteria Operations
8. Architectural Designs (focus on LEAD Design)
9. Integrating "green initiatives" into the curriculum.
10. Creating a "green" checklist for all above options/initiatives
11. Creating a formalized "green" standard document for compliance regulations according to the state guidelines.