Building Services Sustainability Policy

Building environments have a significant impact on human and environmental health, worker productivity and overall sustainability. Based on extensive industry research focused on building maintenance and operations, technology and cleaning science, Building Services at Calvin College has identified the best tools, products and practices for maintaining sustainable buildings that protect human health and the environment.

Intent

1) Identify maintenance and operational best practices.
2) Minimize building impact on human health and the environment.
3) Minimize waste.
4) Continue to use more sustainable products and systems.
5) Use energy as efficiently as possible.

Commitment Statement

Building Services is committed to maintaining and operating buildings in the most sustainable way. We define sustainability as operating “to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,” particularly with regard to use of waste and natural resources.

Occupant Responsibility

One of the primary objectives of this policy is to protect the health of building occupants. Building Services will communicate the policy’s objectives and outcomes with building occupants throughout Calvin College, with the message that occupants play a significant role in supporting the policy to ensure its success. Building Services will ask occupants to provide feedback on operations performance, objectives and outcomes.

Purchasing Policy

1) Building Services will follow a sustainable purchasing policy that is aligned with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to protect human health and reduce the environmental impact of materials used in the operations and maintenance of the buildings.
2) The Purchasing policy will identify and outline acceptable products, tools, equipment and materials based on product ingredients and packaging.
3) Building Services will evaluate the items that are purchased for the building, if possible identify more friendly alternatives, and establish a policy to purchase these alternatives when economically feasible.
4) Building Services will continue to work with suppliers to identify environmentally preferable products that meets the needs of the building.

**Implementation**

1) Building Services currently sources our disinfectant, all purpose cleaner and glass cleaner in a concentrated solution. We have dilution control stations installed to ensure no wastage of water or chemical.
2) Many of our products are already green seal certified.
3) Building Services currently uses microfiber cloths, mops and dusting tools.
4) Most Vacuums have hepa filters and are size appropriate for the job required.