

Sustainability – Leading by Example

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Sustainability is a popular term these days, and is often used to describe best and efficient practices. For many companies, however, sustainability is synonymous with the word green, which is not completely accurate. Green is more about products, whereas sustainability is more about how the organization functions, which can include green products as part of the sustainability program.

A great example of a sustainability program is the BOMA 360 performance program, which helps building managers improve their property's sustainability efforts with efficient energy choices and better management. Additionally, the 360 performance program offers a triple bottom line accelerator: lowering expenses, improving health and happiness of tenants, and enhancing the value of the asset.

Sounds fairly straight-forward, however, a 2010 study from Ipsos Public Affairs surveyed businesses on their sustainability knowledge, concentrating on product purchase decision-making process and cleaning decisions. The "Business Cleaning Sustainability Study" indicated that recycling and using energy efficient light bulbs are the two primary measures implemented by businesses to become environmentally responsible. An easy third measure is sustainable cleaning practices.

Implementing sustainable practices in cleaning has a tremendous operational impact on building maintenance, by providing a holistic benefit as follows:

- **Health benefits** – Absenteeism has been shown to decrease as much as 15% as a result of cleaner, healthier buildings. Indoor air quality has a direct impact on this, as HEPA filter vacuums together with microfiber mops and cloths make for a healthier work environment by removing dust, bacteria and allergens from the air.

- **Water/energy conservation** – Utilizing chemicals in a concentrated form, reduces the need for increased water during the manufacturing

process, as well as the associated transportation costs. During the cleaning process, the use of flat mops with built-in tanks reduces the need for mop buckets and the water they use, thereby providing additional conservation practices. Moreover, the technology allows for a more efficient cleaning.



- **Consumables usage** - Paper goods

are available with recycle content that do not compromise on quality. Often overlooked is the need to use correctly sized liners to avoid waste, which occurs when using an oversized liner in a small container.

Lastly, sustainable practices result in healthy buildings; healthy work environments make tenants happy; happy tenants renew leases! It's a win-win situation with sustainability practices leading to health benefits, improved productivity, reduced liability and cost savings. SparkleTeam strictly adheres to sustainable cleaning practices.

What practices are followed in your building?

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