



The Connection™
March 15th, 2007

It's about time!

We are pleased that our industry is starting to get serious about Sustainable Cleaning. But there is a lot more to this subject than meets the eye.

PortionPac's program was founded on sustainable principles in 1964, long before the word "sustainable" had meaning for most of the industries that are now rushing into the process. And after my last Connection, several readers asked what they could do to evaluate and develop an effective sustainability program.

It is a big subject and one that will pay big dividends as many states, corporations and institutions are rushing into sustainability programs. And as usual Janitorial and Food Service will get a lot of attention and mandates.

Today most departments are at the initial stage of converting to "Green Products" but much more will be required. It is a great opportunity for you to be ahead of management and the crowd by demonstrating the leadership of your department!

First an overview. What are we all trying to accomplish? Based on my experience, the goal can be summarized in one sentence.

"Clean effectively while using the least amount of energy, water, chemicals and other resources."

How is your department meeting this goal? There are a lot of elements and I will try to cover it in future Connections. But to start the ball rolling here is an initial guide, a five-step evaluation system on your cleaning products:

I will cover each of the 5 steps in a separate Marvin's View Connection beginning today.

So, here is Goal Number One.

Performance

The Products Must Clean

First, and foremost, all the products in your cleaning program must perform effectively. In the case of detergents, it doesn't do any good to have a wonderful environmentally safe product if it is not an effective cleaner. In fact, it is a waste of valuable energy, resources, water and labor. Why manufacture, ship, use, and dispose of a product that does not perform in the cleaning process?

Our founder Syd Weisberg was a great environmentalist and chemist (perhaps we can re-publish some of his papers that were written 40 years ago that foretold the issues we are facing today) Syd was so proud of his work and the critical role Janitorial departments play in reducing disease transmission and giving longer and healthier life to the populations of the world.

But to start our review, rate all your products (on a scale of 1 to 20) regarding Performance. I know it is subjective, but you are the only one who is going to see the score unless you want to review it with your staff and management.

A Five Step Evaluation Process

Score your Performance rating on a scale of 1 to 20, (with 20 being the highest)

Performance _____ (your score)

Safety

Accuracy

Minimization

Conservation

Let me know if you find this discussion helpful.