



## Situation Analysis:

Harvard sought to convert traditional cleaning approaches to green cleaning practices. The project addressed sustainability concerns by replacing harmful chemicals with environmentally preferable products, upgrading to newer equipment that reduced dust and air particulates, and retraining staff in the proper use and maintenance of the products.

## Background:

In 1999, Harvard's Facilities and Administrative Service and Waste Management departments wanted to significantly reduce the institution's environmental impact. It conducted its own research and engaged its building service contractor, UNICCO Service Company, to research available chemicals, equipment and cleaning process improvements. It established an initiative to improve Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), reduce the use of harmful chemicals, increase use of environmentally sensitive (post-consumer) paper products and expand on-campus recycling.

## Project:

The project included the following elements:

1. The successful Campus Energy Reduction Program was expanded to include cleaning and related functions.
2. Traditional ammonia- and petroleum-based cleaning products were replaced with Green Seal certified cleaning chemicals.
3. UNICCO retired and replaced cleaning equipment with HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtering system vacuums and other environmentally preferable equipment.
4. Established a recycling program. Provided "side saddle" recycling bins for office areas.
5. Replaced bleached lavatory paper products with unbleached, environmentally preferable products.
6. Responded to special events (such as moving days) by providing extra recycling bins and developing donation programs to recycle clothing, furniture and equipment.
7. Developed communications programs to publicize successes and goals and to remind and encourage faculty, staff and students to support the green initiatives and participate in the recycling program.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

**Organization:** *Harvard Green Campus Initiative*

**Situation:** *The institution wanted to implement green cleaning practices, chemicals and equipment; replace bleached paper products with environmentally preferable products and significantly increase recycling.*

**Project:** *UNICCO introduced green initiatives to the entire Radcliffe Campus (15 buildings), including graduate residences, education facilities and administrative/faculty offices.*

**Results:** *Chemical use reduced by 33%; petroleum-based cleaning products eliminated; equipment upgraded to HEPA standards; recycling increased to 70%. Additional improvements are expected as the programs are expanded.*

## Results:

1. All cleaning chemicals are now Green Seal ([www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)) certified. They are measured and dispensed through JohnsonDiversey J-Fill dispensing stations or AccuMix portion control systems located in all 15 buildings. All staff have been trained in green cleaning techniques.
2. All equipment is certified under the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label program or other appropriate certification programs. Vacuums are HEPA certified and maintained to HEPA standards.
3. Bay West Ecosoft products are used in the lavatories.
4. Recycling has increased from a sustained rate of 42% to 70%.
5. The remodeled Schlesinger Library has achieved LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-Existing Buildings) certification based, in part, on green cleaning points.