



About the Awards

Purpose

The purpose of the Green Cleaning Award for Schools & Universities is to recognize education institutions that have exemplary green-cleaning programs. Green cleaning simply means “cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.”

A green-cleaning program goes beyond chemical and equipment choices. It includes policies, procedures, training and shared responsibility efforts that minimize the impact of cleaning on the health of building occupants and staff, and that protect the environment as a whole.

Award criteria are modeled on the second edition of *The Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*, published by the Healthy Schools Campaign, a founding member of the Green Cleaning Network. To request a copy of this comprehensive guidebook, please e-mail Julie Hall at jhall@asumag.com.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all types and sizes of education institutions, both public and private, including preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities or colleges, trade or technical schools, and other types of schools (such as K-12, special education or therapeutic schools), as well as school districts.

The award seeks to recognize teams involved in implementing green-cleaning programs, which may include administrative and janitorial staff, outside contractors, vendors, and community and advocacy groups.

Judging Criteria

Submissions are judged by a panel representing school stakeholders, cleaning industry experts, green-cleaning consultants and school health advocates. 2008 judging criteria were based on the comprehensiveness and quality of the green-cleaning program, and how well each institution executed the following five steps, as outlined in the second edition of *The Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*:

1. Use green-cleaning products.
2. Use green equipment and supplies.
3. Adopt green-cleaning procedures.
4. Use green paper and plastic products.
5. Share the responsibility.

Recognition

Honorees will receive an awards certificate, recognizing their achievement, and will be profiled in the December issue of *American School & University* magazine. 2008 award winners were announced at the inaugural Green Clean Schools National Summit held on November 12, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

2009 Awards

Please e-mail Julie Hall at jhall@asumag.com for more information about the 2009 awards program.