

# The Great Western News

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## Tangible and Quantifiable Results

Ask Mr. Janitor:  
You have been very vocal about going Green and the benefits of going Green. Are there any tangible and quantifiable results showing real benefits realized by facilities that have gone Green?



Mr. Janitor Answers:  
Yes! The Green movement has been around long enough to show important results in studies about the many benefits of going Green. Let's take a brief look at just some of the tangible and quantifiable results realized by some who have gone Green.

Many people, perhaps you, have reservations about the Green movement taking place within our schools, office buildings and plants. There may be doubts about the efficacy of the products and materials being used. Why use products that may not work as well or cost more than what we have been using, and why use products that may not really provide the health and environmental benefits for the users of the products as well as the occupants and visitors to the facility? Most of these misconceptions about Green are the result of what were indeed poor quality, environmentally friendly products that were first introduced about 30 years ago. These early Green products were often more expensive than the traditional products they were trying to replace, and they often did not work as well as the traditional products. This is not the case today. Studies prove that Green products can save sizeable sums of money and do provide significant health and environmental benefits as well. Let's look at some of the results from a study titled "Greening America's Schools : Costs and Benefits." by Mr. Scot Case in *Maintenance Supplies* magazine. Mr. Case is an industry expert who has worked with many groups and organizations. He currently heads the U.S. Office of TerraChoice Environmental Marketing and EcoLogo Certification. The study looked at 30 different schools. The results can be applied to office buildings and plants as well since they are also buildings with people in them. The study looked at cost savings per square foot as a way to compare so many different buildings.

We will look at the results from the cleaning products and procedures. Average daily attendance was increased by 5 to 15 percent. The reduction in asthma and other respiratory illnesses resulted in saving \$3.00 to \$5.00 per sq. ft. This is important because school funding is often based upon student attendance. Increased teacher retention saved the schools \$4.00 per sq. ft. Water and wastewater savings were \$1.00 per sq. ft. As a result of using Green cleaning products and procedures, there were fewer teacher and student absences and reduced maintenance and operating costs. They found that the Green initiative not only saved money but also was more protective of health and the environment. Their official conclusion from this 30 school study is: "Greening schools provides an extraordinarily cost-effective way to enhance student learning, reduce health and operational costs, and ultimately, increase school quality and competitiveness." This is equally important for business offices and plants.

The bottom line is - Green saves money!

If you have any questions, please give us a call at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or in the Cedar Rapids area at 319/395-0445.