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WHO TV/DT DES MOINES

School Goes Green



November 7, 2007--You may have noticed that NBC is going green this week in an effort to raise awareness about global warming. But, a metro school is also going green, and not just for the week.

Custodians at Southeast Polk Community Schools are now using "green" cleaning products. They say it's making it a better place for them to work and for kids to learn. Custodian Suzanne Jones says the school is cleaning up her routine.

She says, "A lot of times, there were certain products we'd use and you'd get a raspy throat, or it would affect your eyes, make them water." Those days are over. They started using "green" cleaning products in August. The environmentally friendly solutions are free of dyes, perfumes and toxic chemicals.

Buildings Director Gary Haines says that makes for a healthier school. "In other districts they've surveyed show less sick leave and better attendance."

And, Haines says the green products are saving the district green. He says, "We're looking at approximately 30 percent savings over what we were spending."

Now, Jones is cleaning green at home. She says, "It just makes sense. I have grandchildren and I want to leave this world better than what it is now so that their children or their children's children can have a good life and be able to breathe the air."

Look for products with the Green Seal Certified Label, if you'd like to use environmentally friendly cleaning products.



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