



# The Need for Green

## Statistics on the benefits of Green Systems on the environment and on Human Health

*Commercial buildings in the United States contribute sizable impacts on our environment.*

### Buildings Consume:

- 36% of total energy
- 65% of total electricity
- 30% of raw materials
- 12% of potable water



### Buildings Produce:

- 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30% of total waste output

## At the same time, the cleaning of commercial and institutional buildings annually requires:

- 5 billion pounds of cleaning & coating chemicals
- 4.5 billion pounds of janitorial paper products, which represent & estimate 50 million trees
- 36 billion plastic trash can liners
- 20 million vacuum cleaners

*A comprehensive program based on LEED guidelines will have a significant reduction on these environmental impacts.*

## Impact of a Healthy Environment

Indoor air quality (IAQ) is a critical component of providing a healthy and comfortable learning environment. IAQ affects the health, productivity, performance, and comfort of students, teachers, and staff. Good IAQ helps schools meet their core mission -- educating children.

Improving IAQ in schools can help:

- Reduce absenteeism
- Improve student and staff concentration
- Improve student productivity and performance
- Decrease IAQ-related health risks from exposure to indoor pollutants
- Reduce environmental triggers of asthma
- Reduce respiratory illness

*For more information and statistics on the impact of IAQ visit*

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/benefits.html>

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