

ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION SERVICES



AT A GLANCE

WHO WE ARE

Environmental and Conservation Services (ECS) is one of five departments under the Division of Facilities Management. ECS staff works collaboratively with all departments and school centers throughout the District to provide assistance with environmental and indoor health-related concerns to maintain healthful learning and work environments. In addition, the District's *School Sustainability* initiative is led by ECS and covers topics such as waste reduction & recycling, energy & water conservation, and green school activities.

"Providing environmental solutions today for more sustainable schools tomorrow."

WHAT DO WE DO?

INDOOR-AIR QUALITY (IAQ)



ECS created an IAQ assessment team to address indoor-air quality complaints and perform environmental remediation projects. The program is modeled on the U.S. EPA's *Tools for Schools Program* and the American Industrial Hygienist Association industry guidelines and recommendations. ECS performs 500+ assessments and 300+ IAQ-related projects each year under the supervision of certified, in-house indoor-air quality professionals. The program supports [School Board Policy 7.195: Indoor Air Quality](#), which identifies best practices for healthy classrooms and productive workspaces across the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE INCIDENTS



ECS coordinates environmental response actions for infectious disease incidents. ECS staff partners with school administration, District Health Specialists, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), and other stakeholders to address infectious agents. ECS supervises specialized cleaning, including Blood-Borne Pathogen sanitizing, to augment facility-based custodial services in full compliance with FDOH and CDC compliance.

CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT



ECS manages the Hazard Communication Program (HAZCOM-GHS) which provides guidance to District employees regarding chemical hazards in the workplace. Program components include: employee training, chemical inventories, maintaining Safety Data Sheets and ensuring that chemical containers are labeled correctly in order to properly communicate potential hazards.

PRESERVE AREAS, WETLANDS AND SENSITIVE LANDS



The District manages nine permitted wetland and upland preserves at various properties throughout the county. Several preserves are natural and others are man-made mitigation projects for school construction activities. ECS maintains, enhances, and restores regulated sites including removal of exotic and invasive plant species.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT



Asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) are located in several District schools. Certified ECS staff inspects these materials semi-annually to ensure they remain in good condition. Every District school or facility is provided an *Asbestos Management Plan*, whether the facility has asbestos-containing materials or not. These US-EPA mandated plans are available for review at any time. In addition, ECS provides asbestos training for all custodians and facilities employees through e-learning.

SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAMS



In coordination with the Maintenance and Plant Operations Department (M&PO), ECS works to uphold [*Board Policy #7.197: Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling*](#). The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the implementation of a District-wide waste reduction, materials reuse, and recycling program and is designed to underscore the importance of resource conservation. Programs include: Electronic Waste, Ink and Toner Cartridges, Waste Paint, Paper, Cardboard and Commingled (plastics #1-7, aluminum and glass).

SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY



According to the Environmental Protection Agency, sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations. The District supports this principle by cultivating green schools, coordinating school-based waste reduction programs, and facilitating resource conservation through education and awareness.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES



Common protected species that are found on District properties are Burrowing Owls and Gopher Tortoises. ECS staff ensures that both of these species are protected in accordance with State and Federal law. It is prohibited to harass, disturb or relocate endangered species without a permit. Other species protected in the State of Florida include Birds of Prey and Bats. Discovery of potentially endangered or protected animals should be reported immediately to ECS for action.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT AND COMPLIANCE FOR PCBs



Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are persistent man-made chemicals that were manufactured from 1929-1977 and were widely used in building materials, including caulking, sealants, paints and adhesives, in addition to electrical products. The US-EPA provides guidance for reducing potential exposure to PCBs in schools. ECS staff is responsible for District compliance with regulatory guidelines including testing for the presence of PCBs. ECS works to ensure PCBs are not released during construction activities or repairs and replacement of electrical products.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS AND PROPERTY INVESTIGATIONS



Prior to purchasing a property, certified ECS staff conducts a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment in accordance with the American Society for Testing and Materials' Standard E 1527 (also known as a Pre-Purchase Audit), to identify any potential or existing environmental conditions on a property. Potential health and safety conditions are investigated, along with previous and current uses of the property, which includes: chemical use, waste disposal, and storage tanks.

PETROLEUM AND SPILL RESPONSE



ECS oversees Federal, State, and Local regulations that govern the storage and safe use of petroleum products including gasoline, diesel fuel and lubricants. In addition, ECS responds to leaks from hydraulic systems such as elevators or vehicular lifts. ECS is responsible for the District's Federal SPCC compliance and serves as a first-responder for small spill incidents. In case of a spill, call ECS at 684-5154—DO NOT notify the State Warning Point at the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). ECS responds and coordinates between all responders to the spill and notifies other offices as required.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE



ECS in collaboration with Risk & Benefits Management and M&PO – Safety is responsible for Industrial Hygiene services in support of District operations. ECS contracts with Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIH) as needed for programs including Noise Surveys, Contaminant Exposure Assessments, Building Forensics, Ergonomics, and Environmental Health & Safety (HASP). ECS specialists also conduct environmental product reviews for District purchases.

HAZARDOUS AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE



District operations generate hazardous and industrial waste during routine services related to academic programs, maintenance, and construction. Many different types of wastes are generated such as used oil and solvents from Transportation facilities, unused or expired chemicals from our school science labs, rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs containing mercury. ECS coordinates the proper disposal and/or recycling of regulated wastes.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY ECS

- ❖ Asthma Awareness and Prevention
- ❖ Radon Gas Sampling
- ❖ Demolitions
- ❖ Palm Beach County Wellfield Protection Ordinance
- ❖ SARA Title III
- ❖ US-EPA Renovation, Repair & Painting (Lead)
- ❖ US-EPA Safe Drinking Water Act
- ❖ US-EPA Clean Air Act
- ❖ Florida Department of Health-School Inspections

HOW TO CONTACT US

MAIN NUMBER.....561-684-5154 OR PX 45154
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