

## Achieving a Green Campus By Embracing Environmental Wellness Best Practices

The University of Virginia is one of the nation's leading centers of innovation. Inspired by Thomas Jefferson, arguably this country's most important architect and social thinker, the University's commitment to the practices of sustainability dates back centuries, and its current activities in the area of environmental wellness, green architecture and sustainability are diverse and influential.

A sense of social responsibility, a student body and faculty that are committed to environmental health, and a belief that it must lead by example all play an important role in how the University embraces today's environmental challenges. Because a healthy indoor environment plays a crucial role in the University's overall environmental public health strategy, Bob Carman, Building Services Superintendent, approached the Building Wellness Institute to train the University's building maintenance supervisors in green cleaning best practices. The Building Wellness Certification Training program successfully demonstrated to the Building Services supervisors, through instruction and example, how to implement a cost-effective strategy that improves performance and reduces environmental impact.

The training helped supervisors and staff realize the direct affect they have on the health of building occupants, including cleaning personnel. Building Services supervisors and staff now have the ability to determine which chemicals, techniques, and equipment might positively or negatively impact the health of all tenants. Supervisors are also looking more closely at recycling practices and what they can do to prevent waste going to landfills. As a result of the Building Wellness Institute training, Building Services is now a leading contributor to the University's overall pursuit of green cleaning success.

“The Building Wellness Institute helped us distinguish the University and demonstrate to our students, parents and greater community that we are doing everything we can to sustain a healthy environment.”

Bob Carman  
Building Services  
Superintendent,  
University of Virginia  
Facilities Management

