

AMERICAN

SHAPING FACILITIES & BUSINESS DECISIONS

# SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2010

## THE TOP 10 ISSUE

The biggest, best and most popular in education facilities and business.

*Joseph D. Day* *Standy Senger*  
*Sean Flannery* *Henry Howard*  
*Michael Cooper* *Richard J. Grant*  
*Andrew Manning* *Angela Lusk*  
*Robert Allen*

**SPECIAL SECTION:**  
**GREEN CLEANING AWARD**  
**FOR SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES**

# GRAND AWARD

## K-12/SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### >> EAST MEADOW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT WESTBURY, NEW YORK



#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Number of students:** 7,345

**Square footage maintained:** 1,340,020

**Number of full-time custodians:** 89

**Annual cleaning budget:** \$604,950

**Green cleaning team members:** Patrick Pizzo, Director of Facilities and Operations; Dan Pletenycky, Head Custodian, Clarke MS/HS; Bob Callan, Head Custodian, Parkway Elementary; Mike Ewald, Head Custodian, Campo Center

**F**rom modest beginnings in 2005, East Meadow School District's green cleaning program has evolved into a source of pride. During the past year, the program has grown in several areas, and the district has stepped into a leadership role, offering the benefit of its experience and serving as a role model to other districts nationwide. Shortly after his 2008 appointment, Patrick Pizzo, director of facilities and operations, began meeting with the district's green cleaning committee to explore areas for improvement and growth in the existing program. The district immediately took steps to replace all ammonia-based cleaning products with green-certified products and to replace products containing bleach. Last year, the district piloted bottle recycling districtwide and bottle/paper recycling in its administrative building. When students returned to classes this September, they found paper recycling efforts in all buildings.

At East Meadow, the safety and well-being of students and staff is of the utmost priority. Inasmuch as the district's efforts are funded by taxpayers' hard-earned money, the district is conscientious about its obligation to be fiscally responsible. The use of products and equipment that reduce or eliminate the need for expensive and potentially harmful cleaning chemicals has enabled the district to realize substantial savings while reducing its impact on the environment.

Procedures and strategies now being used in the district include a preventive maintenance program for heating systems, raising air quality while lowering fuel consumption; an immediate halt to the use of weed killers, using rechargeable line trimmers to limit weed growth on fields and walkways; organic turf treatments for playing fields; construction of plywood decoy dogs to deter geese from congregating on fields; and replacement of incandescent lighting fixtures with CFL bulbs in machine areas and boiler rooms. ■

*To learn more about East Meadow's winning green ways, visit [ASUmag.com/green](http://ASUmag.com/green) and click on its link.*

**STORY OF INNOVATION—BEYOND THE STATUS QUO:** Through the collaborative efforts of administration, custodial staff, vendors, teachers, students and parents, Patrick Pizzo, director of facilities and operations, hopes to continue exploring new options for maintaining a healthful, clean environment for all, while minimizing the impact on the environment. **Photos:** Patrick Pizzo, Tracy Coates

