New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on

Proposed Specification on Mops

**Background:** A specification for mops was given tentative approval by the Executive Order 4 Interagency Committee on April 15, 2022. This was part of a package of cleaning products specifications designed to align with the work done on the new multi-state green cleaning contact (FAC118) led by the State of Massachusetts.

**Commenting Entities:** Clean and Healthy New York, Environmental Advocates of New York, Green Inside and Out, New York League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice

**Issued Raised by These Organizations During the Comment Period:**

1. **Remove the preference for microfiber mops**

   **Comments:**
   The commenting entities stated that that there should not be a preference for microfiber materials in mops due to the possibility of the release of microplastic into waterways

   **Response:**
   The GreenNY Council appreciates the commenter raising this concern around microfiber and its contribution of microplastics to water streams. The specification has been amended in response to this comment.

   **Recommendation:**
   Remove the preference for microfiber mops and if there are no other option, follow additional criteria for a more preferable type of microfiber.

**Commenting Entities: Vinyl Institute**

**Issued raised by the Vinyl Institute During the Comment Period:**

2. **Remove the restrictions on PVC in mop handles**

   **Comments:** The restriction on PVC in mop handles should be removed.

   **Response:** The GreenNY Council has adopted similar restrictions on PVC in other product categories due to the hazards of the chemicals used to create PVC and concerns about end-of-life disposal. Vinyl chloride, which is polymerized to create PVC, is classified as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. In addition, ethylene dichloride, also known as 1,2-dichloroethane, is used in the creation of vinyl chloride and has been described as reasonably anticipated to be a human
carcinogen by the National Toxicology Program (NTP). Overall, PVC continues to be the lowest scoring plastic resin on The Plastics Scorecard, a tool developed by Clean Production Action to evaluate the chemical footprint of plastics.

**Recommendation:** Keep the restriction on PVC in broom handles.