Janitors Present Green Technician Janitorial Training Program

In the second bargaining, the union presented our demands to the companies about the creation of a Green technician janitorial training program. Janitors in California already have this training fund, and representatives from that program presented on their successes. If the companies pay to train janitors in California, do we deserve any less in MN? Our members are uniquely positioned to help lead the change we all need, in helping to convert to clean energy in this especially important sector. Top down policies won’t work if the people who will be responsible for implementing these changes on a day to day basis don’t have a voice. One key is training for front line janitors, as green technicians, so that they have the skills.

Building owners need to clean up what to mess up:

- **Contract Language**: create training program for Green Technicians (including $0.20 differential) and expanded use of green cleaning.
- **Create a Table with Building owners** and community groups focused on climate to develop bold solutions (including “GREEN NEW DEAL” policies, getting MN to 100% renewable energy, reducing waste and close the incinerator that is polluting our neighborhoods.)

“**We are people from the countryside in Ecuador, and when I was young it was a fertile place. But then the droughts began, and the land didn’t produce anymore. As people who lived on what we took from the earth, we had to leave. We were not alone, millions of people from the areas near my village left too, in one of the biggest migrations ever out of South America. Now I clean buildings that are some of the biggest polluters in Minnesota, which furthers the same problem that made me immigrate. This must be addressed. I think if we win green cleaning, we can send a message.”** Elsa, a janitor at ABM who cleans United Health Group.

**Next Steps:**

**Bargaining Dates:** December 3rd & 17th

**Winter Carnival** Dec 7th, 12pm, union hall

**1st Rally for a Fair contract:** Dec 16th, 12pm Town Square St Paul.

**For more information**, talk to your steward, find us on Facebook (SEIU Local 26), or call 1 855 265-6225