Regulatory Authority

Bowdoin College recognizes the indoor air quality (IAQ) standards defined by the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs), and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs), depending on the intended use(s) of the specific building.

Program Resources

Bowdoin has four full time employees in Mechanical Services who are trained to observe and monitor indoor air quality and to report any issues to the Mechanical Services supervisor for immediate investigation and remediation. This includes continuous automated air quality parameter testing of HVAC systems throughout campus via an online Environmental Management System (EMS), as well as regular visual and instrument monitoring in selected buildings without automated testing capabilities.

Investigation and Remediation

Building occupants who notice any indoor air quality issues such as mold, petroleum fumes, chemical vapors, mercaptan, evidence of CO2 or other respiratory hazards, or simply undefined odors or general poor quality are directed to contact the Facilities Management Workorder line at x3333 or e-mail at workorder@bowdoin.edu. Once a workorder is received, Mechanical Services staff will investigate the complaint and take the measures necessary to correct the situation.

If there are issues that require further action, Bowdoin’s Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager will be contacted for assistance. Depending on the issue, specialized air testing or long-term onsite instrument monitoring may be employed through a licensed vendor to better define its cause and potential solutions.