



An electronic newsletter produced by GA Tech's Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (OSWM&R)

Volume 10 — Issue 9 — May 2012

In This Issue

- [Earth Day Photos](#)
- [Environmental Award Winners](#)
- [Earth Day Booth Contest Winners](#)
- [Recycling Statistics](#)
- [Ask Enviro-Man](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Comments and Suggestions](#)

Recycling Tips

Have you ever wondered what it would take to have a zero-waste lifestyle? Would it be expensive? Time consuming? Is it even possible? You can read about one family's journey towards a zero-waste home at <http://zerowastehome.blogspot.com/p/tips.html>. Although their home is not yet completely zero-waste, the three person household produces just one small bag of trash every six months. The blog is filled with tips and best practices they have learned along the way.

Earth Day 2012

Georgia Tech's Earth Day planning committee would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in the 6th Annual Think Green Week, April 16-20! Designed to be engaging, fun, and informative, Think Green Week offered events ranging from documentary film screenings to a Water Resources Symposium and "Get Outside Day". All of the events led up to Friday's grand finale: Georgia Tech's 15th Annual Earth Day Celebration.

On Earth Day, thousands of people from both the campus community and off-campus gathered on Tech Walk to take part in the festivities. Crowd-pleasing musical performances by the Nigel Wright, Champagne Room and Dr. Dr. Mr. MD set the tone. There was a wealth of information available from more than 70 exhibitors. All of the attractions that have become Earth Day traditions were there as well, including the clothing swap, Nike® Reuse-A-Shoe, E-waste recycling, the Office Supply Exchange, and organic popcorn. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the highlights from the Earth Day Celebration.



For more information, visit the Georgia Tech Earth Day [website](#).



Earth Day Photos 2012



383 pairs of athletic shoes were collected for recycling



Free bike repairs were provided by Georgia Tech Starter Bikes



Bag Monster demonstrated the environmental impact of plastic bags



Georgia Tech's 15th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Tech Walk



At the Office Supply Exchange, GT students, faculty, and staff could shop for free among office supplies donated by campus departments



The EV Club of the South, Wheego, and Porsche displayed vehicles



Performances by Champagne Room, Nigel Wright, and Dr. Dr. MR



Renewable Energy Challenge



Engineers Without Borders demonstrate a Rocket Stove



Everyone's favorite eco-hero: Captain Planet!

And the Winners Are...

Several awards and prizes are given out each year in conjunction with the Earth Day Celebration.

Environmental Leadership Award (ELA)

The ELA celebrates an individual or group that has had a significant environmental impact via a long-term commitment, resulting in a body of exemplary work. The 2012 ELA recipient is Jonathan Murphy. Jonathan has been the backbone of StarterBikes, an on-campus bicycle co-op, educating students and staff on how to maintain their bicycles and providing inexpensive bicycles through the program. He has also been an active member of the Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Committee, contributing tremendously to all of their efforts since the organization was founded in 2010.



Jonathan has helped countless students use bikes rather than cars, and has helped show them that it's not only cheap and easy, but a wonderfully enjoyable way to get around. He has coordinated the creation of creative and wacky bicycles (including a dodeca-cycle, six bikes welded together!) to advertise bicycling's fun side at events around Atlanta. Jonathan knows that actions speak louder than words. His actions have spoken volumes, and helped make Georgia Tech a much more bike-friendly place.

Environmental Initiative Award (EIA)

The EIA is designed to celebrate a particular project by an individual or group that has had a significant environmental impact within the past year, whether on campus or out in the community at large. The 2012 EIA recipient is the Georgia Tech Department of Housing. GT Housing acquired the North Avenue Apartments (NAA), the former 1996 Olympic Village, in the Summer of 2007. The group completed a check-list of more than 25 projects and in November 2011 achieved the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification for Existing Buildings in Operations & Maintenance, making NAA the largest university housing complex in the world to achieve the LEED® Gold EB O&M certification.



LEED® Operations & Maintenance of an Existing Building includes not only renovating the building as a sustainable building but also involves training the operators (staff), and in the case of a housing or residence hall, the persons living in the building (students) to "operate and maintain" the building. A LEED® Policy Manual was developed to guide the operations of the NAA complex and has since been adopted for the running of all Housing on the Georgia Tech campus. The pursuit of LEED® EB certification at North Avenue Apartments has served to positively influence all Housing at Georgia Tech and provides the benchmark needed to move into a more sustainable future, to accomplish the mission of reducing the impact on the earth and to conserve resources so that future generations can live, learn and prosper in a healthier and cleaner environment.

Caught Green Handed!



During Think Green Week, April 16-20, members of the Earth Day Planning Committee gave out raffle tickets to Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff who they "caught" taking action to help the planet, such as recycling, taking a reusable mug to get coffee, or riding a bicycle on campus. At the Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 20, one winner was selected randomly from all of the week's entries. Congratulations to Chris McManus, who won a Schwinn cruiser, donated by Midtown Target. Chris is a graduate student in the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He was 'Caught Green Handed' at Think Green Week's Tuesday event, Get Outside Day, while playing Frisbee with his son.

Earth Day Booth Contest Winners

Best Public Awareness

American Chemical Society

The American Chemical Society has taken part in Earth Day since 2003 under the banner "Chemists Celebrate Earth Day". Rotating themes of water, atmosphere, plants, and recycling create a connection between chemistry and the environment. ACS local sections, industrialists, educators, and promoters of chemistry provide information and outreach activities that reflect the positive role that chemistry plays in addressing environmental issues.



Most Innovative Booth

American Nuclear Society – Georgia Tech Student Section

We are mostly Nuclear Engineering students at Georgia Tech and we are learning how to create safer nuclear power in today's world. The core purpose of the American Nuclear Society is to promote the awareness and understanding of the application of nuclear science and technology. We support education about greenhouse gas free nuclear power. GT ANS takes part in a variety of activities, including visiting high school classes, taking group trips to nuclear facilities, hosting guest speakers on campus, and facilitating interaction within the chapter.



Georgia Tech Waste Diversion Statistics: Student Move Out

Each spring the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (OSWM&R) gives residential students the opportunity to lighten the load and help others during move out. Donation bins are set up at each of the outdoor recycling sites in campus housing, where students can drop off nonperishable



food, clothes, shoes, bedding, kitchen utensils, small appliances, cleaning supplies, books and other household items in good condition. The donations are sorted by OSWM&R staff and delivered to local charities, including the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Salvation Army. During this year's move out (April 30 – May 6) the donations totaled 3,098 pounds: 798 pounds of food plus approximately 2,300 pounds of clothing and household goods. The program began in 1997. In the chart below, you can see the results of the past seven years.

Student Move Out Donations (2006 – 2012)

Material	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Clothing & Household goods (pounds)	706	1,920	1,815	1,329	706	1,600	2,300
Nonperishable Food (pounds)	840	841	590	4,476	840	601	798
Total (pounds)	1,546	2,761	2,405	5,805	1,546	2,201	3,098

ASK ENVIRO-MAN



To ask Enviro-Man a question, [click here](#).

Question: What water conservation measures are used at Georgia Tech?

Answer: Georgia Tech uses a combination of cisterns, rain gardens, condensate collection, and xeriscaping to conserve water. The new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons has a 1.4-million gallon cistern that is used for internal sanitation and landscape irrigation. Low flow fixtures have also been installed in many restrooms across campus. Although the total square footage of buildings on campus has doubled since 2001, water usage has not increased. For more information, visit the Georgia Tech [GreenBuzz](#) website.

Upcoming Events

[President's Challenge: Campus Fitness Walk](#)

Georgia Tech Campus Recreation Center, Atlanta GA

Thursday, May 17, 2012

5:30 pm

Cost: Free!

All departments on campus are invited to participate in the Campus Walk, and also to compete with other departments to see which departments will have the most participants. The department with the most participants on the day of the event will receive a prize! The Campus Walk will begin at the entrance of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). All participants should register with their department leader prior to the event.

[Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable](#)

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall

634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, June 1, 2012 (7:30 – 9:00 am)

Cost: \$10 - \$20, includes continental breakfast and beverage

Presented by [Southface](#), the Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable is a monthly discussion forum. The topic for June is "The City of Atlanta – Striving Toward Sustainability." Join Southface for a conversation with City of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, who will address the opportunities and challenges the City faces as it strives toward sustainability.

[Keep Atlanta Beautiful – Community Recycling Center](#)

320 Irwin St. Atlanta, GA

June 9, 2012 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm)

2nd Saturday of each month

Keep Atlanta Beautiful and Creative Recycling Solutions host a monthly recycling drive for household electronic waste, polystyrene foam, latex paint, and paper. Free, secure paper shredding is now available courtesy of Iron Mountain. Personal computers, monitors, stereos, microwaves, vacuums, telephones, keyboards, mice, printers, and scanners are accepted free of charge. There is a \$10 fee for televisions, cash only. For a complete list of accepted items, go to <http://www.keepatlantabeautiful.org/programs/Recycling.asp>.

Comments and Suggestions

If you have any questions or suggestions about our program, please feel free to contact us by simply replying to this [newsletter](#). We are here to help, and together, we can work to benefit the environment.

Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling

Cindy Jackson, Program Manager

151 Sixth Street, NW

Atlanta, GA 30332-0350

Tel: 404-385-0088 ~ Fax: 404-385-0710

Visit Our Website

As part of our effort to provide you with better services we continually update our website. Recycling guidelines and useful links can be found at www.recycle.gatech.edu.