

# THE RECYCLING BUZZ

Because we care



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

## Volume 10 — Issue 6 — February 2012

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### Recycling Tips

[Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) is a great online resource for recycling information. You can locate community recycling centers, keep up with the latest recycling news, access the "Recyclopedia" to find out how various materials are recycled into new products, or get inspired with videos of creative recycling projects. Did you know that discarded plastic bottles are being turned into solar light bulbs in the Philippines? Watch this 2-minute [video](#) to find out how!

## DO YOU KNOW A WORTHY GREENgineer?

Nominate them for the  
Environmental Leadership Award or  
Environmental Initiative Award

[www.earthday.gatech.edu](http://www.earthday.gatech.edu)  
Deadline: March 9, 2012



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## Earth Day Update

Georgia Tech's annual Earth Day Celebration is one of the most highly anticipated campus events during spring semester. The event is free and open to the public, and features 70 exhibitors, eco-friendly giveaways, recycling opportunities, a clothing swap, an office supply exchange, live music, a green market, free organic popcorn and more. This is one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in the southeast.

### Booth registration is now open!

If your company or organization is focused on the environment or sustainability and can help us communicate this year's theme: "Helluva GREENgineer," we would like to invite you to host a booth at the Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 20, 2012. Visit the Georgia Tech [Earth Day website](#) for more information. As always, hosting a booth is free!



Mark your calendar for Georgia Tech's  
**15th Annual Earth Day Celebration!**  
Friday, April 20, 2012  
(10 am – 3 pm)  
Tech Walk

### Do you know an environmental leader on campus?

If you know an individual or a group that has made a significant contribution to recycling, clean air, water conservation, pollution control, energy, sustainability or other environmental issue, you can nominate them for the Georgia Tech Environmental Leadership Awards. The *Environmental Leadership Award* honors an individual for long-term commitment and significant environmental impact. The *Environmental Initiative Award* recognizes a project that has made a considerable environmental impact in 2011. Winners will be recognized at the Earth Day Celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>.



Nominations will be accepted through March 9<sup>th</sup>. Nomination forms, criteria, and other information are available at [www.earthday.gatech.edu/leadership.html](http://www.earthday.gatech.edu/leadership.html). The nominees must be a member of the Georgia Tech community (student, faculty, staff, alumni or retiree). Self nominations are welcome.

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## Recycling Success Stories – Graduate Living Center

Like the underdog team that swoops in unexpectedly to win the championship, the recycling program at Georgia Tech's Graduate Living Center (GLC) has experienced a dramatic turnaround this semester! After recycling services at the GLC were suspended due to frequent contamination, a group of concerned students formed the 'GLC Recycling Ad Hoc Committee' to address the issues and bring recycling back. They conducted a survey and found that the majority of GLC residents were in favor of recycling. The committee worked together with the OSWM&R and Area Manager Maz Kosma to relaunch the program in January, with the theme "Recycling Strikes Back."



On Wednesday evenings, student volunteers set up recycling bins in the GLC lobby and assist residents to make sure that recyclables are placed in the right containers. At the end of the evening the bins are placed in a storage room at the GLC, and OSWM&R staff members empty the bins before the following week's recycling event. The residents appreciate the convenience of the new program, and contamination has been eliminated. The OSWM&R would like to thank the GLC recycling committee, volunteers and residents for their commitment to recycling. Keep up the good work!

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## ASK ENVIRO-MAN

**Question:** I know that Georgia Tech has a great recycling program, but how is Georgia doing overall?



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

**Answer:** The Georgia Department of Community Affairs reports that 58% of Georgians recycle always or often, while 21% recycle sometimes, and another 22% recycle rarely or never. These Georgia recyclers contributed to the 85 million tons of material recycled in the US last year, as reported by the EPA. Even though more than half of Georgians recycle, there is still room for improvement. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs also reports that over half of Georgians would recycle more if they received more information about recycling in their community.

**How frequently do you recycle?** Email [recycle@gatech.edu](mailto:recycle@gatech.edu) with “always or often,” “sometimes,” or “rarely or never.” We will post the results in next month’s issue.

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## Meet the Team

“Meet the Team” is a monthly feature that gives you an opportunity to go behind the scenes to meet the staff of the OSWM&R and learn a little more about who we are and what we do.



### **Karl Hajdasz, Campus Recycling Specialist I**

This month we would like to introduce Karl Hajdasz, Campus Recycling Specialist I. Originally from New York, Karl lived in Columbus, GA prior to joining the OSWM&R in 2008. He says working at Georgia Tech is fun because “I enjoy meeting new people, and my job takes me all over campus.”

In his spare time, you are most likely to find Karl tinkering with his motorcycle. Karl got his motorcycle license in January and recently purchased a Honda Shadow. He is looking forward to getting used to the bike and putting it on the road. At 70 miles per gallon it will save gas money and reduce his carbon footprint. But, he admits with a smile, that’s not the main reason for wanting to ride. “Mainly, it’s a lot of fun!”

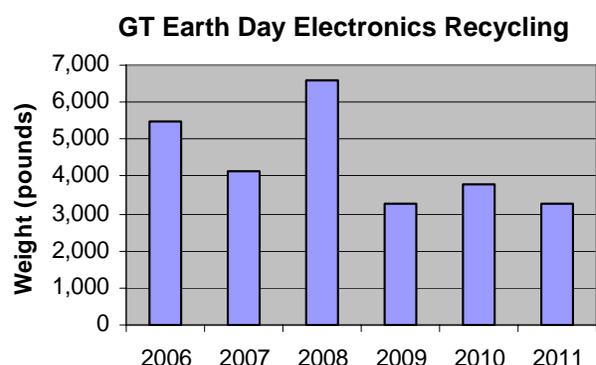
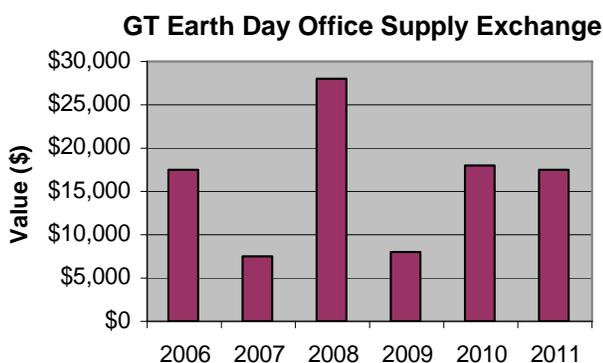
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## Georgia Tech Waste Diversion Statistics

Several recycling and reuse opportunities will be available at Georgia Tech’s Earth Day Celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup>, including [E-waste \(Electronics\) Recycling](#) and the [Office Supply Exchange](#). This year marks our 6<sup>th</sup> annual E-waste recycling drive. You can bring obsolete personal electronics (no state property) to the event and drop them off for recycling by Atlanta Recycling Solutions.

Also, if your spring cleaning turns up unneeded office supplies, you can donate them to the Office Supply Exchange. During the months leading up to Earth Day we collect pens, markers, folders, binders and other unneeded office supplies from campus departments. At the Earth Day Celebration, GT students, faculty, and staff can show their Buzz cards and shop for free. The graphs below show the impact these two programs have had in the past. Help us make this year’s event even better! Visit [www.earthday.gatech.edu](http://www.earthday.gatech.edu) or email [recycle@gatech.edu](mailto:recycle@gatech.edu) for more information.



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## Upcoming Events

### [Open Forum – 7 Billion: Where's the Limit?](#)

Clough Commons Lounge (Room 205), Georgia Tech's Atlanta Campus, Atlanta, GA

Thursday, February 23, 2012 (11:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Georgia Tech's Open Forum meets weekly in the Office of Undergraduate Studies' Resource Room next to Starbucks in the Clough Commons. Each week a presenter gives a 5–10 minute overview of a topic, after which participants break into small groups to discuss. Come to this week's discussion on "7 billion: Where is the limit?" Join us for topical, intellectual discussion with students, faculty and staff. All students, faculty and staff are welcome and highly encouraged to attend to discuss their own thoughts, opinions, beliefs and life experiences. We look forward to seeing you there!

### [Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable](#)

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall  
634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, March 2, 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 March is "Retrofitting Cities for the Future: Buildings, Transportation & Beyond." Southface and the British Consulate-General Atlanta present Nigel Brandon, director of the Energy Futures Lab at London's Imperial College, to discuss the pivotal role cities can play in achieving ambitious carbon reduction goals via their building and transportation infrastructures.

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

320 Irwin St. Atlanta, GA

March 10, 2012 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month

Keep Atlanta Beautiful and Creative Recycling Solutions host a monthly recycling drive for household electronic waste, office equipment 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/e-scrap.asp>.

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## 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.

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## 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](http://www.recycle.gatech.edu).