



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

Volume 10 — Issue 7 — March 2012

In This Issue

- [Earth Day Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Earth Day Spring Cleanout](#)
- [Ask Enviro-Man](#)
- [Meet the Team](#)
- [Recycling Statistics](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Comments and Suggestions](#)

Recycling Tips

The plastic bag recycling bins at grocery stores can be used to recycle much more than just plastic shopping bags. Many other types of plastic film are accepted as well. You can drop off dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, bread bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, toilet paper wrappers, cereal box liners, and plastic shipping envelopes (with labels removed). Just make sure they are clean and dry. Visit <http://abagslife.com/> for more information.

Earth Day Volunteer Registration is Now Open!

GA Tech's Earth Day Celebration is one of the largest in the southeast. On April 20, 2012, thousands of people will converge on Georgia Tech's Atlanta campus for the 15th annual Earth Day Celebration, which features 70 exhibitors, live music, free organic popcorn and recycling activities.

It takes more than 200 volunteers to make the event a success. We need volunteers to help set up the stage, assist with the Office Supply Exchange and E-waste recycling, give out organic popcorn and Earth Day T-shirts, and much more. No prior experience is required. You can volunteer for one hour, all day, or anything in between. All volunteers will receive a free Earth Day T-shirt.

Help us make the 15th annual Earth Day Celebration the biggest and best one yet! Please go to <http://www.earthday.gatech.edu/volunteers.html> for more information and to sign up.



Earth Day Spring Cleanout

This year's Earth Day Celebration will feature a clothing swap, an office supply exchange, E-waste recycling, and athletic shoe recycling. In order to make these programs successful, we need your donations! From now through March 30, the Earth Day Committee is accepting gently used clothing, worn-out sneakers, personal electronics*, and extra office supplies.

(*Personal electronics only; no state or unit property.)



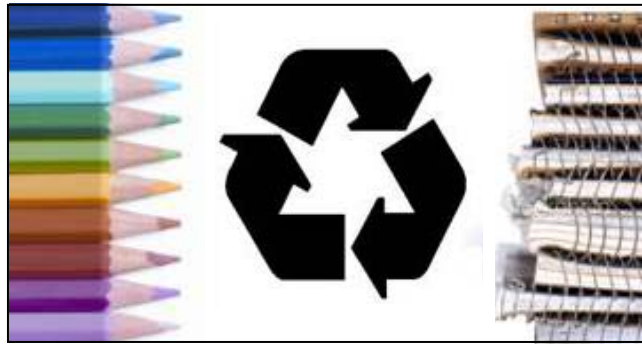
Usable electronics (such as calculators) will be donated to the Office Supply Exchange and non-functioning electronics will be recycled through Atlanta Recycling Solutions. At the 2011 Earth Day Celebration, \$17,600 worth of office supplies were exchanged and we recycled 3,274 pounds of electronics.



Athletic shoes will be recycled through Nike Reuse-A-Shoe. The program takes worn-out sneakers and turns them into material for running tracks, basketball courts, and tennis courts. Our goal is to collect 500 pairs of sneakers! They don't have to be Nikes. Any brand is fine.



If you have office supplies that are just laying around gathering dust, an old cell phone that no longer works, or a sweater that you don't wear anymore, here is an opportunity to clean out your closets and support Georgia Tech's Earth Day Celebration at the same time. To see a complete list of acceptable items visit www.earthday.gatech.edu and click on Clothing Swap, Electronics Recycling, or Office Supply Exchange.



Drop-off Opportunities

March 5-30:

From now through March 30, you can drop off your unneeded office supplies, E-waste, clothes (in good condition), and old sneakers at:

- Burdell's (in the Student Center Commons), at the check-out register
- Georgia Tech Barnes & Noble (at 5th Street), at the check-out register
- Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (947 Atlantic Drive), weekdays from 9am-4pm
Please call (404) 385-0088 before dropping off donations at the OSWM&R.

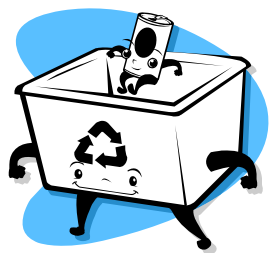
At the Earth Day Celebration on April 20:

You can also bring your donations with you to the Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 20 on Tech Walk (10am-3pm).



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

ASK ENVIRO-MAN



Question: Can I put aluminum foil in the aluminum can recycling containers?

Answer: No. The aluminum can bins on campus are for aluminum beverage cans only. Other items, such as aluminum foil or soup cans, are not accepted by our vendor and are considered contamination.

Thanks to Kathy Tomajko, who answered “always or often” to last month’s reader question: “How frequently do you recycle?”

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

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.



DeMarco Marshall, Campus Recycling Specialist I

This month we would like to introduce DeMarco Marshall, Campus Recycling Specialist I. Demarco is an Atlanta native, born and raised. He says “I’m a Grady baby. I love Atlanta and wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

DeMarco joined the recycling office in September of 2009. His favorite part of the job is driving our 10-ton packer truck. It’s the biggest vehicle we have, and it runs 5 days per week, picking up paper on Wednesdays, and cardboard on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. He says most people are scared to drive the

packer truck because it’s such a large vehicle, but it doesn’t intimidate him at all.

In his spare time DeMarco enjoys playing video games and football. He also likes working on cars, especially hot rods. When asked if there’s any advice he would like to share with the Georgia Tech community, DeMarco replies, “Everybody stay positive! That’s my motto.”

Georgia Tech Waste Diversion Statistics

Food waste composting is a significant component of the waste diversion programs at Georgia Tech, representing approximately 22% (by weight) of the materials diverted from the landfill. Food waste is collected at several locations on campus and includes both plate scrapings and food prep waste, such as potato peels and the tops of carrots. Georgia Tech’s food waste is transported to [Greenco Environmental](#), where it was turned into nutrient-rich compost. Greenco manufactures organic compost and yard waste from metro Atlanta businesses. Their composting process takes just 90 days! In 2011 Georgia Tech sent a total of 626,210 lbs (313 tons) of food waste to Greenco. To put it in perspective, that is roughly equivalent to the weight of nearly 16 whale sharks, 26 school buses, or 39 African elephants.

Georgia Tech Food Waste Composting: January – December 2011

Location	Weight (pounds)	Weight (tons)
Woodruff Dining Hall	234,130	117
Brittain Dining Hall	205,920	103
North Avenue Dining Hall*	33,280	17
Student Center	128,570	64
Athletic Kitchen	16,640	8
Bobby Dodd Stadium	7,670	4
Total	626,210	313

*Started July 2011

Upcoming Events

[Georgia Tech Farmers Market](#)

Tech Walk/Skiles Walkway, Georgia Tech's Atlanta Campus, Atlanta, GA

Every Thursday until April 26 (11:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Don't miss the opportunity to purchase local and organic foods right here on campus! The Farmers Market will be held on Thursdays from 11:00 am– 2:00 pm on Tech Walk/Skiles Walkway. Note: No Farmers Market on March 22, due to spring break. The vendors vary from week to week, but you can find everything from baked goods, to jams, pasta, honey and even popsicles!

[Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable](#)

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall

634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, April 6, 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 *The Federal Government and Sustainability*. Join us as we host high-ranking federal officials based here in Atlanta in a discussion that considers the federal government's operations in Atlanta as well as the role various federal agencies play in advancing sustainability at the local, regional and national levels.

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

320 Irwin St. Atlanta, GA

April 14, 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, 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>.

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, Associate Director

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.