



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

Volume 11 — Issue 9 — May 2013

In This Issue

[2013 Earth Day Celebration Photos](#)

[Tech Green Awards Winners](#)

[Earth Day Booth Contest Winners](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

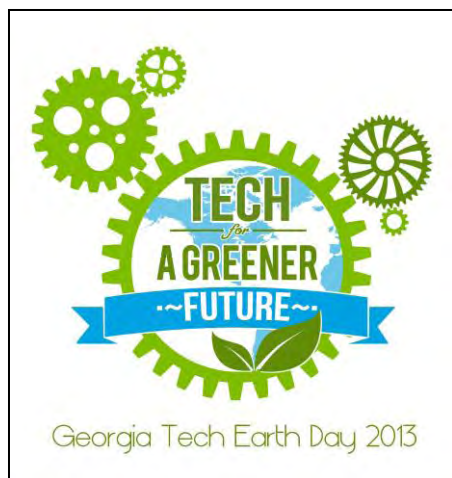
[Comments and Suggestions](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

Recycling Tips

Have you ever wondered what happens to materials after you put them in the recycling bin? [This article](#) by Earth911 explains how plastic bags are recycled. You can reduce the need for plastic bags by taking reusable bags with you to the store. If you do have a stash of plastic bags in a cabinet or drawer please make sure to recycle them. Most grocery stores have conveniently located plastic bag recycling bins near the entrance.

2013 Earth Day Celebration: TECH for a Greener Future



Georgia Tech's Earth Day planning committee would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in the 16th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 19. It was a rainy day, but the rain did not dampen our spirits! More than a thousand students, faculty, staff and members of the Atlanta community gathered on Tech Walk and in the Skiles Courtyard to take part in the festivities.

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 and office supply exchange, E-waste recycling, free Earth Day T-shirts and organic popcorn. A new activity this year was the Green Challenge Triathlon. More than 150 people participated in this interactive challenge and each participant received a free reusable water bottle. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the highlights from the 2013 Earth Day Celebration. For more information and photos, visit the Georgia Tech Earth Day [Website](#) or [Facebook page](#).



Earth Day 2013Photos



Tech Green Award Winners

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 2013 ELA recipient is **Dr. Steven W. Van Ginkel**.



Sustainable Aquaponic Systems (SAS) is a netzero -water, -energy, and -material, high intensity, aquaponics initiative aimed to help people grow their own food in an urban environment. We plan to operate our aquaponic systems entirely off of rainwater and solar energy while using recycled building materials and food waste which will be the sole nutrient input into the system. After the initial capital expense, the system operates at a very low cost. By helping to cure hunger and provide employment, recycling materials and using solar energy, SAS will be socially and environmentally sustainable which we think will lead to its financial sustainability. SAS is collaborating with hundreds of like-minded urban farmers to bring good food to Atlanta starting with the Georgia Tech campus and the English Avenue and West End neighborhood churches, schools, and civic associations.

Dr. Steven W. Van Ginkel received his green thumb from his mother at their farm in Mitchellville, Iowa. He has received a B.S. in Fisheries focusing on freshwater fish physiology and ecology; a B.S., M.S., and a Ph.D in Environmental Engineering focusing on water and wastewater treatment; and a minor in Environmental Studies focusing on energy. He has worked for the National Research Council, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Swette Center for Environmental Biotechnology, and is currently in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech. He has 30 publications and three book/book chapters all focusing on water/wastewater treatment and sustainability issues. He is currently partnering with the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, and several aquaponic farmers around the state. Steve's main position at Georgia Tech is working on a Department of Energy algae-biodiesel project where algae not used for biodiesel production can be used as fish feed!

Steven has constructed an aquaponics system for his family which produces several pounds of fresh fish and vegetables every week. For free blue prints, step by step instructions, and consulting for this family-sized aquaponics system which can be constructed for less than \$750 in just a few days, please contact Steven at svg7@mail.gatech.edu. If you would like Steven to give a talk to your group, please email him as well. It's Steve's hope that we generate an urban farming, good food, movement that will cure hunger, provide employment, reduce waste, and make for a more sustainable, resilient, self-sufficient, healthy, and productive society starting here in Atlanta.

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 2013 EIA recipient is **Circle K**. Sponsored by Kiwanis International, Circle K is the largest collegiate service organization in the world.

The Georgia Tech branch of Circle K is completely dedicated to the three tenets of service, leadership, and fellowship. They have 3-5 weekly service projects and allow students to volunteer at their own pace. Year after year, their leaders have shown great passion and been awarded at state and international levels. The members also maintain a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, building strong relationships and memories. This organization fosters good will and compassion, helping humankind and the Earth in as many ways as possible.



Recently, Georgia Tech Circle K has started the Green and Clean Initiative, a combination of various efforts aimed at making the world a better and healthier place to live in. Every year, Circle K chooses a weekly service project for this initiative. The year before, the club regularly volunteered with the Global Soap Project where donated bars of soap are cleaned and remade into new bars of soap. This soap is sent to several third world countries to improve sanitation and health. This past year, Circle K has been working with Trees Atlanta, planting trees in and around Atlanta. Circle K also supports

UNICEF's Six Cents Initiative, its name due to the six cents a week needed to save a person from dehydration in poor, unsanitary areas of the world. For years, Circle K has donated hundreds of dollars to this initiative by selling baked goods and tabling in the Student Center. Overall, these three projects support recycling and composting, clean air initiatives, water conservation, and pollution control and make up the Green and Clean Initiative of Georgia Tech Circle K.

Earth Day Booth Contest Winners

Congratulations to the 2013 Booth Contest Winners!

Most Creative

Association of Environmental Engineers and Scientists at Georgia Tech (AEES)



Most Informative

Georgia Tech Building Services



Most Green

Georgia Tech Landscape Services



2013 Earth Day Celebration Sponsors

Georgia Tech’s Earth Day Planning Committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2013 Earth Day Celebration:











Other Sponsors	In-Kind Sponsors
CleanRiver Recycling Solutions C.W. Austin Co. Georgia Tech College of Architecture Gilbane Building Company Publix Strategic Materials Target	Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech Georgia Tech Dining Services Georgia Tech Facilities Management Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing Georgia Tech Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling Georgia Tech Parking & Transportation Services Georgia Tech Student Center Papa John's International, Inc. Taz Media

Earth Day Volunteers



Thank you to all of our volunteers for donating your time and energy to help make Earth Day 2013 a success! There were 136 volunteers who helped out at this year’s Earth Day Celebration, contributing a total of 191 volunteer hours.

This year, Target and Coca-Cola each donated a bicycle to be raffled off to the volunteers. All Earth Day volunteers were automatically entered in a random drawing for the bicycles. Congratulations to the two winners: Chris May and Ella Rhodes!

Upcoming Events

Atlanta Streets Alive

Peachtree Street (between Ellis Street and Spring Street), Atlanta GA

Saturday, May 19, 2013

2:00 – 6:00 pm

Cost: Free!

For four hours on Saturday afternoon, May 19th, the section of Peachtree Street between Ellis Street and Spring Street will be temporarily transformed into a car-free zone, where people can walk, ride their bikes, and play. There will also be activities such as acoustic musicians, marching bands, yoga classes, and Zumba classes.

Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall

634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, June 7, 2013 (7:30 – 9:00 am)

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

Presented by Southface, the Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable convenes on the first Friday of each month to discuss the region's current environmental issues – from water to energy, urban planning to government policy, and much more. Members of the audience are encouraged to ask questions, make comments, network, and learn about Atlanta's current and future opportunities for sustainable development. The topic for June is "Transforming the World Through Reuse". The cost is \$10 for students. For non-students the cost is \$15 for advance purchase and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 am for networking. The roundtable discussion is from 7:30 - 9:00 am.

3rd Annual Collegiate Sports Sustainability Summit

Wardlaw Center, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

June 25 - 26, 2013

Cost: \$100 through May 17th, \$125 after May 17th, \$40 for students

Join us June 25 & 26 at Georgia Tech for the 2013 Collegiate Sports Sustainability Summit! The 2013 Summit will highlight the experiences of schools that have been able to pursue sustainability strategies while lowering their costs, increasing fan pride and loyalty, gaining recognition, and attracting sponsors to their programs. This year's agenda is thoughtfully designed to bring together collegiate athletics staff, sustainability professionals, and recycling/facility managers together to identify ways to achieve common campus sustainability goals through sports and athletics, save money, foster better inter-departmental relationships, and increase recognition for your institution's efforts.

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.