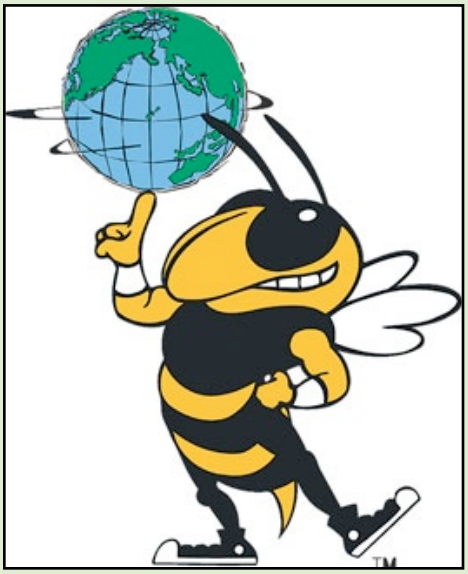
GT Sustainability Forum Fall 2012: Thanks to All Who Came!

The Forum was a major success, drawing in over 80 people for a stimulating discussion on sustainable efforts at Georgia Tech. The discussion went so well that there were still several unanswered questions (please see page 2). The Sustainability Committee would like to thank the keynote speaker, Marcia Kinstler, our panel of experts, Cindy Jackson, Tim Lieuwen, Jennifer Krajewski, and Howard Wertheimer, as well as Fresh Market for providing refreshments. We would also like to thank all of the audience members who left comments: we really appreciate your feedback! Stay tuned for the next Forum in Spring 2013.

GT SUSTAINABILITY FORUM
SGA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



Want to help plan GT's 2013 Earth Day Celebration?

Please attend:
Earth Day Planning Committee Meeting
January 15, 2013 11:00 AM
Student Center Rm 301
Contact Heart Lawson:
heartense.hodges@facilities.gatech.edu

ANSWERS TO FORUM QUESTIONS

1. Who decides where trees get planted?

Howard Wertheimer: Georgia Tech has a Landscape Master Plan that helps guide the tree species and where they should be planted. There are several Landscape Architects in CPSM and Facilities who collaborate where trees get planted. We also have a Landscape Committee that provides strategic oversight of our campus landscape, along with our Planning & Design Commission.

2. Is there anything being done about the recycling of plastic bags on campus?

Cindy Jackson: We do not collect any type of plastic film on campus. It is something we have been looking in to but do not have the infrastructure to do right now. Students can take their bags back to Kroger or Publix.

3. Is there any plan for adding alternative energy to more buildings at GT?

Howard Wertheimer: We will continue to push the incorporation of alternative and renewable energy systems in future campus buildings.

4. What is the breakdown for energy at GT (water, natural gas, electricity)?

Jennifer Krajewski: In fiscal year 2011, Georgia Institute of Technology's total energy consumption for all buildings on campus was roughly 3,700,000 MMBtu. Of that total, 59% was electricity, 40% was natural gas, and less than 1% was propane. Chilled water and steam are created on campus to heat and cool several of the buildings on campus using natural gas at the Holland Plant and the 10th Street Chiller plant.

5. Are there any surveys that go out to the student body asking about ways to improve fixtures/ maintenance problems/energy efficiency?

Jennifer Krajewski: The Facilities Management Department conducts a monthly outdoor campus survey to inspect areas that are in need of additional lights and to check if any fixtures are broken. All broken outdoor fixtures are then fixed by Facilities Management. Lighting issues within campus housing buildings should be reported to the **Department of Housing (404) 894-0520** and any lighting maintenance issues found within other buildings on campus should be reported to that building's Building Manager. Lighting improvement projects geared towards improving energy efficiency are developed and executed by Facilities Managements' Energy Conservation team. For questions regarding energy efficiency projects, please contact **Jennifer Krajewski at (404) 385-1822.**

6. What policy in place holds back some sustainable efforts?

Jennifer Krajewski: In general, I don't really think there are any Georgia Tech policies that hold us back. I think we may be missing some policies or at least directives but there are groups around campus working hard to push for those

7. Many campus toilets are auto-flush and flush several times while you are in the stall. Isn't that wasting a lot of water?

Jennifer Krajewski: The majority of toilets and urinals on campus are low flow fixtures, meaning they use less water than conventional models. The low flow urinals on campus use 0.125 gallons of water per flush versus the conventional urinal that uses 1 gallon per flush. Electronic autoflush valves have been installed on several of the fixtures on campus for sanitary hands-free operation. Autoflow sensors are designed to flush after each use. If you notice a frequently flushing toilet or urinal, please notify the building's manager. The autoflush sensor may be out of calibration and may need to be fixed.

ORGANIZATIONS ON CAMPUS

Georgia Tech Energy Club

Every month, the Energy Club hosts monthly speakers on energy topics, conducts tours of energy facilities, and informs and funds its members on energy competitions. Previous tours include GE's smart grid center and Southern Nuclear's Vogtle power plant.

Website: http://energyclub.gatech.edu/

Contact: energyclubboard@t-square.gatech.edu

Engineers for a Sustainable World
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Engineers for a Sustainable World

Engineers for a Sustainable World promotes engineering that fosters sustainability by focusing the efforts of Georgia Tech students, faculty, and alumni in developing sustainable solutions. Current projects include building a solar-powered beverage kiosk, making a solar RC car, and designing a sustainabilty minded competition for local high schools.

Website: https://sites.google.com/site/eswgatech/

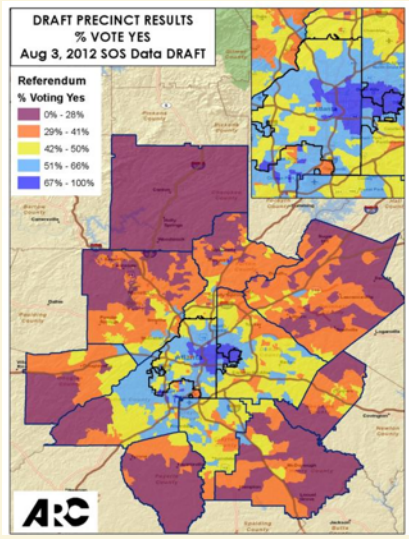
Contact: esw.gatech@gmail.com

Students for Progressive Transit (SfPT)

SfPT is a student organization with a media-driven apprach, aimed at keeping GT students engaged with transit-related events. SfPT has been refocusing, after the failure of T-SPLOST, in communicating anything related to alternative transportation on or around campus, to GT students through their website and social media. For more information about T-SPLOST or how to get involved in progressive transit advocacy, please contact us, visit our website, like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/sfpt.gt), and follow us on Twitter (#ATLpedestrian).

Website: http://sfpt.gtorg.gatech.edu/wordpress/

Contact: Amy Ingles, aingles3@gatech.edu



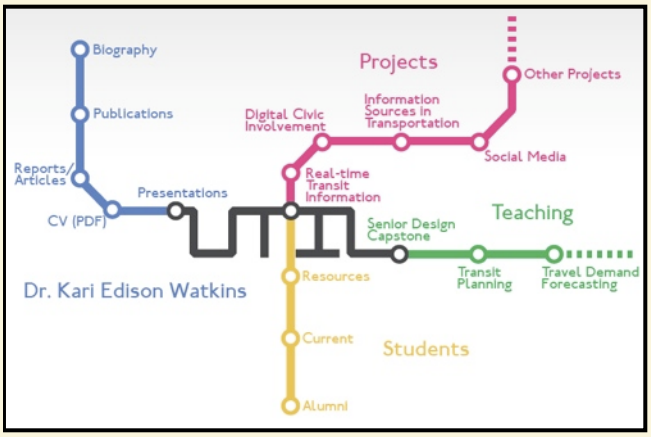
Despite the landslide, positive trends that show support can be seen in a geographic representation of the voter results.

An article from SfPT president, Amy Ingles:

Looking Forward After Failure of T-SPLOST

On July 31st 2012, the state of Georgia held a public vote on a 1% sales tax increase to fund transportation projects, commonly referred to as the T-SPLOST (Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax). 52% of the money raised would go towards transit projects. A number of these projects will directly impact the mobility of Georgia Tech students. The Atlanta region voted 37 to 63% against the sales tax increase. Though no single county had a majority who voted "yes", the City of Atlanta voted 59 to 41% in favor of the sales tax increase.

SUSTAINABILITY RELATED RESEARCH



Urban Transportation Information Lab

The Urban Transportation Information Lab provides real-time transit information, advocates digital civil transportation involvement (using smartphones and social media), researches information sources in transportation, and attempts to integrate mass transit.

Website: http://watkins.ce.gatech.edu/

Contact: Kari Watkins, kari.watkins@ce.gatech.edu

Polaritek Systems

Polaritek Systems is a startup managed by GT Faculty that is committed to delivering high value measurement systems to the global photovoltaic wafer manufacturing industry. This measuring system can reduce wafer and system costs, increase reliability, reduce waste, and reduce warranty liabilities.

Website: http://polaritek.com/site/company/

Contact: info@polaritek.com

TOHL

Founded by Georgia Tech Alumni, TOHL is a firm that delivers infrastructure solutions for industrial and humanitarian applications. They deliver cost-effective and efficient solutions by using longer pipe segments. There is a for-profit branch and a non-profit branch. In April 2012, TOHL received $40,000 seed capital for Start-up Chile.

Website: http://www.thetohl.com/

Contact: Benjamin Cohen, benjamin.cohen@thetohl.com

AUMScore

AUMScore is an energy efficiency benchmarking study that has interviewed over 300 property owners. The score calculates a percentage with a moving benchmark. This benchmark moves as efficiency improves, challenging firms to further increase efficiency.

Website: http://www.aum-inc.com/aum-score

Contact: Baabak Ashuri, baabak.ashuri@coa.gatech.edu

Interested in helping or joining our mailing list? Contact:
Mary Shoemaker
mshoemaker8@gatech.edu

Check out the November edition of **Recycling Buzz!**