



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

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Recycling Tips

A recently published [report](#) by the non-profit organization *As You Sow* estimates that \$11 billion worth of recyclables are thrown away in the US each year. While it may seem that a single can or bottle is not worth much, it adds up quickly when you consider the number of bottles, cans, boxes and other packaging materials that are used each day around the country. Thank you for participating in the recycling program and keeping these valuable resources out of the landfill!

Recycle Cardboard During Student Move In

August is here, signaling the start of a new school year. The Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (OSWM&R) is using the last few weeks of summer to get ready for fall semester. One of our most successful recycling initiatives takes place before the school year officially starts, during student move in. Beginning August 13, approximately 8,000 students will be moving into the campus residence halls. It is a hectic week, and students have a lot of questions. One question that we take care of for you is 'What do I do with all of those moving boxes?'



During move in, the OSWM&R sets up temporary recycling sites outside each residence hall, making it convenient for students and their families to recycle their cardboard boxes. Look for areas marked off with orange construction fencing, and simply drop your empty cardboard boxes on the ground inside the enclosure. Moving boxes are accepted, as well as the boxes that your new electronics and appliances come in. No plastic wrap or Styrofoam, please! The staff of the OSWM&R will pick up the cardboard and haul it to a recycling center. During the fall 2011 move in, we collected 14,535 pounds of cardboard!

Online Recycling Bin Maintenance Request Form



The OSWM&R has launched an online form that makes it easy to notify us when you see a recycling bin on campus that needs maintenance. Simply let us know the container type, location, and what kind of service is needed, such as whether the container is dirty, cracked, or missing a lid. You can access the form at: <http://www.recycle.gatech.edu/contact>.



Game Day Recycling Volunteer Registration Open

September 8 marks the first Georgia Tech home football game! Football games bring thousands of people onto campus and generate tons of trash. Since 2008, Georgia Tech's Game Day Recycling program has been making the games more green by diverting plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum cans from the landfill during home football games and tailgates.

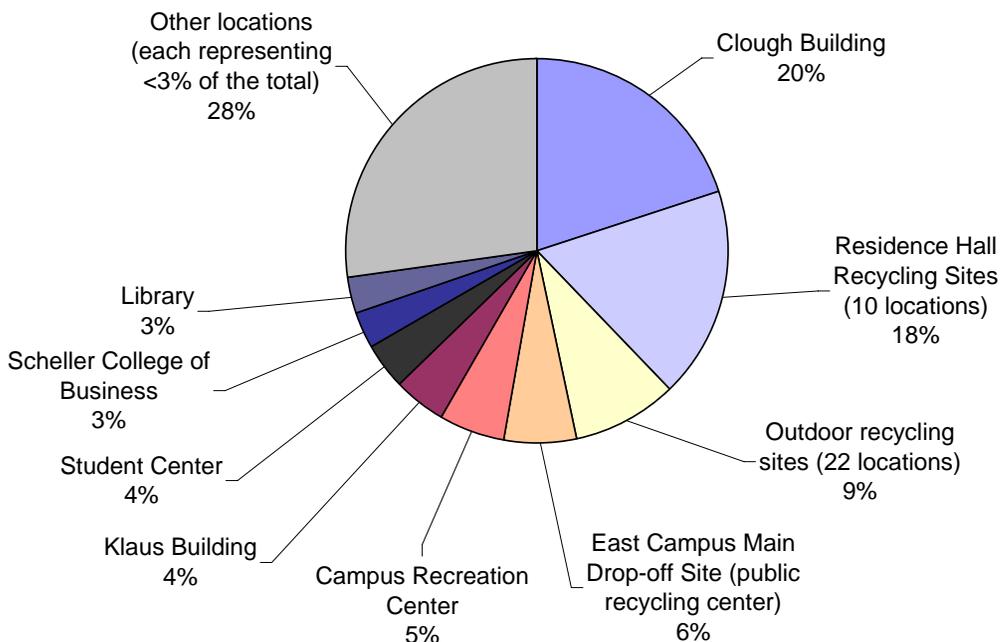
It takes many people to reach out to the 40,000 or more fans who attend each game. You can help by distributing blue bags to tailgaters or greeting fans at the Stadium. The commitment is typically an hour or less, and most shifts happen before the game starts. Volunteers will receive T-shirts and free food! Get more information and sign up at www.recycle.gatech.edu.



Georgia Tech Waste Diversion Statistics

Georgia Tech recycles approximately 40 tons of plastic bottles and containers per year. Where does all of that plastic come from? Plastic is collected at nearly 100 locations around campus, including academic buildings, Stinger stops, and residence halls. Certain locations, such as large academic buildings, generate more plastic than others. For example, the Clough building produces about 20% of all the plastic is recycled on campus. The chart below shows the amount of plastic that was collected at various locations during spring semester 2012, a total of 7.9 tons.

Georgia Tech Plastic Recycling Statistics, Spring Semester 2012
Total: 7.9 tons



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.

Tom Martin, Foreman



➤ *How long have you been at Georgia Tech?*

I joined the OSWM&R in July 2008, after retiring from the City of Atlanta. I worked for the City’s Solid Waste Services for 12 years prior to working at Georgia Tech.

➤ *What does your job entail?*

I am responsible for recycling operations, scheduling the crew’s time (I have a full-time staff of six employees), and some administrative functions, such as payroll. I also handle requests from customers and communicate with the Waste Management drivers, who service Georgia Tech’s solid waste contract.

➤ *What is one project that you are working on right now?*

This week my team and I are preparing for student move in. We will be setting up temporary sites for cardboard boxes and putting “No Cardboard” signs on all the trash dumpsters in campus housing. We will also put up directional signs to help students find the recycling site closest to their residence hall.

➤ *What do you enjoy most about working at Georgia Tech?*

My interactions with staff members across campus. I have found that if there is something you want to know, people will spend time with you and answer your questions. Everyone is really nice, helpful and friendly.

➤ *What are you most proud of?*

Both of my children have graduated from college. My daughter attended Albany State, and my son attended AU and Westwood.

ASK ENVIRO-MAN



Question: I was cleaning out my house and found a bunch of expired medicines. I missed the annual collections day that was held in April. What should I do? I don't want to throw them in the trash!

Answer: You can mail unwanted medicines to Sharps Compliance, Inc. for their “TakeAway Environmental Return Program”. Several pharmacies, including CVS, Walgreens, Kroger, Rite-Aid, and Winn-Dixie, sell prepaid envelopes for \$3.99. Simply put your medicines in the envelope and drop it in the mail. For more information go to <http://earth911.com/news/2011/08/17/all-cvs-stores-now-recycle-unwanted-meds/>.

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

Georgia Tech Library Sustainability Guide

The Georgia Tech Library has compiled a sustainability resource guide with useful links for a variety of topics, including recycling, green technology, and green shopping. You can access the guide at <http://libguides.gatech.edu/sustain>.

Students, as you complete your research projects during the school year, keep in mind that the library has a variety of resources available. There are classes, workshops, and research guides to help you no matter what your research topic is. Moreover, there is a librarian dedicated to each academic discipline who can assist you: http://www.library.gatech.edu/services/subject_librarians.php. You can find a list of upcoming classes at <http://www.library.gatech.edu/calendar/libclasses.php> and the research guides are located at <http://libguides.gatech.edu>.

Upcoming Events

[Piedmont Park Arts & Crafts Festival](#)

Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Center
1071 Piedmont Ave. Atlanta, GA

Saturday-Sunday, August 18 & 19, 2012
(10am – 7pm on Saturday and 11am – 6pm on Sunday)

The Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces “brought back” the local arts and crafts festival tradition to Piedmont Park in 2011. This event “knocks it out of the park” for local painters, potters, and hand crafters! Not a typical fine arts show, this one is for local crafters and the people in our community including our neighbors and friends to “show off” at their favorite park.

[Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable](#)

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

Friday, September 7, 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 September is "Growing Change, Transforming Communities: Atlanta's Urban Agriculture Landscape." Join Southface for a conversation with Fred Conrad (Atlanta Community Food Bank), Councilman Kwanza Hall (Atlanta District 2 / Year of Boulevard Project), and Susan Paviln (Global Growers Network) for a discussion about change-making urban agriculture initiatives taking place across Atlanta. The session will be moderated by Georgia Organics.

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

320 Irwin St. Atlanta, GA

Saturday, September 8, 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.keeptantabeautiful.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.

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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.