



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

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Recycling Tips

The US Postal Service has issued a new line of stamps that feature free or low-cost actions that you can do to help the environment. The 16 "Go Green Forever" stamps are also made from biodegradable and recyclable materials.



Learn more at:

<http://www.usps.com/green/gogreenstamps.htm>

Earth Day 2011

Georgia Tech's Earth Day planning committee would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in the 5th Annual Think Green Week, April 18-22! Designed to be engaging, fun, and informative, Think Green Week offered events ranging from a book signing to documentary film screenings, a guided bike ride, and an eco-fashion show. All of the events led up to Friday's grand finale: Georgia Tech's 14th Annual Earth Day Celebration.

On Earth Day, thousands of people from both the campus community and off-campus gathered on the Instructional Center walkway to take part in the festivities. Crowd-pleasing musical performances by the Rusty Boys and Dr. Dr. Mr. MD set the tone. 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, Shoot the Shoes, E-waste recycling, the Office Supply Exchange, and organic popcorn. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the highlights from the Earth Day Celebration and Think Green Week.



For more information, visit the Georgia Tech Earth Day [website](#).

Earth Day 2011 Photos



1 There was a wealth of information at more than 70 booths.



2 Visitors to the Clothing Swap discovered some great finds.



3



4



5

(3.) This year the Earth Day Celebration featured a 'deconstructed maze'. Participants could earn a 100% organic cotton Earth Day T-shirt by visiting four eco-trivia stations that were distributed throughout the event. (4.) Captain Planet saved the day by defeating the 'Bag Monster', who represents the 500 single use bags that the average US consumer uses each year. (5.) All of the Earth Day mascots: Reynard the Fox, the Bag Monster, and Captain Planet.



6

One of the exhibitors with a 2011 Earth Day T-shirt.



7

Free bike repairs were completed on site.



8

The Rusty Boys (above) and Dr. Dr. Mr. MD played live.



9

The farmers market was a hit.

Senior Design Project Promotes Recycling Through Art

A group of Architecture students have used their senior design project as an opportunity to promote recycling and sustainability. Their soaring sculpture, *Tower of Babel – Castle in the Sky* (part of the exhibit [Vision: I Imagine, I See, I Make](#)) is created entirely out of reclaimed plastic bottles and plastic hangers. The installation has two parts: a colorful, maze-like tower of plastic bottles that has sprouted from the ground, and a billowing cloud of plastic hangers suspended from the ceiling at eye level. The exhibit is interactive. Visitors can go inside to explore the tower and also weave their way through the hanger cloud.

Both whimsical and informative, the sculpture is a visual statement on the environmental impact of the waste we generate, as well as the importance of recycling. Dave Duncan, a member of the project team, estimates that the sculpture consists of 13,000 bottles and 5,500 hangers. All of the bottles came from the recycling bins on campus, and collecting them was a monumental task! Dave says “one of the biggest surprises was how difficult it was to find the number of bottles we needed. We knew it was a lot, but given the amount that are consumed, we thought it would be a little easier to find them.” For several weeks, the project team made daily visits to the



Members of the *Tower of Babel – Castle in the Sky* project team pose with their two-part installation, which consists of approximately 13,000 reclaimed plastic bottles and 5,500 hangers.



The tower is held together with rubber bands, which allows for easy disassembly. When the exhibit closes, the bottles will be recycled.

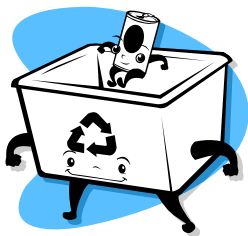
Facilities storage yard to pick up bags of plastic bottles and containers that were collected from recycling bins around campus.

Approximately 3.5 tons of plastic are recycled at Georgia Tech each month, but only a fraction of that consists of plastic drink bottles. The eleven team members sorted through hundreds of bags of recyclables by hand, selecting the bottles that they needed for the sculpture and rinsing them out. The group bagged the unused plastic and returned it to the Facilities storage yard for recycling. When the exhibit closes on May 12, the bottles used in the sculpture will be recycled as well.

The project team members are Abaan Ali, Zachary Brown, Colleen Creighton, Christina Deriso, David Duncan, Bradley King, Chris Martin, Caleb Meister, Eric Morris, Aryn Mukadam-Soldier, and Brittany Utting. Their advisor is Daniel Baerlacken. [Click here](#) to see more photos of the exhibit.

ASK ENVIRO-MAN

Question: What happens to my plastic bottle after I put it in the recycling bin on campus?



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

Answer: GT Recycling staff empties the recycling bins on a regular basis and puts the plastic in a 40 yd³ container on the Facilities storage yard. When the container is full, the recycling office places a call to Waste Management (WM). WM comes to campus and hauls the plastic to a processing facility. The plastics will be sorted, baled and sent onto to a recycling plant where they are shredded, washed, and melted down into pellets. The pellets are used to make new products, such as plastic lumber, clothing, and fiberfill for sleeping bags. [Click here](#) to watch a video that shows the plastic recycling process from start to finish.

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.



Heart Hodges-Lawson
Administrative Assistant

This month we would like to introduce *Heart Hodges-Lawson*, our Administrative Assistant. Heart joined the recycling office in 2008, however she worked at Georgia Tech from 1992-2004, first in Graduate Studies and then Literature Communication & Culture. Although her official title is Administrative Assistant, we refer to her unofficially as “The Gate Keeper.” Heart assists visitors and people who call the office, keeps records, processes the checks for recycled materials, handles our scheduling, and in general helps to make sure everything runs smoothly.

What is the best part of your job?

- The people I work with, and the impact that we have on the community and the environment.

What is something that you have learned while working in the recycling office?

- I have learned a lot about the different materials that you can recycle and about composting. I had never heard of composting before joining the recycling office. We have several vermi-compost (worm) bins, and although I’m still a little squeamish around them, I am able to put food scraps in the bins and feed the worms.

How has working in the recycling office made you more environmentally conscious?

- I think more about the products that I use, how to recycle them, and the amount of packaging that they come in.

Is there anything else you would like to say to the campus community?

- I would like to encourage everyone on campus to participate in the recycling program and to educate others about the importance of recycling.

Georgia Tech 2011 Waste Diversion Statistics

In the first quarter of 2011, Georgia Tech recycled:

Material	Weight (pounds)			
	January	February	March	Total
Aluminum	880	800	1,780	3,460
Batteries	163	59	229	451
Cardboard	25,880	26,620	29,920	82,420
Composting	43,940	63,700	50,570	158,210
Confidentials	540	960	1,220	2,720
E-waste			448	448
Glass	2,880	3,500	3,260	9,640
Mixed Metal	8,860	6,000	25,280	40,140
Mixed Paper	38,520	42,520	41,260	122,300
Motor Oil & Filters		2,749		2,749
Pallets		5,600		5,600
Plastic	2,620	17,140	4,200	23,960
Tires	2,480			2,480
TOTAL				454,578

Upcoming Events

[Community Leadership Summit](#)

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA
Sunday, May 15th (1:00 – 5:00 pm)
Cost: Free!

The Community Leadership Summit provides a forum for anyone leading a user group or organizing community events to exchange information about common practices and issues. The Summit will consist of sessions on specific topics of mutual interest to community leaders and organizers. You will have an opportunity to learn from your peers, share your best practices, and expand your professional network. Register for free by [clicking here](#).

[Fiber Garage Sale](#)

North DeKalb Cultural Center, Atlanta, GA
Saturday, May 21, 2011 (12:00 – 4:00 pm)
Cost: Free!

1st Annual Fiber Garage Sale - Shop for yarn, fabric, fiber, thread, notions, tools, equipment, patterns, magazines, books, unfinished projects, handcrafted items/art and much more! If it's related to textiles, it's fair game! Entry is free, refreshments will be available, and there will be hourly drawing prizes. A few sales tables are still available for \$10/table and can be reserved by emailing info@fiberartsalliance.org.

[Screening of the Environmental Documentary *Home*](#)

Southface Eco Office and Resource Center, Atlanta, GA
Thursday, June 2, 2011 (6:00 – 9:00 pm)
Cost: Free!

In honor of World Environment Day, please join EARTH University Foundation at Southface as we share with you the powerful film *Home*. The breathtaking images will take you around the world, explaining the impact of human action, particularly agriculture, deforestation and natural resources management, on our planet. Come enjoy this inspiring film, silent auction and complimentary local and organic food and wine. Register for free by emailing yhuertas@earth-usa.org or calling 404-995-1271.

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.

Farmer's Market



Come purchase local/organic
food from a variety of vendors at
the Employee Health Fair



May 18th

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Student Center Ballroom

