



An electronic newsletter produced by GA Tech's Office of Solid Waste & Recycling Department.

## Volume 6 — Issue 12 — May 2009

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### Recycling Tips

#### Buy Recycled!

Help close the loop by purchasing items made from recycled materials. A simple way to start is to buy household paper products made from recycled fibers; they perform just as well as items made from virgin fibers. If every household in the US replaced just one package of 250 napkins with 100% recycled napkins, we could save 1 million trees!

The [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) has a shopping guide to recycled paper products.

**April was a busy and exciting month in the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, and for everyone who took part in planning Georgia Tech's Think Green Week and Earth Day Celebrations! This issue of the Recycling Buzz features news and photos from these events, as well as all of our regular monthly updates and columns, such as recycling statistics and upcoming events.**

## Earth Day 2009 A Huge Success!



Georgia Tech's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 17 was the biggest one yet! Thousands of people from both the campus community and off-campus came to the Skiles walkway to take part in the festivities. There was a wealth of information available from more than 70 exhibitors. Participants were entertained with exciting performances by Dr. Dr. Mr. MD (playing for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row!), Rhinodust and Cloud City. All of the other attractions that have become Earth Day traditions were there as well, including the Office Supply Exchange, Earth Day maze, Shoot the Shoes, and E-waste recycling. New this year was organic popcorn, served in EcoSelect™ bags, and a clothing swap. We strive to make Earth Day a zero-waste event, and this year attendees were encouraged to bring their own water bottles, as no single-use drink bottles were used at the event. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the day's highlights. For more information, visit the Georgia Tech Earth Day [website](#).



Photos from Earth Day 2009



Members of the GA Tech community sign the Earth Day banner.



Gorilla Sacks, one of the more than 70 exhibitors at Earth Day.



A slam-dunk at Shoot the Shoes!



The Skiles walkway is buzzing with activity during Earth Day.



Dr. Dr. Mr. MD takes a break from jamming so that Captain Planet can give away this bicycle, donated by Midtown Target.



Reynard the Fox pals around with a future member of the Bohemian Skate School.



Thank you to all of our sponsors, the Earth Day planning committee, volunteers, exhibitors and participants who helped to make this Georgia Tech's biggest and best Earth Day celebration to date!

Earth Day Sponsors	Earth Day Planning Committee	
Institute for Sustainable Systems	Sheri Baucom	Maria Linderoth
Halco Lighting Technologies	Tara Bryant	Sarah Mallory
Coca-Cola	Steve Cseplo	Molly McLaughlin
Caterpillar	Jonathan Effgen	Melissa Moore
Marietta Recycling	Jonathan Etress	Robert Nesmith
Allied Waste	Nell Fry	Chris Olson
Office of the Provost	Michael Hagearty	Carly Queen
College of Sciences	Cindy Jackson	David Rizzo
COPE	Cynthia Jackson	Sinan Sinharoy
GTRI	Travis Kohlbeck	Cheryl Smith
Pratt	Heartense Lawson	Ben Vannah
DISNEYNATURE	Dean Liao	Chris Yang
Envirelation		
GE Lighting		
Rubbermaid		
C.W. Austin		
Strategic Materials, Inc.		
Sam Flax		

## And the Winner is...

Several much anticipated awards are given out during Earth Day, including the Environmental Leadership Award, the Earth Day T-shirt Contest, and the Earth Day Booth Contest.

### Environmental Leadership Award Winner

The ELA is awarded annually to a member of the Georgia Tech community who has exhibited environmental leadership by demonstrating a positive environmental impact and showing a commitment to restoring and enhancing the environment. The 2009 ELA recipient is Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS), a Georgia Tech student organization. SOS works diligently to educate the campus community on a number of environmental issues, organizes relevant events on campus, and collaborates with several campus departments, including Dining Services and Housing, to help make their operations more environmentally friendly. In only two years this organization has already made a significant impact on campus, such as making it convenient for students to purchase organically grown food on campus from a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). We expect this organization to continue to grow and succeed in the coming years. Congratulations on your accomplishments!



Members of SOS accept the Environmental Leadership Award at Earth Day

Earth Day T-shirt Contest Winner

Congratulations to the Earth Day T-Shirt Contest Winner, Blake Williford! Blake’s design (below, left) was selected from almost 100 entries, and earned him a \$500 cash prize, generously donated by Coca-Cola.



Above: Blake Williford (left) accepts the \$500 prize at Earth Day from Captain Planet and committee member Steve Cseplo.

Earth Day Booth Contest Winners

The judges of this year’s booth contest had their work cut out for them, as there were more than 70 booths to visit—the most of any GT Earth Day celebration! Once the votes were tallied, two clear winners emerged: [Enagic USA](#) (below left) won the award for Most Informative Booth, and Hidden Beauty, with its colorful display of handmade letters and live plants, won Most Creative Booth (below right).



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GT Community Makes Commitment at Green Rally

On Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> you might have noticed an unusual number of people of campus wearing green. They were dressed for the Green Rally, which marked the beginning of Think Green Week 2009 at Georgia Tech. Think Green Week was a weeklong schedule of environmental events that culminated in GA Tech’s Earth Day celebration on Friday. A Green Rally was held on Monday to kick things off.

Despite the (much needed!) rain, hundreds of GA Tech students, faculty, and staff came to the rally and pledged their commitment to be more ‘green’ in the upcoming year. Members of the Georgia Tech community pledged to reduce their water consumption, buy locally grown food, cut back on plastic grocery bags, conserve energy, and more. They showed their commitment by wearing green wristbands made from 100% recycled silicone, which were given out at the event. In addition, free recycled tote bags, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and reusable water bottles gave participants the tools they needed to meet their goals. The GA Tech community also had a unique opportunity at the Green Rally to meet President and Mrs. Peterson, and to hear them speak on environmental issues.



President and Mrs. Peterson (center) with Earth Day Committee chairperson Cindy Jackson (right) at the Green Rally.

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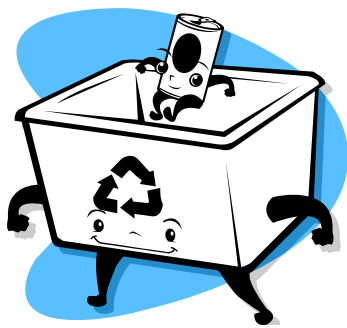
## Stats for April 2009

23.8 tons of mixed paper were recycled in the month of April. Let's make this a great year for recycling by placing mixed paper in the recycling containers provided by the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling.

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## ASK ENVIRO-MAN!



**Question:** Can I recycle batteries on campus?

**Answer:** Yes! Georgia Tech recycles all batteries, regardless of type and size. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety, in collaboration with the Office of Environmental Stewardship, has established five drop-off locations where you can take your batteries (both rechargeable and non-rechargeable). The locations are:

1. Student Center Information Desk
2. Student Center Commons - Burdell's Bookstore (Cashier Counter)
3. Library – Security Desk
4. Campus Recreation Center – ORGT – Outdoor Recreation at GA Tech
5. Barnes & Noble @Tech Square (Book Cashier Counter)

Happy Recycling! *Enviro-Man*

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

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## Upcoming Events—May 2009

<a href="#">International Compost Awareness Week</a> Nationwide May 3-9, 2009
<a href="#">Composting Tour and Workshop</a> Athens, GA May 5, 2009
<a href="#">Homemade Spa Gifts for Mother's Day</a> Decatur, GA May 9, 2009
<a href="#">Keep Atlanta Beautiful Electronics Recycling Day</a> Atlanta, GA May 16, 2009 (8am—4pm)

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## 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 our 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 Contact Person listings, recycling guidelines, and useful links can now be found at [www.recycle.gatech.edu](http://www.recycle.gatech.edu).

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