



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

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Recycling Tips

Summertime is back again and that means it's time to break out the swimsuits, flip flops and tank tops. Tired of last year's look? Organize a clothing swap in your home to trade styles and looks for something new to you.

To make sure your clothing swap is equally as environmentally thoughtful, use these tips to planning a green summer party:
<http://bit.ly/greensummerpartytips>

May Move-Out Waste Diversion Results

When students move out of their dorms and fraternity/sorority houses at the end of spring semester, they discard thousands of pounds of food, clothes, and other items that they no longer need. Many of these materials are still usable and in good condition. For the past 14 years, the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (OSWM&R) has provided students with a convenient way to donate their unneeded items to those in need during spring move-out.



Students could donate a variety of items to local charities during the spring semester move-out.

Each May during finals week, the OSWM&R places collection barrels at all of the outdoor recycling sites in the residential and Greek areas on campus. Students can donate a wide variety of items, such as clothes, bedding, household goods, small appliances, nonperishable food, and cleaning products. OSWM&R staff members sort through the donations and deliver them to local charities including the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children, and the Atlanta Union Mission. This year the donated items totaled 2,200 pounds, which is a 42% increase from last year.

Along with items that can be reused, there is a surge in recycling as students clean out their rooms. This year's move-out generated 3,060 pounds of mixed office paper, 2,940 pounds of corrugated cardboard, 3,360 pounds of glass, and 904 pounds of electronics, for a grand total of 12,465 pounds (6.2 tons) of materials diverted from the landfill through recycling and reuse in just one week! There is a summary chart of [move-out statistics](#) for the past five years in this issue on page 4.

GT Recycling Selected as Recipient of SAA Gift to Tech

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) may be one of the youngest student organizations on campus, but that has not stopped it from being one of the most ambitious. Launched less than a year ago, on September 9, 2010, the SAA has already signed up more than 2,000 members! Currently it is the largest student organization on campus. SAA membership is open to any Georgia Tech student and offers a myriad of benefits, including opportunities to leadership skills, learn about and experience Tech traditions, meet fellow students, network with GT Alumni, participate in philanthropy, and build a meaningful and long-lasting connection to the Institute. SAA membership is also about giving back to Tech. One initiative that has a big impact is the SAA Gift to Tech. \$5 of each member's \$10 membership fee goes straight to the Gift to Tech. Each donation is matched with \$10 from the GT Alumni Association (up to \$10,000). The 2010/2011 Gift to Tech totaled more than \$19,500, and the SAA members voted to donate the funds to the campus recycling program.



Student Alumni Association members present the Gift to Tech to staff members of the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling.

Laura Kitashima, GT student and SAA's 2010/2011 VP of Alumni Connection, says "The entire process of SAA's Gift to Tech was really inspiring. To see so many students come together to choose one common cause and make such an impactful gift excites me and is a strong testament to the philanthropic nature of Tech's current generation. SAA as a whole has had a very exciting first year, being able to work with over 2,000 students, facilitating quality interaction between students and alumni, and helping to share Tech traditions, spirit, and the philanthropic aspect of "Progress and Service." The OSWM&R is honored to have been selected as the recipient of SAA's 2010/2011 Gift to Tech and we look forward to working with representatives from SAA to determine how to best use the funds to enhance the campus recycling program.

GT Dining Seeks Participants for New Sustainability Initiative

Already a sustainability leader on campus, GT Dining Services is taking another step toward their long range goal of achieving zero-waste operations. This summer, Dining Services will begin offering reusable to-go containers in the Student Center Food Court. The containers are made out of a durable, scratch resistant plastic and can be used at any of the food court locations. If you eat in the food court and have been wishing for a more eco-friendly alternative to the single-use plastic clamshells, this program is for you. The program is initially being launched on a pilot scale, and GT Dining's sustainability coordinator, Nell Fry, is looking for 25-50 students, faculty and staff who would like to participate. Nell says, "Save materials and make a statement! Help GT Dining start its first reusable to-go container program by helping us work out any kinks with the pilot this summer."

I'm interested. What do I need to know?

There is a one-time fee of \$7 to purchase a container. After that you simply trade in your container for a clean container each time you purchase food to-go at the Food Court. There is no fee to exchange your container.



The containers will be washed and sanitized by Dining Services in between uses. You do not need to wash your container before exchanging it, just give it a quick rinse. Please do not allow uneaten food to spoil in your container.

There will be a token system. If you do not feel like taking your container with you after you eat, you are welcome to turn your container in for a token that is easier to carry around, and then trade the token in for a clean container the next time you eat at the Food Court.

To sign up, or for more information, contact Nell Fry at nell.fry@sodexo.com.

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.



Cindy Jackson, Assistant Director, at one of the twenty outdoor recycling sites that are located along pedestrian walkways on campus.

Cindy Jackson, Assistant Director

When Georgia Tech hired Cindy Jackson as its first recycling program manager in 1997, the GT recycling program consisted of a desk in a file room with no computer or phone, a handful of recycling bins in a few select buildings, and a staff of one. Today, Georgia Tech has a nationally recognized, campus-wide recycling program that is staffed by eleven full-time employees. Under Cindy’s dedicated, 14-year leadership the campus recycling program has expanded tremendously. Here, Cindy shares her thoughts on the past, present, and future of GT recycling.

➤ *How has the campus recycling program changed while you have been at Tech?*

When I first started I would go knocking on doors, encouraging people to recycle. Now, people are interested in the program, they want to recycle more and frequently contact the recycling office asking how to recycle out of the norm materials. We have always had good support from the upper administration. Over the years, student participation in the recycling program has increased and the student organizations have become more involved.

➤ *What do you enjoy most about your job?*

I have the freedom to be innovative and implement new programs that have a positive impact on campus. I enjoy working with a wide variety of people to facilitate the development of new green initiatives. It’s exciting to be involved in construction projects and to see how recycling will impact new buildings on campus, in particular the Clough building.

➤ *Tell us about an exciting project that you are working on now.*

The recycling office has developed a waste minimization program that can reduce the amount of trash that a building sends to the landfill by over 50%. The AWARE program (Actively Working to Achieve Resource Efficiency) has been implemented in four campus buildings so far, and my goal is to take it campus wide. I am coming to take your trash can! In AWARE buildings, each person makes a commitment to recycling and adopting other habits that reduce waste, such as switching to reusable water bottles and coffee mugs. Each employee also receives a three-part waste sorting system that replaces their trash can. I want everyone on campus to be responsible for the trash that they generate, including contractors, students, faculty, staff, and visitors. (You can read more about the AWARE program in the Recycling Buzz [March 2011](#) issue.)

➤ *What accomplishments are you most proud of?*

In 2008 Georgia Tech’s recycling program was awarded both the American Forest & Paper Association’s *College & University Recycling Award* and the National Recycling Coalition’s *Outstanding College or University Program Award*. No other school has won both of these prestigious awards in the same year. This put Georgia Tech on the map as a national leader in recycling at the university level. Our program was just ten years old at the time, and we joined the ranks of schools with much older recycling programs, some as much as twenty and even thirty years old.

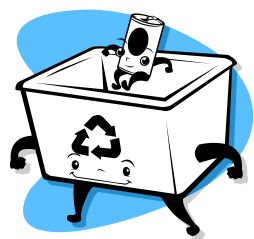
2012 will mark Georgia Tech’s 15th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Each year the event gets bigger and better; currently ours is one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in the Southeast. Students, faculty, and staff volunteer their time to serve on the earth day planning committee, and it is a large commitment. I have chaired the committee since the beginning, and have been really fortunate to work with such dedicated people over the years. I am still in contact with students that I worked with over ten years ago. They usually check in around Earth Day.

> *Describe the ideal recycling program.*

We would have a recycling market for every material, as well as the resources to collect every material that is disposed of on campus. There would be no more trash, no more dumpsters, and nothing going to the landfill. Zero waste is my goal, and I want to achieve it before I retire.

I am very close to zero waste at home. I grow many of my own vegetables, and compost my food scraps to use them in my garden. I have energy efficient appliances. I purchase items in bulk to cut down on packaging and take reusable shopping bags with me to the store. I have already signed up for the reusable to-go container program that GT Dining is piloting this summer.

ASK ENVIRO-MAN



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

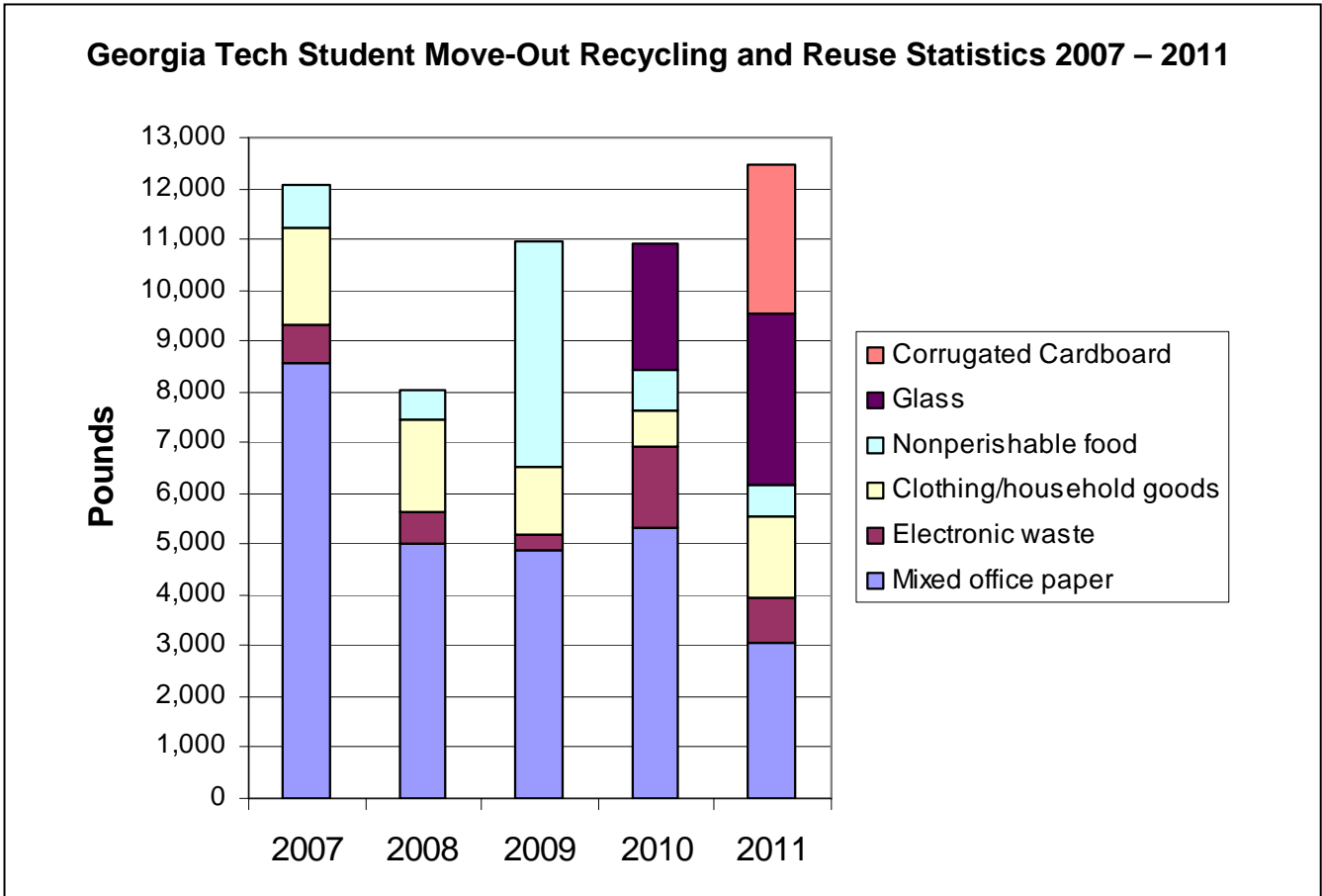
Question: What is the difference between the paper recycling containers called “Newspaper” versus “Mixed Paper”?

Answer: There is no difference. All paper containers accept paperboard (such as cereal boxes), office paper, magazines, newspaper and much more. For more information on what you can recycle, [click here](#)!

QUICK TIP: To make your paper usage more environmentally friendly, purchase recycled paper for your notebooks and printer.

2011 Georgia Tech Waste Diversion Statistics

The chart below shows the weight of materials diverted from the waste stream during the spring student move-out for the past five years. Glass collection during move-out began in 2010 and cardboard collection began in 2011.



Upcoming Events

[Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area – Free Entrance Day](#)

Sandy Springs, GA
Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Cost: Free!

There's no better place than a national park to unplug, get outdoors, and spend quality time with family and friends. The National Park Service has declared the first day of summer, June 21, 2011 to be a Fee Free Day throughout the National Park System. At Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area the \$3 entrance fee will be waived.

[Georgia Tech Farmers Market](#)

GT Student center Commons, Atlanta, GA
Friday, June 24, 2011 (11:00 am – 2:00 pm)

The GT Farmers Market will continue through the summer. You can purchase a variety of fresh local produce, bread, jams/preserves, and other delicious foods right here on campus at the Georgia Tech Farmers Market. Summer farmers markets are June 24, July 11, July 22, and August 9.

[Atlanta Streets Alive](#)

Auburn Ave. and Edgewood Ave., Atlanta, GA
Saturday, June 25 (4:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
Cost: Free!

Atlanta Streets Alive (ASA) takes a valuable public space—our city's streets—and opens them up for people to play, walk, bike, breathe, and make their own. Modeled on events from around the world, ASA is part bike tour, part block party, and a great time for getting active, supporting local businesses along the route, people watching, and enjoying our amazing city! Building on the success of the 2010 events, the next Atlanta Streets Alive events are planned for June 11th and 24th, 2011. This year's route is identical to that of the proposed Atlanta Streetcar, incorporating additional businesses and residents who want their street to come alive!

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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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.