



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

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Recycling Tips

According to [Eco-Cycle](#), Americans use 500 million straws every day, which is enough to fill 46,400 large school buses each year. You can help by choosing to be straw free. Avoid using a straw when you go out to eat, or bring your own reusable straw with you. Learn more about the "Be Straw Free Campaign," started in February 2011 by a 9 year old boy named Milo, at <http://www.ecocycle.org/bestrawfree>.

Join the Earth Day 2013 Planning Committee

Georgia Tech's annual Earth Day Celebration received national attention last month, when Georgia Tech was named one of [America's Top 10 Coolest Schools](#) by the Sierra Club. The photo selected to accompany the announcement (below, right) is from our 2012 Earth Day Celebration.

Georgia Tech's 16th annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013. The celebration is one of the most highly anticipated campus events of the spring semester. The event is free and open to the public and features 70 exhibitors, eco-friendly giveaways, recycling opportunities, a clothing swap, an office supply exchange, live music, a green market, free organic popcorn and more. With an annual participation of more than 3,000 people, this is one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in the southeast.



If you are interested in joining the Earth Day Planning Committee, please join us on Tuesday, Sept. 25 (11 a.m. to noon) in the Crescent Room at the Student Center Commons. All Georgia Tech students, faculty, and staff are welcome! For more information, visit the Georgia Tech Earth Day website: www.earthday.gatech.edu, where you can find pictures from previous Earth Day Celebrations, or contact Cindy Jackson, Earth Day Committee Chair at (404) 894-2004 or cindy.jackson@facilities.gatech.edu.

Game Day Recycling Program Kicks Off 5th Season

The start of fall semester also means the start of the football season. Football games bring thousands of people onto campus and generate tons of trash. Georgia Tech's Game Day Recycling program makes the games more green by diverting plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum cans from the landfill during home football games and tailgates. Our 5th season is off to a good start! A total of 5,180 pounds of bottles and cans were recycled at the first home game on September 8th.



If you are tailgating, you can place your bottles and cans in the blue bags that will be given out by volunteers, then just leave the bags on the ground. They will be picked up by Georgia Tech's Recycling staff the following morning. Recycling bins will also be set up in and around Bobby Dodd Stadium.

At each home football game we will be searching for a "Green Tailgater of the Game" to feature on the JumboTron (left). Use Georgia Tech's [Green Tailgating Guide](#) for inspiration and get noticed!

Volunteer registration is now open! It takes many people to reach out to the 40,000 or more fans who attend each game. Volunteers are the main reason the Game Day Recycling program is so successful. You can help by distributing blue bags to tailgaters or greeting fans as they go into the stadium. The commitment is typically an hour or less, and all volunteers are finished by the start of the game. Volunteers receive free T-shirts, free food, and a chance to win great prizes! For more information and to sign up visit www.recycle.gatech.edu.



You can also connect with Georgia Tech Game Day Recycling on [Facebook](#).



ASK ENVIRO-MAN

Question: I have a broken window at my house and I tried to recycle it with my glass bottles. However, the recycling bins don't accept window panes! Why is this?



Answer: While bottled glass is one of the most recyclable items around, it is nearly impossible to recycle window glass. One reason is that bottle glass has a different chemical composition and melting temperature than window panes, and so they can't be recycled together. Another reason is that most window panes come attached to wooden or metal frames and have to be disassembled, which is costly. The last reason is that because there are so many different types, it is too hard to sort! Because of all of this, the industry has said "no" to recycling old windows. For more information, go to <http://1800recycling.com/2011/09/window-glass-recycling-difficult-not-impossible/>.

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

Online Recycling Bin Maintenance Request Form



If you see a recycling bin on campus that needs maintenance, please let us know! The OSWM&R has created an online container maintenance request form: <http://www.recycle.gatech.edu/contact>. 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.



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.

Heather Cook, Student Assistant

Heather Cook is one of the OSWM&R student assistants for the 2012-2013 school year. She is a 5th year Industrial and Systems Engineering student, and is also participating in the Co-op program.



➤ What interests you about working in the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling?

I love that I feel that I'm making a difference on this campus. I'm helping to coordinate Game Day Recycling and Earth Day, and I'm helping Tech become more green.

➤ What is one thing you hope to learn or accomplish while working in the Recycling Office?

I hope to learn more about new opportunities for Georgia Tech to become greener and more eco-friendly.

➤ What other organizations/activities are you involved with at Georgia Tech?

I am the Recruitment Vice President of the Collegiate Panhellenic Council. I am also a member of Phi Mu Fraternity, the Briaerean Honor Society and Order of Omega.

➤ What is your favorite thing to do on campus?

Football gameday! It's my favorite time of the fall.

➤ What are your plans after graduating from Georgia Tech?

I plan on first getting a supply chain logistics job in a location that has a fun and lively atmosphere, and maybe in a really cool city.

➤ What is one thing you do to live a "green" lifestyle?

I recycle my ink cartridges through my mom's school back home, and I recycle in my sorority house.

Student Involvement Opportunities

There are many opportunities for Georgia Tech students who are interested in environmental issues or sustainability and would like to get involved. Below is a partial list of student organizations which may be of interest to you. There are more than 400 student organizations at Georgia Tech! You can search for additional student organizations at <http://jacketpages.gatech.edu/organizations>.

Student Government Association Sustainability Committee (SGA)

Website: <http://www.sga.gatech.edu/green>

Contact: Mary Shoemaker, Committee Chair, mshoemaker8@gatech.edu

Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS)

Website: <http://www.sos.gatech.edu/>

Contact: Georgia Wang, President, gawang@gatech.edu

Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/eswgatech/contact-us>

Contact: esw.gatech@gmail.com

Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Committee (BIIC)

Website: <http://www.sga.gatech.edu/undergraduate/executive/get-involved/iwc/BIIC>

Contact: Johann Weber, johannw@gatech.edu

Upcoming Events

Georgia Tech Game Day Recycling Volunteers Needed

Georgia Tech's Atlanta Campus

Saturdays, September 15, 22 and 29, 2012 (*Times Vary*)

Volunteer registration is now open for the 2012 football season and the Game Day Recycling program needs your help! Please join us to help give out blue recycling bags to tailgaters, or greet fans as they go into the Stadium. The volunteer commitment is just one hour and all volunteers will be finished in time for kickoff. Volunteers receive a free T-shirt as well as pizza or a concessions voucher. Please go to http://www.recycle.gatech.edu/programs/gdr/gdr_volunteer_info.php for more information and to sign up.

Documentary Screening: The Clean Bin Project

Goat Farm Arts Center, Rodriguez Room

12 Foster St. NW Atlanta, GA 30318

(*About 1 mile from Georgia Tech*)

Friday, September 21, 2012 (8:40 – 10:10 pm)

Cost: \$7

Is it possible to live completely waste free? In [The Clean Bin Project](#), Jen and Grant go head to head in a comedic battle to see who can swear off consumerism and produce the least amount of garbage in an entire year. Their light-hearted competition is set against a compelling examination of the sobering problem of waste in our 'throw-away' society. *The Clean Bin Project* presents the serious topic of waste reduction with optimism, humor, and inspiration for individual action.

Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall

634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, October 5, 2012 (7:30 – 9:00 am)

Cost: \$10 - \$20, includes continental breakfast and beverage

Presented by Southface, the Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable convenes on the first Friday of each month to discuss the region's current environmental issues – from water to energy, urban planning to government policy, and much more. Members of the audience are encouraged to ask questions, make comments, network, and learn about Atlanta's current and future opportunities for sustainable development. The topic for October is "Fort McPherson: A Community Perspective." The session will be moderated by Georgia Tech Professor Michael Dobbins.

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.

Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling

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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.