

THE ENVIRONMENTAL BUZZ

Because we care

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

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Holiday Recycling Facts

◆ *Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve Americans generate an additional 5 million tons of trash.*

◆ *In the U.S., annual trash from gift wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons.*

Source: EPA and Use Less Stuff

Monthly Topic: Earth Friendly Holiday Gifts



As we continue our efforts to stay environmentally friendly in our gift giving during the holiday season, we encourage you to give home made gifts or gifts of "experiences" to your family, friends and co-workers. In addition to being better for the environment, these gifts are often cheaper and more meaningful to both the giver and the receiver. Here is a list of gift ideas that fit the bill.

- * Theatre tickets
- * Movie Passes
- * Gift cards for shops or restaurants
- * Reusable lunch bag and mug
- * Baked goods (cakes, cookies)
- * Houseplants
- * Museum or Zoo membership
- * Cloth napkins and rings

By shifting your focus from just buying "stuff" it gives more meaning to this special time of year and makes it simpler and less stressful. In fact, the simplest and best gift of all, which is 100% free, is the gift of your time.

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Holiday Recycling Tips



Here are some ways to lessen the negative environmental impact during the holiday season.

1. Use holiday cards printed on recycled paper.
2. Print holiday party invitations on recycled paper.
3. For holiday parties use reusable cups, dishes and silverware.
4. Make gift tags from last year's greeting cards.
5. Reuse wrapping paper and boxes as much as possible.
6. Recycle any holiday waste from your household.
7. Recycle your Christmas tree through [Bring One for the Chipper](#) program coordinated by Keep Georgia Beautiful.

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Earth Day Committee Kicks Off Plans For 2008



GA Tech's Earth Day committee has already started meeting to plan next spring's Earth Day 2008. The theme will be "Take Action: Code Green" and the event will be held on Friday, April 18, 2008 from 10am to 2pm on Skiles Walkway.

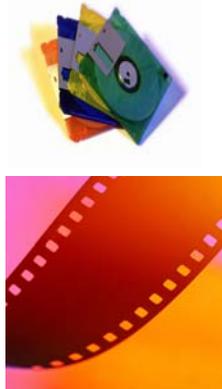
The committee is also planning a week-long schedule of events for Think Green Week which will begin on April 13 and culminate on Earth Day. Cindy Jackson, Earth Day Chair says that in light of GA Tech's renewed focus on water conservation and sustainable initiatives this will provide even more impetus for the event's ability to impact members of Tech's campus community as well as Atlanta's residents.

Some of the members of Earth Day 2007 Planning Committee attend a wrap up event. They are (back row, left to right :) Reid Samuel, Melissa Moore, Cindy Jackson, Binh Dam, Steve Cseplo; (front row, left to right): Gretchen Goldman, Amanda Sanders and Michelle Burger



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Data Cleanup Project Phase II Kicks Off The New Year



Phase II of GA Tech's first Data Cleanup Project will kick off in the new year from January 22 to February 8. Employees will be able to get a clean start in 2008 by getting assistance from OIT and other key departments in locating, identifying and then securing sensitive information, whether digital or hard copy. The Office of Information Technology is partnering with the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling, the Office of the President, the GA Tech Information Security Center, the Library's Records Management Department and Procurement to carry out this project.

Employees will be able to drop off between one (1) to 10 boxes of confidential or sensitive material to the Recycling Department during Data Cleanup in January. Departments with 10 or more boxes can go online to the [Solid Waste and Recycling](#) website and schedule a pick with the Recycling crew. For more details on GA Tech's Data Clean up visit, datacleanup.gatech.edu.

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ASK ENVIRO-MAN!



Question: With the holidays here I want to show my family and friends how much I care for them, but I don't want to spend money on gifts that aren't used or will be re-gifted. What are some environmentally friendly gifts that I can give to show people in my life how special they are to me? CJ

Answer: Hey CJ, the best gift I can suggest is your time. If you visit some family members that would be great, or for those who have kids you can offer to babysit while they get some time off. For loved ones who are far away you can send them gift cards, event tickets or movie tickets. They'll surely appreciate and use those. Thanks to all of you for your questions this year and see you in 2008! Enviro-Man

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Upcoming Events – February 2008

U.S. Composting Council 16th Annual Conference & Trade Show Oakland, CA Feb. 9-12
Plastics Recycling 2008: The North American Plastics Recycling Conference Jacksonville, FL Feb. 26-27, 2008
Carbon Forum America 2008 San Francisco, CA Feb. 26-27, 2008

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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. RCP listings, useful links, and a green purchasing guideline can now be found at www.recycle.gatech.edu.

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