

THE RECYCLING BUZZ

Because we care

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

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Recycling Tips

Are you wondering whether there is a location near you that will accept a certain type of material for recycling? Find out at <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/>. Whether Aluminum foil or Yard waste, this site will tell you if there is a place nearby where it can be taken for recycling.

Summer is here, and the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling will spend much of this semester planning programs and events for the upcoming school year. Before we leave the 2008-2009 academic year behind, however, we have a report from the Student Move Out, which had a sevenfold increase in food donations compared with last year! This issue of the Recycling Buzz also features a new column spotlighting recycling initiatives around campus. All of our regular monthly updates and columns, such as monthly recycling statistics and upcoming events, are here as well.

Recycling Success Stories: GT Library

Recycling opportunities at the Georgia Tech Library are constantly expanding, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of Library employees. The office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling



Members of the GT Library Sustainability Committee. From left to right: Stephanie Morris, Crystal Renfro, Susan Coleman, Beth Thomas, Kathy Tomajko and Karen Manning. Not pictured: Anna-Marie Soper O'Rourke, Sherri Brown, Mary Axford, Christine de Catanzaro, Katie Gentilello, RaeAnne Forrest, Nancy Simons, and Katherine Norris.

provides plastic, aluminum cans, mixed office paper and cardboard recycling services at the Library. The Library's employees are not only taking initiatives to improve the recovery rates of these materials; they have also started several recycling programs of their own. Under the leadership of Katherine Norris, Tom Grice and Beth Thomas, the Library recycles and reuses materials as diverse as Styrofoam packaging, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs and shoes. Each of these recycling initiatives began with one person asking, "How can we keep this material from going to a landfill?" and working to find an alternative.

Beth Thomas, who works in the Systems Department at the Library and has been at Georgia Tech for 23 years, was disappointed with the amount of keyboards, mice, and other electronics that were simply being thrown away. She decided to look into other options, and discovered that the City of Decatur sponsors E-waste recycling events to the public twice a year. In the spring of 2007, Beth

volunteered to store unwanted personal electronics and transport them to the next E-waste recycling event. She recalls that in 2007 all of the donations fit into her car, but by 2008 the program had become so popular that she had to use a van to transport all of the donations. Now the Library collects electronics year-round and people will even leave donations outside Beth's door when she's not there. This year, the Library brought the bulk of the E-waste donations to Georgia Tech's Earth Day Celebration, and took the remainder to the Decatur event two weeks later.

Tom Grice, Facilities Manager for the Library, runs the building's shipping, receiving and loading dock operations. He noticed a negative impact on the cardboard recycling program because the cardboard collection container is in a secure area that is not always accessible. Tom responded by creating an indoor cardboard collection station that is accessible to all employees. He even placed a rolling cart at the new location that stores the flattened cardboard, and can easily be wheeled out when full. In addition, Tom collects and reuses Styrofoam peanuts, bubble wrap and other packing materials, keeping these difficult to recycle items out of the waste stream.



David McDuffie, Desktop Services Manager at the GT Library, sorts packing materials for recycling and reuse.

The Library has even managed to recycle construction waste. Katherine Norris, Program Coordinator II at the Library who will soon celebrate 19 years at Georgia Tech, says that during a recent renovation they worked with a contractor who separated and recycled the construction debris that was removed from the building. Katherine points out that the Library is also very proactive in soliciting student feedback. It was students who first suggested that recycling bins should be placed adjacent to the Library's café. Student demand has played a big role in the expansion of environmental programs at the Library.

What started out as individual efforts by a few committed people has grown into an organized Sustainability Committee (formed this year) of 12-15 members that meets on a monthly basis. Katherine says that interest in recycling and the environment was already there; the Library's staff and patrons just needed leadership in implementing the new programs. The sustainability group provides that leadership, and participation is growing steadily. The list of potential projects is growing as well. The group's upcoming plans are to expand the paper recycling program, place visual reminders around the building to encourage recycling, and to create a recycling station for CDs.

**If you have a recycling success story that you would like to share with the campus community, let us know and we will be happy to feature it in a future issue of the Recycling Buzz.*

2009 Student Move Out Generates Over 2 Tons of Food

Each spring when Georgia Tech students move out of their dorms, they leave behind thousands of pounds of food, clothes and household items that they no longer need. For 12 years in a row, the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling has provided students with the opportunity to donate these items to a worthy cause.



It feels great to lend a helping hand! Above: Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling staff deliver Student Move Out donations to the Atlanta Food Bank. Left to Right: Tom, Karl, Nelson, Bud, Michael, and Rodrick.

In years past, collection stations have been set up at the 11 outdoor recycling sites in campus Housing areas. This year, 29 Sororities and Fraternities volunteered to host collection sites. Donation bins were also placed in the lobbies of 30 residence halls, thanks to the dedicated efforts of several student volunteers. This was a significant program expansion from 2008, and the result was a huge success.

Our goal was to collect one ton of food during the 2009 Move Out. We received a total of 4,476 pounds of non-perishable food, a dramatic increase over the 590 pounds collected in 2008.

We also collected 68 boxes (1,329 pounds) of clothing, bedding and household goods. It took the Recycling team several days to collect and sort all of the donations! The donations from Student Move Out benefit several local charities, including the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children, and the Atlanta Union Mission.

GT Dining's Path to Zero-Waste

By: Dori Martin, Sodexo

With the help of [EnviRelation](#), a professional food composting service, GT Dining will begin reaching towards their goal of becoming the first zero-waste campus dining service in Georgia. On June 1st Brittain Dining Hall will begin the process. This entails stocking only biodegradable and reusable items at the dining hall and training both customers and employees. EnviRelation will provide 35 gallon residential style containers for students and employees to discard all of their organic waste items. This includes meat, bones, dairy, fish, produce, herbs, grains, pasta, paper, waxed paper, small amounts of waxed cardboard, and much more.

EnviRelation will collect full bins on a daily basis and deliver them to what they refer to as a local composting facility or farm. There, microbial activity digests the organic matter, turning it into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Georgia Tech Facilities is planning to reuse the amendment as a landscaping soil conditioner on campus. After Brittain Dining Hall has streamlined the process, GT Dining will begin implementing the program at Woodruff Dining Hall and other on-campus dining facilities.



Office Supply Exchange 365 Has Arrived!

One of Earth Day's recycling opportunities, the Office Supply Exchange (OSE), is now becoming a year-round event. In the past, the OSE has saved the campus thousands of dollars by collecting unused and unwanted supplies from various departments and laying it out for anyone to come by and shop for free. At Earth Day 2009, the OSE inventory totaled in at \$7,891.25 including 906 three-ring binders, 25 letter trays, 23 print and toner cartridges, and 38 paper notebooks. The OSE-365 will feature an online catalog of all items in the inventory so people can place an order for what supplies they want. Then, once the order is received and packaged, that person will be notified to stop by the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling to pick up their supplies.

So, it is now time for you to take advantage of the quiet summer days and clean out your desks and rooms! We are currently collecting office supplies to stock up our inventory. We accept everything from hole punches, to waste bins, cartridges, and staplers. Please contact Tara Bryant at 404.385.0088 or <mailto:tara.bryant@gatech.edu> to drop off supplies or schedule a pick up. We hope to open up the OSE-365 in July, so please donate as soon as possible!

ASK ENVIRO-MAN!

Question: What kind of plastics can I recycle on campus?

Answer: That is a great question, considering that the plastic recycling program has recently undergone an expansion. Currently, any plastic item with the number 1-7 printed inside the recycling symbol can be deposited in the plastic recycling bins on campus.



To find out more about the different types of plastic, and what kinds of products they can be recycled into, click [here](#).

Enviro-Man

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



Stats for May 2009

18.8 tons of mixed paper were recycled in the month of May. 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.

Upcoming Events

<p>Paper Recycling Conference & Trade Show Atlanta, GA June 7-9, 2009</p>
<p>Recycling Today's Plastics Conference & Trade Show Atlanta, GA June 7-9, 2009</p>
<p>Electronics Recycling Conference & Trade Show Atlanta, GA June 7-9, 2009</p>
<p>Keep Atlanta Beautiful Electronics Recycling Day Atlanta, GA June 20, 2009 (8am—4pm)</p>
<p>Go Green Expo Atlanta, GA June 27-28, 2009</p>

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.

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