Join the Earth Day 2014 Planning Committee

Georgia Tech’s annual Earth Day Celebration is one of the most highly anticipated campus events during spring semester. The event is free and open to the public. The 2013 Earth Day Celebration featured 92 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. Georgia Tech’s 17th Annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on Friday, April 18, 2014 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM on Tech Walk and Tech Green.

If you are interested in joining the Earth Day Planning Committee, please join us on Friday, October 11th (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM) 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 Crosses 100-ton Mark

Football games bring thousands of people onto campus and generate tons of trash. Georgia Tech’s Game Day Recycling program started in the fall of 2008 with the goal of making the games more green by diverting plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum cans from the landfill during home football games and tailgates. Our 6th season is off to a good start! The Game Day Recycling program reached an exciting milestone at the 2013 season opener against Elon on August 31st, when we crossed the 100-ton mark. A total of 2,400 pounds of bottles and cans were recycled at the first home. To date, the program has diverted 100.4 tons of recyclable materials from the landfill.

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 video board (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 a free T-shirt and either pizza or a concessions voucher. For more information and to sign up visit www.recycle.gatech.edu.

Upcoming Game Day Recycling Volunteer Opportunities:

Thursday, September 26th
Tailgaters 1st shift: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Tailgaters 2nd shift: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Green Greeters: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 19th
Tailgaters 1st shift: Time TBA
Tailgaters 2nd shift: Time TBA
Green Greeters: Time TBA

You can also connect with Georgia Tech Game Day Recycling on Facebook.

ASK ENVIRO-MAN

Question: I know recycling has a positive impact on the economy, but where can I find information about the economic impact of recycling?

Answer: The Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) is a non-profit organization that works to promote recycling in eleven Southeastern states. In 2010, SERDC conducted a study and determined that “over 200 key Southeastern manufacturers look to recycled feedstock to develop new consumer goods. These manufacturers collectively support more than 47,525 employees and see a sales volume towering more than $29.4 billion”. And that’s just in eleven states! For more information, go to http://serdc.org/regionresources.

To ask Enviro-Man a question, click here.
Voice Your Opinion on Campus Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements

The members of Georgia Tech’s Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Committee (BIIC) are seeking input from the campus community to help determine the group’s future projects and priorities. They have developed an online survey, which will be available through September 27th. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete. You can access the Campus Bike Survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/GTbike. For more information about the BIIC please go to: http://bike.gatech.edu/.

Left: The Bicycle Infrastructure Improvement Committee was the recipient of the Environmental Initiative Award at Georgia Tech’s 2011 Earth Day Celebration.

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, mshoemaker8@gatech.edu or Rachit Kansal, rkansal6@gatech.edu

Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS)
Website: http://www.sos.gatech.edu/
Contact: Stephanie Kehl, skehl3@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

Georgia Tech’s Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems has compiled a list of more than twenty student sustainability organizations and volunteer opportunities on campus. You can access the list at: http://gtbbiss.blogspot.com/2013/08/student-sustainability-organizations.html.

Georgia Tech’s Community Garden (above) is just one of many campus sustainability initiatives that you can get involved with. The Community Garden is adjacent to the Instructional Center and is managed by Students Organizing for Sustainability. Contact Stephanie Kehl (skehl3@gatech.edu) for more information.
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
Cindy Jackson, Program Manager
151 Sixth Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30332-0350
Tel: 404-385-0088 ~ Fax: 404-385-0710

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.

Georgia Tech Game Day Recycling Volunteers Needed
Georgia Tech’s Atlanta Campus
Thursday, September 26 and Saturday, October 19, 2013 (Times Vary)
Volunteer registration is now open for the 2013 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.

Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable
All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall
634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA
Friday, October 4, 2013 (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 “Growing Atlanta’s Green Economy Through Strategic Partnerships.”

Project Green Challenge 2013
October 1 – 31, 2013
Project Green Challenge is a month-long competition for high school and college students to raise awareness about conscious living, informed consumption, and the collective impact of individual actions. Participants receive an email every day during the month of October with a daily challenge. The challenges involve taking small steps to impact personal lives, school campuses, and local communities. Participants receive points for each challenge they complete, and can win prizes. For more information, go to http://www.teensturninggreen.org/project-green-challenge/.