



Welcome to the first edition of the GC Green Newsletter!

This is a monthly newsletter that will feature recycling information, going green events, ways to win swag, how to get involved on campus, and all things green. A new edition will be sent out on the last day of each month. This edition covers what we did in February & March and what to look forward to next month. Stay tuned for April's edition!

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Follow us on social media!



Stay up to date on our upcoming events

Make sure you're following the Office of Sustainability on all of our platforms to stay updated on our upcoming events and ways to get involved. You might even win some swag!

Each platform is hyperlinked below, so simply click the links to find our pages!

Facebook: [Green Initiative](#) & [Georgia College Sustainability Fee Council](#)

Instagram: [@gc_go_green](#)

Twitter: [@gc_go_green](#)

Wordpress: [gcgreen.wordpress.com](#)

Find the answers to Recycling FAQs: [gcsu.edu/green](#)

Questions about recycling? Email recycle@gcsu.edu

Get involved on campus: [GC Environmental Science Club](#)

Newsletter Questions/Comments: elizabeth.carroll@bobcats.gcsu.edu

Georgia College: Tree Campus USA



Colleges, Corporations, and Cities: Building Campus Sustainability

Susan Daniels and Kristen Hitchcock accepted the [Tree Campus USA](#) award at the second annual Mayor's Symposium on Trees and Statewide Arbor Day celebration. Georgia College is one of 296 campuses in the US to achieve this recognition, with an outstanding nearly 4,000 trees planted during the last year with help from 100 volunteers.

To receive the Tree Campus USA designation, schools must meet the following five standards: establishment of a campus tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for a campus tree program, involvement in an Arbor Day observance, and instituting a service learning project.

This year, volunteers can set up a time to plant a tree from Feb. 19- April 28. Contact rexford.seay@gcsu.edu to set up a time for you, your organization, or department to take part.

Read more at: gcgreen.wordpress.com.

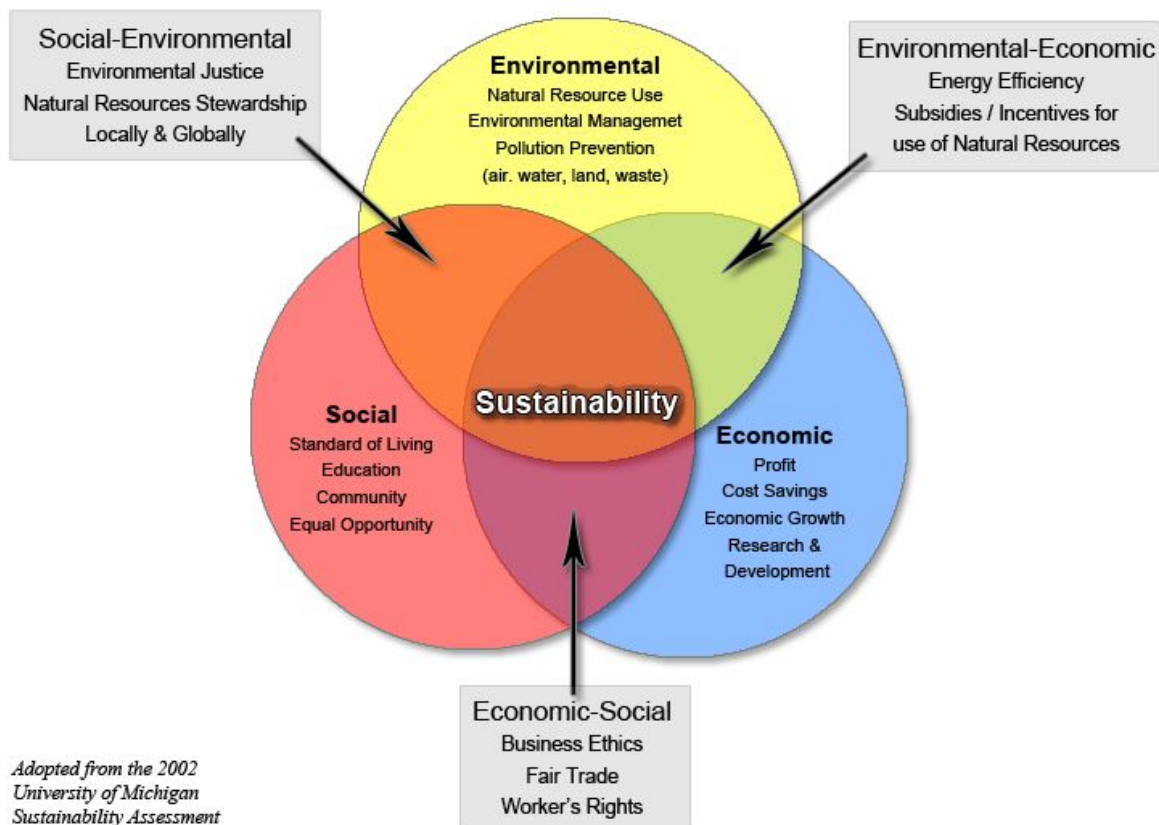
Certificate in Sustainability

Bringing Ecology, Economics, and Ethics to Sustainability

The Board of Regents for the University Systems of Georgia recently approved Georgia College's Certificate of Sustainability. The certificate's required courses will combine aspects of social, economic, and environmental spheres of sustainability. Certification involves an introductory sustainability course, three core-level classes, three advanced courses, and a senior interdisciplinary studies capstone. The introductory sustainability class, IDST 2050: Sustainability, will be available beginning Spring 2018. The list of required courses for completion can be found at gcgreen.wordpress.com.

For more information, contact the Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies: 325 Terrell Hall, 478-445-5221.

The Three Spheres of Sustainability



Herty goes Solar!

Spring Break

Over Spring Break, solar panels were installed on the rooftop of Herty Hall. These panels are considered the very first operational solar array on campus! A big thank you to the faculty and students that volunteered to assist with the installation! The solar arrays are moveable, providing physics students with a valuable learning experience calculating the most effective positioning.



Narrow Ridge Spring Break Trip

A week spent off the grid

Chief Sustainability Officer Lori Strawder, Sustainability Coordinator Kristen Hitchcock, and Georgia College student Ashlie Adamson spent their Spring Break at the Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center in Washburn, TN. Narrow Ridge offers an alternative spring break experience. During the trip, they were completely immersed in a sustainable living lifestyle. Narrow Ridge is a nonprofit organization located on 500 acres that emphasizes the importance of sustainability, appreciating the environment, and taking a break from technology. Learn more about Narrow Ridge [here](#). If you are interested in spending your next Spring Break here, email sustaingc@gcsu.edu.



RecycleMania 2017 Updates

Week 4 Review and Week 5 Events



RecycleMania is an 8-week long competition between universities across the US and Canada to improve campus recycling rates and encourage student involvement in sustainable initiatives. Colleges report their weekly recycling and trash rates and are in turn ranked in various categories based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, as well as which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling.

On February 6, 2017, the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a very successful event collecting 200 water bottles for recycling. Students were to bring in two recyclable bottles and receive a reusable one (pictured) in return. SGA purchased 100 reusable water bottles and handed out every single one! Additionally, a newly designed West Campus Recycling Center banner was placed on February 9, 2017, to clarify and remind students of the materials that can and cannot be placed into the blue bins.

Students and staff volunteered Friday, March 17th to clean up the Recycling Center at West Campus bright and early. Together, volunteers cleaned out the numerous recycling bins, sorted the contents, and delivered the recyclables to the deposit site. The volunteers gained a warm feeling on such a cold day by keeping our campus clean!

Track our campus's weekly progress and rankings on the [RecycleMania Scoreboard](#). Do your part by recycling!

Show off your green side on campus and you could win some swag like Lauren and Joey pictured with their reusable water bottles!

National Arbor Day: April 28th

Plant a tree on campus!

In the weeks leading up to National Arbor Day, on April 28th, the Georgia College Grounds & Landscaping Department is scheduling volunteers and groups to plant a tree on campus. This is a special opportunity to contribute to GC's green initiatives and leave a long-lasting, personal mark on campus.

Pictured below are members of Alpha Omicron Pi with one of the five dogwood trees they planted at Russell Library. Please contact Aaron Seay, rexford.seay@gcsu.edu, to reserve a time for you or your group to plant trees on campus.



In The News

#BringBackTheBees



Cheerios launched a new promotion to save the bees and bring attention to declining bee populations. The company set a goal to distribute 100 million wildflower seeds to customers across America and Canada for free. The hashtag was trending on Twitter and Facebook and gained a lot of online attention. They exceeded their goal and gave away 1.5 billion seeds! In another effort to create awareness for their mission to save the bees, Cheerios has removed their mascot Buzz the Bee from their cereal boxes.

Additionally, Cheerios is doing its part by ensuring its oat farms will host 3,300 acres of wildflowers by 2020. Their site features a map of the United States showing where the wildflowers are being delivered, seed planting instructions, and information on declining bee populations. Visit cheerios.com/bringbackthebees to learn more.

Controversy has risen surrounding the types of seeds being distributed. Each seed packet has a variety of seeds in it. Some of the seeds listed could be considered invasive or non-native species. Depending on where they are planted, certain seeds could potentially do more harm than good by spreading disease and competing with native species. Seed packet recipients should research the possible effects of planting the seed mix in their location.

Events in April

Looking ahead!

These are just a few of the exciting events happening in April. Stay updated on our social media!

Monday, April 17th: “Don’t Flush It!”

- Black Box Theater 6pm
- An environmental comedy play about fats, oils, and grease in the water system
- Free and open to the public

Wednesday, April 19th: Responsible Recycling Times Talk

- Library 12pm
- Times Talk led by Kristen Hitchcock about improving recycling rates and avoiding unintended environmental burdens
- Using New York Times articles as discussion starting points, attendees will learn about recycling and waste generation in general as well as how to correctly recycle on campus so that Georgia College reduces the amount of waste it sends to landfills and also recycles in the most environmentally responsible ways.
- Read the New York Times articles [here](#) & [here](#).

Thursday, April 20th: [Sustainability Fee Program Symposium with Xiuhtezcatl Martinez](#)

- Front Campus from 5-7pm
- 16-year-old climate change activist and hip hop artist suing the US Government for failure to protect the environment for future generations

Friday, April 21st: [EarthFest!](#)

- Front Campus from 10am-9pm
- All day activities including yoga, mural painting, tie dye, raffle, and live music
- Visit the [Environmental Science Club Facebook page](#) for a full list of scheduled events celebrating Earth Day

Saturday, April 22nd: [Earth Day](#)

Friday, April 28th: National Arbor Day