



GC GREEN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

Welcome to the second edition of the GC Green Newsletter!

This is a monthly newsletter that will feature recycling information, going green events, 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 April and what to look forward to next month. Stay tuned for May'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](#)

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

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

Earth Week

Celebrating Earth Day all week

In honor of Earth Week, the Office of Sustainability took over the Georgia College Snapchat. Throughout the week, followers were able to virtually meet the staff of the Office of Sustainability, get a tour of the composting site and campus garden, and learn what can and cannot be recycled on campus. The Snapchat was updated to show all of the festivities throughout the week!

Earth Week was kicked off with “Don’t Flush It!”, an environmental comedy play about fats, oils, and grease in the water system at the Blackbox Theater. On Wednesday, Sustainability Coordinator, Kristen Hitchcock, led a Times Talk about responsible recycling. She discussed the importance of improving recycling rates on campus and ways to avoid unintended environmental burdens. The Sustainability Fee Program Symposium on Thursday featured Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, a 16-year-old climate change activist and hip hop artist suing the US Government for failure to protect the environment for future generations. EarthFest occurred all day long on Friday, as the final celebration of Earth Day with arts and crafts, yoga sessions, and live music.

EarthFest 2017

Earth Day Celebration on Front Campus

Earth Week was celebrated in an effort to raise awareness of Earth Day. The Environmental Science Club celebrated Earth Day on Front Campus on Friday, April 28th. There were festivities going on all day long, from 10am-10pm. This celebration brought together members of the club with the entire student body, to appreciate the Earth. Arts and crafts activities included tie dyeing, painting pots and recycling bins, making hemp bracelets, screen printing, and a raffle. Yoga was led in the morning and the afternoon. There were several musicians providing live music throughout the day including an ecologically minded acapella group called UGA Ecotones and local artists Ron Harris, Mani, New Tree, and Rujen.

Georgia Power handed out free LED lightbulbs. The City of Milledgeville educated students on what not to flush or put down the drain. The Innovation Station handed out stickers and waterproof cell-phone pouches. GC Shelter Buddies sold Doodle’s cupcakes and Chik-fil-a sweet tea to raise money. DJs from WGUR played music throughout. The Gardening Club handed out freshly grown veggies from the West Campus Garden and free seeds.





Sustainability Symposium

Speaker Xiuhtezcatl Martinez's Visit

This year, the Sustainability Fee Program Symposium hosted climate activist and artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. Xiuhtezcatl is one of 21 young adults suing the United States government for their failure to protect the environment for future generations. The 16-year-old activist delivered an inspiring talk on Front Campus and performed some of his spoken word. It was a very passionate performance and led to a thought provoking discussion amongst the attendees. Hosting such a well-known activist at Georgia College was an exciting opportunity to reach both the student body and the entire city of Milledgeville, with over 250 people in attendance! Those who attended received reusable Nalgene water bottles that were generously donated by Brita.



National Arbor Day

Tree Planting

In celebration of National Arbor Day, Georgia College planted several kinds of trees over the three month-long planting from February to April. The trees were planted all over campus. Dogwoods, Yoshino Cherry, and live oak trees are among the trees that were planted. As a Tree Campus USA, Georgia College values the positive environmental impacts of trees on campus. The organizations and departments involved included SGA, Alpha Omicron Pi, Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, the Sustainability Council, the Office of Sustainability, Payroll Services, Early College Education, Department of Economics and Finance, Nonhuman Animal Rights Advocates, Geography Club, Environmental Science Club, and the UP Project.



In The News

Plastic-Eating Caterpillar Discovery

Polyethylene is the most common plastic in the world and is used in shopping bags, shampoo bottles, and food packaging. Plastic resists degradation and majorly contributes to the pollution of our planet.

The honey worm caterpillar is typically found in the honeycombs of beehives, feeding on wax or being used by fishermen as bait. A recent discovery revealed that this caterpillar produces an enzyme that is capable of decomposing polyethylene. This ability was discovered by a Federica Bertocchini, a biologist at the University of Cantabria in Spain. She was tending to her beehives and removed some of the wax worms living inside, collecting them in a plastic bag. When she returned to the sealed bag, the worms had created small holes and escaped. Polyethylene has a similar chemical composition to the wax the caterpillars eat. Direct contact with the caterpillar's enzyme dissolves polyethylene.

This discovery will lead to further research of the enzyme and other species that could potentially produce it. Researchers hope to isolate the enzyme and produce it on an industrial scale to reduce existing plastic pollution. Read more, [here](#) and [here](#)!



MIKE NELSON / EPA / CORBIS

Events in May

Looking ahead!

May 4-5: Dodge The Dump

- 9am - 7pm
- During move-out, donate your old appliances and furniture instead of throwing them away!
- There will be collection sites located near the dumpsters. They will be accepting old appliances, furniture, clothes, cleaning supplies, bed linens, posters, and non perishable food.
- The donations will benefit the Salvation Army, the Milledgeville Community Garden Association, Comfort Farms, and the Life Enrichment Center.

June 9, 16, 23 and July 14, 21: New Student Orientation

- The Office of Sustainability will be tabling over the summer for New Student Orientations.
- Stop by our table to learn more about what we do and how to get involved!