



Welcome to the fourth 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 June and what to look forward to next month. Stay tuned for July's edition!

In this edition:

- Bobcat Marketplace
- Town Hall Meetings
- Paris Climate Agreement
- July Events

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

Bobcat Marketplace

New Student Orientation

The Office of Sustainability has been tabling during New Student Orientations this summer on Front Campus. To exemplify our office's dedication to sustainability, we have been using our solar powered golf cart as our table. We engage with the upcoming freshmen and their families by inviting them to play our recycling game in return for a free water bottle. We have a variety of recyclable and non-recyclable items displayed. We ask them to place what they think is recyclable on campus into the recycling bin. Once they're done, we go through their choices and educate them on the recycling do's and don't's and reward them with a free Brita water bottle and a recycling informational sheet for their dorm! Come by and see us on Front Campus July 14th and 21st from 12-2!



Town Hall Meetings

Georgia Power wants to discharge water from coal ash ponds into Lake Sinclair

The next step in the closure of Georgia Power's Plant Branch located on Lake Sinclair is the closure and dewatering of its 5 coal ash ponds. The dewatering process involves treating the water from the ponds using a wastewater treatment system and discharging the treated water into Lake Sinclair. The ash pond dewatering process must comply with the regulations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the federal Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule. Additionally, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) must approve Georgia Power's ash pond dewatering plan.

Representative Rick Williams hosted a town hall meeting on Saturday, June 24 to provide the public with an opportunity to hear from representatives of Georgia Power, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the Altamaha Riverkeeper, and an environmental lawyer. Each representative gave a short presentation and then began the Q&A portion of the meeting. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to submit written questions, to be answered by the appropriate representatives. However, this is where the public's growing concerns over the safety of the lake's water began to show, as they expressed concerns that local drinking water and well water could be affected. Tensions at the meeting became heated as people began to yell their questions and speak over each other. One woman even left the room, yelling and raising her fist. A public hearing on the issue was held at the Putnam County Administrative Building on Tuesday, June 27. The same representatives gave a more condensed version of their presentations, with no questions allowed. The public was then allowed to voice their concerns at the podium, with no response from the representatives, making this meeting much calmer than the first. A group of Georgia College students (pictured bottom right) attended these meetings and found the experience insightful and enjoyed seeing local government in action.

More information on the dewatering plan and permit approval can be found [here](#). Upon approval, Georgia Power will begin the dewatering process and post the results of their water testing [here](#).



Paris Climate Agreement

#WeAreStillIn

The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as COP21, which was held November 30 - December 12, 2015.

Four key measures outlined in the agreement are to:

1. peak greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and achieve a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century
2. keep global temperature increases below 2°C (3.6°F) and to pursue efforts to limit increases to 1.5°C
3. review progress the progress towards goals every five years, and
4. commit \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020, with a commitment to more financing in the future.

President Obama signed the executive order on August 29, 2016. On November 4, 2016, the agreement went into effect for the United States under President Obama, four days before President Donald Trump was elected to office. Although called an agreement, it has generally been accepted that this document is a treaty; and it is listed under the United Nations Treaty Collection.¹ As a treaty, in order for the United States to participate, ratification by the Senate is necessary. President Obama did not receive this ratification, enabling President Trump to withdraw.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would be withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord. In his withdrawal speech, President Trump stated that “the Paris Climate Accord is simply the latest example of Washington entering into an agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries, leaving American workers...and taxpayers to absorb the cost in terms of lost jobs, lower wages, shuttered factories, and vastly diminished economic production.”² The United States, Nicaragua, and Syria are the only three nations that are not adhering to the agreement.

In the wake of the withdrawal, the We Are Still In movement was started. This movement joins together mayors, governors, colleges, universities, business and investors, who have declared their intent to continue climate action to meet the Paris Agreement, and thousands have declared their intent to continue to ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing carbon emissions. More entities continue to join and the full list of signatories can be found at the We Are Still In [website](http://wearestillin.com/). They note that “the Trump administration's announcement undermines a key pillar in the fight against climate change and damages the world's ability to avoid the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change. Importantly, it is also out of step with what is happening in the United States.”³

1. https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=en
 2. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/01/politics/trump-paris-agreement-speech/>
 3. <http://wearestillin.com/>
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Events in July

Looking ahead!

July 14 & 21: Bobcat Marketplace (12-2)

- 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, how to get involved, and get a free water bottle!

All year: Bobcats Work Green

- Cleaning out your office this summer? Set aside any recyclables (shredded paper, cardboard, books, etc) and email recycle@gcsu.edu to have it picked up and recycled!
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