



Welcome to the eleventh edition of the GC Green Newsletter!

This is a monthly newsletter that features recycling information, going green events, how to get involved on campus, and all things green. This edition covers what we did in February and what to look forward to next month. Stay tuned for March's edition!

In this edition:

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- Tent City Recycling
- Swipe Out Hunger!
- Tree Campus USA Recertification
- Cardboard Recycling
- Gardening Club Indoor Plant Care
- Next South Conference

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Find the answers to Recycling FAQs: gcsu.edu/green

Get involved on campus: [GC Environmental Science Club](#), [GC Gardening Club](#), [GC Earth Action Team](#)

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

RecycleMania Continues

RecycleMania is an 8-week long competition between colleges and universities across the country to raise awareness about recycling on campus, increase their recycling rates, and promote waste reduction practices. We will be spending these eight weeks promoting and rewarding recycling on campus. The end of the newsletter has more information on upcoming events!



To promote the kickoff of RecycleMania, we took over the Georgia College Snapchat (@georgiacollege) for the day. Check out our video, [here!](#)

Week 1's recycling rates were reported at 33.3%, while Week 2 dropped to 16.9%. This drop is explained by a build-up of recycling on campus from the first few weeks of school that was taken care of during Week 1 of RecycleMania. During Week 1, we composed 607 pounds of food waste. Unfortunately, the composter was out of commission during Week 2, but is back in working condition!



Tent City Recycling

The Office of Sustainability made their presence known at Tent City over homecoming weekend. This year, two full truck loads of recycling was collected, which was a big improvement from last year. We were extremely impressed by the overall lack of contamination and the amount of recycling collected. This could not have been possible without our volunteers making rounds to each recycling bin to remove any trash. We are proud of our Bobcats and appreciate our volunteers!



Swipe Out Hunger!

Swipe Out Hunger is a national organization that partners with colleges throughout the country in an effort to end student hunger. A Swipe Out Hunger chapter allows students to donate their excess meal swipes to go to students or community members who struggle with food insecurity. Throughout the semester, a Swipe chapter will raise awareness about food insecurity, and at the end of the semester there will be a donation period where students can donate their leftover meal swipes. After the donation period, the meal swipes are tallied up and distributed to students struggling with food insecurity. GC student Kedyl Lewis is working to bring a Swipe chapter to our campus and is currently setting up the RSO through the GIVE Center!



Tree Campus USA

Lori Strawder and Kristen Hitchcock attended the 2018 Northeast Georgia Regional Arbor Day Celebration and Tree City USA Awards Lunch in Athens, GA, on February 15. Georgia College, among other schools, was being recognized for being a Tree Campus USA for the second year in a row! Georgia arborist Seth Hawkins led a tree planting demonstration at the celebratory lunch in Athens. He did such a great job that we invited him to GCSU to give a demonstration at our West Campus ginkgo tree planting event on February 23! Check out these videos from the event ([part one](#) and [part two](#))!



Cardboard Recycling

One way to help us out with recycling on campus is by breaking down any cardboard boxes! This makes more room in the recycling bins and avoids an overflow of recycling. If you are recycling cardboard, remove all non-recyclables, such as styrofoam, plastic film, and packing peanuts, from the box; flatten the boxes; and place them in a blue recycling bin. In case you didn't know, the Office of Sustainability accepts special requests for bulk recycling pick-ups (email recycle@gcsu.edu or submit a work order). As always, we appreciate our recyclers!

Gardening Club Indoor Plant Care

We may take it for granted; but having greenery indoors while studying, eating and moving about the buildings on campus provides a visual and emotional break from our typical activities as students. Plant life refreshes the mind and soul and is an important feature of campus that is here for students and faculty to enjoy. Georgia College's Gardening Club officially began caring for indoor plants in the library, MSU, Mayfair and McIntosh. With training from the ground's department, members have learned how to provide plants with the correct amount of water, position them to receive adequate amounts of sunlight, and monitor them for disease and pest prevention. Keep an eye out for small plaques around these locations to discover which indoor plants are being maintained by the Gardening Club.

Next South Conference

Four of our interns in the Office of Sustainability attended the Next South Conference in Atlanta. This is the largest conference in the Southeast dedicated to inspiring and empowering future leaders seeking careers in sustainability and corporate responsibility. Jacob Deitch, our Compost Intern; Julia Steele, our Events Coordinator; and Lauren Barber, one of our Materials Recovery interns attended this year.

Lauren Barber shared some of her thoughts from the conference:

“One idea that the speakers reiterated to us was that you do not need “sustainability” or “environment” in your degree or job title to do something in that field, but getting a degree in business and then pursuing sustainable careers was equally attainable. I found this unsettling, but also inspiring. What about people whose major is science-based and do not have knowledge of business? I realized that I must bridge the gap between planet and profit and be more open minded towards the corporate world. It was also inspiring to see so many young adults at the Next South Conference who want to make a difference in our future. Our generation is on their way to making a huge difference in the world.”



Events in March

March 7th - Green Carpet with Housing

Adams Hall 2:15 - 4:15pm

The OOS will be on hand at Housing's green carpet with games, swag, and another chance to win a reusable water bottle!

March 21st - International Day of Forests and World Planting Day

March 22nd - World Water Day

March 23rd - Volunteer Day

West Campus Recycling Center 1-4pm

Help the OOS clean up and sort recycling! We know this is spring break for GC; but if you are in Milledgeville: stop by, meet the OOS, and give a helping hand.

March 27th - Caught Green Handed

All day, across campus

Be on the lookout for OOS reps, who will be handing out swag to anybody engaging in sustainable behaviors. You may get "caught" and featured on our social media!

February 4th - March 31st - RecycleMania Competition

Check our social media or our [blog](#) for updates on RecycleMania events!