



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 November and what to look forward to next month. Stay tuned for December's holiday edition!

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

America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day was celebrated on the Georgia College Campus with two events: Weigh the Waste and a Foundation Hall Waste Audit.

Weigh the Waste

On Tuesday, November 13th, interns and staff from the Office of Sustainability (OOS) joined together during the afternoon lunch period (11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) to collect food waste from students, faculty, and staff. 140 pounds of food waste was recovered in this two and a half hour time frame – an increase of almost 45 pounds from last year's Weigh the Waste. For the event, the OOS collected the food waste from plates as they were brought to the dish room in the Max and weighed the waste on site.

Why is food waste a problem? At the national level, Americans waste 40% of the food we produce. This food waste costs the US \$218 billion a year. Not only is there an economic loss, there are also harmful environmental effects. Rotting food creates methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than the greenhouse gas we hear about most often, carbon dioxide.

To decrease your amount of food waste, only get as much food as you're going to eat. Start with one plate and finish it before going for more. If you would like more information on Weigh the Waste or how you can get involved in future sustainability events, please contact the OOS.

Waste Audit

As part of America Recycles Day, the Office of Sustainability staff and interns worked alongside members of the Georgia College staff from Operations & Maintenance and Grounds & Landscaping conducted a waste audit at Foundation Hall. The recycling bins and trash cans by Foundation were sorted into four piles – materials found in the recycling bins that were correctly recycled, materials found in the recycling bins that should have been put in the trash, materials in the trash cans that should have been recycled, and materials that were correctly put in the trash.

Findings showed, for those who are recycling, they are doing very well at keeping the contamination down. However, also found was a lot of recycling that was being thrown out as trash, mostly plastic bottles, cans, and cardboard. As a reminder, in Milledgeville, you can recycle plastics 1 and 2 (the number can be found on the bottle or plastic item, normally at the bottom), paper, aluminum, and non-greasy cardboard (i.e. not pizza boxes). Please make sure all foods and liquids are cleaned off/emptied out of the recyclable materials. Below are the pictures taken from the audit:



From the recycling bins:

Trash



Recycling

From the trash bins:

Note the large pile of recyclable materials that were found in the trash

Trash



Recycling

Recycling Reminder

Keeping the spirit of America Recycles Day in mind, below is a gentle reminder of what is and is not recyclable on campus! Remember to empty and rinse cans, bottles, and containers to avoid contamination. Check the recycling number by checking for a recycling symbol with a number 1-7 inside. For any specialty recycling needs in on-campus buildings, the Office of Sustainability can be contacted at recycle@gcsu.edu.



Spring Internship Opportunities

The Office of Sustainability has an internship program, which currently has 9 positions including: Composting Manager Intern, Materials Recovery Program Intern, Sustainability Across Curriculum Intern, Communications and Outreach Intern, Sustainability Video Intern, Sustainability Narratives Intern, Living Green Matters Intern, Garden Maintenance Intern, and Garden Education Intern. If you are interested in any of these intern positions, please contact the Chief Sustainability Officer, Lori Strawder, at lori.strawder@gcsu.edu.

Events in December

December 5th - World Soil Day