



An electronic newsletter produced by GA Tech's Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (OSWM&R)

## Volume 11 — Issue 6 — February 2013

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### Recycling Tips

Each year in the US, more than 2 billion books, 350 million magazines and 24 billion newspapers are published. The good news is that the amount of paper made from recovered fiber is increasing. Recovered paper accounts for more than 37% of fiber used to make new paper products in the US. Also, 66.8% percent of the paper consumed in the US is recovered for recycling. For more paper recycling fun facts, visit the [American Forest & Paper Association](#) website.

### Paper Recycling Refresher

Paper is one of the most commonly recycled materials at Georgia Tech, with an average of 5 tons of paper collected each week. Georgia Tech's paper recycling program is a mixed paper program. The majority of paper products you encounter on campus can be recycled, however there are a few items that should not be placed in the paper recycling bins. Please use the following guide for the paper recycling program on campus:

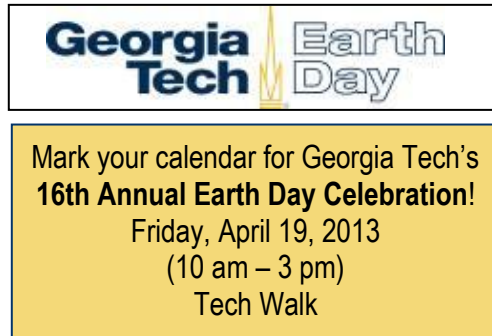


| Mixed Office Paper Recycling Guide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accepted:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Not Accepted:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Office paper (all colors)</li><li>- Magazines</li><li>- Newspapers</li><li>- Junk mail</li><li>- File folders</li><li>- Catalogs</li><li>- Brochures</li><li>- Books</li><li>- Adhesive notes</li><li>- Paperboard (such as cereal boxes)</li><li>- <i>Staples and paper clips do not have to be removed</i></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>No</b> corrugated cardboard</li><li>- <b>No</b> facial tissue</li><li>- <b>No</b> napkins</li><li>- <b>No</b> disposable coffee cups</li><li>- <b>No</b> juice cartons</li><li>- <b>No</b> metal reinforced hanging file folders</li><li>- <b>No</b> plastic coated shipping envelopes</li><li>- <b>No</b> envelopes lined with bubble-wrap</li></ul> |

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## Earth Day Update

Georgia Tech's annual Earth Day Celebration is one of the most highly anticipated campus events during spring semester. The event is free and open to the public, and features more than 70 exhibitors, eco-friendly giveaways, recycling opportunities, a clothing swap, an office supply exchange, live music, a green market, free organic popcorn, interactive green challenges and more. This is one of the largest Earth Day celebrations in the southeast.



### Booth registration is now open!

If your company or organization is focused on the environment or sustainability and can help us communicate this year's theme: "TECH for a Greener Future," we would like to invite you to host a booth at the Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 19, 2013. Visit the Georgia Tech [Earth Day website](#) for more information. As always, hosting a booth is free!

### Earth Day Design Contest Winner Announced

Each year the Earth Day Planning Committee hosts a design contest inviting Georgia Tech students, faculty, staff, alumni, and retirees to conceptualize the current year's theme. The winning design is featured on the Earth Day T-shirt and marketing leading up to the event.



The winner of the 2013 design contest is Siqi Han. Siqi is a 4th year student studying Economics and International Affairs and Business Administration. Her interests include photography and traveling. Siqi is originally from China. She says "as an international student and member

of AIESEC, I pay a lot of attention to global community development issues. For me, Earth Day is a global holiday calling for an international response to environmental issues from every corner of the world. I believe that with everybody's effort together we can make a big difference, and this beautiful planet will have a greener and better future."



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## ASK ENVIRO-MAN

**Question:** Can I recycle batteries on campus?



To ask Enviro-Man a question, [click here](#).

**Answer:** Yes, you can! There are five battery drop-off locations on campus, where you can recycle rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries and cell phones:

1. Student Center – Information Desk
2. Student Center Commons – Burdell's (at the cashier counter)
3. Library – Security Desk
4. Campus Recreation Center – Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Tech (at the back of the CRC, lower level, near volleyball)
5. Barnes & Noble @ Tech Square (at the book cashier counter)

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## Georgia Tech Dining Services Tackles Food Waste

According to the [EPA](#), food waste is the single largest component of the municipal waste stream in the United States, representing 21% by weight. Approximately 34 million tons of food waste are generated in the US each year, and with just 1 million tons (3%) diverted for composting, the remaining 33 million tons are sent to landfills. For Georgia Tech's [Dining Services](#), which serves about 14,000 – 16,000 meals per week in each of the campus' three dining halls, minimizing food waste is a key priority that helps the environment and also makes good business sense. The Recycling Buzz recently met with Dori Martin, District Marketing Manager for Sodexo, the company that manages Georgia Tech's Dining Services, and Grant Grimes, an undergraduate Management major and Dining Services' Sustainability Coordinator, to discuss the innovative approaches being taken to reduce food waste on campus.



### LeanPath

LeanPath is a state of the art waste tracking tool that is being piloted at North Avenue and Woodruff dining halls. It was implemented in September 2012 in order to identify opportunities for reducing pre-consumer food waste (i.e. food that has not touched a customer's plate). The system consists of a scale that is connected to a touch-screen user interface. All pre-consumer food waste generated at both North Avenue and Woodruff dining halls is weighed by a staff member before disposal and the reason for the waste is entered on a touch-screen. Reasons might include food prep waste (tops of carrots, onion peels) or overproduction (three pans of casserole were prepared, but only two were used). Data from the waste tracker is uploaded to software which generates reports that the chefs can use to help set production levels. Dori says, "the most exciting aspect of the [LeanPath](#) system is that it is a strong top of mind awareness tool. It raises employee awareness every day and empowers our front line employees to effect change."

### Weigh the Waste

While LeanPath targets pre-consumer food waste, post-consumer food waste is also an important consideration. Dining Services has developed the *Weigh the Waste* program to help customers become more aware of the amount of food that they dispose of. Twice per semester at each dining hall, a scale is set up and students are asked to weigh the food left on their plate at the end of their meal. The two Weigh the Waste occurrences are several weeks apart, during which Dining Services conducts an educational campaign with tips for minimizing food waste. The program has been very successful. Grant says "the average amount of post-consumer food waste has dropped from 4 ounces per plate to 1.5 ounces per plate."

### Bio-Digester

What happens to the food waste generated in Georgia Tech's dining halls? Since 2009, food waste generated at Brittain and Woodruff dining halls has been composted at a commercial composting facility located off-campus. At North Avenue dining hall, food scraps, leftovers, napkins and even paper straws are processed on site using a [Green Key Bio-Digester](#). The bio-digester, which resembles a large stand-alone freezer, converts up to 700 pounds of organic waste per day into an environmentally safe water effluent. Grant explains that the system is very easy to use. Dining Services staff members simply open a door on top on the unit to add food waste. Paddles inside the bio-digester slowly stir the mixture as enzymes break down the starches, fibers, fats and proteins into liquid form. The liquid automatically discharges into the drain through a pipe at the bottom. Grant adds that by processing food waste on site, the bio-digester reduces transport costs and labor. Together, Dining Services' composting program and the bio-digester divert thousands of pounds of food waste from the landfill every week.



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## Upcoming Events

### [Georgia Tech Leadership Conference: Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#)

Klaus Advanced Computing Building, Georgia Tech's Atlanta Campus, Atlanta, GA

Saturday, February 16, 2013 (8:30 am – 2:00pm)

Cost: \$15 advance registration and \$20 at the door

The Georgia Tech Leadership Conference is hosted annually by the Alpha Gamma Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa as a means to further encourage and foster leadership on our campus. The conference is hosting Meridith Rentz, CEO and President of MedShare as our keynote speaker as well as eight other professional workshop leaders for a day that aims to help student leaders learn and develop skills related to Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. ODK hopes that students will apply knowledge gained on the conference to campus organizations, future professions, and to their personal lives. Your registration includes entry to the 2013 Leadership Conference, breakfast, lunch, and a portfolio.

### [Biological Analogies and Environmental Lead-user Insights as Sources of Ideas for Conceptual Design](#)

TSRB Auditorium, Georgia Tech's Atlanta Campus, Atlanta, GA

Monday, February 18, 2013 (10:00 am – 11:00am)

Dr. Li Shu is an Associate Professor with the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at University of Toronto. In this talk, Dr. Shu will describe two approaches her laboratory is taking to provide sources of ideas during conceptual design. Biological analogies are often credited for inspiring innovative design concepts, but not often reported is how the source of biological inspiration was found. Dr. Shu's laboratory has developed tools and methods that search through information in natural-language format, e.g., books, papers, etc., to find and apply biological analogies relevant to any given problem. She will describe the benefits and challenges specific to this approach.

### [Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable](#)

All Saints Episcopal Church – Ellis Hall  
634 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA

Friday, March 1, 2013 (7:30 – 9:00 am)

Cost: \$10 - \$20, includes continental breakfast and beverage

Presented by Southface, the Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable convenes on the first Friday of each month to discuss the region's current environmental issues – from water to energy, urban planning to government policy, and much more. Members of the audience are encouraged to ask questions, make comments, network, and learn about Atlanta's current and future opportunities for sustainable development. The topic for March is "Behavioral Change in Atlanta: Drive Less, Conserve More, Recycle It!" The cost is \$10 for students. For non-students the cost is \$15 for advance purchase and \$20 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 am for networking. The roundtable discussion is from 7:30 - 9:00 am.

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## Comments and Suggestions

If you have any questions or suggestions about our program, please feel free to contact us by simply replying to this [newsletter](#). We are here to help, and together, we can work to benefit the environment.

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As part of our effort to provide you with better services we continually update our website. Recycling guidelines and useful links can be found at [www.recycle.gatech.edu](http://www.recycle.gatech.edu).