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## Georgia Southern Commons

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Sustainable Solutions Newsletter (2016-2022)

Sustain Southern

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Spring 1-26-2016

## Sustainable Solutions

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# Sustainable Solutions



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## Director's Message



Welcome to the Center for Sustainability's newsletter. We hope to keep the community informed about sustainability advances and activities on campus and beyond with updates each semester.

We'd like to recognize the contributions of students to sustainability on our campus in this 1st newsletter. CfS is grateful for the vision of students, who voted to establish a \$10/semester Student Sustainability Fee in Fall 2013. These fees support CfS operations, as well as Sustainability Fee Grants that improve campus sustainability. As majority members of the Sustainability Fee Committee, students play a critical role in the direction of CfS. The committee selects the winning grant proposals, recommends speakers, and sets the direction for CfS each semester. Students know that environmental sustainability is critical to their future and have helped Georgia Southern University to take a leadership role as a top green university in the country (Princeton Review 2011–2015).

We know that partnerships are the key to success and we are proud to work closely

with many campus units and departments. CFS operates with a part time director, a 1/4 time administrative coordinator, one GA and four undergraduate interns, but most of what we do would not be possible without our partners and hundreds of volunteers. If you have an idea for a partnership that improves sustainability on campus or in the broader community, please let us know!

Make sure you take advantage of our Sustainability Fee Grant program if you have an idea for improving campus sustainability. Proposals are due April 1st for projects with budgets of \$1,000–\$100,000 ([CFS Sustainability Fee Grants](#)). Come learn about the fantastic sustainability projects that were funded this year at the Sustainability Showcase on the first floor exhibit space in the Henderson Library April 10–24, 2016.

We are also celebrating our sustainability champions on campus with the 2nd Annual Green Eagle Award. Please nominate deserving students, faculty and staff by April 4th ([CFS Green Eagle Awards](#)).

Enjoy our upcoming spring semester events and programs available to the campus and community free of charge, and remember to be *True Blue and Green Too!*

– Dr. Lissa Leege, Director

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## Upcoming Events

**March 24, 2016**– 3rd Annual "Beneath the Waves" Ocean Film Festival, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Georgia Southern University Russell Union Theater

**March 29, 2016**– Campus Farmers Market, 10 – 1 pm, pedestrian near Lakeside

**April 5, 2016**– Campus Farmers Market, 10 – 1 pm, pedestrian near Lakeside

**April 7, 2016**– Sustainability Speaker Tom Szaky, Co-Founder & CEO of TerraCycle, 7 pm, Performing Arts Center

**April 10–17, 2016**– No Impact Week

**April 10–24, 2016**– Sustainability Showcase, Henderson Library 1st floor exhibit space

**April 12, 2016**– Campus Farmers Market, 10 –1 pm, pedestrian near Lakeside

**April 14, 2016**– Environmental Community Cinema, *Who Owns Water*, 7 pm in 1119 Natural Sciences building (Old Biology Building)

**April 19, 2016**– Campus Farmers Market, 10 –1 pm, pedestrian near Lakeside

**April 21, 2016**– Closing Reception for Sustainability Showcase, 3 – 5 pm

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## RecycleMania



[RecycleMania](#), a collegiate recycling competition, is in full swing at Georgia Southern University from February 7–April 2. Recycle everything you can to help us improve our standings! In week 4 of the competition, Georgia Southern University ranks 1st in Georgia for gross weight of all recycling collected, and in the top 50 in the country for bottles and cans per capita. We have been catching students, faculty and staff "green-handed" – recycling, drinking from a reusable mug, or engaging in other sustainable behaviors – and rewarding them with prizes. Will you be next? Be on the lookout for a giant recycled cardboard sculpture to be installed in the Henderson Library on March 25th. Come add your own flair to it over the final 2 weeks of RecycleMania! Visit the [Center for Sustainability](#) for more information.

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## Sustainability Speakers

### **Upcoming Sustainability Speaker on Thursday, April 7, 2016 @ 7 PM, Performing Arts Center**

The Center for Sustainability and Business Innovation Group will be hosting a special Sustainability & Entrepreneurship Lecture by Tom Szaky, Co-Founder and CEO of TerraCycle. TerraCycle is an international leader in the collection and repurposing of hard-to-recycle post-consumer waste, from used chip bags to juice pouches. Szaky is also the author of two books, *Outsmart*



*Waste and Revolution in a Bottle.* You can learn more about TerraCycle by visiting their webpage [here](#).

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### **Recent Sustainability Speaker - Cashawn Myers**

On Thursday, February 4th, the Center for Sustainability hosted sustainability speaker Cashawn Myers, Executive Director of HABESHA, Inc. for "There's No Culture without Agriculture: Reconnecting with the Ancient Practices of our Ancestors." Mr. Myers discussed the work of HABESHA, Inc. in the U.S. and Africa, and highlighted new connections between indigenous knowledge and sustainability. To learn more about HABESHA, Inc., please visit their webpage [here](#).



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## Environmental Community Cinema

**Upcoming Cinema on March 24, 2016**

**3rd Annual "Beneath the Waves" Ocean Film Festival**



Stunning footage of manta rays, sharks, whales, coral reefs, salt marshes, and more will be featured in this year's film festival. Hosted by the Institute for Coastal Plain Science in collaboration with the Center for Sustainability, the 3rd Annual Ocean Film Festival will take place on **March 24, 2016, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Russell Union Theater** on the Georgia Southern University campus. Admission is absolutely free and all are welcome! Visit [Beneath the Waves](http://www.beneaththewavesfilmfest.org) for more information.

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## Upcoming Cinema on April 14, 2016

### *Who Owns Water*



The Center for Sustainability and the Henderson Library present ***Who Owns Water* on April 14, 2016, 7–9 pm in the 1119 Natural Science building lecture hall (Old Biology building)** The Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin (ACF) is becoming the canary-in-the-coal mine for a looming East Coast water crisis. The Hanson brothers grew up in Atlanta beside the Chattahoochee River. In March 2013, they returned and paddled, together and separately, the 542 miles of the basin from its source in the Appalachian Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. Their journey and the people they meet along the way tell the story of



an endangered and essential natural resource.  
Admission is free to all!

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## No Impact Week



**April 10–16:** Cfs and the University Wellness Program present the 6th annual No Impact Week – a week of campus sustainability awareness. All campus units are encouraged to participate by hosting an event anytime or featuring a display any day at the Rotunda 11 am – 1 pm. Contact [Cfs](#) to participate.

**Sunday:** Consumption – Sustainability Showcase, 1st floor exhibit space @ Henderson Library (opens at 12 pm).

**Monday:** Trash – Exhibits @ Rotunda, 11 am – 1 pm.

**Tuesday:** Food – Campus Farmers Market @ pedestrian near Lakeside, 10 am – 1 pm.

**Wednesday:** Transportation – Ribbon cutting for new Electric Vehicle Charging Station @ Parking and Transportation, 12 pm.

**Thursday:** Energy – Dump the Pump Challenge @ Rotunda, 12:15 pm.

**Friday:** Water – Interior Design and Eagle Creek exhibits @ Rotunda, 11 am – 1 pm.

**Saturday:** Giving Back – Spring into Statesboro cleanup and celebration in downtown Statesboro, 9am – 1 pm.

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## Campus Community Garden



In Summer 2015, CfS created a new Campus Community Garden. Battling south Georgia heat, student volunteers built 6 garden beds and an herb spiral in a space provided by Facilities Services between the Williams Center and the Herty Building. As an incentive for volunteering, students were able to harvest produce they helped grow. Throughout summer and fall, 103 lbs. of produce were harvested and enjoyed by student volunteers, including dietetic interns, nutrition majors, environmental biology students and many more.

During Spring 2016, students teamed up in small groups to cultivate Campus Community Garden plots together. The groups attend bi-weekly workshops on all aspects of gardening and are responsible for their own shared garden plots. They will celebrate their harvest in April during No Impact Week when they share a home grown community meal. The Campus Community Garden gives students tangible benefits from their sustainability fees through healthy produce they can eat and skills they can use for the rest of their lives. We are looking for new student groups to garden their own plots in Summer 2016. Contact [CfS](#) if you are interested in participating.

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## Campus Composting

CfS began a Food Waste Composting pilot program in Summer 2015 in partnership with Eagle Dining and DFS. Kitchen staff collect pre-consumer vegetable and fruit scraps, which are then transported to south campus where CfS processes the food



waste and creates compost with the help of many student volunteers. During the summer piolt program alone, we diverted nearly 1500 lbs. of food waste from the landfill and created "black gold" for our campus landscaping. This program is expanding – look for more to come in the fall!



*(Left): Students working together to create compost for the new GSU Campus Compost Program with the Center for Sustainability. (Right): Results from student composting.*

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## Afterschool Garden Program



*Fall 2015 Garden Teachers from left to right: Courtney Johnson, Brandon Hobbs, Kelsey Saunders, Amber Monroe, and Melanie Sparrow.*

Since 2013, the Center for Sustainability has teamed up with the Department of Health and Kinesiology, the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement, Bulloch County Parks and Recreation, the Board of Education, and Lee Family Farms to run an Afterschool Garden Program at the 5 elementary schools in Statesboro. Georgia Southern student volunteers teach 1st – 3rd graders about sustainable agriculture, plant biology and nutrition in the 10 week program, and the children grow a school garden from seed to harvest. New curriculum, dedicated student volunteers, a successful nutrition program, and a bountiful harvest each semester all add up to create a fun learning environment for the young gardeners of Statesboro's elementary schools. Our Afterschool Garden Program was featured in [Georgia Magazine](#) in July 2015!

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## Residence Hall Recycling Incentive Program



CFS worked with Housing in Fall 2015 to implement a campus-wide Residence Hall Recycling Incentive Program. During Operation Move In, new residents received green recycling bins to jump start the program. In Fall 2015, residents won 87 prizes for filling up their recycling cards (10 punches wins a prize) and deferred 6,090 gallons of recycling from the landfill. The program is gaining momentum and we hope to have recycling bins in every suite in all eight residence halls in 2016.

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## Tailgate Recycling



*Alpha Omicron Pi sorority volunteers at Georgia Southern (48) vs. Citadel Bulldogs (13) home game, 9/19/2015, a victory for the Eagles and the environment!*

Fall 2015 football season for the Eagles was *True Blue and Green Too* with improvements to the tailgate recycling program. CfS coordinated Tailgate Recycling at each home game in partnership with the Department of Facilities Services and Athletics Facilities, not to mention the help of hundreds of student volunteers from Greek Life, Student Government Association, Environmental Biology classes and more. The "True Blue Recycling Crew" collected #1 & 2 plastic, aluminum cans and cardboard, and kept a whopping 4 tons of material out of the landfill!

Greek Life launched a new program, *Greeks Go Green*, in Fall 2015 and recycled at the Greek Row tailgates. The fraternities competed through the season to see who could recycle the most. Total collection averaged 166 lbs. a game and a season total of 827 lbs. Go Greeks!

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## GreenFest





October 3, 2015 saw the 3rd Annual GreenFest, a free sustainability festival for all ages held on the courthouse lawn in downtown Statesboro. We welcomed new activities and vendors including:

- The 1st Annual Pallet Challenge
- Practical workshops: build your own native bee house; aquaponics system for your plants; tie dye cloth napkins; and learn to grow microgreens
- 40+ vendors including some downtown shops
- Live radio broadcast

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## Georgia Campus Sustainability Network



In November 2015, Cfs participated in the annual Georgia Campus Sustainability Network conference held at Middle Georgia State College in Macon. Georgia Southern University was well represented with 7 students, faculty and staff in attendance. We all enjoyed learning from the other universities present, as well as sharing Georgia Southern University's sustainability advances. Cfs presented the following talks and posters at the conference:

- Engaging Students in Sustainability through Afterschool Garden Programs – Melanie Sparrow and Brandon Hobbs.

- Residence Hall Recycling Incentive Program – Dr. Lissa Leege and Maggie Fritze.
- Campus Gardens and Food Waste Composting – Scott Blair and Alexcia Taylor.
- Funding Sustainability with Student Sustainability Fees: Campus Collaborations are Greater than the Sum of their Parts – Dr. Lissa Leege and James Grigg.

For more information, visit the [Center for Sustainability](#).

*Student Sustainability Fees at Work!*