



Thursday April 19th, 2012

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Eat Local Month

Here in the Lowcountry, we are blessed with an abundance of delicious local food. Take Lowcountry Local First's (LLF) Eat Local Challenge for the month of April and invest in our local food system.

When you sign up for the challenge, you get to choose your Eat Local goal(s) for the month of April. You could aim to buy 10% more local food than you usually do, learn to can or put up seasonal produce, or dine out at restaurants that source locally produced food. Check out our [Farm Fresh Food Guide](#) for a list of farmer's markets and CSAs in



Charleston Coffee Shop Sustainability Survey Results

Last week, we went to a handful of the coffee shops in the downtown area to learn more about their efforts to encourage sustainable practices in their business. Here is a brief highlight:

[Black Tap](#) recycles and supports the regional and local economy by:

- buying honey from South Carolina,
- buying coffee roasted in South Carolina, and
- purchasing their pastries locally.
- They also work to maintain impressive energy efficiency by using their multitude of windows for natural lighting and cross-circulation more than electric lighting and AC.
- They only turn on the AC in the summer and use electric lighting for a couple hours of the day! It creates a clean, fresh atmosphere for customers while saving energy.
- They offer a safe area to leave bikes and they are hoping to supply even more secure bike parking for staff and customers soon.

[Kudu](#) recycles and supports the regional and

our area

Print out this scorecard

Be sure to register and LLF will help you meet your goals, sending you recipes, Local Plate Specials from local restaurants, tips and tricks for eating local, and more.

As you meet your goals, submit pictures, stories, or data to LLF . We will include all submissions in a drawing for a subscription to The Local Palate. We will also post submitted pictures on the LLF Facebook page and may publish your story!

Green Tips:

Use safe cooking materials. Microwave ceramics or glass, not plastic. Here are three of the safest materials to use on the stove: cast iron, enamel coated cast iron, and stainless steel.



Want a cheaper, safer, and

local economy by:

- **buying coffee that is roasted in neighboring North Carolina and purchasing their pastries locally.**
- They also offer a shed to [secure bikes](#) for customers and staff.
- Once a month, they [host Green Drinks](#) events which serve as a networking opportunity for those interested in environmental discussion and brainstorming.
- They have an exceptional incentive for customers to use reusable mugs as well. [If customers bring a mug purchased from Kudu, they will receive a refill of any beverage for only \\$1.50](#) which saves at least a dollar each time. Remember to bring in a reusable mug if you visit Kudu!

When first walking into [Hope and Union](#), their [use of natural light was pleasantly noticeable.](#)

- Their [LEED certified building](#) creates a relaxing atmosphere as well as it helps the environment.
- **They recycle and buy local candy and pastries as well.**
- Hope and Union also offers a unique incentive for customers to use reusable mugs rather than disposable ones. [They only charge the small prices for any drink a customer orders, despite the size of their reusable cup.](#)
- **When customers do not bring in reusable cups, they are given compostable corn cups which are easier on the environment than Styrofoam or plastic.**

My last stop for the survey was the [Starbucks](#) located on Calhoun Street. We highlighted their corporation's Green Report a few weeks ago but I wanted to see what our local store was practicing.

- **They recycle their milk jugs.**
- They keep their lighting dimmed to

delightfully fragrant green-cleaning alternative? Try lemons! Lemons mixed with salt form or baking soda can form very efficient cleaners for household needs. Click [here](#) to learn more about this mighty citrus!



Next time you need new furniture, new electronics, new... Well, the next time you need almost ANYTHING, check Craigslist and any nearby yard sales first. Buying gently used items is the most energy efficient way to recycle because nothing has to be reproduced or transported very far.



Consider switching to a natural gas water heater and save approximately \$500 dollars a year on your energy bills!

reduce energy use and

- buy beans that are roasted in South Carolina.
- They offer a dime discount for customers with reusable cups.

I commonly heard while doing this survey that most coffee shops are willing to save their coffee grinds for any customer who would like to collect them for composting as long as they know who will pick them up and when they will be collected. If you are interested in receiving FREE, nutrient rich coffee grinds to enhance your compost, let your favorite local coffee shop know and there is a good chance they will be more than happy to help!!

Also, remember to talk to your favorite businesses and ask them how they are working to become more sustainable. It makes it easier for them to keep environmental efforts a high priority when they know their customers are concerned. As customers, what we care about matters. We can efficiently steer business practices in a sustainable direction so keep voicing environmental concerns!



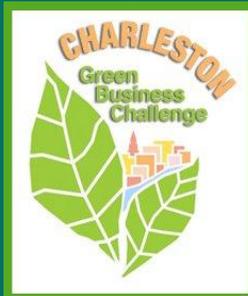
Plan Your Dot Image for May 5th to Spread Climate Change Awareness

When Bill McKibben visited Charleston a couple weeks ago, he told our community about his "Connect the Dots" project. On May 5th, people around the globe will take pictures holding an image of a dot near evidence of climate change impacts on local communities or evidence of climate



Sources: RealSimple.com

Green Business Challenge Update:



GBC Year 2 Participants

Summary (still finalizing)

75 participants
6.7+ million sq. feet
180 sq. feet to
3.5 million sq. feet
5700 average sq. feet
39 - Baseline
Average
8 to 85 Baseline

protection and sustainability of the earth. We want to show Charleston's support for this project so we encourage anyone interested to participate!

[Click here to learn more.](#) One idea for a location local citizens could organize a dot image would be on one of our beaches that has experienced rising sea levels and increased erosion. Another idea is to host a dot at a community garden or a green roof or a wind turbine. If you are interested in organizing a dot location for May 5th, let us know and we will help promote it on the Green Connection!

"And at each of those rallies, from Kenya to Canada, from Vietnam to Vermont, someone will be holding a...dot. A huge black dot on a white banner, a "dot" of people holding hands, encircling a field where crops have dried up, a dot made of fabric and the picture taken from above -- you get the idea. We'll share the images from around the world and give climate change a human face -- we'll hold up a mirror to the planet and force people to come face to face with the ravages of climate change." --Bill McKibben



Shopping to Swapping!

Bartering is back in! The struggling economy is causing some of us to question consumer habits and ask ourselves what we *really* need to buy versus unnecessary purchases. One of the beneficial outcomes of this economic crunch is that more people are looking into buying used products and new networks are emerging to help people find what they need. One "swapping" network that is particularly popular is the [Freecycle Network](#). It helps people find others in their local community seeking a swap arrangement. Here are some

Range 65 - Goal Average

1. Auto Sound Specialist / Alternative Energy Systems
2. Sustainability Institute - 113 Calhoun
3. Hawthorn Suites
4. Sustainability Institute - GreenHouse
5. Southern Atlantic Solar
6. Meadors
7. Morris Financial Concepts Inc.
8. McKellar & Associates, Architects
9. DwellSmart
10. Charleston Water System
11. Blackbaud, Inc
12. A.C. Corcoran Elementary
13. Daniel Island Academy
14. Charles Ramberg Furnituremaker
15. City of Charleston 75 Calhoun
16. SCDHEC - EQC Region 7
17. Money with a Mission
18. Kiawah Island Community Association - Maintenance
19. Sustainable Energy Solutions
20. Natural Designs Woodturning, LLC
21. Duvall
22. Whitesides Elementary School
23. Chastain Construction
24. Holiday Inn Express and Suites
25. Charleston Charter School of Math and

other great sites to post wanted items or items you are willing to swap:

-Home Exchange: <http://www.u-exchange.com/>

-UISwap: <http://www.uiswap.com/>

-Barter: <http://www.swaptreasures.com/>

-Swap Online: <http://www.swap-online.com/>

And see below for a clothing swap happening this Saturday at Prime Chiropractic!



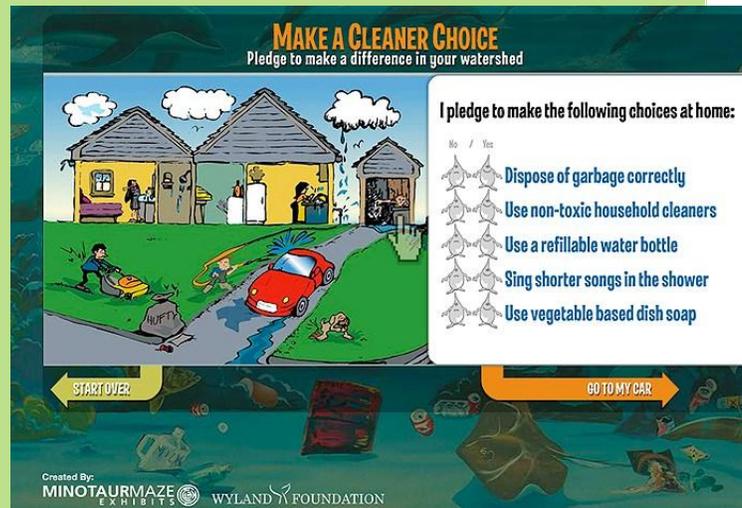
Water Conservation Challenge Announcement

Anyone who kindly registered prior to March 29th needs to reregister for Charleston's Water Conservation Challenge if they want to count towards the City's progress. We apologize for the inconvenience to any of those who registered early! We greatly appreciate your participation in this challenge and hope you will continue to represent our City's efforts!!

We were #3 at the beginning and we have dropped to #5 in the competition with surrounding cities... We can definitely come back though! Please tell your friends about the challenge!

[Click here to preview the challenge and register for a reminder.](#)

- Science
26. **Circular Congregational Church**
 27. **DHEC OCRM**
 28. **Burke Services Inc.**
 29. **Stantec**
 30. **Waste Services LLC**
 31. **Stubbs Muldrow Herin architects**
 32. **Notso Hostel**
 33. **City of Charleston Parks and Recreation Departments**
 34. **Total Life Care**
 35. **Art Spaces Design & Marketing**
 36. **Laffo & Associates, Inc.**
 37. **Charleston County School District Bridgeview**
 38. **The Vision Center at Seaside Farms**
 39. **BCD Council of Governments**
 40. **American College of Building Arts**
 41. **Preservation Society of Charleston**
 42. **Mt. Pleasant Academy**
 43. **Durlach Associates**
 44. **Wild Dunes Resort**
 45. **Wonder Works**
 46. **Blue Acorn**
 47. **Carolina Green Fair/Two Fish Enterprises**
 48. **Boeing**
 49. **Crop Up**
 50. **Verde**
 51. **Charleston County Parks Commission Headquarters**
 52. **SPARC**
 53. **Charleston County Housing Authority**
 54. **Charleston County Aviation Authority**
 55. **The Art Institute of Charleston**
 56. **GrowFood Carolina**
 57. **McMillan Pazdan**



Around Charleston Events

Earth Day Celebration

April 21st

Prime Chiropractic

2313 Ashley River Road

12 - 2 pm

Free

-Neighborhood Clean up

-Planting

-Natural products from local vendors

-Clothing Swap

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Earth Day Celebration 2012

Saturday, April 21st

11am-5pm

Shelter Cove Community Park

Hilton Head Island

Presented by Hilton Head Monthly and Experience Green

BRING AN OLD LAPTOP FOR RECYCLING - RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION!

Eat Local Month Event: Chef's Potluck

April 22nd

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Middleton Place

Highly accomplished chefs will be partnering with

- Smith Architecture
- 58. MUSC Dental School
- 59. Johnson Controls
- 60. Crescent Homes SC, LLC
- 61. Lowcountry Local First
- 62. City of Charleston City Hall
- 63. Honest-1 Auto Care
- 64. Frances Marion Hotel
- 65. KICA Recreation
- 66. KICA Security
- 67. IFA-ROTORION
- 68. KICA Administration
- 69. Grubb & Ellis/WRS
- 70. Alcoa Mt. Holly
- 71. Watson Tate Savory Liollo Architecture
- 72. Colleen Condon LawFirm LLC
- 73. Charleston County School District 75 Calhoun
- 74. Dennis Corporation
- 75. Nelson Mullins

Does your business provide a service that the Green Business Challenge would be interested in?

Email us to add your business to the resource list.

Kudos to

Charleston Waterkeeper

who diverted 280 pounds of recyclable materials from the landfill

growers to produce an array of entirely local dishes at this Eat Local Month event. These sustainable dishes will be accompanied by live music, cooking demos, and a variety of local beers, wines and specialty cocktails will make this a memorable celebration.

Pelican Sculpture Unveiling
 April 25th
 5 p.m.
 Mount Pleasant Shem Creek Park, Shrimp Boat Lane
FREE Admission
 Shem Creek Park will be the permanent home for an educational art nine-foot tall Pelican Sculpture created by School of the Arts



students using marine debris collected in local waterways. The unveiling will include School of the Arts students who created the sculpture, along with Mount Pleasant residents and students who played a role in its creation.

Growing South Carolina Wind: Expanding the Supply Chain in the Palmetto State
 April 25th
 5 - 7pm
 North Charleston City Hall Council Chambers
 Free

Topics will include:

- the status of wind energy development in South Carolina
- wind industry trends
- commercialization of new and advanced technologies
- retooling and diversifying existing companies
- workforce development

Contact Chris Carnevale at chris@cleanenergy.org or (843) 225-2371 for details.

and produced less than one bag of trash at their annual Water Ball!

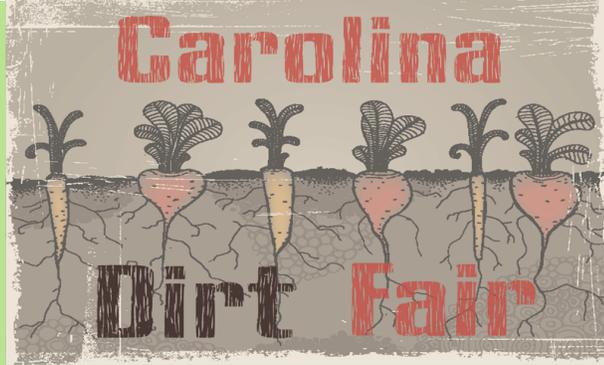
Stay In Touch!

The Green Connection is always eager to hear your feedback and advise. Please **Email** us and let us know what you think!

Like what you see and want to keep up to-date with the green community events in Charleston?

Subscribe!

Also, don't forget to check us out on Facebook:



1st Annual Carolina Dirt Fair Event:

Kick-Off Cook-Off

April 27th, 2012

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Grow Food Carolina

\$20 per person, \$15 for students

The Dirt Fair weekend will kick off with a cook-off competition between students from Trident Tech and the Art Institute! Click [here](#) for more information and click purchasing!

1st Annual Dirt Fair Event:

Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Saturday April 28th, 2012

7 p.m.

James Island County Park

Who doesn't love a movie in the park? Come out for a film lineup presented by numerous nonprofits and businesses such as Half-Moon Outfitters, Earth Force, and the South Carolina Aquarium. The films will cover a variety of topics concerned with the future of sustainability. There will be food and music also! Click [here](#) for a full line up of the films and events for the evening along with ticket information.

1st Annual Carolina Dirt Fair Event:

The Dirt Fair!

Sunday April 29th, 2012

12 - 5 p.m.

Mullet Hall on John's Island

\$10 per person, kids are free

This will be the largest celebration of local foods in South Carolina on the last day of the fair! There will be events for the whole family from workshops on gardening, backyard chickens, joining a community-supported

agriculture program, composting, canning, preserving, food storage, and water conservation. Everyone can learn something from this event! On top of all this exciting sustainable living education will be live Bluegrass music... Click [here](#) to see a full lineup of events and information about how to participate as a vendor or supply a demo or workshop

Some of the additional activities at the Dirt Fair include:

- Local Farmers & CSA Sign Up - LLF
- Numerous Gardening Demos
- Canning & Cooking Demos
- 8 Cooking Demos - Schedule will be announced this week.
- Competitive Obstacle Course for all ages provided by On Purpose Adventures & CCPRC
- KidsZone with Rock Wall and other amusements.
- An awesome Bluegrass line-up from Awendaw Green

Click [here](#) for information about being an exhibitor, click [here](#) for tickets, and click [here](#) for more information about event schedules.

Audubon Lecture: Birding in Cuba

May 9

6:30 - 7:30 pm program

6 pm refreshments

Charleston County Main Library, 68 Calhoun St.
2nd Floor Auditorium Free

Ms. Cornelia Carrier, longtime board member and past President of the Charleston Natural History Society, will present a program on her birding trip to Cuba in 2011. The largest island in the Caribbean, Cuba has a wide variety of habitats, and around 370 species of birds have

been reported there (with 28 endemic species). The highlights of the talk will be the birds she observed, of course, but Cornelia will also describe her experiences with transportation and life in Cuba.

Wildlife and Industry Together (WAIT)

May 15th

Renewable Water Resources Greenville, SC

As South Carolina becomes increasingly developed, there is less land available for wildlife. Corporate landowners can offset habitat loss by devoting their under-utilized lands to wildlife. This is achieved by matching site employees who are interested in wildlife with community partners to develop habitat plans. The WAIT program assists corporations, employees, facility neighbors and other groups who desire to develop environmental projects in partnership with each other. Click [here](#) to read more!

SC Wildlife Federation is Hosting Palmetto Pro

Birders 2012: Congaree National Park

June 23-24th, 2012

\$150 per module

Have you ever wanted to become a Certified Pro Birder? If so, now is your chance. SC Wildlife Federation is offering multiple modules during 2012 and if you enroll in four, you can be certified. Students will learn how to identify common and rare bird species in South Carolina, how to design bird-friendly landscapes, and develop a deeper understanding of the roles of Citizen Science in protecting bird species. The dates above are for the first module and you can click [here](#) to learn more about up-coming modules.

Attention Teachers:

Free Take Action Today Event!

Take Action Today is coming to North Charleston! Take Action Today is a comprehensive environmental education workshop customized for South Carolina teachers and environmental educators. Attendees will be given a tour a landfill and a recycling facility. They will also receive training on and a copy of "Action for a cleaner tomorrow," a national award-winning kindergarten through 12th grade, activity-based, interdisciplinary, environmental curriculum supplement. "Action" is correlated to the state's science standards. **The workshop will be held at the North Charleston Elementary School on Tuesday June 26th** and there is only space for 100 teachers to attend so make sure to register soon! Click [here](#) to reserve your spot.



