

THINK GREEN NEWS

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE



For more Think Green information, visit: green.upstate.edu

April 2015

Earth Day

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015!

EARTH DAY AT UPSTATE

Think Green Team Members will be staffing informational tables around campus.

Join us at the following locations to learn more about mixed recycling in general and at Upstate.

OCRRA supplies will be available.

Wednesday, April 22nd from 11am – 1pm

- UH Downtown – 2nd Floor Lobby
- UH Community – Basement Café Lobby
- Weiskotten Hall – 9th Floor Café Lobby
- Campus Activities Building (CAB) – Lobby
- Widewaters Parkway – 2nd floor landing

Send us a picture of you and your department members being Green on Earth Day at green@upstate.edu for possible inclusion on the website or newsletter.

Do you still have an old mercury thermometer at home? If so, bring it to OCRRA's Rock Cut Road site year-round and receive a \$5 Home Depot card in exchange. Have one at work? Contact Environmental Health & Safety (#464-5782).

How do you know? The Mercury ones have a SILVER filling (not red or blue, those contain alcohol and can be placed in the trash).



EARTH DAY ON THE STREETS

OCRRA – Earth Day Litter Clean-Up:

Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th

[Click here](#) to register a team for a location of your choice

or

Grab your colleagues during lunch or after work and spend a few minutes cleaning up around your Upstate Medical University work location.

EARTH DAY IN THE COMMUNITY

April 15th – 22nd

☀ **Earth Week at SUNY ESF** [Click here](#)

April 18th

☀ **Syracuse Grows Resource Drive** [Click here](#)

☀ **Party for the Planet - Rosamond Gifford Zoo**
[Click here](#)

☀ **Earth Day Celebration at Baltimore Woods Nature Center** [Click here](#)

April 19th

☀ **EarthFest** [Click here](#)

☀ **Earth Day Half Marathon & 5Km** [Click here](#)

You Ask, We Answer...

Q: Are the brown paper towels used all over campus recyclable?

A: Great question! They are not recyclable because they are already made from post-consumer (i.e. recycled) material which is a short-fiber paper that is difficult to recycle any further.

YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER ISN'T JUST FOR PAPER ANYMORE!

Understanding 'Single Stream' or 'Mixed' Recycling...

Over the years, the separation of recycled materials has evolved. Do you remember when we first started recycling at home? We were required to separate each type of recycling in separate containers. The hauler would drive up to our house and pick these up, putting paper in one section of the truck, plastic in another, etc.

Now we have single stream recycling. All recyclable material can be mixed together in the same container. Locally, Waste Management runs a single stream recycling facility under the name of Recycle America. Recycle America is a huge indoor facility where recycled material is separated and baled with like material. Here is a link to the video: <http://ocrra.org/how-do-i/recycle/recycle-at-home>

Many people still think that only paper can be recycled in the blue bins and other recycling vessels throughout our Upstate campus. This thought may inhibit a lot of recycling. Next time you have a can, plastic or other recyclable material, mix it in your blue bin at home, the recycling container under your desk, or the 'dual stream' receptacles around campus.



Keurig Coffee Pods...

Is it Time to Rethink Our Morning Cup of Joe?

At present time, none of Keurig's K-cup coffee pods are compostable and only 5% of the 9.8 billion pods sold by Keurig in 2014 are made with recyclable plastic cups. The remaining 95% of K-cup coffee pods sold last year are made of multi-layered, non-recyclable plastic. If lined up end to end, the K-cup coffee pods sold in 2014 would encircle the equator 12.4 times, according to Murray Carpenter, author of *Caffeinated: How Our Daily Habit Helps, Hurts, and Hooks Us*.

In Keurig's 2014 annual sustainability report, Keurig states that 100% of K-Cup packs will be recyclable by 2020. In the meantime, Keurig has introduced the 'Grounds to Grow On' program, which converts Keurig brewed K-Cup packs into useable alternatives. Consumers must purchase a 'recovery bin' to collect and ship back the used K-cups, additional details available [here](#).

Sources: *Guardian News and Media Limited* [Article](#) *Keurig Sustainability Report Fiscal 2014* [Article](#)

Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. [Article](#)