

THINK GREEN NEWS

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE



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

May 2015

Upstate celebrated *Earth Day 2015!*

Members of the Sustainability committees helped spread the *Think Green* word by staffing display tables packed with recycling information from OCRRA at five locations. They answered questions about revised recycling within the county and promoted many of the special recycling programs Upstate participates in. Think Green Department Champions arranged campus clean-ups within their areas or did so in a community of their choice as part of the official OCRRA effort that weekend. Thanks to everyone who pitched in here and at home.



Top row from left: Community Campus with C. Thauvette; R. Janowski at the Campus Activities Building; Campus Clean-Up with J. McKeever, E. Peters, B.A. Mitchell, C. Roe, L. Phelan, R. Rokicki, & W. Thurlow. Bottom row from left: N. Schreher in Weiskotten Hall; Widewaters Parkway with D. Cullinan.

HIGH TECH WATER FILLING STATION

Tucked away in a hallway on the third floor of the Upstate Cancer Center is a high-tech water filling station, an Elkay EZH2O model, whose popularity is being tested. “It’s a pilot to see if people like them,” said Tom Pelis, Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Planning, and Chair of the Sustainability Task Force. “It is possible we will put them in the New Academic Building as well.”

In addition to a standard drinking spout and a rapid-fill dispenser for bottles and cups, the station features a digital readout of the number of disposable plastic bottles saved. In mid-April, the readout indicated close to **5,000**. “Each plastic bottle not used and thrown in the trash equals one less pound of carbon dioxide created,” Pelis said. For more information on the water fountain, visit: <http://www.elkayezh2o.com>



Did You Know?

An automatic dishwasher uses less hot water than doing dishes by hand - an average of six gallons less.

More info, click [here](#).

The Upstate Community Garden and Syracuse Grows Collaboration

The Upstate Community Garden is a 30-foot by 40-foot garden located in front of the Campus Activities Building. The garden was started in 2009 by Thomas Pelis, Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Planning and Chair of Upstate's Sustainability Task Force, as one of many ways Upstate has worked to increase sustainability. Students, under the guidance of Tom, have been involved in planting and maintaining the garden each year. The garden is used to plant a variety of vegetables, generating a supply of locally grown, pesticide-free, nutritious food.

This year Upstate Community Garden has become a member garden of Syracuse Grows. On April 28, volunteers at Syracuse Grows delivered mulch to the community garden. Prior to delivery of the mulch, Physical Plant helped set-up the garden by tilling and creating mounded rows for planting. A couple students then worked on pulling the weeds in preparation for laying mulch. After delivery of the mulch, students put a layer of newspaper down, followed by the mulch, spreading it along the garden pathways to help control weeds. At the end of May students plan on planting a variety of vegetables including squash, tomatoes, lettuce, beans, beets, and peppers.



Syracuse Grows is a volunteer-run organization established in 2008. Syracuse Grows works to build and help maintain community and school gardens by providing advocacy, programming, education, and gardening resources to support local community gardens. Each year Syracuse Grows has a Resource Drive in which gardening resources are obtained and distributed to community gardens. The Resource Drive is kicked off with the creation of a garden “wish list” in March that may include mulch, manure, compost, tools, seeds, seedlings, and volunteer labor. Syracuse Grows volunteers then work with community partners and sponsors to obtain and deliver the requested items in early spring.

Upstate's Community Garden is a prime example of sustainability and collaboration.

For more information on Syracuse Grows, click [here](#).

How to re-use or recycle plant pots, planter trays and buckets?

OCRRA: Accepts clean No. 5 plastic pots - the rigid plastic ones, not flexible No. 6 ones - in the blue bins.

Lowe's: Accepts all pot sizes, planter trays, and 1-or-5 gallon buckets.

Sollectio's Landscaping Nursery: Accepts 1-gallon or larger pots & 1-or-5 gallon buckets in good shape.

Lan's Flower Farm Inc.: Accepts all plant pots (preferably black ones) for re-use.

Sustain your health and the environment in May...

May 15th is National Bike to Work Day! May 20th is National Employee Health and Fitness Day!