



connections

FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Linking Greenville's Neighborhoods to Jobs and Open Space

City of Greenville, South Carolina

November 2013, Issue No. 20

Sustainability Spotlight

Less is More: The Sustainable Office

by Jaclin DuRant



Majora Carter

Home(town) Security

Monday, November 18
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Kroc Center

Majora Carter founded Sustainable South Bronx in 2001, when very few people were even talking about "sustainability." Today, vision and leadership are at the heart of her public radio series, *The Promised Land*, which introduces listeners to

passionate men, women and young people who are changing their communities with innovative thinking and intelligent effort. This **FREE** event will explore how we strengthen our community at the neighborhood and local business levels.

Click [here](#)
to add this event to your calendar.

There are many ways to develop a more sustainable lifestyle at home and on the go, but even folks who are "green" at home may have difficulty maintaining that lifestyle at the office. Switching over from single use products can be a simple, one-item-at-a-time way to begin to develop habits that can save you money and protect the environment while you are at work. Here are some tips on how to start: Look around your office and see which things you throw away on a regular basis. Ask yourself, is there another option?

- Do you drink coffee? Bring a reusable mug to work. While you're at it, store a small container of creamer in the office fridge and keep a well-sealed jar of sugar at your desk. If there's a coffee station, maybe others would be willing to pitch in to make it a more sustainable space. Getting rid of the single serve sugar and creamer packs and plastic stirring sticks can significantly cut down on the waste your coffee habit generates.

- What about all that plastic silverware? Tuck a reusable fork and spoon in a pouch and keep them in your desk drawer. Wash them at home and bring them back.

- Leftovers from eating out for lunch? Keep a small stash of reusable containers on hand and bring them to the restaurant to avoid taking home single use to-go boxes that then go directly in the trashcan.

- Bring your lunch in reusable containers.

- Hang onto that reusable water bottle and stay hydrated instead of purchasing less healthy options like soda in single use bottles.



- Save used paper clips, rubber bands, file folders, and other office supplies. There is no reason that these things can't be reused over and over again.

- Skip the paper towels. Hand dryers really do save paper. If your office isn't equipped with hand dryers, then just take what you need. Instead of four or five paper towels, dry your hands with one.

- Take only what you need. This is a great philosophy to live by! From ketchup packets to business cards and brochures, we throw out much of what we collect on a daily basis without thinking about it. These small things add up, and the best way to avoid ending up with a desk drawer full of useless items that need to be thrown in the trash is to not collect those things in the first place.

In addition to forgoing single use items, there are many ways to be more environmental at work; from turning the lights off when you leave your office to keeping a live plant on your desk that can brighten up your space and help increase air quality. No matter what you choose to do, it is important to bring a more sustainable mindset to the workplace.

West Side Fall Fair

The West Side Fall Fair was a big success thanks to participation of many volunteers, talents, vendors, and attendees. While the fair was lots of fun, it was also educational. Many of the booths provided attendees with access to and information about local community resources.

Included in the informational booths was a section dedicated to the ongoing West Side Comprehensive Plan. Updates to this plan are available on our [website](#), and are being presented to area neighborhood associations. The last public presentation of the draft plan will be **December 3, 6:00 pm** at the Kroc Center. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to help bring this amazing process to a successful close.

Thank You!

Special thanks to the following people and organizations that provided prizes and support for the West Side Fall Fair (*in no particular order*):

The Kroc Center
 Urban League of the Upstate
 Greenville Tech
 Arbor Day Foundation
 TD Bank
 Upstate Master Gardeners
 Clemson University
 City of Greenville
 107.3 JAMZ
 C. Michael Forsyth

Southernside Neighborhoods in Action
 West Greenville Neighborhood Assoc.
 West End Neighborhood Association
 Charles Henderson
 Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum
 Don Koonce
 The Children's Museum of the Upstate
 Metropolitan Arts Council
 Naked Pasta
 TTR Bike Rentals
 Pedal Chic
 Amanda Henry's Popcorn

*The West Side's
 Got Talent!*



West Side Talent Show

We all knew the west side was one of the most talented areas in the city, but now we have proof. Twelve performances offered a variety of ages, skills, and sounds that had the audience on their feet cheering more than once! Each participant had some tie to the west side, whether through family, residence, job, church, or school. Thanks to the talented individuals who made this exciting event possible. We could not have done it without you!

Prize packages were awarded to the top three winners:

- First Place - Warren Jackson (piano)
- Second Place - International Dance Academy (dance)
- Third Place - NoDayzOff (dance)

A short video sample (*about 5 minutes long*) of the talent show is available [here](#). A longer version (*more than 30 minutes*) is available [here](#).

Extra special thanks to MC Tone Hollywood from HOT 98.1. Special thanks also to our judges: Rhonda Rawlings from 107.3 JAMZ; local author C. Michael Forsyth; and Ginny Stroud with the City's Community Development Department.



The judges had a tough time choosing the top three performances.

Mobi-Rec
 AJ Whittenberg Elementary School
 Bethel Bible Missionary Church
 Boys and Girls Club
 Safe Routes to School
 SC Forestry Commission
 MC Tone Hollywood
 International Dance Academy
 Upstate Master Naturalist Association
 Salvation Army Corps
 NAACP

Thanks to everyone who handed out a flier or mentioned the fair to a friend. Thanks to all of our participants and to everyone involved in the Connections for Sustainability project.

West Side Connections,
 Winter Edition



 Forward to a Friend

The Winter edition of the West Side Connection newspaper is hot off the presses and available for download [here](#)!

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connections@greenvillesc.gov

Call us: 864.467.4570

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TREEmendous Day Celebration

"It's a TREEmendous Day in the City," a celebration of urban trees during the West Side Fall Fair, was a big hit! Featuring tree sapling giveaways, tree crafts, information and education about trees, and a tree planting workshop, the celebration had something for everyone. This TREEmendous Day kicked off the final phase of the TD Green Streets grant, which will include planting more than 100 trees along South Hudson Street and neighboring streets in Greenville's west side.

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