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## Upcoming Events

**Tuesdays 11am-3pm:** [Emory Farmers Market](#) (closed during school breaks)

**April 25-** [Community Food Symposium](#)

**May 6-** [Berry Bash](#)

**May 12-** [Emory University's Zero Landfill Waste Commencement](#)

**Congratulations graduates!**

## Emory Alumni

Interested in staying in touch with colleagues and classmates

# The Sustainability & Clifton Community Partnership Update Spring 2014 Newsletter

## Emory Named Top 'Green School' Among U.S. Universities

by Kimber Williams, Emory Report



Emory University has been named the nation's top "Higher Education Institution" by the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools in its annual "[Best of Green Schools 2013](#)" report.

The designation recognizes educational institutions and individuals across the country that demonstrate innovative approaches to school sustainability, environmental initiatives and a commitment to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ([LEED](#)).

The "Best of Green Schools" list honors recipients in 10 different categories, recognizing "exemplary leadership from schools, campuses, students and policy makers who are raising the bar when it comes to creating healthy, safe and resource-efficient schools," according to Rachel Gutter, director of the USGBC Center for Green Schools.

In awarding the category of "[Higher Education Institution,](#)" the USGBC noted Emory's commitment to maintaining "sustainability as one of its top priorities — to help restore the global ecosystem, foster healthy living and reduce the University's impact on the local environment."

"Emory is honored and delighted to receive national recognition from USGBC," says Ciannat Howett, director of Emory's [Office of Sustainability Initiatives](#).

"Sustainability has long been a top priority at Emory, where our vision is to develop and promote a model for healthy living here on campus that can translate to communities around the globe," she adds.

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involved in sustainability? Join the LinkedIn group [Blue and Gold Make Green](#) for the latest updates.

Emory's sustainability vision is to help restore the global ecosystem, foster healthy living, and reduce the University's impact on the local environment. More info at [sustainability.emory.edu](http://sustainability.emory.edu)



## Case in (Emory) Point: Developing Sustainability from the Ground Up

by Caitlin A. Marsh, Communications Intern, Office of Sustainability Initiatives

[Emory Point](#) is a mixed use development including retail and restaurant space as well as residential apartments, all conveniently adjacent to Emory University's main campus. Though parts of the development remain under construction, Emory Point is already garnering attention for its focus on sustainability. The entire development, through the combined efforts of Gables Residential, Cousins Properties, and Emory University, is seeking [EarthCraft](#) certification. This unique certification, developed by the sustainable building think-tank, [Southface](#), in partnership with the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, focuses on addressing water, energy, and environmental impacts unique to the southeastern United States. Emory Point is built on land leased by Emory as part of Emory's efforts to provide additional housing close to campus, which reduces traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

"From our creation in 1978, Southface has looked at the impact of the built environment on energy, water and other natural resources, and sought science-based solutions," says Dennis Creech, Emory alum and co-founder and executive director of Southface. The Emory Point development seemed a natural place to integrate some of these solutions, as both Gables Residential and Cousins Property have previously partnered with Southface on sustainable construction projects. "Emory's strong commitment to sustainable development was [also] critical in setting clear, achievable environmental goals for the project," Creech adds. With this combination of experience and commitment backing the project, the ambitious decision was made to pursue EarthCraft certification across the entire development through the EarthCraft Community program, encompassing both residential and commercial construction. "The fact that Emory Point showcases mixed use is certainly a highlight," Creech notes. "Few projects successfully combine the two."



This development represents Emory University's continuing commitment to community partnerships and sustainability in both new and existing campus features. It's a commitment that has not gone unnoticed even outside the Emory community. "When I travel to national conferences and meetings, people often comment on Emory's leadership in sustainability," Creech says. "What impresses me is that this leadership stems from faculty, staff and students. The city of Atlanta, too, is gaining national recognition for sustainability through such programs as the Better Buildings Challenge, a partnership with the city, business and nonprofit community, as well as the city's Power to Change sustainability plan. Hopefully our region will follow the example set by Emory and the city."

The green features of Emory Point are more than a tribute to the work of the developers and university. Residents and businesses also take pride in the sustainable features of their community. "I was having dinner recently and asked our servers if they knew that the restaurant was 'green,'" Creech says. "They were proud to tell me a few of the green features as well as their menu favorites."

The second phase of construction at Emory Point is underway and slated for completion in 2015. Meanwhile, the green features of this sustainable community can be enjoyed in the existing shops, restaurants, and green space already completed.

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## Ray C. Anderson Foundation Awards \$180,000 Grant to Emory for Sustainability Scholar-Leader Program

by Beverly Clark, Emory Report

The [Ray C. Anderson Foundation](#) has awarded \$180,000 to Emory University for a groundbreaking program to educate students in leadership and sustainability.

Over three years the grant will establish a Sustainability Scholar-Leader Program to challenge selected students' intellectual and personal growth through a blend of formal coursework, leadership theory, hands-on research and practical experience, says John A. Lanier, foundation director.

"Business is lagging in the adoption of sustainable methods and goals," says Lanier, citing a recent worldwide study. "The people who head large companies don't yet see the business case for sustainability and how it adds to the bottom line."

In the Emory program, interns will be placed with Atlanta businesses, government bodies and nonprofits. They will study the challenges faced by these leaders, the courage needed for cutting-edge solutions, and the ways real-world solutions can emerge from their coursework.

Heading the program will be a new "Distinguished Teaching Fellow" in sustainability and behavioral change who will develop four new courses that will include student engagement with on-campus innovation as well as creative action in the city.

"The Emory campus will become a living laboratory for driving positive change, by engaging the local community through partnerships and internships that will allow the students to put theory into application in real-world assignments," says Ciannat Howett, Emory's director of Sustainability Initiatives.

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## Green Lab Program at Emory Aims for Sustainable Science

by Jillian Kenny, Intern, Office of Sustainability Initiatives

In March of 2013, Emory University created the Green Lab Team to assess the sustainability of Emory's research and teaching laboratories and develop opportunities for labs to implement more sustainable practices. The Green Lab Program was developed as a partnership between Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Environmental Health and Safety Office, Campus Services, and Procurement and Payment Services, with additional collaboration from Fisher Scientific.

A pilot version of this program was unveiled in February at a highly successful kickoff event. The Green Lab Team presented the program to interested labs from all over Emory. Pilot labs will conduct initial reviews using a Green Lab checklist, which highlights roughly forty items under four target areas:

- energy and water efficiency and conservation
- recycling and waste reduction
- chemicals
- procurement

Labs will then create a plan to commit to actionable items for the remainder of 2014, and have the opportunity to apply for funding toward green initiatives in the labs. Additionally, these pilot labs will have the chance to contribute their own ideas and suggestions throughout the year as the Green Lab Team continues to improve the

program before its launch across campus in 2015.

Enrollment for the pilot program remains open until April 30, 2014. Interested labs should email any questions to [greenlabs@emory.edu](mailto:greenlabs@emory.edu).

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## Cox Hall Pilots Zero Landfill Waste Program

by Savannah Miller, Intern, Office of Sustainability Initiatives

By 2015, Emory University hopes to divert 65% or more of waste from landfills by reusing, recycling, and composting. Emory is making significant strides towards that goal with a new pilot program in Cox Hall dining. Cox Hall is now a “zero landfill waste” facility. All items purchased in the dining hall are recyclable or compostable, and trash cans have been removed from immediately outside the food court exits. Instead of trash cans, composting and streamlined recycling bins with updated signage are available to Cox customers.

Sustainability Programs Coordinator, Emily Cumbie-Drake, feels that the biggest



challenge faced with the transition has been consumer education. The Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI) and Emory Dining have updated recycling and composting signage in order to clarify “what goes where,” but diners are still adjusting to the change. Cumbie-Drake is positive, however, that with more education, the Emory community will continue to learn how to properly sort waste at Cox and will do so with enthusiasm. Emory Dining staff are also still working with vendors to switch some

of the recyclable items in Cox (such as sushi boxes and condiment wrappers) to compostable alternatives to make waste diversion even more streamlined.

Cox Hall’s transition is part of a greater Emory “Zero Landfill Waste” trend. Large-scale events and socials, such as Dooley’s Week and alumni networking nights, have also made the pledge. In the future, OSI envisions trashcan-free facilities across campus, and a greater understanding by the community of the difference one can make by choosing items that will never end up in a landfill.

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## School of Medicine Reexamines Energy Use with Grants to Green

by Aubrey Tingler, Intern, Office of Sustainability Initiatives

As a particularly active participant in the implementation of Emory University’s [Climate Action Plan](#), Emory University’s School of Medicine has acquired funding for an energy assessment through the [Grants to Green](#) program offered by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. This program helps non-profits in the Atlanta metro area assess and increase their facilities’ efficiency by “identifying and implementing energy, water, and resource-efficiency upgrades, and adopting sustainability best management practices.” The savings to the nonprofit from utility bills can then be redirected to support the core mission of the nonprofit. Under the Grants to Green program, the nonprofit is provided a free assessment by Southface Energy Institute to identify areas for improvement. The School of Medicine (SOM) Climate Action Plan

committee, led by Executive Associate Dean William Eley and including SOM staff members Barbara Buehrer and Shelby Smith, coordinated the Grants to Green application.

According to Smith, the SOM chose to pursue an assessment for the James B. Williams Medical Education building, located just behind Dobbs University Center on Woodruff Circle. This building is a particularly interesting candidate for the grant because it consists of three wings; two were built in 1918 and retrofitted when the third wing was added in 2007, bringing the entire building to LEED Silver standards.

The School of Medicine specifically requested an assessment of the air conditioning and heating (HVAC) and lighting systems. Smith says the school identified these as areas that could be improved in efficiency, particularly the HVAC system associated with the old and new wings of the building. The School of Medicine believes the overall air flow in the building could be more efficient and better regulated within the guidelines of Emory's campus building temperature policy, which states that buildings must remain between 68 and 76 degrees Fahrenheit.

Southface will conduct its assessment of the SOM in May of this year, and make recommendations on ways to improve energy efficiency. The initial assessment process has already begun; Southface utilizes the Department of Energy's Energy Star Portfolio Manager, which Smith now updates monthly with utility data from the School of Medicine. This data will be used to determine the effectiveness of any upgrades that the SOM implements following the assessment. Collaboration with Emory's Campus Services Energy Strategy team is underway, and personnel have already begun discussing possible light fixture replacements and redirection of ventilation systems in the building.

All these efforts are in accordance with the overall goals of Emory's Climate Action Plan, which seeks to reduce total university greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020. The efficiency upgrades expected at the School of Medicine are anticipated to help meet this goal.

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## **Graduates to wear 'plastic' gowns**

by Leslie King, Emory Report

What do a plastic water bottle and a graduation gown have in common? At Emory, they're now joined at the hip—literally.

For Commencement 2014, all undergraduate gowns and some professional doctoral gowns will be made completely from recycled bottles, according to Michael Kloss, Emory's chief of protocol and executive director of the Office of University Events.

Available for the first time, an estimated 2,900 "GreenWeaver" gowns are to be used this year, representing 66,700 plastic bottles diverted from landfills. The fabric is described as being softer to the touch than traditional polyester.

The gowns, along with other regalia for graduates, were available at the Grad Fair held Feb. 26–27 at Emory's Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Other facts about the fabric from the maker, [Oak Hall](#):

- They are made from 100 percent post-consumer plastic bottles.
- Approximately 23 bottles are used to make each gown
- The gowns are wrinkle resistant and lightweight.
- They can be recycled after graduation.

[Read the full article](#)

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## Better Buildings Challenges Sparks Energy Efficiency for Atlanta

by Christian Bowers, Intern, Office of Sustainability Initiatives

The Department of Energy's [Better Buildings Challenge](#), unveiled in 2011 by President Obama, aims to help commercial and industrial buildings become 20% more energy efficient by 2020. Under this program, businesses across the United States could save \$40 billion in energy costs annually, enabling them to reinvest this savings in growth, new technology, and expanding their workforces. Cities across the United States have partnered with the Better Buildings Challenge to encourage businesses to invest in energy efficient technology and monitor their community's progress towards the 2020 goal. Atlanta has become a regional leader, even opting to add water conservation to the program due to regional water supply challenges.



As of December 2013, Atlanta had 129 buildings participating in the challenge; after only three years of involvement, Atlanta has saved 169 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, 86 million gallons of water and avoided the emission of 56,376 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Participation in the Better Building Challenge is helping Atlanta achieve its long term goals of reducing waste, emissions, water and energy use, increasing the number of energy efficient buildings, creating economic opportunities, enhancing the city's reputation as a leader in sustainable innovation, and inspiring greener, vibrant urban communities.

Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM) joined the Atlanta Better Building Challenge in 2013, continuing Emory's commitment to leadership and progress on environmental issues. EUHM's energy audit was completed in the fall of 2013, and a list of energy conservation measures was compiled by energy efficiency consultants. The first project that EUHM has chosen to implement is a retro-commissioning of the hospital, encompassing twenty of these recommended measures. At nearly 1.5 million square feet, the Midtown Hospital building is among the largest of the buildings participating in the challenge. Large hospitals are highly energy- and water-use intensive; reducing energy use on this scale in a hospital setting poses challenges, but also offers opportunities for considerable impact. Through completion of the retro-commissioning project, EUHM is expected to reduce its carbon footprint and save in electricity and water costs, with a short return on investment. Emory is committed to building and operating facilities sustainably. EUHM's participation in the Atlanta Better Building Challenge demonstrates Emory's commitment to ensuring that existing buildings remain energy efficient and sustainably maintained.

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