

### \*Smart Choices Campaign

Living and Learning: **Smart Choices** for a **Smart Community**

The Living and Learning program aims to teach community members how they can live more sustainably. Each month will have a theme geared towards sustainable living, and information and resources will be provided. For each theme, there will be a list of resources and a "citizen science" section. Citizen science is an opportunity to learn ways to conserve resources through games, activities, and hands on experiences. We will have at least one community event related to each monthly theme, such as a recycling event or a stream monitoring workshop. This section of the website will be updated throughout the year as new resources and events are added. Community input is welcome, and any questions or suggestions can be directed to [Rebecca.keefer@dunwoodyga.gov](mailto:Rebecca.keefer@dunwoodyga.gov) or [Becca.timms@dunwoodyga.gov](mailto:Becca.timms@dunwoodyga.gov).

#### **January: Water Conservation**

Imagine going just one day without turning on your water tap. The Atlanta metro area uses a large amount of water daily, and each small amount saved by Dunwoody residents adds up fast. This month's theme aims to educate community members on where their water comes from, and raise awareness on the many ways to conserve water.

- **Background Resources:**

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper: <http://www.chattahoochee.org/>

Metropolitan North GA Water Planning District: <http://www.northgeorgiawater.org/>

Georgia Water Coalition: <http://www.garivers.org/gawater/index.html>

Water Use It Wisely: [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)

- **Citizen Science:** Use the information on the following links to analyze the water use in your home. You can then conduct a home water audit in order to find the best ways to save water in your household. We'd love to hear about your results!

WaterSense: [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

Home Water Audit:

<http://www.northgeorgiawater.com/files/HouseholdWaterAudit.pdf>

- **Community Event:**

**What:** Rain Barrel Workshop and Living and Learning Kickoff Reception

**When:** Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm

**Where:** City of Dunwoody City Hall, Mayor and Council Chambers, 41 Perimeter Center East, Dunwoody, GA

#### **February: Smart Choices**

The products on the store shelves are just a small representation of the materials and resources that are used to create them. While consumption is a part of our lives, it is possible to choose products that use smaller amounts of renewable and non-renewable resources than their competitors. These types of products are also essential for maintaining our own health. This month will provide information on assessing the full life cycle cost of common products, so that you can make smart choices as to which products best fit the values and needs of your family, and can help you to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

- **Background Resources:**

Labeling and Certification:

Ecolabels: [www.eco-labels.org](http://www.eco-labels.org)

Electronic Product Environmental and Assessment Tool: [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net)

Energy-Star® Rating System: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

Global Ecolabeling Network: [www.gen.gr.jp](http://www.gen.gr.jp)

Green Seal Certified Products: [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

NSF International (Certification System): [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

Transfair USA: [www.transfairusa.org](http://www.transfairusa.org)

Green Purchasing:

Co-op America, National Green Pages:

[www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages](http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages)

Earth Animal: [www.earthanimal.com](http://www.earthanimal.com)

Ecomall-Environmental Shopping Center: [www.ecomall.com](http://www.ecomall.com)

Global Exchange/Fair Trade: [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)

One Percent for the Planet: [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org)

Professional Wet-cleaning Network: [www.tpwn.net](http://www.tpwn.net)

Responsible Shopper: [www.responsibleshopper.org](http://www.responsibleshopper.org)

Reusable Shopping Bags: [www.reusablebags.com](http://www.reusablebags.com)

- **Citizen Science:** Use the resources above to find more sustainable alternatives to some of your commonly used products. You can also complete a cost benefit analysis to see if a switch to a more sustainable product will work for you.
- **Community Event:** Smart Choices Grocery Store Tour, Date, Time, and Location TBA

### March: Recycling

We've all seen a recycling bin at some point or another, but what exactly is the point, and where do all of those recyclables go? The theme for this month will be the benefits of recycling compared with extracting virgin resources, and the many different items in your household that are able to be recycled.

- **Background resources:**

Earth 911: <http://earth911.com/>

NSF's Recycling Guide: [www.nsf.org/consumer/recycling](http://www.nsf.org/consumer/recycling)

Electronics Industries Alliance:

<http://www.ecyclingcentral.com/recycler/index.php?state=GA&>

Collective Good International: [www.collectivegood.com](http://www.collectivegood.com)

The Charitable Recycling Program: [www.charitablerecycling.com](http://www.charitablerecycling.com)

ReCellular: [www.recellular.com](http://www.recellular.com)

Wireless Recycling: [www.wirelessrecycling.com](http://www.wirelessrecycling.com)

- **Citizen Science:** Conduct a home waste audit by making a list of everything you put into your trash for one week, or even separate recyclables in order to see the volume of recyclable materials compared to trash.
- **Community Event:** TBA

### **April: My Own Back Yard**

This month will focus on the unique plant and animal habitats found in Dunwoody, in an effort to help community members appreciate what's in their own back yards.

- **Background Resources:**  
<http://www.gadnr.org/education>
- **Citizen Science:** Create an inventory of the different flora and fauna you see in your own yard, and turn your list into City Hall to be compiled into a citywide inventory; <http://www.nwf.org/WildlifeWatch/>
- **Community Event:** TBA

### **May: Gardening and Landscaping**

While yards and gardens are part of our landscape, they can have a negative effect on surrounding natural areas. This month will be focused on making smart choices for your garden and lawn that will keep other users in mind, whether it is a plant, a person, or a fish downstream.

- **Background resources:**  
National Wildlife Federation: <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat/Garden-in-an-Environmentally-Friendly-Way.aspx>  
Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides: [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)  
EPA, Indigenous Plants Landscaping: [www.epa.gov/greenacres](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres)  
Gardens Alive!: [www.gardensalive.com](http://www.gardensalive.com)  
USDA, Home Conservation Advice:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home>
- **Citizen Science:** Bee Hunt! <http://www.discoverlife.org/bee/>
- **Community Event:** TBA

### **June: Energy**

If you have never been shocked by a high energy bill then consider yourself lucky! Not only do energy efficiency improvements help shrink your bill, less energy used means that less coal, water, and other natural resources are used producing electricity for your home. June is a great month for focusing on energy efficiency, because it is one of the warmest months when bills are the highest. Use that extra

incentive to educate yourself on what you can do to improve your own energy efficiency, and please update us on what you accomplish and what positive results that you see!

- **Background resources:**
  - National Geographic: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/energy-conservation/miller-text/1>
  - Alliance to Save Energy: [www.ase.org/consumers](http://www.ase.org/consumers)
  - Energy Savers: [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)
  - Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
  - Green-e Renewable Energy Certification: [www.gree-e.org](http://www.gree-e.org)
  - The Power is in Your Hands: [www.powerisinyourhands.org](http://www.powerisinyourhands.org)
  - U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)
- **Citizen Science:** Check out the “Kill a Watt” meter from City Hall to calculate the energy usage of your household appliances. Translate those calculations to potential savings and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- **Community Event:** TBA

### July: Water Quality

An overwhelming amount of chemicals materials make their way into our waterways daily. This occurs from point sources (such as a pipe discharging pollutants into a river) as well as non-point source (such as parking lot water runoff containing motor oil and trash). These activities have consequences for water quality in Dunwoody, as well as for our downstream neighbors.

- **Background resources:** <http://water.usgs.gov/owq/>
- **Citizen Science:** <http://www.adopt-a-stream.org/>
- **Community Event:** Workshop/training on stream water monitoring

### August: Storm water Management

- **Background Resources:**
- **Citizen Science:** Storm Drain Stenciling, making a list of what goes down the storm drain and where it ends up
- **Community Event:** TBA

### September: Think Global, Act Local

- **Background resources**
  - <http://www.epa.gov/pick5/>
  - <http://www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/>
- **Citizen Science:**
  - [http://www.galaxyzoo.org/how\\_to\\_take\\_part](http://www.galaxyzoo.org/how_to_take_part)
- **Community Event:** TBA

### October: Food

This month's food theme will focus on food: what's in it, where does it come from, and what can be done to make smart food choices.

- **Background resources:**  
<http://www.eatwellguide.org/i.php?pd=Home;>  
<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/ofp/ofp.shtml>  
Eartheasy: [www.eartheasy.com](http://www.eartheasy.com)  
Equal Exchange: [www.equalexchange.com](http://www.equalexchange.com)  
Green Restaurant Association: [www.dinegreen.com](http://www.dinegreen.com)  
Seafood Choices Alliance: [www.seafoodchoices.com](http://www.seafoodchoices.com)  
TransFair USA: [www.transfairusa.org](http://www.transfairusa.org)  
Whole Foods Market: [www.wholefoods.com](http://www.wholefoods.com)
- **Citizen Science:** Grow your own herbs and track their growth
- **Community Event:** TBA

### November: Transportation

Transportation touches our lives on a daily basis. While most of us rely on cars for getting around, Dunwoody offers a variety of other transportation options. While you may not be ready to sell your car at the end of the month, you will learn about some transportation alternatives for Dunwoody residents, and think about possibilities for using alternative modes of transportation.

- **Background resources:** <https://mirideshare.org/en-US/savings.aspx>;  
<http://perimetergo.org/perimetershuttle>;  
<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/biketowork.html>  
Car information-Mileage, Hybrids: [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)  
Electric Vehicle Association of America: [www.evaa.org](http://www.evaa.org)  
Environmental Guide to Cars and Trucks: [www.greencars.com](http://www.greencars.com)  
Transportation Almanac-Energy, Pollution: [www.bicycleuniverse.info](http://www.bicycleuniverse.info)
- **Citizen Science:** Look at transportation options in Dunwoody, make list of trips that could be changed to a lower impact transportation mode, list possible carpools, complete worksheet on emissions
- **Community Event:** TBA

### December: Greening Your Home

With kids out of school and a bit of time off work, December is a great month to focus on smart choices that you can make for greening your home. Some of these choices are related to the holidays or other celebrations throughout the year, and others are more general and can be applicable year-round.

- **Background resources:**  
EPA Recycle City (Games and Resources): <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/>  
Earth 911, Holiday Recycling Information: <http://earth911.com/>
- **Citizen Science:** Home energy audit
- **Community Event:** TBA

