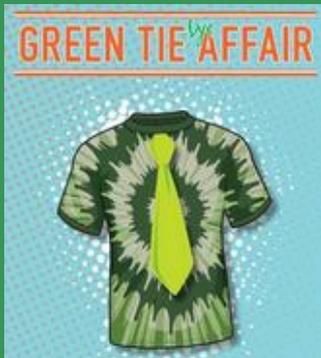


15th Annual



2011 *Green Tie Affair* was a TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!! In the midst of a literal storm, it was moved to a new location from a totally different "storm." But, several hundred of our past and new friends joined AEC at Matthew's Bar & Grill on Thursday, April 28, 2011.

Thanks to everyone's help we raised more than \$30,000 in one night to benefit the programs of the AEC.

Thanks to Auction donors for the 10 live auction items and more than 85 silent auction items in addition to new t-shirts from AEC.

Special thanks to our food and beverage providers:

Good People Brewery
JohnnieGreenSeeds Wine
Higher Ground Roasters
Coca-Cola
Brick & Tin
Bayou Deli
Rojo
Homewood Gourmet
Continental Bakery
Bottega & Highlands
Cosmo's Pizza

Huge thanks to sponsors:
Mercedes Benz Intl, USA
Southeastern Renewables



In this newsletter...

- 15th Annual Green Tie Affair TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!
- New Event Recycling Trailer Available For Your Event
- New AEC Website For Easier Navigation and Resources
- Southeastern Renewables to Recycle Storm Debris
- Recycling Center Renovation Moving Slowly
- My View: EPA Should Regulate Mercury in Air

Please consider supporting AEC with a Donation
Follow [this link to contribute](#)

New Event Recycling Trailer Ready!

If you've recently attended community events such as Magic City Art Connection, Do Dah Day, and Acoustic Café, then you've probably recycled through the AEC's new [Event Recycling Kit](#). Funded through the ADEM Alabama Recycling



Fund in partnership with the Jefferson County Department of Health, the Event Recycling Kit consists of a 5ft x 8ft enclosed trailer containing 100 collapsible metal-framed recycling bins. When placed next to trash receptacles, the specially designed lids, prominent signage, and see-through bags make recycling an easy choice.

We're excited to be providing this equipment to local special events and festivals. It brings us a step closer in achieving the State of Alabama's goal of recycling 25% of the solid waste generated. The Kit is available on a first-come, first-served basis. There are complete instructions included on how to incorporate recycling into your event, how many volunteers you will need, what to do with the recycling once it's collected, and how to maximize recycling at your event.

This Kit was part of the 2010 ADEM Grant awarded to

EBSCO Industries
OMYA Alabama
Building Environments
Coca-Cola Bottling United
Perret Financial Group
Star Recycling
The Acoustic Cafe
Brasfield & Gorrie
Mountain High Outfitters
Grow Alabama
Medical Properties Trust
American Cast Iron Pipe
Metro Monitor
The Dunn Companies
Modern Brand Company
USGBC of Alabama
WastePro
Ragsdale, LLC

Renovation Moving Slowly



Just a

quick update to let you know that plans for renovating the Downtown Birmingham Community Recycling Center are still moving along, just a little slower than planned. Dunn Construction has agreed to lead the project and have had several meetings with AEC staff and Board. We have come close to finalizing costs and the Board is putting together a small fund-raising campaign to raise additional funds to finish the project.

Original plans called for renovating the existing building but were deemed to costly for scope and need of the Center. Current plans will be to remove the building and replace with a recycled shipping container and construct the fence around the Center. This will give us the ability to better provide for Center staff and volunteers and make it modular so we can move it somewhere else when it is no longer needed in downtown Birmingham.

Be watching for your chance to

THIS KIT was part of the 2010 ADEM Grant awarded to Jefferson County Department of Health. Be watching for more information about other components of the grant that will be hitting the ground this summer, a part of the \$275,000 grant that AEC was able to secure for recycling in our area.

Follow [this link](#) to read more about this Kit.

Storm Debris To Be Recycled

The tornados that swept through the South on April 27th of this year uprooted families, homes, and livelihoods. In its wake it left thousands of trees and homes strewn across the community. In Birmingham, the devastation impacted several communities. Rather than burying this material, the City of Birmingham has taken a bold step to recover this material and reuse or recycle as much as possible. Southeast Renewables (SER), was chosen to help divert up to 80% of Birmingham's tornado debris away from landfills. SER will recover, recycle and find ways to reuse the material. This industry leading move will save Birmingham money, extend the life of the existing landfills and establish a new and innovative method to revitalize communities affected by disasters.

SER has developed a partnership with the AEC to provide third party monitoring of recycling operations at the Birmingham facility operated by SER in addition to recycling education and outreach programming. Michael Churchman, Executive Director of the AEC stated "We've been working on waste reduction issues for more than 25 years and are proud to be a part of this project. Birmingham is setting an example of a shift in mind-set that will result in a cleaner community. This project also shows how closely tied the environment and economy are with creation of new local jobs and capturing these materials to inject back into the market."

SER's state of the art Material Recovery Facility will not only help the environment, it will also provide approximately 40 local jobs in the Birmingham market. "We look forward to employing people from local communities destroyed by the tornado and lending a hand in a time of need" said Ted O'Shea, Chief Operating Officer, Southeast Renewables.

aeconline.org Website Undergoes Update

For many years, you have looked to the AEC website for up-to-date resources and information about environmental issues in Alabama. Now, that will be an easier task. Visit the site to see these changes:

www.aeonline.org

As a part of implementing the new Recycle Alabama campaign, the organization realized it was time for an update. The new site



participate in the important transformation of the AEC Recycling Center.

[Link to website](#)

Environmental Groups Travel to EPA to Comment



On May 26th, a contingent of environmental groups traveled to Atlanta to support the EPA's call for regulations on mercury and other air toxic pollution from power plants. The Alabama Environmental Council, Alabama Rivers Alliance, GASP, and American Lung Association were represented. Michael Churchman, Director of AEC was invited to share public comments. Those comments have been published in the Bham News on June 5th and can be found here: [My View: EPA Should Regulate Mercury in Air](#)

attempts to be easier to navigate and find the information you want and need. It also attempts to streamline information and present it in a format that is less cluttered.

"I'm very pleased with what [The Modern Brand Company](#) and [Self Brothers Technology](#) were able to provide for our new look," commented Executive Director Michael Churchman. "For years, I've wanted a cleaner approach to presenting our information. I like the new Recycle Alabama section the most. The new Drop-Off Search Engine is something I've wanted to see for a number of years."

The Recycle Alabama campaign is a component of the 2010 ADEM recycling grant from JCDH. That area of the website is also the landing page for www.recycleAL.com, which is going to help the organization with a better state-wide resource for recycling information in Alabama. This updated section now provides much more information than just information about the AEC Recycling Center and can serve many other programs across Alabama.

This is also being done in conjunction with adding new content areas to the website. Many people look to AEC with information about what is going on in the environmental community. This new format, and planned expansions into other areas, will enable people to find the information they are looking for, whether it is something AEC is working on or a partner that you will be pointed toward.

"AEC cannot work on all the issues facing Alabama today," said Churchman. "However, we recognize the importance of serving as a conduit to that information. This website revision will help us continue our mission of engaging citizens toward sustainable living and stewardship of the environment."



Find us on [Facebook](#)

(Please note our move from *AEC Recycling* Facebook page to this *Alabama Environmental Council* page. Please "Like" this page)



Find us on [Twitter](#)

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