

September 2013

Electronic Newsletter of the AEC

Business Recycling Program



In its first year of operation, the Recycle Alabama [Business Paper Recycling Program](#) has collected and recycled over 120 tons of paper. This program is ideal for small businesses and non-profits. For \$25/pick-up or a monthly fee, we will place up to 4 paper recycling carts and service them on either an as-needed basis or a regular schedule. For more info: recycling@aeconline.org



The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is the largest environmental film festival in the United States. It sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving you feeling INSPIRED and MOTIVATED to go out and make a difference in your community and the world. It's a festival for activists by activists.

Thanks to funding from national partners, the festival goes on tour across America to reach audiences across the country. This is the 6th year to be hosted in Alabama by the Alabama Rivers Alliance and the AEC.

October 3rd in Huntsville, and October 17th in Birmingham.

<http://www.aeconline.org/2013wsff>

Bibb-Chilton Regional Recycling To Launch This Month



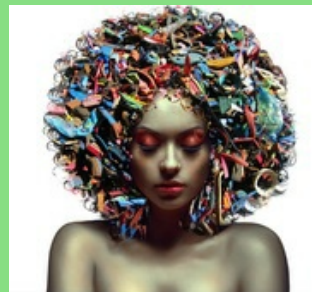
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Please consider supporting AEC with a Donation
Follow [this link to contribute](#)

RE Fashion event for Recycling Center

This is an original fashion and awareness event that proves being environmentally friendly is not only easy but always in style. This unique awareness event will be held at the trendy Aloft Hotel SoHo Square in Homewood and solely benefit the Alabama Environmental Council in their efforts to restore the Birmingham Recycling Center. The affair is being conceptualized by local makeup artist and hair stylist D. Alex Tino. Models will be presented wearing exclusive designs by organic Birmingham fashion line, Earth Creations and jewelry by local boutique, Charm.



\$10 Advance tickets are available at Aveda Experience Center at the Summit. \$12 tickets available at the door.

Find more information at www.aeconline.org/refashion

Solar Tour comes to Blount County

The Solar Tour is a 3 ½ + hour guided walking tour that includes 4 passive solar houses with numerous solar and efficiency features. Viewing a nearby ranch house may be scheduled before afternoon or after the morning guided tours. This house is retrofitted with a battery grid tie solar PV system, an attached green house and geothermal heat pumps. The Tours will be at 9 am or 2 pm Saturday, October 5; and 2 pm Sunday, October 6. Come join us for a brown bag lunch discussion and a film at noon on Saturday between the tours. The 4

is excited to have assisted establishing new recycling opportunities in Bibb and Chilton counties. [Bibb-Chilton Regional Recycling](#) is a partnership of state and local entities that encourages citizens in Bibb and Chilton counties to recycle materials into new products. This project was funded by the ADEM Recycling Fund, and is the result of cooperation among many partners, including the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, AEC, Alabama Department of Corrections, Bibb County Commission, Chilton County Commission, Chilton County Solid Waste Authority, Bibb County Schools, Bibb County Chamber of Commerce, and municipalities in Bibb and Chilton counties.

Renovation Update



Our Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center is long overdue for an upgrade and with your help, should be under way soon! With a creative, modular design by Williams Blackstock Architects, we plan to demolish our outdated building at 25th Street & 2nd Avenue North and replace it with a repurposed cargo container--which we will recycle into a fully-functional office.

Every penny contributed to this campaign goes directly toward the costs of upgrading the Downtown Center.

All donations are 100% tax-deductible. Donations of \$1,000 and above will be recognized on a plaque at the Center. Corporate Sponsorships are available.

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passive solar homes have unique designs, one is insulated with bales of wheat straw, another one is a dodeca-yurt, one features clerestory windows, and another one is built underground.

To register, please e-mail SolarTourAlabama@gmail.com for a registration form. Questions? Call Daryl @ 205-429-3088 or visit [this link for more information](#).

School Recycling Program

In partnership with the Jefferson County Department of Health and utilizing ADEM Recycling Fund grants, the AEC is launching a school recycling program throughout Jefferson County. This program will include recycling education, recycling program



setup, and enough bins for over 100 schools. Understanding that each school system will be logistically different, the AEC will work directly with participating schools to determine how recyclables will be removed from campuses once it is collected. To learn more about how your school can participate, call or email the office at (205)322-3126, ext. 102 or Recycling@AECOnline.org

Public Service Commission Participation

It is the mission of the AL PSC to ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate, and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical. However, the public does not always have access to full information or representation as strongly as the regulated companies. Recent public hearings were initiated for Mobile Gas, Alabama Power, and Alagasco. Two Op-ed pieces by AEC have been published recently. Visit [this link](#) to read these as well as the statement presented to the PSC. And, stay in touch with AEC if you would like to play a more active role in our energy program work.

<http://www.aeonline.org/energy/legislation>

Upcoming Events

- [Southern Exposure Film Festival](#), September 24-26 in Birmingham, Mobile, and Fairhope. Sponsored by the Southern Environmental Law Center, Southern Exposure is a new film fellowship program that aims to raise awareness about important environmental issues in Alabama.
- [Cahaba River Fry-Down](#), September 29th at Trussville Springs. Hosted by the Cahaba River Society, this event consists of a fish fry competition, live music, and activities for children of all ages.
- [Birmingham Electronics Recycling Day](#), October 23rd, 6am-2pm on short 20th Street North between Birmingham City Hall and Linn Park. This is a free opportunity to recycle old televisions, VHS tapes, computer monitors, and more!
- [Moss Rock Festival](#), November 2-3 at the Preserve in Hoover. Come enjoy artists inspired by nature, their eco-district featuring green living ideas, products, services and organizations, live music, family-friendly bike rides, and much more.

Alabama Environmental Council
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