

New Changes at Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center



Due to the increasing costs of shipping glass to out-of-state markets for recycling, we have temporarily stopped accepting glass while infrastructure improvements are being built to make it a more economical process. Meanwhile, we have recently begun accepting all grades of plastic bottles and containers (no bags or Styrofoam). The best part of this news is that we can now commingle all plastics and leave lids on bottles and jugs. Now that we no longer bale plastic, we've begun baling cardboard. Baling cardboard allows us to sell it at a higher price, thereby helping the Recycling Center stay in the black and continue our educational programs. Visit AECOnline.org for more information. Visit the Recycle Alabama [Facebook page](#) to tell us your ideas on reusing/upcycling glass!

Earth Creations to Donate 10% of Sales to AEC



Use the code "AEC10" on [their website](#) from Dec 9-16th and Earth Creations will donate 10% of those sales. About them: Garments are still colored with natural clay dyes using the original process. From the first "Alabama Dirt Shirt" tinted with that infamous red clay, earth creations has grown into a full line of organic T-shirts dyed in a rainbow of colors for men, women, and children. We also have a complete casual wear line for



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Make a Difference!
DONATE

Please consider supporting AEC with a Donation

One Public Hearing a Year at PSC

The Public Service Commission holds one public meeting a year to hear how Alabama Power is meeting environmental compliance and to report on the pre-approved rate structure. That meeting will take place in two parts on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 in room 900 of the RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street in downtown Montgomery. First is the Rate CNP - Environmental Compliance informal meeting at 9:30am, and second is the Rate RSE (Rate Stabilization and Equalization) and Rate CNP (Certified New Plant) informal meeting at 2:00pm. Both will have the Alabama Power Company presenting materials first and allow a short time for some questions from the public.

In Alabama, we do not have a public stakeholder process or much opportunity to ask for information, so this is an important meeting at the PSC concerning Alabama Power's decisions and planning. Please consider attending and asking questions if you would like to learn more about the process. The Alabama Environmental Council staff will be present and are available if you have more questions: energy@aeconline.org or 205-322-3126.

[Link to more information](#)

Alabama Solar Knowledge (ASK) Project

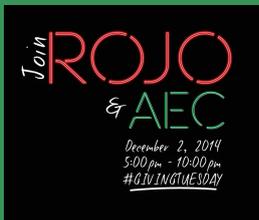


AEC and UAB Department of Government have established the Alabama Solar Knowledge (ASK) Project to map data collected

women made from sustainable fibers.

Over the years, our mission hasn't changed. Nature is still our greatest inspiration, and protecting the Earth remains our passion. We strive to create high-quality, eco-friendly clothing in a sustainable manner, and still make it something beautiful that you'll love to wear day after day. We work to give back to our community in meaningful ways, helping out good causes and supporting environmental efforts. Our tagline says it all: eco. pure. simple.

Special Thanks to ROJO!



On December 2nd, Rojo - Birmingham was kind to offer AEC to invite our friends and family and celebrate the success of 2014. You came out in huge numbers and they offered 10% of all sales on the night. This was a great opportunity for AEC to gather and Rojo to promote their sustainable, local practices. Please go by and enjoy their wonderful food and flavor and be sure to mention an appreciation for hosting AEC. If you don't know about Rojo, Owners Laney DeJonge and Clark Lopez would welcome you to their casual neighborhood restaurant at 2921 Highland Avenue S. in Birmingham, Alabama. Featuring both Latin and American cuisine, Rojo is the perfect place to unwind with friends for lunch, dinner, or late night drinks. Rojo also serves a delicious weekend brunch Saturdays and Sundays from 11am until 3pm.

If you would like to host AEC at a similar function, please let us know!

Connect with AEC:



Find us on

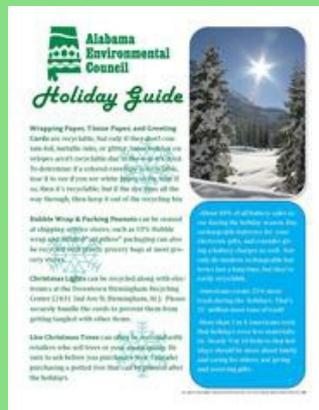


Project to map data collected from solar businesses in and near Alabama, and also from Alabama citizens. It is envisioned that the mapping format can be used in later phases to display energy

consumption and electricity generation data and possibly link to energy efficiency resources. AEC will guide the data collection portion of the project and UAB will manage the mapping component. Currently there is no central repository of information on Alabama's Solar installations or businesses.

We're asking businesses to tell us about their firms as well as information about each Alabama solar installation they've worked on [through this survey](#). Citizens who aren't in the solar industry are also invited to add information and thoughts by filling out the comments section on the [Installations & Opinions survey](#). And, if you're aware of solar installations, you can also complete an entry there for each solar installation you know about. More information [on our website](#).

Recycling During the Holidays



Americans create 25% more trash during the holidays. That's 25 million more TONS of trash! A big part of this waste is the 2.6 billion holiday cards, 4 million tons of gift wrap and bags, and 33 million Christmas trees sold every year. Check out our Holiday Guide on [our website](#) for tips on how you can both reduce waste and recycle this holiday season.

DONATE AS A HOLIDAY GIFT

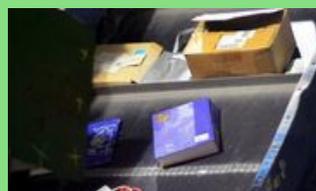
2015 POWER-UP Set for February 25th



Alabama Environmental Council will host its third POWER-UP Energy Forum on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at Birmingham Southern College. This is an open, public forum about energy across our state that will attract presenters from Alabama and around the region and participants from Auburn to Huntsville, Gadsden to Tuscaloosa. Conversations center around efficiency and conservation, alternatives, renewables, and a transparent process for stakeholders to have input in choosing our energy future in Alabama. At past forums, speakers have given local, regional, and national perspectives about what is working across the Southeast and offer ample time for conversation and interaction. Find more [info here](#).

Books Getting a Second Life

When you recycle paper and cardboard at the Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center, they get sorted and baled for the commodities market at Waste Pro's facility off Highway 79 near Tarrant and Pinson. It's an



amazing system of people and machines working almost nonstop to process the hundreds of tons of material. One item that folks don't always think to recycle is books, both hardcover and softcover. While not every facility can handle the inherent density of books, Waste Pro's

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beastly hogger devours them like Thanksgiving dinner, allowing the fibers to be recycled into new products. To learn more about this process and other aspects of their operation, read this from [AL.com](#).

School Paper Recycling Bins Available

Through a grant from the ADEM Recycling Fund and in partnership with the Jefferson County Department of Health, the AEC purchased paper recycling bins available to any K-12 school within Jefferson County to expand the Recycle Alabama Campaign. These bins, as well as a pickup service, are provided at no cost to the school. For more info, contact our office at Recycling@AEOnline.org or (205)322-3126, ext. 102.



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