

What's Going on with Glass?

Glass_Recycling 2

This is a question we hear every day at the Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center. After Argos (formerly LaFarge NA) stopped accepting glass at their Calera cement manufacturing facility over a year ago, our only option to continue recycling glass was to transport it to markets in Georgia and Tennessee due to space and equipment limitations. We've been very fortunate to have the support of American Recycling (a Waste Pro company) in handling the expensive logistics of collecting, storing, transferring, and transporting glass out of state. Unfortunately, this process is simply too expensive to maintain in its current form.

We have two opportunities in the works:

- 1) American Recycling has agreed to pursue building out necessary infrastructure at their facility, but they are waiting for approval from their corporate office.
- 2) The AEC is actively pursuing a new location for the Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center. Ideally, the new space will be spacious enough for us to process glass for local use, but that's not all. Our vision for the new space will house an environmental learning center including workshop/classroom space, community resources, a tool share, eco store, sustainable living demonstrations, AEC offices, and more.

If you have resources to assist with finding and creating this space, then we'd love to hear from you. Contact our office at

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donate1



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2015 POWER-UP Set for February 25th

Power-Up-Final tight



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. Preliminary results from the Alabama Solar Knowledge opinion survey (more info below) will be presented. [Speakers](#) will give local, regional, and national perspectives about what is working across the Southeast and offer ample time for conversation and interaction. [Register now](#), consider [sponsoring the event](#), or find more [info here](#).

Join AEC for this year's Green Tie Affair

Make plans now to attend the 19th Annual Green Tie Affair on **Friday, April 10th**, at Old Car Heaven. This is our largest FUN-draiser of the year and you will not want to miss out. Always one of the highlights of Spring, Green Tie Affair is a gala with food, beverages, music, and silent and live auction. Being early in Earth

2013 AEC GTA FB copy



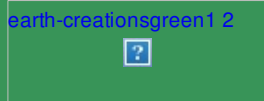
from you. Contact our office at (205)322-3126 or Recycling@AEOnline.org.

Recycling Director Elected President



We're excited to announce that AEC Recycling Director, Alan Gurganus, has been elected President of the Alabama Recycling Coalition (ARC). Formed in 1992, the ARC is a statewide organization that endeavors to unite, educate, and promote recycling in Alabama. As an organizational member of both the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) and the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), the ARC assists its members and the public improve their waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting operations. Although comprised primarily of solid waste management practitioners in the public and private sectors, membership is open to anyone interested in recycling. The ARC hosts various workshops and conferences, including the ARC Recycling Conference & Expo in Prattville, July 15-17, 2015.

Thank You to Earth Creations



Thank you to Earth Creations and all of you that shopped with them in December using the code "AEC10" on [their website](#). 10% of those sales were donated to AEC to help support our work engaging citizens toward sustainable living and stewardship of the environment.

If you support the work of the Alabama Environmental Council and YOUR BUSINESS would like to host a benefit to support our expanding programs, please contact Michael Churchman at info@aeonline.org or 205-

Month, this is the perfect event to kick off your celebration. \$50 tickets will go on sale soon, so mark your calendar now so you won't miss this wonderful event!

If your business would like to purchase a block of tickets or sponsor the event, costs range from \$250-\$5,000.

Opinion Survey Available Now and Alabama Solar Knowledge (ASK) Project

[ASK Screenshot](#)



Your opinions are important to the future of solar in Alabama and will help shape the state's energy policies. Please fill out this [very brief survey](#), and share it with your friends and colleagues. Once responses are gathered and evaluated, we will post the results on the new website at www.ASKAlabama.info.

In addition to the short opinion survey, the Alabama Solar Knowledge (ASK) Project also seeks data from businesses in and near Alabama - as well as from Alabama citizens - in order to map solar businesses and installations. As we watch our neighbor Georgia add energy from the sun, the map can give us a baseline picture of where we stand. It is envisioned that the mapping format can be used in later phases to also display energy consumption and electricity generation data and possibly link to energy efficiency resources.

Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Assoc., Alabama Solar Assoc., and AEC are guiding the data collection portion of the project and UAB Department of Government will involve students in the management of the mapping component. We're asking [businesses](#) to tell us about their firms as well as information about each Alabama solar [installation](#) they've worked on. If you know of any businesses or installations that should be included, contact info@ASKAlabama.info.

Business Recycling Program: Great for Small Businesses and Non-Profits

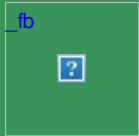
Paper Carts (original)



Our [Business Recycling Program](#) continues to gain momentum. The unique characteristic of this program is that it's easy for small businesses to participate and it's affordable. Many small businesses don't have the space for a recycling dumpster which is why we provide 96-gallon carts for paper recycling. We can place up to four carts (or more, if needed) at your business and service them on a schedule or as-needed basis. We even have a non-profit rate. Although we don't have bins or carts for other recyclables, we can help you recycle

322-3126.

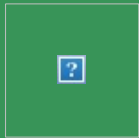
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anything accepted at our [Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center](#). To sign up for service or for more information, contact our office at (205)322-3126 or Recycling@AEConline.org.

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@AEConline.org or (205)322-3126, ext. 102.



*Depending on location, some schools may need to contract pickup services with a private hauler.

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