

New Interim Executive Director



AEC Board of Directors is happy to announce that AEC's Recycling Director, Alan Gurganus, has been appointed the position of Interim Executive Director. This comes after the unexpected resignation of the former AEC Executive Director. Alan is working with the Board of Directors to ensure AEC continues to organize and empower Alabamians to preserve the environment in a manner that is mindful of current and future generations.

Welcome Back AEC Americorps Member

AEC is proud to welcome back Laura Quattrochi for her second Americorps service term. In addition to serving closely with AEC staff on energy and recycling programs, Laura will be focusing heavily on volunteer coordination and community outreach. To volunteer, email Laura at AmericorpsAEC@gmail.com.



Bessemer Recycling Center Now Open



In this newsletter...

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New Recycling Center Hours & Wish List



To increase the efficiency of the Community Recycling Center, operating hours have been reduced due to a depressed recycling commodities market, unexpected moving expenses, higher operating costs, and a funding shortfall. The new hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10am-2pm and Saturday, 9am-4pm. We are closed on Sunday

In partnership with the City of Bessemer and with the help of ADEM Recycling Fund grants, AEC is happy to announce the opening of the newly improved Bessemer Recycling Center. The unique design of this recycling center allows visitors to drive through the building to drop-off recyclables under shelter. The [list of accepted materials](#) is growing, and will grow more in the very near future as additional equipment and funding becomes available. However, we anticipate this list to expand in the very near future as additional equipment and funding becomes available. The Bessemer Recycling Center is located at 1601 1st Ave N and is open Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm.

Lend a Hand at the Recycling Center



Volunteers are needed at the AEC Community Recycling Center Tuesday-Friday from 10-2 and on Saturday from 9-4. We have a variety of opportunities for volunteers, including helping patrons unload their recycling, processing recycling in the warehouse, litter control, landscaping and maintenance, general upkeep, creative reuse, workshop development and facilitation, and more. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your community and to show your support for AEC! Please wear closed-toe shoes and be prepared to work in the elements. AEC will provide ear and eye protection, gloves, sunscreen, and safety vests. Don't forget your water bottle!

and Monday. Sorry, but we cannot accept materials left outside the gates after hours. In order to increase our hours of operation, [donations are needed](#).

As a non-profit recycling center, we pride ourselves on our willingness to accept recyclable materials with zero to negative value. Unfortunately, the value of traditional recyclables isn't enough to both cover the expenses of operating the recycling center and processing hard-to-recycle materials. Therefore, we charge processing fees for certain materials like glass, batteries, monitors and televisions. \$1 for 18-gal tote of glass; \$1 per pound for batteries; \$15 per computer monitor; and \$.50 per pound for televisions. Punch cards are available for purchase at the Recycling Center to help make your visits quick and easy.

In order to continue to add to the accepted materials list, we need equipment. [Visit our website](#) for a list of needed equipment or to make a donation. Such equipment includes an EPS Densifier to allow us to accept Styrofoam, a Bulb Eater to allow us to accept fluorescent lamps, a skid steer loader to increase glass processing efficiency, and more.

Alabama Rivers Alliance and AEC to Host 9th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival



Join us at Red Mountain Theater Company on October 23rd, 2-6 pm to learn new ideas from a selection of inspiring environmental films, experience the adrenaline adventure films, and celebrate the natural and wild world. Together, we'll explore the issues and movements with leading environmental activists and professionals, filmmakers, and celebrities.

Each year, in addition to the selection of films from the national film festival, we showcase films produced locally about issues specific to Alabama and the Southeast from the Southern Environmental Law Center's Southern Exposure film fellowship program. This innovative summer fellowship brings emerging filmmakers from across the country to tell authentic, engaging stories about Alabama's environment and the people who cherish it, from the mountains to the coast.

If you are interested in sponsoring our 9th annual event, please contact Kelly Marshall at kmarshall@alabamarivers.org. More information, including tickets, can be found [here](#).

Solar Home Tours Abound

To sign up, visit our listing at [Hands On Birmingham](#) or email AmeriCorpsAEC@gmail.com

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There will be THREE [solar tours in Alabama](#) this year!

- Oct. 1 – [Huntsville](#)
- Oct. 8-9 – [Blount County](#)
- Oct. 29 – [Birmingham](#)



The Huntsville tour will feature two residences as well as the Avion Solutions Inc. facility. This is the first year UAB will be featured on the Birmingham tour, which will feature projects by new Birmingham-based solar firms [Eagle Solar and Light](#) and [Vulcan Solar Power](#). The 24th Annual Blount County Solar Homes Tour will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8th and Sunday, Oct. 9th. The Solar Homes Tour showcases homes that are both energy efficient and use solar technologies that are clean and renewable. A five-home guided tour will be offered in the Royal community. The same tour will be offered both days and you may choose the day most convenient for you. The tour is free but you must [register](#). You can read more about all the tours on our [Alabama Solar Knowledge \(ASK\)](#) web site!

Fall Events = More Recycling



We've helped a lot of events reduce their environmental footprint this past summer with our event recycling bins. From small gatherings to large festivals, we have the equipment and expertise to help modernize your event. [Click here](#) to learn more about our event recycling bins and [click here](#) to learn steps you can take to reduce your event's waste.

Here is a sample of upcoming events that are working to reduce their impact:

- Bluff Park Art Show, 10/1
- Fall Food Truck Rally, 10/2
- Cahaba River Fry-Down, 10/2
- CukoRakko Music & Arts Festival, 10/7-9
- Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 10/23
- Moss Rock Festival, 11/5-6

Volunteers are needed for CukoRakko and Moss Rock Festival. Email

Recycling@AEOnline.org for more information.

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