



Friday, March 26, 2010

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The Green Connection



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Save the Date!

Charleston Green Committee

ALL ARE WELCOME

Tuesday April 13

John Wesley United Methodist Church

626 Savannah Highway

([CARTA Route 30](#))

Bring your wine corks!

Eco Friendly Font

The Green Connection is greener than ever! Please note, that until you download the font onto your own computer, to see the effect of the font you will have to read or print this in the pdf version of the Green Connection. We are now using an eco-friendly font. The font, which is free, is designed to use less ink. The smaller the font, the less evident it is. Click here to find out how you can green your printing: <http://www.ecofont.com/en/products/green/font/download-the-ink-saving-font.html>

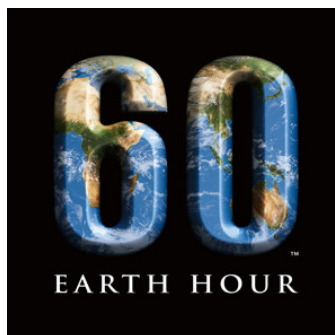
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Earth Hour on the Waterfront

Saturday March 27

8:30 – 9:30pm

The Courtyard Marriott on Lockwood Boulevard is honoring Earth Hour by turning off all of its lights for this event (guest rooms are voluntary). Let's leave our lights off at home and celebrate together on the waterfront! Thanks



to the Marriott for taking this initiative for providing free parking. For more information on Earth Hour click here: <http://www.myearthhour.org/>

Learning about Southeast Sea Level Rise from your Computer!

What: Webinar **Southeast Sea Level Rise Science and Adaptation in Florida and the North Caribbean**

When: March 29, 12:00 PM

Where: Your Computer!

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and ICLEI are offering a webinar on issues surrounding coastal climate adaptation and sea level rise. Co-hosting the webinar are Dr. Benjamin Horton in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Ken Lindeman with the Department of Marine & Environmental Systems at the Florida Institute of Technology. Click here to learn more and register for this event: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/431433707>.



Volunteer Opportunity: SC Green Building Lowcountry Branch

The US Green Building Chapter– Lowcountry Chapter is in need of volunteers for the for the following committees: **advocacy, communications, education/programs, and membership**. Branch Committees meet on a monthly basis. Each Committee is a dynamic group of volunteers, who are collectively motivated to help South Carolina maintain and deepen its leadership in green building. Together, the Branch Committees help the South Carolina Lowcountry Branch achieve its diverse goals.



Qualifications for USGBC-SC Lowcountry Branch Committee Membership: Current member of USGBC South Carolina Chapter),

Knowledge/expertise/interest in relevant industry sector,

Creative thinker, leadership and communication skills,

Be able to dedicate knowledge/expertise on behalf of USGBC without conflicts with professional obligations or opportunities,

Volunteers: Ability to attend 50% of monthly meetings for Chapter Committees (2-4 hours a month)

If you are interested in volunteering please email donnagilmoresc@gmail.com.

Congratulations to the SC Aquarium and the Food + Wine Festival Cork Recycling Program!

2010 was the Aquarium's first year of cork recycling at the Food + Wine Festival. The Aquarium ended the weekend with around 9,300 corks. The recycling efforts will continue in 2011! Congratulations!

The Aquarium ended the weekend with around 9,348 corks or roughly around 212.46 lbs of cork which they are shipping to cork recyclers.

If half of the cork the Aquarium collected was assumed to be natural cork (4,674 corks) the carbon footprint reduction would be 45,337.8 grams or 101.83 lbs. (And this is just from cork!)

If the other half of the cork the Aquarium collected was assumed to be synthetic cork it would account for substantial landfill reduction (since these do not break down like natural cork) of 4,674 corks or 106.22 lbs from local landfills.



To recycle your corks, individuals can drop off their wine corks the SC Aquarium. For members or guest that are paying to come into the aquarium, they can drop them off at the trading post on the 2nd floor of the Aquarium. For individuals that want to drop them off, but do not want to come into the Aquarium, they can stop by the security office Monday – Friday between 7am – 4pm to drop off their cork donation.

Or bring your corks to the April 13th Green Committee meeting.

Did you know?

The City of Charleston recycled **110 tons of metals in 2009**. This is in addition to the recycling that the City does through Charleston County's curbside and park recycling program. Financial and ecological heroes from the City's Parks and the Public Services Departments ensured that the metals picked up in the City garbage and trash and from City projects were recycled. To top that off the City's Keep Charleston Beautiful initiative also insured that **83 pounds of cell phones and batteries** were disposed of appropriately. Kudos to the Parks, Public Service and Keep Charleston Beautiful staff of the City of Charleston.



Learning From Others: Smart Water Meters in California

California is installing smart water meters in an effort to **conserve water**. More than half the state's utility companies have installed smart meters after a law passed last year that requires a 20% water reduction by 2020. Smart meters record water used on an hourly basis versus traditional water meters that only track water used on a monthly basis. The data on the meter can also be collected electronically from the utility company saving time and money. **Smart meters are also useful in tracking leaks**. For the full article click here: <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/smart-water-meters-take-hold-in-california/#more-41947>



Green Tip of the Week:



Switch to a vegetable based laundry detergent! Did you know that most laundry detergents you buy are petroleum based? If every household replaced one bottle of petroleum based detergent with vegetable based detergent we would save 233,000 barrel of oil!

Correction to last week's Green Connection: 190 million cell phones would consume 190 megawatts per hour, not per day! Thanks to Mike Arendt for this correction. Mike calls himself a sensible sleuth and is the owner of eco-cents at www.eco-cents.com.

