

Earth Day Projects



Earth Sustainability

VirginiaTech

UCCS 2984

1. Earth Sustainability Course Video

Chris Cox, Renee Gafford, & Kinan Whyte

The goal of the project is to promote awareness of the Earth Sustainability program among incoming freshman by creating and showcasing an informational video. Informing incoming students about the positive outcome of this program on the students and community will ensure its continuance and help more students support a greener future.

2. Effect of Virginia Tech on Stroubles Creek

Donny Hayes & Adam Hart

Human development, specifically Virginia Tech can have adverse effects on water quality. The action taken was to compare Stroubles Creek above Tech to Stroubles Creek below VT and then compare those samples from Toms Creek which is not as heavily developed. In order to get a measurement, we did samples within each section of the two creeks with kick nets and examined macroinvertebrate samples. The result of this project was that our hypothesis was supported concluding that human development does in fact have an adverse effect on water quality.

3. Cell Phone Recycling

AD Ferraioli, Ashlee Goodwin, & Jacob Heath,

For our action project we decided to create a temporary on-campus recycling program for cell phones. Our goal was to collect as many cell phones as possible before the official "end date" of our recycling program. We posted fliers in as many dorms as we could on campus, had an announcer mention our program on the VT radio, created a Facebook group for it, advertised our program on the drillfield, and attempted to get the fraternities and sororities involved. In the end we collected 26 cell phones and sent them off to a recycling center. We also found numerous places just off campus that people can go to for the purpose of recycling their cell phones.

4. Food Waste Redistribution

Jessi Blint, Megan Fuson, & Hayden Wayland

Commercial retail food establishments throw out 54 billion pounds or 27 million tons of food annually, while many people struggle to provide their families with enough food to survive. Our action project gauged the interest of local restaurants, convenience stores, and supermarkets toward reallocating their food waste to a local food bank or a composting facility. A short survey and information sheet were drawn up and several businesses were visited over a period of two weeks to determine the potential interest of local food businesses. After the surveying was complete and the data compiled, it was concluded that the majority of the businesses surveyed were interested in participating in a potential waste redistribution project.

5. Reducing Styrofoam Waste in Dining Halls

Mike Chapman, Megan Ginley, Philip Loving, & Steven Thai

Styrofoam To-Go dining container waste is a big part of the dining experience at Virginia Tech. The goal of the group is to reduce the use of To-Go containers when eating inside the dining halls. The hypothesis was that servers were creating waste by giving out To-Go containers without asking diners. After conducting surveys in the Owens Dining Hall it was concluded that the original hypothesis was incorrect. The study found that dining hall staff was not to blame but the diners were. A new goal was created to educate diners on the environmental impact of Styrofoam.

6. Online Sustainable College Living Guide

John Farley, Perry Graham, & Danielle Wroblewski

This action project's goal was to inform the student population of things that they can do to help decrease their impact on the environment. As a result of this goal we focused on finding things that could be done in the dorm or apartment setting. We produced a website that students can access to see the top 10 ways in addition to many other ways to decrease one's impact on the environment. The website focuses on what one can do and why it needs to be done. The website gives information on the environmental, and human health affects that result from activities or products that people use in their daily lives.

7. Energy Consumption and Awareness Video

Chris Klein, Trevon Talbot, & Julian Tucker

Over the past few weeks, we have put together our video and we couldn't have done it without the help of our Earth Sustainability peers and professors and informative film consultants. The video we have made seeks to spread awareness of where our power on campus comes from and how much we consume. It aims to promote change in the lifestyle choices (e.g. lowering energy consumption and ecological footprint) in the members of our Virginia Tech community. Knowing where our power comes from will help viewers to better understand the true environmental cost of using non-renewable fuel. The spread of this information can influence prospective and current students' actions and opinions of energy consumption in a positive and more "green" direction for our university's future.

8. Tennis Shoe Recycling

Sarah Carey, Caleb Davison, & Caroline Simpson

Americans buy hundreds of millions of shoes each year. Athletic shoes are a major contributor to waste, specifically rubber waste. Nike began a project several years ago that recycles old athletic shoes into sports surfaces for kids all around the world. These facilities include basketball courts, soccer fields, and tennis courts all made from old shoes. The goal of this project is to collect as many shoes as we can and send them to Nike. The other part of this project is to raise awareness so that anyone can donate their old tennis shoes in the future.

9. The "Fabric" of Sustainability: An Eco-Friendly Approach To Fashion

Patrick Link, Kelsey Stiner, & Chelsea Sexton

This project is designed to raise awareness of the environmental issues associated with clothing manufacture. We created a sustainable fashion clothing line of recycled materials that are both fashionably sensible and environmentally friendly; we hosted a clothing swap to offset the effects of clothing's life cycle; and finally, we provided information to the college community so they may understand why clothing manufacture is an environmental issue.

10. Wal-Mart: Local and National Effects

Lindsey North, Tyler Spillenkothen, & Ally Turner

To raise awareness among students at Virginia Tech about issues concerning the proposed Wal-Mart in Blacksburg, a community forum was held. A survey of forum attendees was used to determine the impact of the forum. In addition, a Facebook group informed additional students about the issues. Signatures were collected from students pledging their refusal to shop at the planned Blacksburg Wal-Mart.

11. Greening a Campus Event

Theresa Gabriel & Brian Smyth

12. Environmental News Show

Melanie Cuevas, Courtney Houston, & Melissa Moreland

13. Reduce Your Impact: 4th Grade Environmental Education

Emily Mattox, Ashby Day, & Erika Long

14. Heifer International Fundraiser

Maggie Dupler, Fallon Matthews, & Kelly Weaver

15. Conservation Day

Bryce Carter, Kyle Marion, & Zac Ottoson

16. Environmental Art: Water Bottle Sculpture

Lauryn Douglas, Stephanie Castellano, Miranda Peterson, & Eli Sejas