

## **CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF GREENEST COUNTY MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **2009**

1. County staff completed calculations to determine the “carbon footprint” for Chatham County Government activities. Calculations for 2007 and 2008 were completed, allowing staff to analyze the data over time as subsequent calculations are made in future years.
2. Fleet Operations conducted a vehicle inventory review to determine where more fuel efficient vehicles could be used in Chatham County operations.
3. Public Works opened a fourth recycling center in Chatham County.
4. The Resource Protection Commission adopted a site acquisition policy.
5. The Resource Protection Committee adopted an ecological systems ranking manual.
6. “Complete Streets” guidelines were adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
7. In October, the Southwest Chatham Library opened as Chatham County’s first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) registered building. The project was certified as LEED Silver.
8. A program was initiated to award priority points to Capital Improvement Program projects that furthered the goals of the Chatham Environmental Forum. Thirty-two proposed projects received priority points in 2009.
9. Chatham County established a “Green Team” to develop and implement energy and resource conservation strategies.
10. Chatham County appointed a Liaison to the Chatham Environmental Forum.

### **2010**

1. Chatham Area Transit placed 20 hybrid busses in operation.
2. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources accepted Chatham County’s application for a bronze level partnership in “Sustainable Georgia.”
3. Chatham County completed the final phase of the Westlake/Lamarville Reforestation Project, which resulted in the planting of some 500 specimen-quality trees on five acres to connect two existing County-owned forestlands of 21 acres

and 10 acres. The project became a partnership with the Savannah Tree Foundation, Chatham County, the Georgia Forestry Commission and neighborhood associations. Chatham County acquired the property for flood mitigation. With the planting of more than 7,000 seedlings at the Litchfield Tract, Chatham County continues to surpass the goal in the "Greenest County Plan" of planting 365 trees annually.

4. Chatham County received a \$300,000 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to implement the initial phases of Sustainable Georgia, an initiative to reduce energy consumption by 20%. The grant, which the County received through a competitive process, came from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority as a pass-through from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Highlights of the grant include: 1) \$210,000 for technology to help reduce energy consumption by 15% (annual savings of \$340,000) in county buildings; 2) \$15,000 to develop an in-house recycling program; 3) \$75,000 to contract with the Chatham Environmental Forum for a communitywide climate change assessment and education plan; 4) Applying 25% of actual energy savings to fund a "Green Jobs" program through Project Step-Up.
5. The Chatham County Commission approved a motion to require all new Chatham County-funded buildings, and renovations costing more than \$100,000 to achieve at least Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification. An ordinance change is required to finalize this initiative.
6. In 2010, twenty proposed Capital Improvement Program projects received priority points for furthering goals of the Chatham Environmental Forum.
7. Chatham County adopted Land Management Plans for the Whitemarsh Preserve, a 150-acre parcel, and Pennyworth Island, a 178-acre parcel, as recent additions to Chatham County's Land Conservation Program. The Resources Protection Commission, the citizens committee which identifies, evaluates and rates property for land conservation, recommended the plans to preserve and protect these environmentally-significant properties. In the future, the Board will consider Land Management Plans for other conservation lands, including the Blue Sky property, Westlake-Lamarville Forest and Henderson Conservation area. Chatham County's Conservation Land Program now exceeds more than 3,000 acres of property.
8. Chatham County completed the routing of Phase 1 of the Lower Ogeechee River Trail, which will become available for public use in late 2011. Chatham County received a \$130,000 grant from the Georgia Recreational Trail Grant Program for a two-mile natural surface trail through the Blue Sky parcel, which Chatham County acquired for its land conservation program in 2008.
9. Chatham County completed and received approval for the Conceptual Plan for the design and engineering of Truman Trail Phase 2, a 6.3-mile trail which will link Daffin Park (77-acres) to Lake Mayer/Bacon Park (750 acres). The project includes

4.8 miles of new asphalt trail and about 1.5 miles of widening the existing Julie Backus Smith Trail at Lake Mayer with recycled rubber. Pending approval of environmental documents, construction on the project should begin during the latter part of 2011.

10. The Metropolitan Planning Commission designed and presented, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the first "Adapting to Coastal Risk" workshop from which the MPC Climate Change Action Plan was drafted.

## **2011**

1. Facilities Maintenance completed the installation of an air conditioner in the media room of the Administrative Courthouse. Adjacent room temperatures were then adjusted to save energy.
2. Facilities Maintenance placed recycling containers in the Judicial Courthouse, Administrative Courthouse, Public Defender's Office, Citizens Service Center, both Tag Offices, and Mosquito Control. Aluminum, plastic 1 & 2, and office paper are recycled.
3. Chatham County's Resource Recycling Education Center officially opened.
4. A "bulb eater" was purchased to properly recycle fluorescent light bulbs used in Chatham County facilities.
5. A "Greenest County" information page was placed on the county's intranet system, allowing all staff to view the county's progress in reaching its goal to become the "Greenest County in Georgia", and get ideas on how to improve their departmental operations.
6. Facilities maintenance completed a major project to install electronic ballasts and more efficient fluorescent light bulbs in the Judicial Courthouse, the Administrative Courthouse, and the Citizens Service Center.
7. Acrylic insulating panels were installed on all windows inside the Administrative Courthouse. The panels will save energy without changing the external appearance of this historic structure.
8. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved a *County Code* amendment that requires all new county building projects, and major renovation projects costing \$100,000 or more, to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.
9. Chatham County partnered with the City of Tybee Island on a geothermal project and the Tybee Island Library Branch is connected to the geothermal system. The most recent report on energy usage and savings for the Tybee Island Library

geothermal project, for the period October 2011 through June 2012, documented a 37% reduction in kilowatt hours used, and a 32% cost reduction for a savings of \$2,503.

10. A “Greenest County” information page was placed on the county internet site allowing the general public to view the county’s progress in reaching its goal to become the “Greenest County in Georgia.”
11. Based on recent energy savings initiatives (lighting improvements), the Chatham County Facilities and Operations Superintendent applied for credits with the Georgia Power Corporation and received \$17,292.60 in rebate checks made payable to Chatham County.
12. During the annual evaluation of submitted Capital Improvement Program projects in November, 2011, 21 projects received 35 bonus priority points for meeting goals of the “Greenest County” plan. Recommendations of the review board are sent to the County Commission and projects with the highest scores are generally given priority when funding decisions are made.

## **2012**

1. From January through September 2012, the Resource Conservation Education Center hosted nine *Home Energy Makeover* sessions that are open to the general public. The topics are as follows:
  - a. January - Home Energy Makeover
  - b. February - Introduction to Reducing Energy Bills
  - c. March - Insulation and Weatherization of Crawl Spaces
  - d. April - Spray Foam Insulation
  - e. May - Tapping into Geothermal
  - f. June - Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Understanding Course for the Home Owner
  - g. July - LED Lighting and Solar Hot Water
  - h. August - What are the Real Benefits of Window Film
  - i. September – Making the Best Use of the Many Available Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Incentives
2. On April 28, the Resource Conservation Education Center held the First Annual Revision Art and Eco Festival. Hybrid and electric cars were displayed. The UGA Extension Office brought information on environmental friendly cleaners and gardening. There was food, games for children, and a “trashion” show (fashion form trash), and more than 30 artists made and sold artwork made from recycled materials. Concurrent with this event the Resource Conservation Education Center was selected as a drop off site for the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program.

3. On May 5, 2012 the Resource Conservation Education Center held a data collection and destruction event. More than 820 vehicles dropped off 35 tons of paper.
4. In July 2012, the Resource Conservation Education Center established *Keep Chatham Beautiful*, an affiliate of *Keep America Beautiful*.
5. During the summer in 2012, the Resource Conservation Education Center partnered with the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs to provide a "reuse it vs. trash it" art experience for 240 children.
6. In August the Resource Conservation Education Center was awarded a \$5,000 Keep America Beautiful grant to place recycle bins at the Jennifer Ross Soccer Complex.
7. Using Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant funds awarded to Chatham County, a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory was completed by the Chatham Environmental Forum in association with the Trident Sustainability Group in August.
8. In September, Chatham County added some 300 acres to the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor, which now totals more than 1,800 acres. This latest acquisition, called Great Ogeechee Lakes, stretches from S.R. 204 to the Ogeechee River, a continued priority within the County's Land Conservation Program. The County has purchased and protected more than 1,800 acres in this area, which is the single largest assemblage of county land since the 1887 acquisition which led to the development of Bacon Park. Besides protecting environmentally-sensitive bottomland and protecting the Ogeechee River buffer, the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor also supports the County's commitment to national security by protecting the flight line for Fort Stewart. Georgia Land Trust became the beneficiary of the conservation easement on the Great Ogeechee Lakes parcel and the Blue Sky parcel.
9. In November, 2012, the Resource Conservation Education Center hosted a data collection and destruction event. Six Hundred thirty vehicles dropped off 15 tons of paper, 300 computers and approximately 236 cubic feet of plastic materials. During the event, WSAV collected \$1082 in donations to the Salvation Army for the purchase of Christmas toys.
10. From November 6-16, the Resource Conservation Education Center hosted a "Re-Remembering Art Show." During this event, local artists displayed artwork made from at least 75% recycled materials. The artists also gave instruction to senior citizens on using recycled materials in artwork.

11. From November 6 thru December 15, the Resource Conservation Education Center hosted an Armstrong Atlantic State University art event entitled, "Trash Not Wasted" which highlighted the use of recycled materials in art.
12. During the annual evaluation of submitted Capital Improvement Program projects in November, 2012, 20 projects received 35 bonus priority points for meeting goals of the "Greenest County" plan. Recommendations of the review board are sent to the County Commission and projects with the highest scores are generally given priority when funding decisions are made.
13. Renovation of the newly designated Pete Liakakis Government Building was completed in December and the project achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.
14. After Christmas, 2012, the Resource Conservation Education Center hosted a "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas tree recycling event.

### **2013**

1. KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL board meetings held monthly through the year.
2. Invited to be a judge at the Gould Elementary Science Fair on February 21.
3. 22 Savannah Country Day School students toured the recycle facility on April 15.
4. 87 first graders from Hodge Prep Academy toured the recycle facility April 17.
5. **Re-VISION ART & ECO FESTIVAL** held at Forsyth Park in conjunction with the City of Savannah Earth Day, April 20. 30 recycle artists showed wares to an estimated crowd of 8,000 attendees.
6. Implemented a **Shoe Recycling Program** on April 22, to collect slightly worn shoes for those who need shoes. 167 lbs. of shoes were collected in 2013.
7. A Shredex, **document destruction and recycling event** was held on May 4 at the Resource Conservation Education Center. 744 vehicles drove through delivering 33,760 lbs. of paper, 10,000 lbs. of computers, and 10 large bags of plastic bags.
8. Attended a regional meeting of Keep America Beautiful affiliate Executive Directors on July 10.
9. Met with Chatham County School District officials on July 17 to discuss introduction of a **Litter/Recycling Education Program** for district-wide 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
10. Invited to speak at Armstrong University to discuss recycling with 24 students on September 26.

11. KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL sponsored a litter clean-up event on October 19 on Wilmington Island. 365 lbs. of trash and 231 lbs. of recyclables were collected.
12. Invited to be a judge at St. James Catholic School Science Fair on November 8.
13. A Shredex, **document destruction and recycling event** was held on November 16 at the Resource Conservation Education Center. 850 vehicles drove through the gates delivering 36,000 lbs of paper, 500 computers, 2,000 lbs of cardboard, and 4 large bags of plastic bags.
14. A SCAD Sustainability Class toured the Recycle Facility on November 18.
15. KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL sponsored a litter clean-up event on November 23 for Quacco Road in Pooler. 389 lbs. of trash and 210 lbs. of recyclables were collected.
16. Notified on November 26 that KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL had been selected to receive a **2014 National Conference Waste Management Scholarship** to attend the Charlotte, NC annual meeting. KCB was one of only 5 affiliates in the entire nation to receive this designation, which was judged by the overall planning, events, project successes and community interaction of each affiliate.

## **2014**

1. Notified that the Savannah Tree Foundation would like to join forces with KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL on **"Plots of Pride"** highway beautification projects in 2014.
2. KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL sponsored a litter clean-up event on January 22 for the Pineland Drive area in Garden City.
3. WTOC-TV announced on January 14 that KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL had been chosen as their **HOMETOWN HERO**. Interviews were conducted on Jan 21 and the story ran on their 6 p.m. news program.
4. The Executive Director attended the Keep America Beautiful national conference in Charlotte, NC on February 3-7.
5. Prepared a Recycle Information table for First Presbyterian Church Pre-School students for February 8 event.
6. New for 2014 is a March, Spring Break **Recycle Art Camp** for elementary school age children. The Recycle Art Camp will be held at the Resource Conservation Education Center and will help educate children about the need to recycle, the effect of waste on the environment, and how they can make a difference.

7. **Re-VISION ART & ECO FESTIVAL** will be held at Forsyth Park in conjunction with the City of Savannah Earth Day, April 19. 30+ recycle artists are scheduled to show their wares to an estimated crowd of 8,000-10,000 attendees.
8. A Shredex, **document destruction and recycling event** is scheduled for May 3 at the Resource Conservation Education Center.
9. Monthly litter cleanup events will be scheduled each month throughout the entire unincorporated County, Bloomingdale, Pooler, Tybee Island, Thunderbolt, Port Wentworth, Garden City, and Vernonburg.
10. KEEP CHATHAM BEAUTIFUL board meetings held monthly through the year.