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## Seminar to offer Upstate businesses advice on 'going green'

By E. Richard Walton • Staff writer • May 20, 2010

The city of Greenville is teaming up with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control for a one-day solid waste and recycling seminar at Carolina First Center on May 27. It is marketed "for Upstate businesses and organizations" that wish to plunge into recycling while simultaneously going green and saving cash.

Elizabeth Garrison, owner-operator of Ever-Greenville Recycling, said it's the kind of recycling she's handled for her 60 customers for 2½ years. A Greenville native, she said her clients vary from AnMed Health Medical Center to the Hyatt Regency to Coffee Underground to the Westin Poinsett Hotel.

"It will be good for individuals or businesses," she said.

Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever's executive director and a seminar speaker, said, "It will show how green is good for business." He said it's precisely the kind of recycling that Upstate Forever, which is concerned with environmental issues, has "been talking about for years."

He said studies have shown that "green technology will save businesses a lot of money" beyond recycling.. "Green office buildings help (prevent) absenteeism and increase (employee) production."

The conference comes a few days after the city held a recycling day.

Tom Ligon brought a host of burned-out fluorescent bulbs used at Beck Academy to the fourth annual city of Greenville recycling day.

"All these bulbs contain mercury," he said. "I save them so they don't go into the trash."

"If they're recycled, then they don't go into the environment," Ligon said.

Cheryl Hatfield brought her son, Jamie, 17, to drop off some electronics at the city's recycling event. She

said that she didn't feel comfortable putting the electronics at curbside.

"I've got this old computer stuff that I didn't want to go the landfill," she said.

Ed Marr, the city of Greenville's solid waste manager, said the day was one of most productive recycling events. "This is one of the biggest events since we started the program."

He said approximately 170 cars dropped off goods to be recycled. "It's easily double what we did last year."

Richard Chesley, a DHEC spokesman, said his agency would like to see more recycling statewide.

He said recycling saves the environment and also can make a profit. "The stuff has gone from waste to a valuable commodity," he said.

## Companies to get green tips at seminar

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