



Upstate Update

NUMBER 49
NOVEMBER
2003

Upstate Forever's Monthly Bulletin on
Important Issues and Events in the Upstate

CENTRE STAGE		SOUTH CAROLINA!
Presents		
1957 Diva Heaven		
A Special Performance to Benefit Upstate Forever		
Conceived and Staged By Douglas P. McCoy		
A Musical Stage Show FUN & ENTERTAINING		
December 10		
7:00 p.m. Wine Reception 8:00 p.m. Performance		
Live Auction at Intermission Featuring original art work, art instruction, whitewater adventures and weekend getaways.		
Location: Centre Stage, 501 River Street		
Reservations: 250-0500 or dwerdmuth@upstateforever.org \$35 per ticket		
		 <p>Tickets Still Available!</p> <p>1957 Diva Heaven</p> <p>Sponsored By CAROLINA FIRST</p>

This *Upstate Update* discusses:

- 1) Source reduction and recycling in the Upstate
- 2) Spartanburg County Council's rejection of a new landfill in the county
- 3) Green power in Anderson County
- 4) Applications now available for funds from South Carolina Conservation Bank
- 5) Preservation of Poinsett Bridge
- 6) Atlanta Pedestrian Beltline
- 7) Upstate Forever's Annual Awards
- 8) 2003 BMW Conservation award to Tommy Wyche
- 9) Lots o' Links
- 10) Upcoming Area Events

1. Source Reduction and Recycling - How Are We Doing in the Upstate?

In rapidly growing regions, such as the Upstate, the proper disposal of waste presents immense challenges. No one wants a new or expanded disposal facility near them - it's the ultimate LULU- "local unwanted land use" - yet waste, when generated, has to be disposed of properly somehow and someplace.

But we can greatly reduce the magnitude of the problem in two basic ways. One is **source reduction**, where waste is not created in the first place. A container, for

Promoting sensible growth and protecting special places in the Upstate

example, can be reused rather than being discarded. The other way is **recycling**, where a byproduct, like that container, is converted into a useful product rather than buried in a landfill or burned in an incinerator.

A “hot off the press” report from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) shows how we’re doing with source reduction and recycling efforts in the Upstate:

County or State of Origin	Recycled Waste		Solid Waste Reduction	
	Percentage of Solid Waste Recycled	Ranking Among State's 46 Counties	Pounds Sent to Landfill Per Person Per Day	Ranking Among State's 46 Counties
Anderson	36.2	10	4.4	35
Greenville	41.5	7	5.7	45
Laurens	27.0	15	3.4	20
Oconee	32.2	13	3.3	19
Pickens	16.9	30	2.5	10
Spartanburg	23.3	21	5.1	40
Upstate Average*	34.5		4.71	
State Average	28.7		4.2	
State Goal	35		3.5	
	**Highlighted counties meet 35% recycling goal		**Highlighted counties meet 3.5 lb reduction goal	

*Weighted average based on population in each county

From S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report (FY 02)

Based on measurements of municipal solid waste, which is defined as durable goods, non-durable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources.

In South Carolina, Berkeley, Jasper, and Lancaster Counties are already recycling at least 50 per cent of the waste they generate. If the Upstate counties could raise their recycling rates to 50 per cent **and** reduce the amount of waste each of us generates to the state’s goal of 4.2 pounds per day, we would send 262,025 fewer tons to our landfills every year!

One way to reduce residential waste is through financial incentive programs. Most communities charge the same for collecting and disposing of residential waste, regardless of how much is thrown away. Mrs. Smith, who throws out only one garbage bag each week, pays the same as her neighbor, Mr. Jones, who throws out 10 bags. An alternative program called Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) determines the charge based on the actual amount of waste. So Mrs. Smith would pay only 10 per cent of the charge paid by Mr. Jones.

There are now over 2,000 successful PAYT programs in the United States. Most communities using PAYT prefer the simplicity of charging residents based on the number of bags or cans of a given volume. These communities report an average waste reduction of 25 to 45 per cent! Costs to the local government decrease as well, and the

savings are passed on to the taxpayer. The transition from the traditional system to PAYT is challenging, but communication and education efforts can help explain the benefits and build support for the program. Regretfully, there are no PAYT programs in the Upstate. Which community would like to lead the way?

Some good news is that there are active recycling programs in each Upstate county. For more information about these programs, call your county coordinator:

Recycling Coordinators in the Upstate	
Vic Carpenter, Anderson County	260-1001
Bill Schalk, Cherokee County	487-2760
Vickie Williams, Greenville County	234-5781
Donna Sightler, Greenwood County	942-8754
Dennis Ginn, Laurens County	682-2415
Melissa Grant, Oconee County	888-1440
Gerald Wilson, Pickens County	850-2080
Mary Lynn Eaddy, Spartanburg County	439-5220

There are other programs and initiatives in South Carolina that can help counties achieve their waste reduction and recycling goals. The Business Recycling Assistance Program, or B-RAP, for example, is a free, confidential, non-regulatory program that can assist businesses in reducing their disposal costs and improving their bottom line. For more information, call 1-800-768-7348 or visit www.scdhec.net/brap.

There are also several educational programs offered through DHEC, including the Recycle Guys Public Awareness Campaign. Information can be found at www.scdhec.net/recycle or by calling 1-800-768-7348. There are product-specific initiatives as well for tires, used oil, and other items. Call your local recycling coordinator to determine whether particular items are accepted by your county's program.

If the Upstate can reduce its waste and increase recycling rates, there will be less pollution, fewer landfills and more conservation of energy!

2. No New Landfill in Spartanburg County!

And speaking of waste, on October 20 the Spartanburg County Council voted down a proposal for a new landfill in the southern part of the county, putting an end to months of heated debate among citizens and policy makers. In a 4-3 vote, Council denied a proposal by Waste Management to build a new facility designed to replace the existing Palmetto Landfill, which is nearing capacity. The proposed landfill would have handled approximately 24 million tons of waste over the next 20 years, **19 million of which would have come from outside Spartanburg County**. For more information, see our last *Upstate Update* Number 48.

In a letter to the editor of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal published November 5, *Upstate Forever* praised Spartanburg County Council for its decision:

“Spartanburg County Council did absolutely the right thing in rejecting Waste Management’s proposal to build a new landfill in the southern part of the county.

There is already a major regional landfill operating in Union County, just across the Spartanburg County line. Why would we want to build another one just a few miles away? There’s more than enough waste disposal capacity in the Upstate. We don’t need anymore.

There are serious quality of life and economic impact issues associated with landfills, as shown by the Palmetto facility itself. The Council properly took those into account in determining the true benefits and costs of the Waste Management proposal. These impacts are why landfills are widely considered the “last resort” for handling waste.

Waste Management offered to handle all of the county’s residential waste (about 260,000 tons per year) at no charge and to pay an annual “host fee” of \$2.5 million. For the company, it was a small price to pay in order to gain access to 1.2 million tons of waste per year, much of which would have come from North Carolina.

The Upstate is truly a special region—a thriving and diverse business center surrounded by extraordinary natural beauty. We should be far past the point where waste is considered a source of revenue. Congratulations to Spartanburg County Council for recognizing that we are better than that!”

3. Anderson County Landfill Turns Waste into Energy.

Anderson County, Allied Waste, Santee Cooper and Laurens Electric Cooperative have joined forces to launch an exciting “waste to energy” project in the Upstate. Santee Cooper, the state owned and operated power utility of South Carolina, will construct a \$7 million generating station at the Anderson Regional Landfill near Belton, where it will use gas from the landfill to produce electrical power.

Like all landfills, the Anderson Regional Landfill produces substantial amounts of methane gas as a by-product of the decomposition of solid waste. Most landfills “flare,” or burn off, the gas as it is released to the atmosphere. Under the new agreement, Santee Cooper will capture the methane gas and use it to generate electricity.

The new facility will generate approximately 5.5 megawatts of energy at the start of operation in 2004, enough to power 3,000 homes annually. When the facility reaches maximum output, it will produce 11 megawatts of energy and provide power to 6,000 homes.

Green power generated at the Anderson Regional Landfill will be purchased from Santee Cooper by the Laurens Electric Cooperative and distributed to customers in Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Newberry, Spartanburg and Union Counties. The new green power generating station will become Santee Cooper's third such facility in South Carolina. Earlier this year, Santee Cooper announced a similar agreement with Allied Waste and Lee County to build a facility near Bishopville. Currently, Santee Cooper is in discussions with Richland County for the construction of a fifth green power generating plant.

4. Applications Now Available for South Carolina Conservation Bank Funds.

In 2002, Governor Hodges signed into law the long awaited and eagerly anticipated S. C. Conservation Bank Act. The Act will provide, for the first time in the history of our state, a regular and significant source of funds to acquire either title to, or conservations easements on, important natural and historic resources. Funding will come from a portion of the state's deed recording fees, which are collected when real estate is sold in the state. It is estimated that the Bank will receive approximately \$9 million per year, and the first funds will become available July 1, 2004.

A volunteer board of conservationists, scientists and business leaders from across the state will manage the Conservation Bank. (For a list of the Board members, visit <http://sccbanc.sc.gov/board.htm>.) It will make grants or loans on a competitive basis for projects that meet specific conservation and financial criteria. The program is 100 per cent voluntary - all transactions will be between willing sellers and buyers. The legislation gives no authority to zone, regulate or condemn anyone's land. The program is a huge step in the right direction toward a better balance between development and conservation in South Carolina.

Applications can be downloaded the from the Conservation Bank's official website at <http://sccbanc.sc.gov/index.htm>. For additional information, contact Marvin Davant at (803) 734-3986.

5. Poinsett Bridge Is Preserved!

After years of efforts by local residents and elected officials, Greenville County's historic Poinsett Bridge and 120 acres around it will be permanently preserved as a state Heritage Trust site. The property will be leased by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to the Greenville County Recreation District, which will establish an historic park for public use and enjoyment.

Built in 1820, it is the oldest surviving bridge in South Carolina and was part of the state road that served as a link between Charleston, the Upstate, and North Carolina for more than 100 years. The bridge spans Little Gap Creek and features a 12-foot Gothic

arch and stones fitted together without the use of mortar. It was named for Joel R. Poinsett, a prominent national leader and early resident of Greenville.

The bridge is a spectacular structure, but vandals, the elements, and erosion have done serious damage to it. A few years ago, it became painfully obvious that unless steps were taken to acquire, restore and secure the bridge, it would be lost. Greenville County Council appointed a citizens committee to explore ways the bridge could be preserved. *Upstate Forever* member Anne McCuen chaired the committee, and *Upstate Forever* Executive Director Brad Wyche served as a member.

For several years, the committee worked to acquire and protect the bridge. Ultimately, with support from Greenville County Council member Joe Dill, State Senator Verne Smith, and State Representative Lewis Vaughn, obstacles were overcome, funding was secured and the property was acquired. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of these elected officials and the citizens committee, the Poinsett Bridge will be preserved and protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

6. Exciting Plans for the Atlanta BeltLine.

Plans for the Atlanta Beltline were unveiled in September at RailVolution, a conference about building livable communities with transit. The BeltLine will help turn what has been a long time vision of city leaders into reality. The project will ultimately combine rail transit with new linear parks and pedestrian greenways in a 22-mile circle around the city of Atlanta, using existing rail corridors to do so.

Championed by Atlanta's Mayor, the City Council, community leaders and citizens, the project promises to provide opportunities for business and residential development, connect communities, enhance the environment, and give visitors and residents numerous transportation alternatives including bike, pedestrian, and transit.

Plans include connecting the BeltLine to key points of interest and transportation nodes, like parks, universities, MARTA (Atlanta's public transit system), interstates, malls, and hospitals. A multi-use trail and linear park will engage diverse parts of Atlanta by connecting to 45 different neighborhoods as well as to other trails and greenways.

New residential developments along the BeltLine are expected to accommodate 100,000 new residents within the city limits of Atlanta. In addition, when rail service resumes along the line, it is likely that the approximately 2,500 acres of underutilized industrial land will become some of Atlanta's most desirable property for intense commercial development.

For the past 10 years, the Atlanta region has grown by approximately 80,000 new residents every year. The city itself has experienced a turnaround in population trends.

After losing 10,000 people in the 1980s and gaining only 1,200 in the 1990s, its population has grown by more than 16,000 since 2000.

City leaders know Atlanta is going to continue to grow. The BeltLine is one way to direct that growth in a way that makes sense from the standpoint of both transportation and land use. Redeveloping underutilized land in the city will protect some of the "greenfields" outside the metropolitan area from being developed. Transportation choices will reduce dependency on the automobile, thus alleviating traffic congestion and the need to build more new roads. Connecting and revitalizing existing neighborhoods and building new ones will help breathe new life into areas that have begun to decline in the city of Atlanta. The BeltLine appears to be a win-win situation in every way and can serve as a model for similar initiatives in our region.

For more information on the BeltLine, visit www.cathyatlanta.com.

7. Second Annual Upstate Forever Awards.

At our annual meeting on November 8 at Walnut Grove Plantation, *Upstate Forever* presented its second series of Annual Awards to recognize some very special people for their contributions to conservation.

Public Servant of the Year—Governor Mark Sanford.

Governor Sanford received the award for his exemplary leadership on conservation and quality of life issues this year. Shortly after his election, he appointed a "Quality of Life Task Force," a broad-based group of citizens with nearly every viewpoint represented. The Task Force issued a report that provides an inspiring blueprint for the future growth and development of South Carolina.

In his 2003 "State of the State" address, Governor Sanford was the first Governor in the history of South Carolina to use the "S-word" (sprawl). He strongly praised the South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, which passed the legislature last year and will be funded this July. No doubt his words have discouraged efforts by some legislators to defer funding the program.

Governor Sanford also urged the General Assembly to rescind the minimum acreage requirement for new schools. Earlier this year he signed into law a bill that accomplishes exactly that. These and other actions by the Governor are clear examples that protecting our environment is not a partisan issue - it is vital to all South Carolinians.

Innovator of the Year—Furman University and Craig, Gaulden & Davis, Inc.

This award was given jointly to Furman University and Craig, Gaulden & Davis,

Inc. for their work on Herman N. Hipp Hall on the Furman campus. Hipp Hall is the first building in South Carolina to be certified under the U. S. Green Building Council's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) program. LEED buildings must meet a number of design and construction criteria related to site-planning, water and energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and use of environmentally sensitive materials. While these technologies may cost more than their traditional counterparts, they more than pay for themselves through reduced energy bills. Furman reports that Hipp Hall uses about one-third less energy than a comparable building on campus that lacks the green features.

The Council assigns qualifying buildings one of four levels—basic, silver, gold and platinum—based on the number of criteria that they meet. Hipp Hall is one of only two buildings in the Southeast to receive the Gold rating.

The award was given to Furman for believing in the technology and authorizing the project, and to Craig, Gaulden & Davis, Inc., an architectural firm in Greenville, for designing the building.

Volunteer of the Year—Virginia White.

Upstate Forever member Virginia White received the "Volunteer of the Year" Award for her tireless efforts on behalf of the organization. Virginia, a retired pathologist, has truly done it all for Upstate Forever over the last five years—from stuffing envelopes and organizing files to writing articles, hosting dinners and representing the organization at different events. Virginia is the ultimate volunteer—dedicated, reliable and always cheerful.

Congratulations to all the award winners for all their hard work to protect the beauty and natural resources of the Upstate!

8. Tommy Wyche Wins Conservation Award.

Last month Tommy Wyche of Greenville received the 2003 BMW Conservation Award for lifetime achievement in the field. The award, given annually by BMW and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, recognizes an individual or couple who have made significant contributions to protecting South Carolina's natural, historic and cultural resources. Tommy was the driving force behind the protection of more than 150,000 acres of land along the Blue Ridge Escarpment in the northwestern corner of the state. For nearly 40 years, he worked to secure a 70-mile unbroken stretch of protected lands - quite a legacy for one man!

Congratulations to Tommy for a well deserved award!

9. Upcoming Events.

Upstate Forever Events

1957 - Diva Heaven! - December 10. Please join us for *Upstate Forever's* annual fundraiser and enjoy a benefit performance of 1957 - Diva Heaven, a delightful musical stage show featuring a collage of music from 1957 at Centre Stage South Carolina. A reception will precede the show and intermission will feature a short live auction of some very special items. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this wonderful event. Admission: \$35.00. For reservations, please call our office at (864) 250-0500.

Other Events

White-tailed Deer Management in South Carolina - Workshop and Roundtable Discussion. December 4, 2003, 1:30-8:30 p.m., Olin Theater at Wofford College. For more information, call Doug Rayner, professor of Biology at Wofford College, (864) 597-4624.

3rd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth. January 22-24, Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by the Local Government Commission and Penn State. <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth/>

10. Lots o' Links.

Earthshots: Satellite Images of Environmental Change. Incredible images of urbanization over time from around the world. U. S. Geological Survey. <http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/earthshots/slow/tableofcontents>

Robert Redford's Green Building Uses Rainwater to Flush Toilets. One of the greenest buildings in America, the Robert Redford building uses 60 per cent less water than comparable buildings by capturing rainwater from the roof and reusing water from the sinks and showers to flush toilets and water plants. http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=570&ncid=753&e=1&u=/nm/20031114/sc_nm/environment_redford_dc

Need for Housing Softens Zoning Laws. "Granny Flats" help fill need for affordable housing, but some neighbors don't like them. <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/cctimes/news/7220496.htm>

County Pays Residents to Turn Yard Waste into Compost. One California county is offering rebates to residents who purchase machines that shred leaves, tree branches, and other yard waste. http://www.bayarea.com/mld/cctimes/content_syndication/local_news/7241844.htm

“Mansionization” Tied to Loss of Open Space in Massachusetts. A new report by the Massachusetts Audubon Society blames large houses on ever-larger lots for the increasing loss of open space. Homebuilders say they are being forced to build on larger lots by communities trying to slow development through zoning regulations. To read the story in the *Boston Globe*, visit this website: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2003/11/10/mansionization_tied_to_loss_of_open_spaces/ To download the report, visit http://www.massaudubon.org/News_&_Action/news.php?id=19&editorial=no#download

Georgia Residents Rally Against Empty “Big Boxes.” Lawrenceville residents say the empty stores make their neighborhoods look bad and create a potential breeding ground for crime. <http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/gwinnett/1103/10walmart.html>

Wal-Mart’s Low Prices Come With A High Cost. Wal-Mart’s relentless pressure can crush the companies it does business with and force them to send jobs overseas. Are we shopping our way straight to the unemployment line? <http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/77/walmart.html>

Is Toyota Prius the Most Important 2004 Model? Toyota is diligently working to change the automotive landscape with its highly-efficient, low-emissions hybrid. *Motor Trend* has named the Prius its 2004 Car of the Year. http://www.motortrend.com/roadtests/alternative/112_news46/index.html <http://www.msnbc.com/news/995843.asp?0cv=CB20&cp1=1>

America’s Top “Brain-Gain” Cities. Pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, vibrant streets, and a healthy community life are the hallmarks of cities that are attracting young educated talent. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17201-2003Nov8.html>

11. Quote of the Month.

“Our findings challenge the conventional idea that construction employment suffers when communities seek to curb sprawl and manage growth. In fact, our research shows just the opposite, that smart growth fosters job growth.”

Philip Matter
Corporate Research Director, Good Jobs First
From “*The Jobs are Back in Town: Urban Smart Growth and Construction Employment*”
November 2003