

## SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT



WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth issue of our monthly newsletter! We are thrilled to be able to share what we are doing at the Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Department with you. Join us each month as we explore all things sustainability and how you can get involved!

## *Putting Energy into Greener Spaces*



**In this newsletter you will find:**

Latest projects, free resources, and upcoming events!

# TIPS FOR A GREENER LIFESTYLE!

## *How can we live sustainably?*

IN THIS SERIES WE EXPLORE HOW WE CAN BE SUSTAINABLE TOGETHER,  
RIGHT HERE IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY!



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE KITCHEN

A reused tub of butter filled with blueberries. Houseplants watered with runoff from washing rice. Air Condition set at a balmy 80 during the heat of the summer. Your grandma is doing sustainability better than you and her Orchids look amazing .... unlike the succulent you killed last week. Let's face it, your grandparents aren't behind the times –they're in front of them, pleasantly smiling while waving back at you. What's worse? It turns out your mom was right: you should close the fridge door, because every second it's open, it uses 40% more energy!

Are you or someone you know at risk of not being as cool as your secretly sustainable grandparents? Do you find yourself wishing you could remember that cooking advice you were told in your 20's that you ignored and rolled your eyes at?

Well, fear not! Today we are exploring sustainability in the kitchen. We'll equip you with some tips and tricks that even your mom might not know. You'll still not be as cool as your grandparents, but hey- we're not miracle workers!



# TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE KITCHEN

## TRY REUSABLES INSTEAD OF PAPER TOWELS

Washable rags can get the job done and save you money. Many of them can be rolled around a cardboard tube just like paper towels for easy access!

## DITCH PLASTIC BAGS ...

Try out washable silicone baggies for to-go snacks. Bring your own bags when grocery shopping but if you forget, no worries: you can recycle plastic bags at [CHaRM!](#)



## MEAL PLAN LIKE THE ADULT YOUR COWORKERS THINK YOU ARE

Save time and money during the week and avoid food waste while enjoying your self-congratulatory lunch. Look at you go!



## USE BEESWAX WRAP TO STORE FOOD

Beeswax wrap can be washed and dried and used again and again. It's perfect for storing that fickle other half of your avocado!



## DON'T FORGET THE DISHWASHER!

Using a dishwasher is more energy efficient than hand washing! But remember to fill up your dishwasher all the way up (without over filling it) before running it and remove food scraps from dishes (but avoid pre-rinsing for optimum efficiency).



## CLEAN YOUR FRIDGE COILS

Dust and dirt builds up over time decreasing the efficiency of your fridge. Experts recommend cleaning them every 6 months

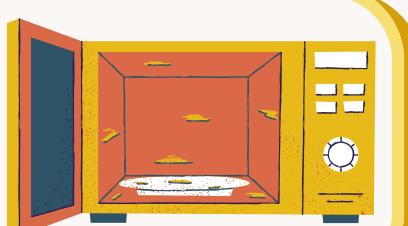
[\(SOURCE\)](#)



## TO COOK OR NOT TO COOK?

Microwaves use around 80% less energy than conventional ovens. What a great excuse to have a microwave dinner!

[\(SOURCE: ENERGY STAR\)](#)



## ON THE STOVETOP

Don't let energy go to waste. Use pots that are the right size for burners. Pots that are too big will take more energy to heat up and those too small will let heat escape from the edges of the burner that aren't covered.



# EV DEMO DAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AND ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY TEAMED UP FOR AN EV DEMO DAY

HANNAH CHAFFEE

On Friday August 8th the University of Georgia (UGA) and Athens-Clarke County (ACC) collaborated on an electric vehicle (EV) demo day. The event was held on campus and was attended by numerous UGA and ACC staff who either currently use electric vehicles in their operations or are interested in converting their department vehicles to electric alternatives.

Both ACC and UGA are working to rapidly electrify their fleets. The demo day offered

insight into the functions and features of different classes of electric vehicles. Both organizations brought several of their EVs including ACC's Ford F-150 Lightning and E-Transit Cargo Van along with UGA's Kia Niro Wind Hatchback and Club Car Urban LSV with Lift.

Attendees were able to test drive various vehicles and ask questions to those who regularly use them. Feedback from employees' experience with the EVs has been overwhelmingly

positive.

Everyone in attendance was excited to learn more about strategies each organization can take to transition to electric. A large aspect of this is developing EV charging infrastructure. The event provided a great opportunity to share lessons learned and goals for the future.

Hopefully, this event is the first of many more like it, as UGA and ACC expand collaboration on sustainability initiatives.



PHOTO CREDIT: JUSTIN ELLIS, UGA SUSTAINABILITY  
ACC AND UGA EMPLOYEES AT THE EV DEMO DAY

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Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Department

[www.accgov.com/green](http://www.accgov.com/green)

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