



GRADUATE
SUSTAINABILITY
GROUP



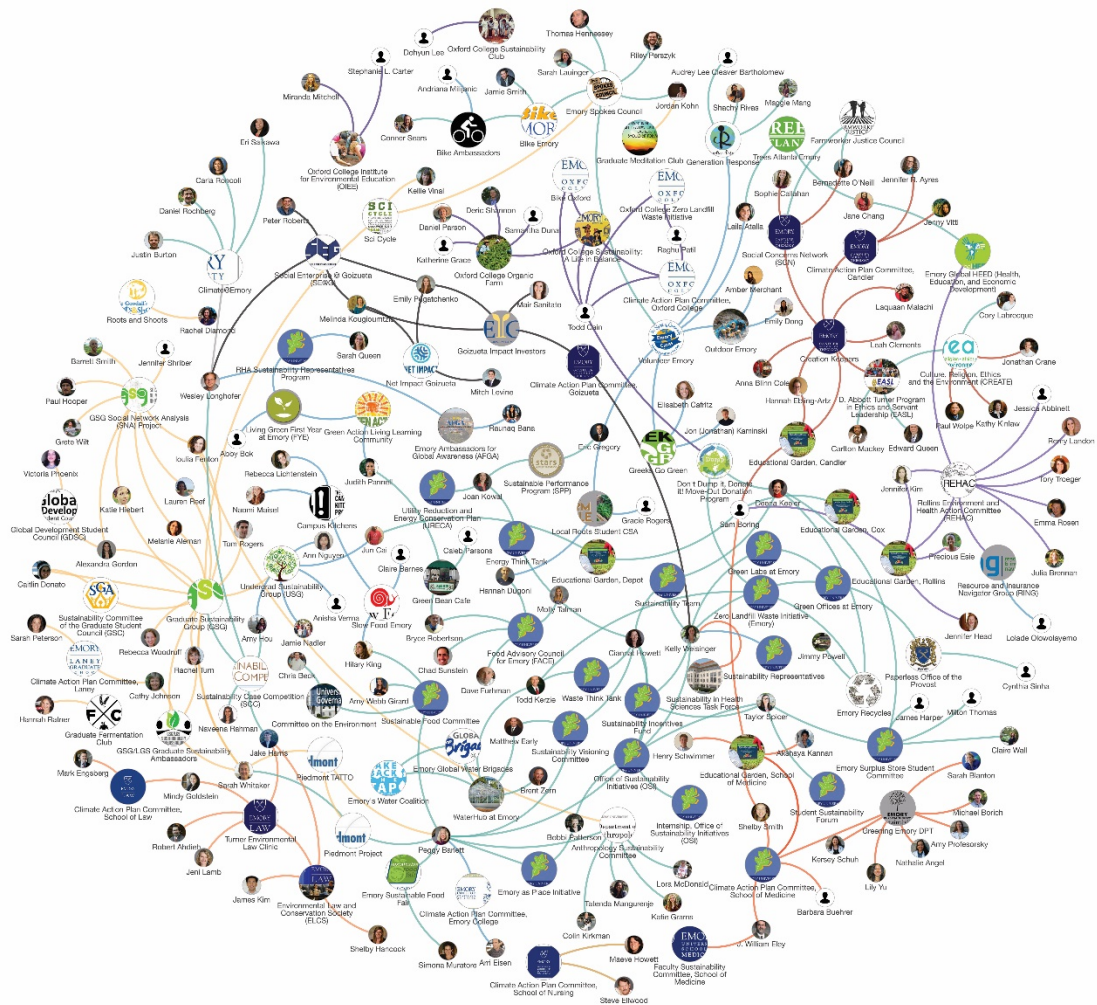
EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Emory University
Graduate Sustainability Group
2015-16 Academic Year

2nd Annual Report

Emory Sustainability Ecosystem

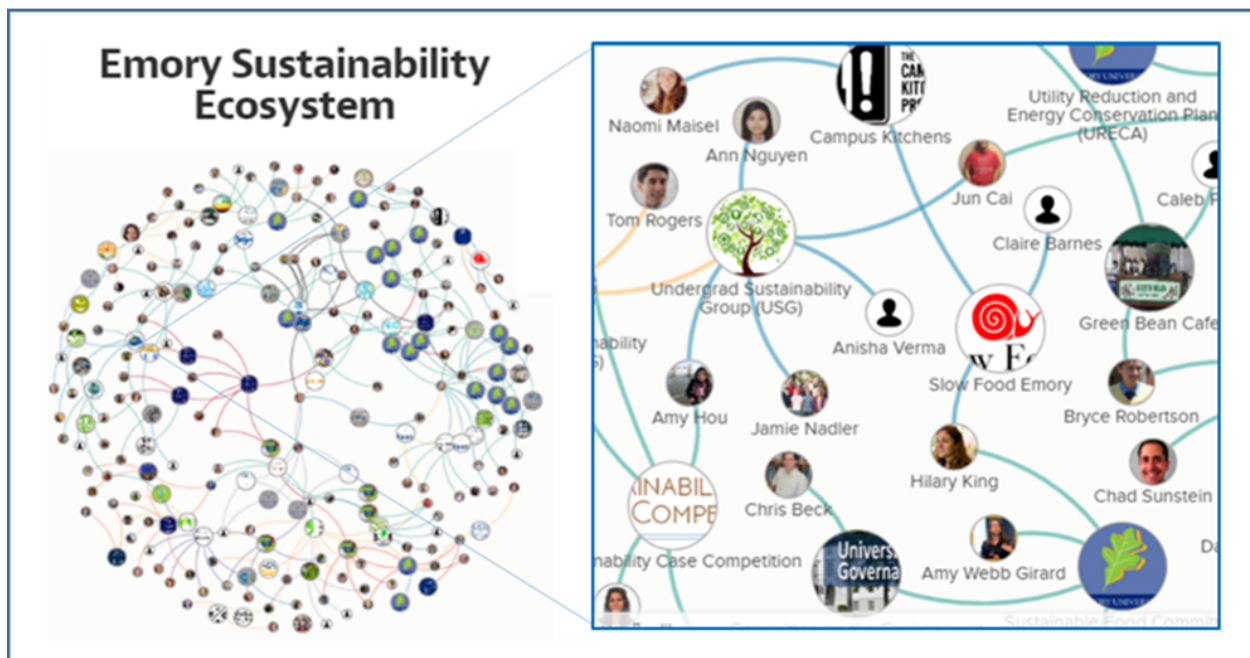
Find out more at www.emorygs9.org



Executive Summary & Letter from the President

What an incredible year it has been for Emory's *Graduate Sustainability Group* (GSG). Four anthropology PhD students founded and chartered the group in February 2014 with the mission to (1) make sustainability relevant to graduate students through projects that contribute to their professional development, and (2) strengthen the community by facilitating collaboration towards shared objectives. In a little over two years, the GSG community has grown to a central leadership team of 14 graduates (from 6 Emory programs) and one of the highest student-organization membership bases at Emory University of 200+ members. As we hand the baton to our new executive board—Alex Gordon, Geoff Martin, Rachel Turn, and Sarah Turkaly—this second annual report speaks to GSG's strengths and accomplishments that our entire community can be proud of. I will describe just some of these to illustrate what a dedicated team of graduate volunteers can achieve in a short year.

In February 2016, we were thrilled to be joined by over 150 faculty, students, and staff during three *Participatory Analysis and Community Engagement* sessions to hear and discuss the results of GSG research, which uncovered, analyzed, and visualized Emory's sustainability social networks (see *Emory Report's* coverage of the event: <http://tinyurl.com/EmoryReport>). Participants were particularly enthused by our launch of the interactive online *Emory Sustainability Ecosystem* map (www.emorygsg.org). Through it, users can see a comprehensive visualization of current sustainability activity at our university and easily identify avenues for collaboration (illustrated below). We also presented our findings at the national *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education* and regional *Georgia Campus Sustainability Network* conferences. But, most importantly, we directly engaged many sustainability community members and, through the interactive map, provided a great way for them to connect. The research team will wrap up the summer of 2016 with a peer-reviewed publication on the project.



GSG has had tremendous impact both at home and in the broader community during the 2015-16 academic year. Last fall, leaders from *The Nature Conservancy*, *The City of Atlanta*, *Atlanta Tech Angels*, and others judged 45 student-competitors in GSG's inaugural *Sustainability Case Competition*. Also in the fall, more than 550 people joined the Atlanta contingent of the worldwide *People's Climate March*, whose organization was led by 4 GSG officers in collaboration with 9 state, NGO, and private sector organizations. GSG leaders also formed a Sustainability Committee at the Laney Graduate School (LGS) Graduate Student Council (GSC) and continued to build our flagship GSG/LGS *Sustainability Ambassadors* program that aims to establish ambassadors for sustainability in each of Laney 41 doctoral and 12 master's programs.

During 2015-16, GSG reinforced its presence on campus and significantly built out its ListServ, through which members receive a weekly activities-and-opportunities newsletter. GSG leaders put on educational film screenings, hands-on workshops, and public talks; organized fun community-building outings; and propagated and gave away herb plants at the April Earth Month Fair. Having become established, the organization also began to encourage nascent projects to join GSG to take advantage of our knowhow, outreach networks, and resources. Two examples are the fun and creative *Sci Cycle* two-wheeled scavenger hunt and important and impactful *Farmworker Awareness Week* events.

We are incredibly grateful to numerous Emory and external partners for supporting GSG's vision and mission with advice, human power, and over \$20,000 of funding in the last year alone. These include Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI), Emory Sustainability Incentives Fund, Emory Dining, Emory Campus Services, Turner Environmental Law Clinic, Graduate Student Council, Laney Graduate School, Generation Response, Goizueta NetImpact, and many others that are detailed in this report.

Next year, the group plans to strengthen established programs at our university, continue to build relationships with our undergraduate colleagues (such as with the newly established *Undergraduate Sustainability Group*), and collaborate with and support the wider sustainability world by bringing the *Georgia Campus Sustainability Network Conference* to Emory for the first time in September 2016. These and other GSG activities will continue to build crucial skills for GSG members, improve our university and regional community, and contribute to Emory's stellar reputation as a national leader in sustainability.

As my own presidency comes to an end, I could not be more humbled by the dedication of our passionate graduate leaders or more proud of their incredible achievements to date. I wish the best of luck to the next generation of GSG leaders. I will watch with excitement from the sidelines how they continue to transform, enrich, and make more sustainable our Emory and regional communities.



Ioulia Fenton



Contents

Executive Summary & Letter from the President	3
GSG Mission	7
2015-16 GSG Leadership Team	7
Executive Leadership Team	7
Officers.....	7
Faculty Sponsor.....	7
Summary of GSG Flagship Initiatives	1
Mapping Emory’s Sustainability Social Network.....	1
Sustainability Case Competition	2
GSG/LGS Sustainability Ambassadors Program	2
Committee Participation & Advocacy.....	3
Graduate Student Council Sustainability Committee	3
Community Vision for Emory’s Sustainability	3
Fall 2015 – Events & Activities	4
Fall 2015 Orientation Activities.....	4
Sustainability Social	4
What’s Behind Your Food Label? A Presentation by Animal Welfare Approved	5
Sustainable Food Fair.....	5
Lunch and Learn with Clark Copelin.....	5
People’s Climate March Atlanta	6
Fall 2015 – Awards & Recognition	6
Spring & Summer 2016 – Events & Activities	7
Emory Cycling Town Hall.....	7
Sci-Cycle: A Competitive Scavenger Hunt on Two Wheels	7
Farmworker Awareness Week.....	8
Earth Month Fair.....	8
Let the Forest Be Your Food: A Permaculture Crash Course	9
Film Screening of <i>This Changes Everything</i>	9
Spring & Summer 2016 – Awards & Recognitions	9
Publicity Materials	10
People’s Climate March Atlanta Flyers	10

Emory Cycling Town Hall Flyer 11

GSG Mission

The Graduate Sustainability Group is a student-run organization committed to engagement with social and environmental sustainability issues on and off the Emory University campus. It seeks to foster sustainability-focused rigorous academic research, creative teaching and scholarship, and initiation of evidence-based solutions by Emory graduate students and staff.

2015-16 GSG Leadership Team



Executive Leadership Team

Ioulia Fenton (PhD Anthropology)
Sarah Whitaker (PhD Anthropology)
Rebecca Woodruff (PhD BSHE)

President
Treasurer
Secretary

Officers

Melanie Aleman (MDP)
Ruofei Chen (MDP)
Caitlin Donato (MPH)
Alex Gordon (MDP)
Katie Hiebert (MDP)
Geoff Martin (MSc Environmental Sciences)
Lauren Reef (MDP)
Christina Rogers (PhD Anthropology)
Barrett Smith (MDiv/MDP)
Sarah Turkaly (MDP)

Communications Officer
Fun Officer
Sustainable Events Officer
General Officer
External Partnerships Officer
Undergraduate Outreach Officer
External Partnerships officer
Creative Officer
General Officer
General Officer

Faculty Sponsor

Dr. Tom Rogers (History) Faculty Advisor

Summary of GSG Flagship Initiatives

Mapping Emory's Sustainability Social Network

Dates: Pilot project launched in Fall 2014, full project Spring 2015-Summer 2016

Location: Emory University and Oxford College



Description: Led by GSG President Ioulia Fenton, the 16-graduate-student team collected data through surveys, interviews, and online research during Spring 2015 and analyzed it over the summer. The team spent Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters disseminating the results through four *Participatory Analysis and Community Engagement* sessions, conference presentations at the national conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in October 2015, the regional Georgia Campus Sustainability Network (GCSN) conference in November 2015, and Emory media, such as the *Emory Report*. The project has consolidated the data into an interactive [Emory Sustainability Ecosystem](http://www.tinyurl.com/EmoryEcosystem) map (www.tinyurl.com/EmoryEcosystem) that aims to make it easier for individuals to connect to existing projects and see the big picture of sustainability work at Emory.

Participants: 16 graduate student researchers, 435 survey respondents, 200 attendees at the two pilot and three full community engagement sessions

Total project budget: The project has been supported with grants two years running from the Emory Sustainability Incentives Fund (\$1,800 in 2015 and almost \$700 in 2016), \$2,000 of funding and additional conference admission, travel and lodging support from the Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI), with a \$1,000 [Emory Dining](#) grant that supports sustainability-focused events, a \$580 contribution from VP of Campus Services, Matthew Early.

GSG contributions: approximately \$300

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Sustainability Incentives Fund, Emory Dining, Campus Services

Sustainability Case Competition

Date: November 14, 2015

Location: Emory University, Goizueta Business School

Description: Students representing a plethora of undergraduate and graduate programs collaborated with and competed against fellow students in developing innovative solutions to real world, multidimensional sustainability issues impacting us here in Georgia. Teams presented their solutions to a panel of Georgia's most distinguished sustainability leaders and the winning team won \$2,000.

Participants: 39 Emory student participants were divided over 9 teams representing over 15 programs from around the University. 22 participants were undergraduates and 17 were graduate students.

Total project budget: ~\$4,500

GSG contribution: \$500

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Generation Response, Global Development Student Council, Craft Crawlers, Turner Environmental Law Clinic, Laney Graduate School, Graduate Sustainability Group

GSG/LGS Sustainability Ambassadors Program



Date: Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Location: Emory University

Description: GSG has teamed up with the Laney Graduate School (LGS) to create the GSG/LGS Sustainability Ambassadors Program, which seeks to have graduate student ambassadors in each of Laney's academic programs. The initiative will help LGS achieve its Climate Action Plan. The long-term goal of the Ambassadors program is to develop a representative team that includes one student from each Laney graduate program. Each student will act as a sustainability representative for their department, will help disseminate information about sustainability events to other students, and will share issues with the Laney Climate Action Plan committee.

Participants: 3 GSG Officers and 10 Ambassadors to date

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Laney Graduate School

Committee Participation & Advocacy

Graduate Student Council Sustainability Committee

Date: Fall 2015 - Spring 2016

Location: Emory University

Description: The purpose of this committee was to provide support for the Graduate Student Council's plans to be more sustainable on campus. Committee accomplishments included developed a 1 page sheet on sustainable events.

Participants: 4 committee members

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Graduate Student Council

Community Vision for Emory's Sustainability

Dates: February 2015 - April 2016

Location: Emory University

Description: GSG played a role in ensuring a greater inclusivity of voices from the Emory community in the construction of the Emory 2016-2026 Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan. President Ioulia Fenton served as the graduate student representative on the Visioning Committee that put the plan together over 15 months. GSG's social network analysis survey included a question that asked respondents to give one bold and courageous sustainability-focused goal or action that they would want to include in the final Vision. The team analyzed the qualitative data and produced a report for the Committee on community suggestions, most of which were incorporated into the final Vision and Strategic Plan. GSG's full report and a shortened memo can be downloaded from the left-hand "Project Reports" panel of the project website: <http://www.emorygsg.org/#!sna/c6hs>

Participants: President and 16-member social network analysis research team

Total project budget: \$200

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Sustainability Incentives Fund (the project was carried out under the grants provided for the social network analysis project).

Fall 2015 – Events & Activities

Fall 2015 Orientation Activities

Dates: August 2015

Location: There were three orientation activities in which GSG participated:

- A table at the Laney Graduate School Orientation outside of the Cox Hall Ballroom, August 22, 2015
- A table at the Sustainability Showcase in the Hamilton Holmes lobby on August 25, 2015
- Creation and wide distribution of GSG's Atlanta *Responsible Movers' Guide* that is also available on the GSG homepage: www.emorygsg.org

Description: GSG used the orientation fair opportunities to tell incoming graduate and undergraduate students about upcoming GSG projects and events and to sign new members up to the listserv. The activities help spread messaging about GSG and sustainability and encourage new members of the community to get involved early and become active proponents of sustainability on campus. GSG also created and distributed a Responsible Mover's Guide through orientation packets of the Schools of Law, Rollins School of Public Health, Laney Graduate School, and others. The guide includes information on sustainable moving supplies and truck companies, sustainable places to shop and eat, information on farmers' markets and community supported agriculture schemes, and more.

Participants: 4 GSG officers

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Different schools' admissions and orientation personnel

Sustainability Social

Date: September 24th, 2016

Location: Manuel's Tavern, Atlanta, GA

Description: A night of networking and collaboration among graduate student groups with like-minded missions of sustainability.

Participants: 45

Total project budget: \$800

GSG contributions: \$500

Partners & Co-Sponsors: REHAC, Emory Spokes Council

What's Behind Your Food Label? A Presentation by Animal Welfare Approved

Date: October 7, 2015

Location: Emory University, Rita Anna Rollins Building, Center for Ethics, Room 102

Description: Callie Casteel from Animal Welfare Approved explained what's behind food labels and presented the organization's findings from their research on what labels do and do not mean.

Participants: 8

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Animal Welfare Approved

Sustainable Food Fair

Dates: October 16, 2016

Location: Emory University, Bridge and The Oval

Description: Volunteers represented GSG at the Sustainable Food Fair where different student groups, local organizations, and local farms and food service providers educated students, faculty, and staff about what's going on in the Atlanta region with regards to building a more sustainable food system. The GSG table highlighted the group's different initiatives and upcoming events.

Participants: ~1,500-2,000 participants

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: N/A

Lunch and Learn with Clark Copelin

Date: November 4, 2016

Location: Emory University School of Law, Gambrell Hall

Description: GSG co-sponsored this lunch and learn with two student groups in the School of Law. Mr. Copelin received his JD and MBA from Emory. He was previously on the executive board for PodPonics, a tech company focused on growing sustainable produce in an urban environment. Mr. Copelin spoke on his own experience with startup companies and the intersection between business, law, and sustainability.

Participants: ~40

Total project budget: ~\$400

GSG contributions: \$200

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Environmental Law and Conservation Society, Health Law Society

People's Climate March Atlanta



Date: November 29, 2016

Location: March from Old Fourth Ward skate park down Ralph McGill Drive to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

Description: The People's Climate March Atlanta was a part of a global march to show commitment to action on climate change ahead of the Paris COP21 talks. GSG partnered with 9 external organizations including Sierra Club and Environment Georgia to plan and execute the march, which drew over 500 participants. Representatives from indigenous groups, the City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability, and social justice advocates were among the speakers at the beginning and end of the march, who rallied the participants to continue pushing for climate action, even beyond Paris.

Participants: 500

Total project budget: \$2,500

GSG contributions: \$500

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Sierra Club, Environment Georgia, Georgia State Office of Sustainability, Sustainable Energy Tribe, Center for Sustainable Communities, 350.org, University of Georgia Climate Change Coalition, Citizen's Climate Lobby, City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability

Fall 2015 – Awards & Recognition

- Sustainability Innovator Award, presented to GSG President, Ioulia Fenton for service on the Sustainability Visioning Committee.

Spring & Summer 2016 – Events & Activities

Emory Cycling Town Hall

Date: March 1, 2016

Location: White Hall 208

Description: An open meeting bringing together cyclists, future cyclists, or cycling supporters at Emory. It included a keynote speech from Becky Katz, Atlanta's first Chief Bicycle Officer. GSG co-sponsored the event and presented on the Emory Sustainability Ecosystem poster.

Participants: 60

Total project budget: \$150

GSG contributions: \$50

Partners & Co-Sponsors: GSG, Bike Emory, Emory Spokes Council, Laney Graduate Student Council

Sci-Cycle: A Competitive Scavenger Hunt on Two Wheels

Date: March 19, 2016

Location: Beginning at Atlanta Beltline Bicycle, spanning the Beltline Eastside Trail, Atlanta, GA

Description: Sci-Cycle was a sustainability-themed scavenger hunt on bicycles. Participants learned about the neuroscience of biking, science of sustainability, and urban foraging while biking around town, completing tasks, and racking up points to win prizes.

Participants: 65 registered participants, 20 volunteers

Total project budget: Approximately \$300

GSG contributions: \$150

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Emory Spokes Council, Bike Emory, Atlanta Beltline Bicycle, Concrete Jungle, Lululemon, Trees Atlanta, The Spindle, Green Market at Piedmont Park, Sopo Bicycle Cooperative, Honeysuckle Gelato, Arden's Garden, Grand Champion Barbecue

Farmworker Awareness Week

Dates: March 24 -30, 2016

Location: Emory University

Description: Emory's Farmworker Justice Coalition hosted a week's worth of events, focused on issues affecting the farmworker population. Examples of events included keynote speakers and panel discussions with representatives from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, Alterna, El Refugio, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Mexican Consulate, and others. The week's events also included a screening of the film Food Chains, a concert featuring Rebel Diaz, and a rally in solidarity with farmworkers.

Participants: Participation was open to the entire Emory community. ~10-11 graduate students were involved in organizing the event.

Total project budget: unknown

GSG contributions: \$250

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Emory's Farmworkers Justice Coalition, and various internal co-sponsors at Emory.

Earth Month Fair

Date: March 29, 2016

Location: Emory University

Description: As part of the Earth Month Fair project, GSG hosted a table to encourage people campus-wide to get involved in sustainable practices. We taught visitors how to plant seeds and seedlings, and we gave away MARTA cards in a raffle to people who signed up for the listserv. Visitors learned about the great work that GSG does to promote environmental awareness and to find new ways to help Emory become more green. We had a great turnout, and we're excited to host this event in the future.

Participants: 7 GSG officers

Total project budget: ~200

GSG contributions: ~200

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Emory Educational Gardens



Let the Forest Be Your Food: A Permaculture Crash Course

Date: April 7, 2016

Location: Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and Lullwater Preserve

Description: Brandy Hall from Shades of Green Permaculture Design, Inc. discussed how sustainable, edible landscapes can provide organic food, medicine, beauty, fertile soils, and clean water, while building resilient communities and local economy.

Participants: 15

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: \$140 to Brandy Hall

Partners & Co-Sponsors: Shades of Green Permaculture Design, Inc.

Film Screening of *This Changes Everything*

Date: April 22, 2016

Location: Emory University Claudia Nance Rollins Building, Room 1000

Description: GSG helped to promote this documentary that follows the inspirational journeys of four unlikely gardeners, discovering what happens when they put their hands in the soil. This is not a story of science and economics. This is a story of the human spirit, inspiring people everywhere to pick up their shovels and “plant some shit.”

Participants: 40

Total project budget: N/A

GSG contributions: N/A

Partners & Co-Sponsors: REHAC, Georgia Food Oasis

Spring & Summer 2016 – Awards & Recognitions

- Laney Development Council (LDC) Leadership Award presented to GSG President, Ioulia Fenton for leadership and service to the Laney Graduate School community.

Publicity Materials

People's Climate March Atlanta Flyers



PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH



Emory Cycling Town Hall Flyer

Emory Cycling Town Hall

Wednesday 18 November, 5-630pm.
White Hall 102

An open meeting bringing together everyone at Emory interested in cycling, with a view to improving communications, advocacy, and coordination between cyclists and cycling sympathizers.

Sponsors:

**Laney Graduate
Student Council**



Bike

EMORY.



Contact Emory Spokes Council at
emoryspokescouncil@gmail.com
Current news and events can be found at
www.facebook.com/groups/EmorySpokesCouncil/

Bike Emory can be reached at <http://www.bike.emory.edu>

Contact Chris Brown (c.d.brown@emory.edu)
for further info, or if you can't attend but
would like to participate/hear more.

Sci-Cycle Flyer

EMORY GRADUATE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP
& EMORY SPOKES COUNCIL
----- *present*

SCI CYCLE

A COMPETITIVE SCAVENGER
HUNT ON TWO WHEELS
as part of the Atlanta Science Festival

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

10AM meet at -----
A T L A N T A
to 3PM B E L T L I N E
B I C Y C L E

Let the Forest Be Your Food Film Screening Flyer

**The Graduate Sustainability Group
invites you to . . .**



**LET YOUR FOREST
BE YOUR FOOD**

A PERMACULTURE CRASH COURSE

April 7, 2016

5pm – 6:30/7pm

Come and learn how permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive systems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems.

Meet in Emory's
Claudia Nance Rollins Building
Room 3001
for this great event providing a
detailed and interactive
course on permaculture.



This event is free and open to all Emory undergraduate and graduate students.

