



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

March 30, 2011

**Subject:** Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting  
**To:** ARS Tifton Location Employees  
**From:** Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS Committee met on March 30, 2011, at 11:00 AM in the SEW/Administrative conference room. T. Snipes, T. Hendricks, T. Maze, J. Merriman, R. Scarborough, P. Timper, J. Yelton, and K. Marchant were the committee members in attendance.

Recycling has been the focus of EMS for FY11. There have been many changes to our recycling procedures this year. T. Snipes worked with the Facilities Operations group to devise a plan for implementing the changes. The new procedures seem to be operating smoothly and we are collecting data from all our recyclables. Existing recycling documents have been updated to reflect the new procedures.

The web based tracking form for recyclables is working well. We currently use the form to track toner cartridges, glass, plastic, paper/cardboard, and metal. To date, we have recycled 90 toner cartridges, 544 pounds of glass, 233 pounds of plastic, 34,365 pounds of metal, and 7495 pounds of paper/cardboard.

During the last trip to Tift Count Recycling to drop off plastic, a worker at the S. Central location refused to take Clorox jugs, large Rubbermaid containers, and grocery type plastic bags. These items were brought back and disposed of in the dumpster. This will be verified with Bert Crowe and changes made, as necessary, to ensure that we only collect the proper plastics for recycling.

As part of UGA Safety Week, USDA employees attended mandatory EMS/Safety Training on February 23, 2011. The EMS portion of the presentation covered the new recycling procedures and storage locations for all items that are currently being recycled. A make-up session is being planned for those employees that did not attend the training session.

The Tift County E-Cycling Event was held on March 19, 2011. The city workers picked up all our old electronics on March 15. We recycled 26 computers, 10 printers, 11 monitors, 9 key boards, 7 power supplies, 34 miscellaneous scientific equipment items, and a few other items. This is a free event.

P. Timper will begin drafting the next edition of the EMS newsletter, The Green Gazette.

An FY09 EMS goal was to replace mercury switch thermostats based on an inventory done in FY08. The thermostats were ordered, but only a few were installed. J. Yelton will conduct another inventory of mercury-switch thermostats to see how many are left, noting what type of thermostat is needed, if it is different than what was previously ordered.

J. Yelton will check into removal of old oil filters that are in the small CPMRU recycling shed. The 55 gallon container of oil filters has been there for many years and is in need of disposal.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for June 2011.

