



# Cajuns Geaux GREEN

a publication by UL's Office of Sustainability



## UL Earns National Green Ribbon Sustainability Award

Our University has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as **1 of 11 schools across the nation** to earn the Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award! This award recognizes innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

As a University, we have been committed from the beginning to respecting and caring for our environment. We have made a conscious effort to recognize and address our environmental impact. As stated in our Sustainability Policy, our goal is for the entire University to become more aware of our impacts on the environment and our community, at the institutional level and at our own personal level.

To help achieve this goal, we have initiatives such as the Zero Waste program that encourages students, faculty and staff to recycle on campus and includes our E-Cycle program, Gameday Challenge, and Goodwill, Not Landfill. Geaux Vélo, the University's new Bike Share Program was also noted because of its recent success on campus and contribution to sustainability as an inexpensive, healthy alternative means of transportation.

Our University has achieved multiple sustainability-related designations such as Bronze Level Bike Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists and Tree Campus USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for seven straight years.

In addition to these initiatives, UL was recognized for its commitment to implement sustainability in many courses and research institutes such as the Building Design Institute and the Coastal Resilience Studio. The College of Engineering's Interdisciplinary Energy Institute was highlighted in the report for energy development, usage, policy, and impact on the ecological and human condition. Examples of cutting-edge research projects include bio-diesels from algae, green chemicals, new reflector materials for solar thermal power production, and waste gas recycling!

Read the full story at [sustainability.louisiana.edu](http://sustainability.louisiana.edu).



## Goodwill, Not Landfill! Move Out 2016

Thank you to all the students and student housing staff that contributed to Goodwill, Not Landfill Move Out 2016! It was a huge success! Goodwill of Acadiana was able to take items like clothing and shoes, small appliances, lamps, books, furniture, and more!

This event has helped us tremendously reduce waste here on campus! Started in 2014, Goodwill, Not Landfill helped us reduce our waste stream by over 75% by adding recycling and sending items to Goodwill during Move Out at residences on campus. Last year, we diverted 10,500 lbs. from our waste stream and from the landfill from Move Out 2015 alone!

Thanks, again, to everyone who participated! Remember, Goodwill accepts donation year round, so if you have items you no longer need, please consider donating to a great cause!

## MAY IS BIKE MONTH #BIKEMONTH

May is National Bike Month!  
May 20 is National Bike to Work Day!

The purpose of Bike Month is to not only celebrate the unique power and joy of riding a bicycle, but to also raise awareness about bike safety.

### Bike Facts

40% of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get to work.

Bicycle commuting burns an average of 540 calories per hour.

The average person loses 13 lbs in the first year of commuting by bike.

A daily 4-mile bike commute will save about 66 gallons of fuel per year.

If the average person biked to work or shopping once every two weeks instead of driving, we could prevent the pollution of close to one billion gallons of gasoline from entering the atmosphere every year.

Since 2000, bike commuting has grown by 62 percent.

From 2000 to 2013, there was a 62% growth in the number of Americans commuting by bike.

for more information, go to [bikeleague.org](http://bikeleague.org)

May 2016

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### Tip of the Month

When riding your bike, make sure you're **VISIBLE!** It's state law to have lights on bicycles! Using reflective materials and lights on bikes will make it easy for drivers to see you. Reflective vests and shirts are also recommended both during the day and night.

Cyclists who wish to turn left onto a street from East St. Mary Boulevard must get in line with autos. Cyclists must obey the same rules as drivers.

When crossing a street in a crosswalk, bicyclists must get off their bike and walk it across the street.

For more safety information, visit [park.louisiana.edu](http://park.louisiana.edu) (Office of Transportation Services)



## Bayou Teche Spring Clean 2016

Bayou Teche watershed is one of Louisiana's most historic bayous, but sadly it is considered an impaired waterway because it cannot support fish and wildlife propagation.

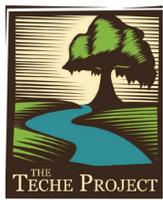
The TECHE (Teche Ecology Culture and History Education) Project in St. Landry Parish aims to reduce pollution in order restore this habitat and to raise awareness through action and education about the unique ecology and history of this area.

On April 9, the TECHE Project hosted **Spring Clean 2016**, where they got together with over 50 volunteers to remove garbage from the Bayou Teche National Water Trail!

Partners included Project Front Yard-St. Martin, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, St. Martin Parish Government, The Village of Parks, Bayou Teche Experience, Bayou Teche Brewing, St. Martin Hospital and the Parks Volunteer Fire Department. Together, they removed

- 1.2 tons of trash** from the banks of the Bayou. Amongst the trash was...
  - 10** lawn chairs
  - 9** 5 gal buckets
  - 4** auto tires
  - 4** florescent light bulbs
  - 1 and 1/2** boats

Thank you, TECHE Project and volunteers for all that you do! To find out more about the TECHE Project, visit [techeproject.org](http://techeproject.org).



## Take a look back on FÊTE de la TERRE 2016

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Fête de la Terre this year! It was an extremely successful week, and we believe great things were accomplished! We were able to share the importance of being good stewards of the environment with so many people. From getting the community involved with recycling electronic waste to constructing a bioswale on campus that helps filter stormwater runoff, the University took action in creating the change we want to see in our own community.



The Coulee Debris Installation and E-Waste Drop Off were very successful! To the left is an image of some electronics that were donated to the E-Waste collection. In addition to the electronics that were collected at the drop off, four pallets of old electronics were recycled from a warehouse on campus!



The first of four bioswales and rain gardens planned for campus was installed by Office of Sustainability staff. Volunteers from Ameri Corps, the UL Biology Society, as well as other volunteers came to help out! The plants in the bioswale include Louisiana irises, Abbeville Red irises (aka Iris Nelsonii), Pontidera pickerel weed, American Beauty berry, Pink Muhly grass, Spider lilies, Bushy Bluestem grass, among others. This bioswale will not only reduce stormwater runoff and filter water before it reaches the storm drain system, it will also attract and become a habitat for pollinators! Pollinators, such as bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies, are important because they play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables.

Below is an image from the Fête de la Terre Expo on Earth Day! Numerous local vendors and our own UL organizations came out to speak on sustainability best practices and what more can be done to care for our environment.



## Local Farmers Markets

Lafayette Farmers & Artisans Market at The Horse Farm  
Every Saturday 8:00 am-noon

Lafayette Hub City Farmers Market  
Oil Center (427 Heyman St. across from Champagne's  
Every Saturday 8:00 am-noon

Arts Weekend  
Local artists join the Hub City Farmers Market  
1st & 3rd Saturday of each month

## Shout Outs!

As always, thank you to those who send us used electronics and ink/toner cartridges! We have had such a successful year so far with this initiative to recycle E-Waste!

When the E-Cycle initiative was launched in 2014, we recycled a total of 402 lbs. of cartridges. In 2015, we were able to recycle 1,817 lbs. of cartridges! As of April, we have already recycled about 475 lbs.!

It is important to properly recycle electronic waste! Not only can resources such as plastic and aluminum be recovered, but when these types of materials make it to the landfill, they take thousands of years to decompose!

So call us if you have empty cartridges that need to be recycled, and we will come pick them up from you!

Check out our website ([sustainability.louisiana.edu](http://sustainability.louisiana.edu)) to learn more about our e-cycle program!



## Geaux Vélo Reminders

Make sure to return your bike to the **same station** you borrowed it from!

### TO UNLOCK:

- Insert key into slot on left side of bike
- Turn key and the lock will slide open

The **key remains in the lock** while you ride the bike! It stays in the lock until you need to either:

- lock the bike
- return the bike

### TO LOCK:

- Turn the key towards you
- While the key is turned, slide the lock button down until it clicks
- Remove key

Geaux Vélo bikes are for everyone, so remember to take your trash out of the basket so the bike is left in proper condition for the next person!

Carefully review all of the safety information in the Geaux Vélo orientation and online at [park.louisiana.edu/bike-information](http://park.louisiana.edu/bike-information)

**ALWAYS wear a helmet. Wear reflective clothing and ride in groups after sunset. Make sure tail lights and headlights are properly working.**

Ride Geaux Vélo bikes to places off campus like downtown or the oil center! We always love to see the bikes being used around the city, as bicycling is an Eco-friendly alternative method of transportation!

In just 6 weeks, more than 1,000 users have registered for the Geaux Vélo bike share! Users have logged over 1,600 rides. We've seen the bikes around campus, Downtown Alive, and Festival International just to name a few.

Tell us - How do you Geaux Vélo by using #ULGeauxVelo on social media!

# geaux VÉLO



If you have not yet registered to become a member, go to [geauxvelobikeshare.com](http://geauxvelobikeshare.com) to register now for free!

Report any issue with your bike to the following email [info@geauxvelobikeshare.com](mailto:info@geauxvelobikeshare.com), and if you see someone misusing a Geaux Velo bike, please let us know! These bikes are for everyone, and we would like to keep them in the best condition possible!



Be sure to use our website [[sustainability.louisiana.edu](http://sustainability.louisiana.edu)] as one of your sustainability resources! There, you'll find UL news, planning and progress updates, green guides, links to environmental footprint calculators, transportation information, and ways to get involved around campus and in the community!

Also, keep up to date by following us on **Facebook** (University of Louisiana at Lafayette Office of Sustainability), **Pinterest** (UL Office of Sustainability), and **Instagram** ([ul\\_sustainability](https://www.instagram.com/ul_sustainability/))!

Some programs we offer on campus include E-Cycle, Single-stream recycling, and S.W.A.P Shop for faculty and staff.



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
Lafayette

Office of Sustainability

## Stay Connected

[r] E - CYCLE  
electronic recycling



### It is...

a way to recycle

ink cartridges  
toner cartridges

### how it works...

contact the Office of Sustainability

call 482-0054  
email [sustainability@louisiana.edu](mailto:sustainability@louisiana.edu)

### you can also donate...

personal computers  
personal cell phones  
personal televisions  
personal printers

\*We cannot recycle any property purchased with University funds\*



## Reminder

Remember to get involved with sustainability-related efforts on campus! Check out the Biology Club, Horticulture Club, Geaux Bike UL, or Students for Sustainability to see what they're doing to make our campus a better place! Ask club members about upcoming volunteer opportunities as a way to help out around our campus and within our community!

## Got an Idea?

Great ideas come from everywhere, and we would love to hear yours!

Please share it with us!  
Just email us at [sustainability@louisiana.edu](mailto:sustainability@louisiana.edu)

Feel free to contact us with questions or comments!

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337.482-0054 phone