

# THINK GREEN NEWS

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE



For more Think Green information go to: [green.upstate.edu](http://green.upstate.edu)

Winter 2015

## Welcome to our first ever edition of *Think Green News!*

The vast number of sustainable, environmentally friendly, and fiscally sound practices at Upstate Medical University remain our best kept secrets!

We know many are interested, so we want to spread the word. We intend to highlight interesting initiatives, provide education on important topics, share the successes of our 'Think Green' Champions and others, pass along suggestions, and generally keep sustainability on people's radar, at work and at home.

This newsletter will be quick and to the point. We hope to interest you in learning more and accessing our other 'Think Green' resources. Please watch for this newsletter to be distributed institutionally on a regular basis.



## How do I learn more about being 'Green?'

Visit our Think Green website at: <http://www.upstate.edu/green/>

Have a question, concern, suggestion or success story? We want to hear it. Email us at: [green@upstate.edu](mailto:green@upstate.edu). Questions will be reviewed and triaged to the appropriate subject expert for an answer. Your input may help individually and institutionally!



### IT'S EASY TO THINK GREEN...

... AND WE NEED DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONS!

The Think Green Committee is looking for an employee in every department to help get the word out about all the great Green initiatives at Upstate.

It takes very little time, but generates a lot of positive energy!

Would you like to join?  
email: [green@upstate.edu](mailto:green@upstate.edu)



## Think Green Department Champions

Do you want to be the first to know or the department go-to person for Think Green issues?

Become a **Think Green Department Champion!**

To learn more, visit:

[http://www.upstate.edu/green/what\\_u\\_can\\_do/dept\\_champs.php](http://www.upstate.edu/green/what_u_can_do/dept_champs.php)



**Kudos to Upstate's retail food vendors - Morrison, Express Oasis, and Tim Hortons and Cold Stone Creamery - for minimizing the use of Styrofoam.**

Most recently, Morrison has made significant strides to drastically reduce the use of Styrofoam in its retail locations. Specifically, they eliminated 2 sizes of plates, 3 sizes of bowls, and 3 sizes of cups within their cafeterias. This amounts to approximately 1 million, three hundred and 16 thousand (1,316,000) pieces of Styrofoam a year! Financially, they will spend approximately \$27,000 more a year to provide paper as opposed to Styrofoam.

Tim Hortons and Cold Stone Creamery and Express Oasis at the University Hospital Downtown Campus have not used Styrofoam in several years.

All three vendors participate in recycling and other sustainability practices. Thanks to all of our partners for responding to customer requests and supporting 'Think Green' practices!

## What's so bad about Styrofoam?!?

- Polystyrene/Styrofoam is not biodegradable and completely non-recyclable.
- By volume, Styrofoam contributes to about 25 - 30% of landfill space.
- Some polystyrene is manufactured with HCFC-22, a greenhouse gas harmful to the ozone layer.
- The EPA listed polystyrene manufacturing process as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest creator of hazardous material.
- It is a known carcinogen (cancer causer) and may cause eye irritation, gastrointestinal problems, depression, headaches and nervous system damage.
- And....it leaks!

