

## Living and Learning

The Living and Learning program aims to educate community members on issues that we encounter in our day to day lives. The idea is that by providing citizens with information, they will be able to investigate the issues for themselves, and make informed decisions on how they would like to run their lives. The program uses a monthly theme to educate community members about sustainability-related topics. Each month, community members will be provided with information and resources related to the Living and Learning theme of the month. For each theme, there will be a list of citizen science opportunities related to the theme, as well as at least one community event, such a rain barrel decorating contest.

### 1. Food (October)

This month's food theme will focus on food: what's in it, where does it come from, and what can be done to make smart food choices.

- a. **Background resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:**
- c. **Community Event:** Farmer's Market and/or vegetable seedling exchange

### 2. Transportation (November)

Transportation touches our lives on a daily basis. While most of us rely on cars for getting around, Dunwoody offers a variety of other transportation options. While you may not be ready to sell your car at the end of the month, you will learn about some transportation alternatives for Dunwoody residents, and think about possibilities for using alternative modes of transportation.

- a. **Background resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:** Look at transportation options in Dunwoody, make list of trips that could be changed to a lower impact transportation mode, list possible carpools, complete worksheet on emissions
- c. **Community Event:** A scavenger hunt around Dunwoody using only public transport, or a party or event that all can reach via public transport

### 3. Waste Management and Reduction (December)

- a. **Background resources:**
  - <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/>
- b. **Citizen Science:** Home recycling audit
- c. **Community Event:** Recycling Event

### 4. Think Global Act Local (January)

- a. **Background resources**
- b. **Citizen Science:**
- c. **Community Event:** Host a film for the community about global sustainability issues, and hold a discussion afterwards to connect them to Dunwoody.

## 5. Smart Choices (February)

- a. **Background Resources**
- b. **Citizen Science:** Complete a life-cycle assessment of common products, or make a cost and benefit or pro-con list to compare choices.
- c. **Community Event:** Showcase the smart choices that are available in different Dunwoody businesses, perhaps through special discounts throughout the month

## 6. Conservation (March)

- a. **Background resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:** Investigate a local species, and explore possibilities to provide habitat for that species.
- c. **Community Event:** Stream Cleanup, habitat restoration

## 7. My Own Back Yard (April)

Explore the plant and animal habitat in your own back yard, then investigate into all of the different habitats that we have here in Dunwoody

- a. **Background Resources**
- b. **Citizen Science:** Create an inventory of the different flora and fauna that you see in your own yard, and then turn your list into city hall to be compiled into a citywide inventory.
- c. **Community Event:** Perhaps an event with the Dunwoody Nature Center that highlights local habitats and things that are unique to Dunwoody

## 8. Gardening and Landscaping (May)

While yards and gardens are part of our landscape, they can have a negative effect on surrounding natural areas. This month will be focused on making smart choices for your garden and lawn that will keep other users in mind, whether it is a plant, a person, or a fish downstream.

- a. **Background resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:**
- c. **Community Event:** Smart Garden event, possibly a community garden event

## 9. Water Conservation (June)

Imagine going just one day without turning on your water tap? Atlanta uses a large amount of water daily, and each small amount that is saved sure adds up over all of Dunwoody residents.

- a. **Background Resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:** home water audit, analysis of what goes down the drain.
- c. **Community Event:** Rain Barrel design contest and auction (Perimeter College and DHS students submit designs)

## 10. Energy (July)

- a. **Background resources:**

- b. **Citizen Science:** Check out the “Kill a Watt” meter from city hall to calculate the energy usage of your household appliances. Translate those calculations to potential savings and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- c. **Community Event:** Greening your home presentation

#### **11. Water Quality (August)**

- a. **Background resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:**
- c. **Community Event:** Workshop/training on stream water monitoring

#### **12. Storm water Management (September)**

- a. **Background Resources:**
- b. **Citizen Science:** Storm Drain Stenciling, making a list of what goes down the storm drain and where it ends up
- c. **Community Event:** Storm-Drain Stenciling, stream cleanup