

Green Business Leaders Celebrate 5th Annual Sustainable Business Day at the Capitol *Environmental Businesses: Keeping Georgia in the Green*

ATLANTA – The Georgia Recycling Coalition, Sustainable Business Partners and Georgia Conservation Voters will host the 5th Annual Sustainable Business Day at the Georgia State Capitol on Monday, January 28th to deliver the message that economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand. More than two dozen companies will be on hand to display their products and discuss their services.

Representative Pat Gardner (D-Atlanta) and Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) introduced resolutions commending the environmentally friendly businesses and their positive impact on Georgia's economy and environment. Representatives of these companies were available to answer legislators' questions about their companies from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the 2nd Floor in the South Wing of the Capitol.

"As more people move to Georgia, greater demands are placed on our natural resources," said Rep. Gardner. "It is time for our state's leadership to encourage innovation that accommodates the need for both economic development and environmental protection."

Sen. Mullis stated, "Supporting businesses that improve air and water quality or that turn waste into valuable resources while making communities healthier is something that everyone can get behind. It will only make Georgia a better place to live."

Some of the businesses being recognized include:

- **CollectiveGood** recycles used cell phones and PDAs. This company helps nonprofit organizations raise funds by organizing mobile phone recycling collections, keeping hazardous waste from Georgia landfills.
- **Perkins + Will** has five LEED certified green buildings with another two dozen registered, including one LEED Platinum project.
- **Pull-A-Part** is a used auto parts company. They help reduce waste and promote reuse of resources by finding use for old car parts from more than 2000 cars

It is estimated that sustainable companies contribute more **than 60,000 jobs and \$28 billion dollars** to Georgia's economy. These businesses are pioneering alternative energy options in Georgia; represent leaders in the sustainable building industry; and comprise some of the country's largest recyclers.

"These businesses are models for innovation, environmental responsibility and good business operations," said Polly Sattler, President of Sustainable Business Partners, a resource center for sustainable businesses. "They turn problems into profits."

"Sustainable businesses leaders in Georgia are contributing to the challenge of creating a future for our state that is both prosperous and sustainable," said Jill Johnson, Interim Executive Director of Georgia Conservation Voters. "Sustainable Business Day highlights their innovative thinking and hopefully brings the recognition that encourages Georgia's political leadership to support them."

Sustainable Business Day included a short program that began at 11:15am with remarks by Rep. Gardner and Sen. Mullis. U.S. EPA Region IV Administrator Jimmy Palmer recognized the Pull-A-Part company for their environmental accomplishments. Sustainable Business Day Honorary Chair, Laura Turner Seydel, concluded the program with a statement on the importance of sustainable business to Georgia's economy.