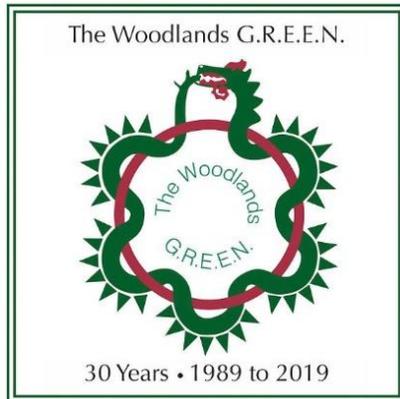


The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N. Focuses on the Environment



The Woodlands Grass-Roots Environmental Education Network is a local 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit that promotes natural resource conservation, recycling, solid waste reduction, safe and sensible care of air and water resources, and other responsible actions that protect the environment and its inhabitants.

Founded in 1989 as “The Woodlands Recycles”, The Woodlands GREEN is celebrating its 30-year anniversary in 2019; this year the group will continue to emphasize student scholarships and the Student Ambassadors program, *Going GREEN Sustainability Lectures*, and work with new partners **Solar United Neighbors** and the **Houston Renewable Energy Group** to encourage rooftop solar and Community Solar projects in the area. The Woodlands GREEN will also build on its partnership with the Environmental Services Department of The Woodlands Township, become more active with the Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce, and seek increased sponsorships and business partnerships.



A Few of Our Founding “Earth Mothers”



Early Leaders of The Woodlands Recycles (ca 1993)

Front: Rose Cook, Pat Brown, Kathie Herrick,
Middle: Lucinda Valdes, Lynne Aldrich, Christina West
Back: Karen Carter, Jeanne O’Neal

No history of The Woodlands GREEN would be complete without special mention of key founding members and past presidents Pat Brown and Christina West. Current (and continuously serving since 1995!) board member Debra Wymore remembers they were key visionaries, “Pat was the face of The Woodlands GREEN for 25 years and was honored as a Hometown Hero by The Woodlands in 2001; she was also honored with a Distinguished Service award from Keep America Beautiful in 1995. Christina was honored as a Hometown Hero in 1999, had a prominent role in early governance of The Woodlands as a Director for the Woodlands Community Association (WCA)

and was a catalyst for the formation of the Township’s Environmental Services Department.”

Our Founding Initiative: All About Recycling

The Woodlands GREEN's first program began in 1989 with periodic recycling drives at local collection points, including a *Feed the Dragon* competition to get children and families



working together to increase recycling in the community. By 1994, community governance (at that time it was the WCA) had taken over the hugely popular program, and curbside pickup of paper, glass, aluminum, and many plastics was established for single-family households throughout The Woodlands.



Feed the Dragon recycling award

Curbside recycling might seem ordinary in The Woodlands today, but it wasn't long ago that the vast majority of households in the U.S. sent 100 percent of their waste to landfills. Today, households in The Woodlands divert an average of 28% of their waste from the landfill, including aluminum, paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, textiles, housewares, and yard trimmings. The Woodlands GREEN and Environmental Services are working to increase that percentage.

The Woodlands GREEN partners with the township's Environmental Services department to emphasize recycling by sponsoring the "Village Challenge" and awarding checks to participating villages, with awards corresponding to the amounts of the targeted recyclable collected by each village (for 2019 the focus is on battery recycling). Village Challenge recyclables are collected and tallied at the Township's 3R Bazaar every November. Co-sponsors of the Village Challenge include The Woodlands Development Company, HEB, and the Woodlands Joint Powers Agency. The Woodlands GREEN continues to work with the Township to overcome obstacles to expand recycling to apartments and businesses.



Earth Day Every Day: A Partnership with The Woodlands Township



Click [HERE](#) to Learn More

The Woodlands GREEN has a legacy of partnering with The Woodlands Township. Though it began with recycling, the two entities now work together to promote numerous sustainability related educational initiatives. This partnership is a reflection of the history and vision of The Woodlands, and the desire of Woodlands founder George P. Mitchell to obtain a better balance between urban development and the natural environment ([Learn about the Mitchell vision HERE](#)).

Youth is Our Future: Student Scholarships and Student Ambassadors

Since 2006, The Woodlands GREEN has awarded scholarships totaling approximately \$45,000 to area high-school seniors who exemplify a commitment to preserving the environment. The scholarship committee received so many outstanding applicants in 2018 that the number of awards was increased from three to four. Congratulations to the 2018 scholarship winners Samuel Packer, Megan Mize, Nicole Chacon, and Andy Kim. These fine students now study at George Washington University, Texas A&M University (2), and at Baylor University. Some of the 2018 scholarship winners also participated in the Student Ambassadors program, but participation with the Ambassadors is not a scholarship requirement.



Two of the four 2018 Scholarship winners: Sam Packer and Megan Mize (with Wendy Packer and John Geiger)



[The Student Ambassador Program](#) provides students with community service opportunities with The Woodlands GREEN and affiliated partners. Student Ambassadors in grades 9-12 participate in a variety of activities such as recycling events, village tree plantings, Adopt-a-Path pathway cleanup, Earth Day Green Up, Waterway Arts Festival, Walk in The Woods Nature Series, community gardening at Bear Branch Park, kayaking cleanup on Lake Woodlands, and craft workshops to make useful items from repurposed materials.



Going GREEN Sustainability Lecture Series

These free lectures have been ongoing since 2008 and cover various aspects of sustainability, clean energy, clean air, clean water, and related issues. Going Green Lectures have birthed many good projects and initiatives over the years. For example, a lecture on bicycling in 2010 led to the formation of the Bike The Woodlands Coalition, subsequent Bronze level designation of The Woodlands as a Bicycle Friendly Community, and adoption by the Township of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Please check our website to confirm venue, date, and topic:

- March 28, 2019: Texas Forest Pests
- April 25, 2019: Raptors
- May 23, 2019: Net Zero (electric usage) at HARC



Other lecture topics have included:

- Pollinators: Bats, Bees, and Butterflies
- Water quality of Spring Creek and west fork of the San Jacinto River
- Overview of Groundwater Static Levels
- Solarize The Woodlands
- The Quiet Invasion (Invasive Species)
- Soil: Your Ultimate Water Reservoir
- Climate Change: What Does the Future Hold
- Texas State Climatologist
- Water Smart Landscaping with Native Plants



Unless noted otherwise on our webpage, Going GREEN Lectures are held at 7pm at the LEED Platinum facilities of the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), 8801 Gosling Road, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Dragon Circle Newsletter



The Dragon Circle bi-annual newsletter provides tips for green living, updates on local environmental issues, reports of recent activities, and news of upcoming events. Download the latest issue of the Dragon Circle newsletter [HERE](#).

Did you know the dragon sculpture in Lake Woodlands inspired the logo of The Woodlands GREEN? Residents may know that Cynthia Woods Mitchell was a strong advocate for the arts. Though there are many public sculptures throughout The Woodlands, the dragon in Lake Woodlands was the only piece purchased personally by Mrs. Mitchell. The dragon was presented as a gift to the community and installed in the lake at Southshore Park in 1985.

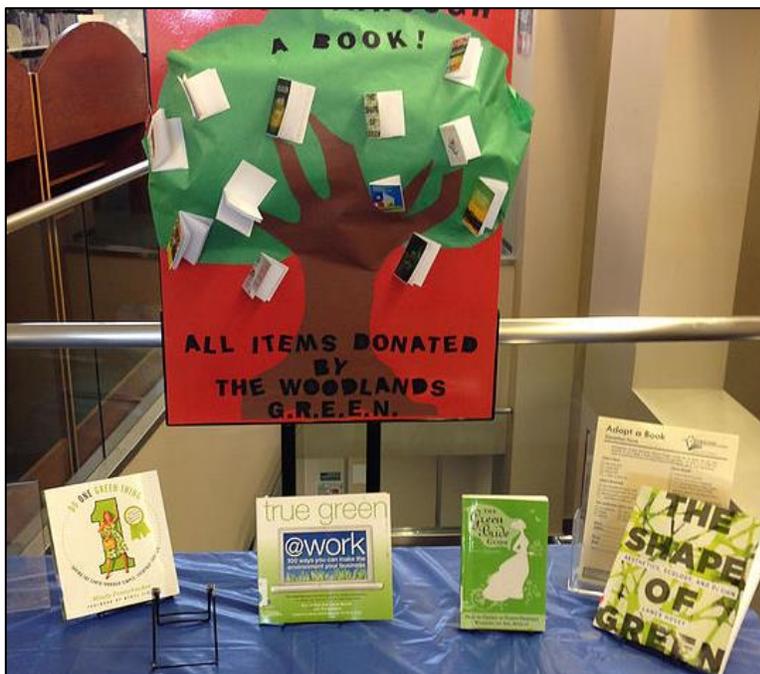
Why is our logo a Dragon? [Click Here to Learn More!](#)



Come Join Us!

Many residents choose The Woodlands because of its balance of natural beauty, sensible development, and cultural amenities. The educational programs and activities offered by The Woodlands GREEN give residents a way to get involved and support positive environmental and sustainability actions throughout the community.

Programs of The Woodlands GREEN are funded by membership fees, donations, the group's online fundraising partner [Earth Hero](#), and rain barrel sales, which include a rebate for residents who pay their water bill to the WJPA. In addition to student scholarships and other programs, The Woodlands GREEN also makes yearly contributions to Montgomery County Public Libraries. You can see the lengthy lists of donated books and audio-visual materials on our website.



We welcome visitors at our monthly Board meetings, typically the first Wednesday of every month at 5pm at the Township offices, 2801 Technology Forest.

Check our website or Facebook to confirm meeting date and times.

Woodlands GREEN Affiliations, Partnerships, and Awards

- [Environmental Services Department](#), The Woodlands Township
- [Houston Advanced Research Center \(HARC\)](#)
- [Woodlands Art League](#)
- [The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Solar United Neighbors](#)
- [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#)
- [National Recycling Coalition](#)
- [Citizens' Environmental Coalition](#), Houston-Galveston area
- [Bike The Woodlands Coalition](#)
- [Woodlands Joint Powers Agency \(WJPA\)](#)
- [Earth Hero](#)
- Ruggles Green Grand Opening Fundraiser Awardee, 2014
- Katz' Deli Grand Opening Fundraiser Awardee, 2006
- Community Association of The Woodlands Volunteer of the Year, 2004
- Recycling Alliance of Texas, Close the Loop Award, 2004
- Prudential Community Champions Award, 1997 and 2001
- Wal-Mart Grant for Texas Recycles Day, 2001
- Wal-Mart Grant for Make a Difference Day, 1998
- Entergy Environmental Education Grant, 1995, 1996
- EPA Environmental Education Grant Recipient, 1995
- HEB, Village Challenge Sponsor since 2011



Learn more at <http://www.TheWoodlandsGREEN.org> or email: info@thewoodlandsgreen.org



Like and follow us on Facebook: [@TheWoodlandsGREEN](#)



For a PDF version of this document (with links), visit our website: www.TheWoodlandsGREEN.org