

Research News

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STUDENTS SEEK SOLUTIONS TO

GLOBAL WARMING AS PART OF

"EARTH DAY" AT GEORGIA TECH

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Photography Available

Students at the Georgia Institute of Technology don't ask for much. They just want to stop global warming.

As part of an international "Earth Day" scheduled April 22 to increase awareness of environmental issues, Georgia Tech is gearing up for a week's worth of music, demonstrations, discussions and displays.

A student-directed volunteer army known as the Environmental Forum at Georgia Tech will distribute prizes for the best technological design solution to global warming. The Georgia Tech entrants may then compete with other institutions across the country, vying for a \$2,500 prize from the National Wildlife Federation.

Georgia Tech students are working with other local groups to design an "EcoVillage" display, to be erected in Atlanta's Piedmont Park. "Earth Day is a global celebration," says Georgia Tech student Steve Donkin. "This year, we'll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. We want everyone to think about things like global warming."

Many scientists believe pollutants are chewing holes in the earth's protective ozone layer, which blocks the Sun's ultra-violet rays. Without the ozone, the temperature on earth could rise as thick gases result in a "greenhouse effect." Some believe this process has already begun to occur.

Established in early 1989 by student Christian Ratsch, the Environmental Forum organizes weekly discussion meetings on issues such as groundwater contamination and recycling. The group recently worked with school officials and a private company to form a pilot recycling project on campus. Launched by a handful of dedicated students, the group now sends a newsletter to 350 people at Georgia Tech, and discussions usually draw at least 30 people, member Betty Jean Beck reported.

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