

# EarthFest takes small steps for a greener earth

EarthFest 2008 is 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at the new location on Pellissippi State Community College campus. As always, EarthFest is free. EarthFest is a "Zero-Waste Event," which means exhibitors and food vendors will be required to control the types of materials they sell or distribute. At EarthFest '07 more than 950 pounds of materials were recycled and only 25 pounds went to the landfill from the entire event.

EarthFest has had a major impact on the community promoting environmental awareness and opportunities for individuals to reduce their environmental footprint on East Tennessee. Over the years, the event has grown from attracting 4,000 attendees in Concord Cove Park to being one of the premier environmental festivals in the Southeast at the World's Fair Park. In 2007, attendance reached 13,000. This year through a substantial sponsorship from UT's Make Orange Green program, EarthFest will be able to purchase carbon offsets to limit the impact the event will have on the environment. It has been estimated the event could generate 89 metric tons of carbon

dioxide emissions. Working with an organization called TerraPass, which funds carbon reduction projects, EarthFest will purchase offsets for projects like those that support turbine wind farms, landfills where there are active methane gas collection systems to turn the gas into electricity or support promotion of clean products such as compost bins or rechargeable batteries. More detailed information to follow and will also be displayed at EF at PSTCC.

Events this year include a youth environmental learning area, silent auction which benefits the Water Quality Forum, food vendors, nature walks with native plant identification, environmental exhibitors, art and craft vendors, music, film room, AAA used car battery collection, used mercury thermometer exchange, used ink cartridge collection, Keep Blount Beautiful old cell phone collection, clean fuels vehicles and more.

There will be live music from bluegrass band Wires and Wood, returning this year is Jodi Manross, local band the West Side Cats and Lofash, a band from New Jersey. Other great bands

include rock and roll band The Dirty Gov'nahs, Knoxville's premier Irish traditional music group Four Leaf Pete and blues and rock band MacDaddy's, formerly known as Crawdaddy.

The youth area is sponsored by the Knoxville Recycling Coalition and the AmeriCorps Water Quality Team. It is free to all ages and will feature games, activities and crafts. Take home a plant or learn about composting with worms, try a local snack, play music, make your own reuse craft and more!

Students from the Environmental Club at Belle Morris Elementary will be performing Dr. Suess' "The Lorax" at noon.

The EarthFest silent auction will feature packages ranging from romantic weekend getaways to outdoor equipment to going-green cleaning supplies. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the Water Quality Forum and surrounding county nonprofit organizations. Bidding will start under the Water Quality tent at 11 a.m.

In Pellissippi's film room at EarthFest, we will be showing "Kilowatt Ours" by Jeff Blain and "The Story of Stuff" by Annie

Leonard. "Kilowatt Ours" is a film that is guaranteed to help reduce household energy consumption. There will also be a "Kilowatt Ours" representative on hand after each show to answer questions. Also showing is "The Story of Stuff" by Annie Leonard. This film is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of production and consumption patterns.

Knoxville's EarthFest has truly become an annual event attracting exhibitors and attendees from around the region. The event draws local organizations like the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition, Knoxville Recycling Coalition, the Knox County Bee Keepers Association, Beardsley Community Farm, Keep Knoxville Beautiful and Keep Blount Beautiful, and combines them with state agencies and organizations such as the National Parks Conservation Association, Big Brothers and Big Sisters

of the Tennessee Valley, the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, and the Tennessee Clean Water Network. Through terrific media exposure, great local musical entertainment on stage, a kids' learning area, and hundreds of exhibitors, EarthFest has created an ongoing community event with something for everyone.

Due to the success in attracting exhibitors and sponsors, EarthFest also gives back to the community, donating proceeds to fund activities such as the purchase of plants

and trees in the James Agee Park and funding community creek litter programs at UT and Beaver Creek. In 2005, EarthFest spawned a new, environmental nonprofit organization

called the Tennessee Valley Earth Partnership, with a mission to continue to grow Knoxville's EarthFest and create additional outreach and awareness opportunities for environmental groups in East Tennessee.

For more up-to-date information about EarthFest visit [www.knox-earthfest.org](http://www.knox-earthfest.org).

## **EARTHFEST 2008:** *"Small steps to reduce our carbon footprint"*

APRIL 26 • 11AM TO 7PM

Pellissippi State Technical  
Community College  
in Knoxville, TN