

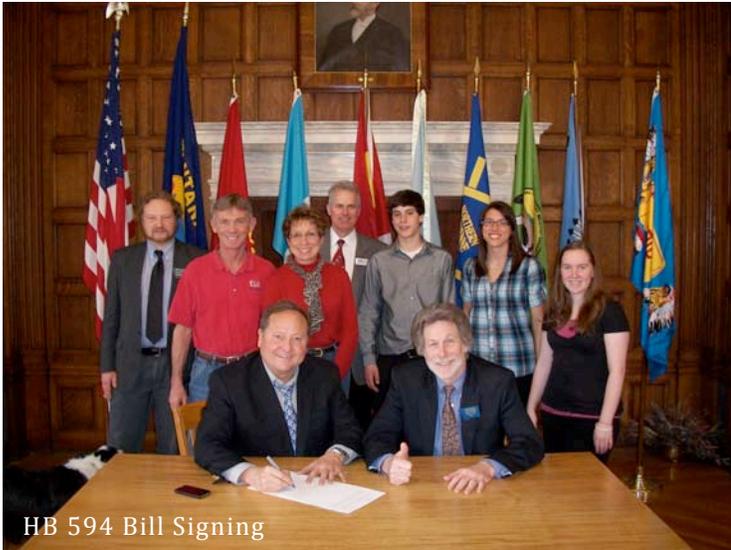
# DAILY HABITS

BY THE STUDENT ADVOCATES FOR VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT

## 2011 LEGISLATIVE NEWS

S.A.V.E. focused on two proactive bills in the 2011 Montana Legislature, House Bill 594 to incorporate recycled material into roadways and Senate Bill 265 to create an incentive for the inclusion of gray water systems in new construction.

House Bill 594 (Sesso-Butte) requires road construction in Montana to utilize recycled glass, tires, asphalt, and concrete when the product is available, meets specifications, and is equal to or lower than the cost of comparable materials. This policy will ensure that communities across Montana have a baseline market for these difficult



HB 594 Bill Signing

to recycle materials that are best utilized locally due to their weight. HB 594 enjoyed bipartisan support with freshman Senator Carmine Mowbray of Polson carrying the bill in the Senate.

Senate Bill 265 (Hamlett-Cascade) creates a tax abatement for new residential construction that utilizes gray water systems (learn more about gray water on page 2 & 3). The final version of the bill provides a 9% reduction in property tax for the new structure for ten years. This forward thinking bill will help drive gray water technology in new construction so more houses will be designed to

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save water over the lifetime of the structure, sometime more than 80 or a 100 years. The bill was carried in the House by Representative Steve Lavin of Kalispell.

With the passage of these primary bills, we consider our efforts in the session to be successful. Additional bills S.A.V.E. supported and opposed at online at [Savemobile.org](http://Savemobile.org)

## ARBOR DAY

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Arbor Day was celebrated at Carroll College with the announcement of Carroll as the first campus in Montana to become a Tree USA campus for their commitment to urban forestry. Students from Broadwater Elementary participated in a poster contest for the event and helped plant a new tree on campus, with Carroll mascot, "Halo."



Photo by Marie Phillips  
Arbor Day Tree Planting



## MESA SUMMIT

BY: BRYN HAGFORS

The Montana Environmental Student Alliance hosted its second annual Summit in Helena, Montana over the weekend of March 4-6. Over these three days, attendees were exposed to a wide range of topics pertaining to environmental consciousness. As conference attendee and organizer Zach Brown summarized, "The opportunities for the attendees of this conference were incredible. Students left the Summit with a heightened awareness of what it takes to be an effective environmental advocate, and implement their ideas on campus. Furthermore, it was an invaluable experience for Bryn Hagfors and I to learn how to organize a conference like this."

Conference attendees had the opportunity to interact with policy-makers from each side of the aisle, starting with an opening keynote presentation by Republican



Photo by Jake England  
Students collaborating at MESA Summit

Montana Senator Ryan Zinke. Sen. Zinke stressed political

moderation and compromise, as well as approaching environmentalism in a nonpartisan manner. Other speakers included: U.S. Senator Jon Tester, former U.S. Congressman Pat Williams, Dorothy Bradley, Montana Attorney General Steve Bullock, and three current state legislators. In addition, those who attended were exposed to what is currently happening on other high school and college campuses across the state.

After this networking opportunity, MESA expects that contacts made at the summit will translate into a more dynamic relationship between Montana students and faculty, bringing project visions to reality. Former U.S. Representative Pat Williams has become an ally and supporter of students and their efforts to create an effective voice for environmentalism in Montana. Proud of the outcomes of this Summit and excited to keep the ball rolling, MESA has determined that it will be hosting its third annual Summit next year. Anyone interested in learning more about MESA is encouraged to check out our website at [mesamontana.org](http://mesamontana.org).

2 [SAVEMOBILE.ORG](http://SAVEMOBILE.ORG)  
DAILY HABITS

## GREEN HONORS

Congratulations to the first class of "Green Honors" students at Carroll College!



Photo by Marie Phillips

Brad Maddock, Krystal Pool, Audrey Brockman, Caleb

Deitz, Erica Mannix, Kyle Sherman, Sarah Brown

Lindsey Vandolah, Brian Geer

Not pictured- Lindsey Keith

## WATER CONSERVATION

BY: MARIE PHILLIPS

Reusing water is essential to the efficient management of Montana's vital natural resources. When we think of the three-Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, water is not always the first thing that comes to mind. We think about taking our aluminum cans down to the recycling center, where they get hauled away into some magical world and turned into something else. Well, the three-Rs *can* apply to water, and its imperative that we do so.

Montana contains the headwaters for the Columbia, Missouri, and St. Mary's Rivers which all flow throughout our country providing millions of people with fresh water. Only 0.007% of all water is available, like these rivers, for human use (World Health Organization). It is essential that we preserve and maintain the quality and quantity of our headwaters in order to provide our communities and others with a safe and healthy supply of drinking water. This can mean reducing the total amount of water used, but could also mean reducing the amount of "potable," or drinking-quality water, used. One way to reduce the quantity of potable water used is by reusing water.

The best way to reuse water is by installing a gray water reuse system. "Gray water" refers to  
...Continued on Page 3 "Water"

## ...WATER CONT. FROM PG. 2

wastewater from the shower/tub, lavatory sinks, and laundry machine. This water is far less contaminated than “black water” which comes from kitchen sinks and toilets. Gray water can be reused indoors for toilet flushing or outdoors for belowground irrigation. These water uses do not require potable water, and therefore can be met with lower-quality water such as gray water.

In the average Montana household, each person uses approximately 100 gallons of water per day (American Water Works Association). More than twenty percent of this can be avoided by reusing water for flushing toilets (BRAC Systems). Making a house ready for gray water reuse requires keeping the piping separate for gray water sources. It costs about \$500 dollars (plumber’s estimate) per bathroom to install this type of dual plumbing in a household. Even if a full-flung gray water reuse system is not installed, it would still be relatively inexpensive to install dual plumbing in all new construction projects so they are all “gray water ready.” The policies and rules on gray water are relatively new to Montana, it’s workforce, and it’s regulators. As more systems are installed, permitted, and used, Montanans become more familiarized with the technicalities of these systems and better able to incorporate them into the greater context of water conservation.



*Photo by Marie Phillips*  
A Gray Water reuse system in Bozeman

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In Montana, we have the unique opportunity of living in a place full of rich and abundant natural resources combined with the ability to take steps to preserve those resources. It’s legal to reuse your gray water in Montana, so I urge you to contact your plumber and your local sanitarian to consider the possibilities of installing dual plumbing and a reuse system in your home.

## RECYCLING UPDATE

**Plastics:** We collected over 100,000 pounds of plastic recycling from Helena-area residents at our community plastics drives. At our most recent drive (March 11-14), we collected 15,000 pounds. The next drive is **May 13-16, 2011** at 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch (YMCA parking lot) from 8am – 6pm each day.

Our plastics recycling drives have been moved to the second full weekend (Friday-Monday) of Odd-numbered months to avoid falling on federal holidays such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day. Items collected are listed below.



*Photo by Jake Campos*

**Mark your Calendars!**  
Plastics recycling drives in 2011:

- May 13th-16th
- July 8th-11th
- September 9th-12th
- November 11th-14th



TYPE 1 (SODA BOTTLES)	TYPE 1 (CLEAR TRAYS)	TYPE 2 CLEAR (MILK JUGS)
		
TYPE 2 COLOR (LAUNDRY DETERGENT BOTTLES)		
		

Friends,

### 2011 Recycling Drives

Volunteers greet and inform community members about which bins to sort their recyclables into and when needed assist with sorting and unloading. Upcoming plastic drives in 2011 are: May 13-16, July 8-11, Sept. 9-12, and Nov. 11-14.

Please thank our sponsors of these community recycling drives: Pacific Steel and Recycling, City-County Sanitation, the City of Helena, the Montana Beverage Association, with the General Services of the State of Montana providing a location for our plastics drives and Good Samaritan providing a location for Trash for Trees.

### Volunteer on the Recycling Route

You can go along for the ride with our Business Recycling Route driver, Larry, and see how things are done first-hand.

### Office Work

Help out with office tasks such as answering phones, and checking email or help build our capacity with your grant writing, editing, formatting, or technological skills. These along with many other opportunities are available for long-term or short-term volunteers.

### Earth Day Recap

S.A.V.E. participated in a variety of Earth Day activities including a concert at 406, having an article in the Helena IR, and helping with the Kid's Beach Sweep.

**For up to the minute updates:** Follow us on Twitter @SAVEFoundation or Facebook at Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment

For more information, call or email us at: 406.449.6008, Recycle@Savemobile.org

It is S.A.V.E.'s favorite time of year! Earth Day is April 22nd and there are many events, before and after that important day. The start of the year has been very busy at S.A.V.E. We have hired a new driver (Trevor has signed back on to the mine) and had policy work with the 2011 Session in town in addition to our usual operations. We did not do as much advocacy this session, but have had fair success (fingers crossed at time of press) with two positive pieces of environmental legislation that help conserve water and resources.

With the development of Centennial Park and the expansion of the State Parking Lot at 1100 N Last Chance Gulch, the every other month plastic drives are much easier to manage and more convenient for the recyclers. This program has continued to grow, but so has our capacity to organize and operate the event with higher volumes of plastics thanks to support from sponsors. We continue to run the program in a way to maximize the environmental value of recycling plastics while laying the groundwork for a more permanent program.

We continue to be the primary advocates for water conservation through gray water and on statewide recycling policy. S.A.V.E is an effective young organization. We are very proud of our efforts. We thank you for taking the time with this newsletter and your support of these positive efforts to reduce our environmental impact. Please stay in touch and do let us know if you can help financially support these efforts.



Matthew A. Elsaesser, Executive Director  
S.A.V.E. Recycling, 501(c)3  
406.449.6008/Recycle@Savemobile.org



## THE S.A.V.E. FOUNDATION 501(C)(3) SUPPORT S.A.V.E.!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include Check and Mail to:  
**S.A.V.E. Recycling**  
**P.O. Box 1481**  
**Helena, MT 59624**

- OR -

I Would Like to receive updates \_\_\_ in the mail \_\_\_ by e-mail  
Contact me about: \_\_\_ events \_\_\_ volunteering \_\_\_ gray water

Donate with your Credit Card  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION LEVELS:**  
\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_ \$50 Household \_\_\_ \$100 Gold  
\_\_\_ \$250 Platinum \_\_\_ \$500 GREEN \$ \_\_\_ Other

\*All Donations are tax-deductible. All information collected will not be shared with any third parties and will only be used for the stated purpose (e-mail list, event notifications, etc.) S.A.V.E.'s IRS Tax ID number is 03-0531826.