
Area News

Elementary school students celebrate battery recycling with the help of Georgia College 'Battery Hero' project

Special to The U-R

A team of five Georgia College & State University students has organized a two-week battery recycling competition at a Baldwin County elementary school, encouraging children to save the planet – one battery at a time.

From Nov. 3 to Nov. 13, students at Midway Hills Academy are bringing in used batteries to see which grade can collect and recycle the most. On Nov. 13, two days before National Recycling Day, the collection buckets will be weighed to determine the winning grade during a celebration event at Midway Hills Academy's after-school program.

Georgia College's "Battery Hero" team, made up of mass communication students enrolled in their senior capstone class, made their first visit to the after-school program Nov. 3 at Midway Hills Academy to

kick off the competition and introduce over 100 students to the idea that batteries are recyclable. Footage of the campaign kick-off can be found [here](#).

The GCSU team partnered with the local Chick-fil-A to sponsor and cater the celebration, providing trays of chicken nuggets and cookies along with an appearance from the cow mascot.

Batteries contain toxic chemicals, often including heavy metals like lead and mercury, which can cause significant environmental pollution if not disposed of properly.

"I want to, together with my students, make a change to the community here," said Dr. Mengyao Xu, assistant professor of communication and instructor of the capstone class. "Maybe, I hope, one day Georgia could have its own regulation about how to dispose of the batteries."



Contributed photo

Five GCSU students organized the two-week battery recycling competition at Midway Hills Academy.