

Event raised environmental awareness as well as money for local schools

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Florida State University was in a competition over the weekend with Florida A&M University to see which school could collect the most aluminum cans to recycle.

FAMU pulled away with the win this year by collecting and donating more cans. As part of the national Cash for Cans organization, both schools sent representatives to collect money donated by those recycling cans for their respective student organizations.



As the recycling bins filled up with the community's aluminum cans, they had to be periodically smoothed out by volunteer workers.

The event, called CANpaign 2007, was designed to raise awareness for global conservation through a friendly competition. CANpaign 2007 was created by the U.S. Conference of Mayors who issued the recycling challenge to cities nationwide. Tallahassee has accepted the challenge for the past three years. According to Anja DeLoach, recycling coordinator for Tallahassee, recycling of aluminum cans is especially important because they take hundreds of years to decompose.

"By recycling them we can ensure they can be used over and over again," DeLoach said.

Representatives from FSU include the Wakeboarding Club and Invisible Children. The money donated to FSU through the CANpaign competition goes directly to these organizations and others around campus.

Garnet and Gold Goes Green is especially involved in events like these. G4, as they are also known as, is an organization at FSU created to spread awareness of recycling efforts. One of the biggest ways they distribute their message is by setting up recycling stations for fans to drop off their discarded cans and bottles during home football games.

"Recycling is easy to do. Its better than throwing it away," said Rachel Snyder, G4 member.

FAMU also sent representatives to the event, including the Environmental Scientists Student Organizations, Cobra All Stars, and the Residential Student Association. Additionally, FAMU hosted an event on their campus before the CANpaign 2007 challenge.

Organized by the FAMU Green Coalition, run by LaRae Donnellan, Co-Chair of the

Green Coalition, students and teachers were able to bring their aluminum cans to campus to be delivered to the CANpaign 2007 event. Donnellan believes this event and others like this are important.

"We only have one world, we have to do what we have to do," Donnellan said.

For more information about how to get involved, visit <http://www.sustainablecampus.fsu.edu>.