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A Step in the Right Direction

South Aiken High was recently named a Green Steps School during the "Take Action Today" recycling workshop in Columbia, SC. Green Steps Schools is an environmental education initiative that encourages South Carolina schools to take sustainable steps towards becoming more environmentally responsible and eco-friendly. South Aiken High is the second school in Aiken County to have achieved this status. Schofield Middle received the same honor last year.

South Aiken High accomplished two of three goals to include conserving and protecting the environment. Conservation projects included recycling while the protection projects pertained to litter control. Examples of conservation projects included an "upcycle" student workshop on how to make purses from chip bags and a Christmas doorway display from 100% recycled materials. Protecting the environment developed with the assistance of the faculty, Serteens, Interact Club, environmental science students and other organizations. After filling 25--30gallon trash bags with litter, the 2009-10 SAHS/Adopt-A-Highway program was a success. Since 2007, this partnership ensures the roadways around the school facility remain "free of debris." Plans towards the restoring step are underway for next year.

Since its inception in 2003, there are 52 schools representing 13 South Carolina counties recognized as Green Step Schools. For more information on South Carolina Green Steps Schools, please contact www.greenstepschools.com or Michelle Ashley, South Aiken High physical/environmental sciences teacher, at mashley@aiken.k12.sc.us .