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This spring, Radford University and the Department of Sustainability are encouraging students to reduce, reuse and recycle as Radford University is joining many universities around the United States and Canada, and taking part in the Recyclemania competition. An international recycling and sustainability initiative that takes place for eight weeks in the spring, Recyclemania aims to reduce the amount of waste and the environmental impact on college campuses. Beginning in January and continuing until March 31, the initiative encourages students to focus on recycling and trash collection and each week the results from each campus are calculated and ranked. At the end of the eight weeks, the school with the highest percentage of waste reduction is awarded national recognition and becomes the home for the traveling trophy for the next year. Within the tournament there are categories that each school can compete in such as the Per Capita Classic, which awards the school with the most waste eliminated per person. There are also source-specific categories, which focus on elimination of specific wasted recyclables such as glass, paper, and metals, and the Gorilla Prize category, which is awarded for the greatest total number of pounds of waste eliminated. Radford University is participating in all of these categories, and it will be the university's fifth year competing.

Julio Stephens, Director of Sustainability at Radford is encouraging students to participate not only in this competition but to also make environmentally healthy decisions in every aspect of student life and become involved in the movement to make Radford a sustainable and environmentally friendly campus. Stephens observes that there are a great many ways to be involved and influential in this movement but one of the most important of which is to simply be conscious of personal behaviors and to manage how we throw away garbage and recycle on an individual basis. He poignantly observes that "...when we throw stuff away, it doesn't just disappear" and "... if everybody puts in a little effort we will have big impact". Results of the competition will be available on the organization's website so that students and faculty can view the scores of their schools and track the progress of the tournament. Look for events across campus and online with the Radford Sustainability Facebook page. There will be tips, trivia and more and together, as students and faculty will watch Radford get a little bit greener.

