



Radon in Georgia

Georgia Radon Education Program (GREP) Newsletter and Outreach Report

April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016

*GREP is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Planning and Environmental Management*

Indian Creek Middle School Radon Classes

In May the Georgia Radon Program was contacted by science teachers at Indian Creek Middle School who were interested in having radon classes for their students. For two full school days, radon educator Gabrielle Walters provided radon education classes to a total of 6 combined science classes, reaching about 260 students.

The classes were combined in order to be more time efficient, but covered a wide range of middle school science levels. Some students had only heard of radon as being on the periodic table of elements and some knew that it could be harmful to one's health. The students were attentive and participated by answering questions posed to them and asked questions themselves.

Students are a great way for our program to spread the word about testing homes for radon even though children typically are not the ones installing test kits in the home. Oftentimes they go home and talk to other household members about radon and ask about getting their home tested. To help provide more information, each student received a flyer about radon, a color changing pencil, and a stress reliever shaped like a dog bone. By the afternoon of the first day of presentations, students were excited about the guest speaker and the bones they would get to take home.

Students were provided with information on where and how they could get a test kit for their families. Some recent radon kit orders have cited the presentations at Indian Creek Middle as the way they learned about radon, so some students did go home to talk to their parents about it. Some of the teachers and school staff purchased kits to test for radon in their homes. It was a great opportunity to connect with this school in order to provide classes to their students.

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Radon Class

Since the UGA radon program is part of UGA Extension, we are able to make new connections to various groups of individuals working to improve the lives of Georgia citizens. One of the more recent connections made was with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). GICH "helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through development of locally-based housing and revitalization strategies." Since they work to improve housing, it made sense for our programs to work together.

Susan Culpepper, a County Extension Agent in Douglas County, invited the Georgia Radon Program to a GICH meeting to discuss radon in homes and how it can be preemptively lowered or tested for once a home has been completed. Though the presentation was short, the GICH members were very attentive and invested in testing homes for radon or even installing Radon Resistant New Construction (RRNC) techniques to new homes being built in communities. To encourage each member to continue talking about radon, each member was given a complimentary radon test kit for their own home. This way they would be able to see how easy it is to test for it and would give them more talking points when talking to other individuals about the dangers of radon. We look forward to working with more GICH communities and groups in the future.

GEORGIA RADON EDUCATORS AT WORK

Fight for Air Climb

Earlier this year, the American Lung Association (ALA) invited the Georgia Radon Program to participate in the Fight for Air Climb in Atlanta. The Fight for Air Climb is one of the ALA's biggest fundraising events and is held in cities all over the country. In Atlanta, around 900 participants climbed 1,272 stairs (51 floors) at One Ninety One Peachtree Tower in downtown Atlanta. The goal of these climbs is to raise money to assist with lung cancer and lung disorder research.

The Georgia Radon Program was in attendance with a booth filled with information on radon and how it can affect lung health. Due to the nature of the event, the majority of what was handed out were educational flyers that were easy for climb participants to carry.

Many climb participants knew other individuals who are suffering from or have suffered from lung diseases, while some in attendance were current lung disease patients. The motivational speeches given before the climb started from lung cancer patients were very inspirational. You could tell they were passionate about doing everything in their power to fund lung research.

Our program was very thankful to be a part of such a large event and to have the opportunity to talk about radon and lung health to such a receptive audience. Participating in this event has opened doors to partner with the ALA in the future at other events.



One Ninety One Peachtree Tower—location of the 2016 Fight for Air Climb in Atlanta, GA.

Radon Outreach

Program Contacts & Media Impressions April through June 2016

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Total
Programs-Meetings	8
Participants	325
Materials Distributed	920
Exhibits-Events	5
Participants	1200
Materials Distributed	2500
OTHER CONTACTS	Total
Total Contacts	328
Medical Professionals	2
Home Builders	1
Realtors	6
Consumer Contacts	320
KIT USAGE DATA	Total
Kits Distributed	249
Results Received	174
≥ 4.0 pCi/L	39
< 4.0 pCi/L	126
Incomplete	9
% ≥ 4.0 pCi/L	24%
Highest Level	35.9 pCi/L
MITIGATION DATA	Total
RRNC ²	
Mitigations ³	
Mitigation Referreals	50
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Total
Radio	
Listeners	
Television	
Viewers	
Newspaper	2
Circulation	11,800
Newsletter	1
Distribution	21
Local Web Hits ⁴	
GA SIRG Web Hits ⁵	2088
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	16,011

¹Other includes radon education/results of former educators & county FACS/4-H Agents.

²Reported quarterly by Southface

³Mitigation & RRNCs completed by Certified Mitigators are reported annually.

⁴Began tracking Jan 1, 2010

⁵Web hits for www.UGAradon.org are shared equally among the radon educators.

Radon Outreach

Program Contacts & Media Impressions April 2003 through June 2016

<u>PROGRAM CONTACTS</u>	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Programs / Meetings	317	187	266	193	624	1,084	27	2,698
Participants	9,560	4,335	15,112	3,866	23,080	17,946	2,099	75,998
Materials Distributed	17,652	11,441	15,887	6,595	46,547	9,184	75	107,381
Exhibits or Events¹	151	86	175	63	175	67	31	748
Participants	47,411	6,558	146,287	11,978	161,033	13,798	2,996	390,061
Materials Distributed	102,800	8,947	50,145	8,057	26,470	1,296	1,346	199,061
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Total Direct Contacts	7,055	1,385	1,216	475	5,507	12,268	52	27,958
Medical professionals	572	51	242	56	905	0	24	1,850
Home builders	365	29	43	45	378	10,082	0	10,942
Realtors	575	93	85	25	209	836	28	1,851
Consumer Contacts	5,543	1,212	846	349	4,015	1,350	0	13,315
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Kits Distributed	9,629	4,275	7,895	2,893	12,183	5,192	4,600	46,667
Test Results Received	3,827	1,622	2,477	1,354	6,309	1,060	849	17,498
Highest Level	49.9	31.3	54.4	44.0	85.8	77.1	0.0	85.8
MITIGATION DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Mitigation Referrals	1,384	249	361	91	751	412	0	3,248
Mitigations²	6,451							
RRNC³	1,480							
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Radio Outreach	66	11	8	4,278	137	1	2	4,503
Listening Audience	4,847,000	3,670,000	10,000	4,020,000	2,693,000	2,000	377,000	15,619,000
TV Outreach	140	75	713	8	279	2	437	1,654
Viewing Audience	25,170,100	12,733,000	73,981,740	15,080	27,894,200	1,328,000	8,385,000	149,507,120
Newspaper Outreach	53	4	19	13	102	0	6	197
Circulation	1,691,200	3,223,000	1,304,817	154,800	3,545,449	0	69,500	9,988,766
Newsletter Outreach	51	2	14	17	56	9	16	165
Distribution	29,321	249	16,746	9,215	1,832,280	903,048	6,054	2,796,913
Local Web Hits⁵	894	1,044	20,600	0	12,000	0	0	34,538
State Web Hits⁶	69,071					51,296	0	120,367
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	31,752,329	19,641,107	75,347,717	4,212,909	35,990,743	2,284,344	8,837,554	178,066,704

¹Other includes radon education/results of former radon educators and county FACS/4-H Agents.

²Reported quarterly by Southface only.

³Certified GA mitigators reported their mitigations & RRNCs annually through 2012.

⁴Began tracking Jan. 1, 2010

⁵UGA Radon Program web hits are shared equally among the 5 radon educators

RADON RESOURCES & CONTACTS

Georgia Indoor Radon Grant Administration

Brain Johnson, Office Director

Georgia Department of Community Affairs— Office of Planning and Environmental Management
60 Executive Park South NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 404-679-3105

Adriane Wood, Grant Coordinator

adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Community Affairs—Office of Planning and Environmental Management
479 Cherry Street, Macon, GA. 31201 478-319-0433

Radon Hotline Numbers

National Hotlines

Kansas State University / EPA

1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

National Hispanic Indoor Air Quality

1-800-725-8312

The Radon Fix It Line: (National Safety Program)

1-800-644-6999

Get live help for your radon questions

1-800-55RADON (557-2366)*

Radon Fix-It Hotline—General information on reducing radon levels

1-800-644-6999*

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

** Operated by Kansas State University in partnership with EPA*

The Georgia Radon Education Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Planning and Environmental Management, in partnership with the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension.

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