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RECYClemANIA COMPETITION KICKS OFF ON CAMPUS

Houston, Feb. 6, 2013 – The RecycleMania competition has kicked off at the University of Houston, but it’s not too late for teams to sign up.

Organizations, groups and individuals can participate in the contest, which started Feb. 2 and continues until March 30. The competition involves creating events on campus relating to waste reduction, reuse or recycling. There are three categories:

- **Compassionate Cougar** (groups with 1-10 members)
- **Conservation Houstonian** (groups with 11-50 members)
- **Sustainability-Savvy Shasta** (residential halls)

To register a team, send an email to uhrecyclemania@gmail.com with the name of the organization and the number of members.

Leah Wolfthal, program coordinator for the UH Office of Sustainability, said teams are coming up with creative and interesting ideas for the competition.

“One organization is planning a RecycleMania-themed bingo event,” Wolfthal said. “Other ideas have included an event in which students would build replicas of buildings on campus using plastic bottles and other recycled materials. There’s also a Trash to Treasure event, where students bring something they don’t want anymore, and they can exchange it for items they do like.”

To date, teams from the Quadrangle, Calhoun Lofts, Moody Towers and Cougar Village have signed up. In addition, Sigma Nu, HRMAGREEN Team, Biomedical Engineering Society, UH Dining Services and Sigma Phi Epsilon have registered.
The winners in each competition will receive catering gift cards. To understand how entries are judged using a point system and for more information and details, visit www.uh.edu/af/greenUH/recyclemania.htm.

Waste, recycling and food donation weight data will be submitted weekly to the national RecycleMania competition.

Besides the competition, RecycleMania activities on campus will also include two events planned for March 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Butler Plaza:

1) **RecycleMania Olympics** – Students can play various games using recycled materials
2) **The Art of Recycling** – A competition in which participants make pieces of art out of recycled materials

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**About the University of Houston**

The University of Houston is a comprehensive national research institution serving the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. UH serves more than 40,700 students in the nation’s fourth-largest city, located in the most ethnically and culturally diverse region of the country.