



**Recap: May 12, 2016
Charlotte Green Team Meeting
Olde Mecklenburg Brewery
Charlotte, NC**

“Green Sustainable Initiatives Among Food & Beverage Vendors”

What a beautiful, sunny day to be in a beer garden and “sample the product!” Olde Mecklenburg Brewery (OMB) was such a gracious host to have the Charlotte Green Team there on May 12th. The meeting room looking out on the “biergarten,” and the wonderful sampling during the meeting of beers was just perfect.

But so was the education. Josh Brigham with OMB talked with us about the various things the brewery is doing on green/sustainability. It starts with purchasing; they were buying their hops from a local farm, but then discarding the leftover mash. But they and the farmer realized that the leftovers were still good for his animals, so now it makes a full circle from farm, to brewery, back to farm for feed.

Making beer takes a lot of “brewing” at high temperatures, and they’ve looked into different alternatives for heat, like geo-thermal, but don’t have the answer yet, though they continue to investigate.

Also on the agenda was Joe Phelan with Eco Products, who talked about the many different biodegradable packaging and service products they produce and distribute.

There were a lot of great questions for both speakers, and a great dialogue among the attendees of how to get more “groups” involved in promoting green/sustainable practices versus convincing people one-on-one. The football stadium at UNCC was brought up as a great example of what an “organization” can do when they embrace these initiatives.

The Charlotte Green Team is co-sponsored by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) and the Charlotte Area Hotel Association (CAHA)

