



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 15, 2014  
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### **Two family-friendly, free events in one at the S.A.L.T. Block**

**HICKORY** - Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, along with family-friendly activities at the SALT Block.

Learn about what it means to “be green” in Catawba County during the sixth year of “Growing a Green Future” event. In addition to “Growing a Green Future,” for the second year, the Catawba County Partnership for Children will be hosting their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Family Fair in conjunction with this event. This combined event will be held on Saturday, April 26, between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., on the “Green” between the Arts and Science Center and the Patrick Beaver Memorial Library, 375 3rd Street, NE, Hickory. The rain date is Sunday, April 27 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

“More than ever before, in the history of the plant, being stewards of the environment is paramount,” said Maria Goldstein with GoGreen Hickory. “Young and old inhabitants of our planet must be actively practicing responsible stewardship each day and every day. Each year in the month of April our community comes together to become aware of how we can be part of “making every day earth day.”

As in previous years, more than 20 groups will be represented at “Growing a Green Future” and they will be providing educational information, and demonstrations, focusing on preserving the earth, supporting nature, or any environmental product, practice or service offered in the area.

Many organizations come together to bring this event to the community, including The City of Hickory, the Catawba Science Center, the Catawba County Partnership for Children, Catawba County, Greenway Public Transportation, Keep Catawba County Beautiful, Hickory Museum of Art, and Republic Services.

“Education about recycling and waste reduction and how to take care of our environment is making a real difference,” said Amanda Kain, Catawba County Waste Reduction Coordinator/Educator. “Catawba County is pleased to have the distinction

of being ranked #1 in the state for recycling which reflects the dedicated efforts of our citizens, businesses, school systems and our cities and towns.”

In addition to “Growing a Green Future,” Family Fair, also, provides a wide variety of fun, free activities for all families in the community. This year is focused around “Reading Takes You Places.” Many agencies and organizations will provide information about their services, as well as fun activities for children of all ages. They will have literacy activities, as well as face painting, balloon animals, games, Foothills Gymnastics, Hickory Public Library, and Safe Kids Catawba County, just to name a few.

The Catawba County Partnership for Children works collaboratively with other child serving agencies to ensure that children start school healthy and prepared for success. A nonprofit agency since 1995, the Partnership for Children is located at Sweetwater Early Childhood Education Center in Hickory.

The City of Hickory’s Community Appearance Commission (CAC) and Landscape Services will be handing out tree seedlings again this year. The trees are Laurel Oak, Catalpa, and Crape Myrtle. The community is encouraged to stop by the City of Hickory’s booth to pick up a tree seedling to plant.

Air quality improvement and the reduction of carbon in the atmosphere is a benefit of trees. Also, a healthy mature tree will increase property value and the larger the tree the higher the value. This is especially important for resale and will increase yearly as the tree grows. All of these reasons should be an incentive to plant trees. By keeping mature trees healthy by proper pruning and not topping trees, not only will it increase the value of a property and save money on energy costs, but, it, also, helps provide a benefit of cleaner air and reductions in storm water problems.

In addition to all the other activities during this event, the Catawba Science Center will be hosting the Eco Transportation Show that will be located in the parking area adjoining Carpenter Hall on the South Side of the Green. Mike Johnson Toyota, Paramount Auto, and Everett Chevrolet are the sponsors for the Eco Transportation Show, which enables all visitors to come to the Catawba Science Center Exhibits for free during this event. Each of these sponsors will be bringing energy efficient vehicles for display. Also, on display will be an Army Utility Vehicle that runs on used cooking oil, as well as other possible displays, such as bicycles, canoes, kayaks, and more.

For more information on the City’s Community Appearance Commission, go to [HickoryNC.gov](http://HickoryNC.gov). For more information about Catawba County Partnership for Children, call 828-695-6505 or go to [CatawbaKids.com](http://CatawbaKids.com). For more information about Family Fair, please call 828-695-6506.

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