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News Release

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For Immediate Release: January 7, 2016

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Durham Recognizes New Stormwater STAR Businesses

DURHAM, N.C. – Four local businesses are now setting the example of environmental stewardship by preventing stormwater pollution.

[The Refectory Café](#), [Pine State Flowers](#), [Beer Durham](#), and [Cocoa Cinnamon](#) have been recognized by the City of Durham Public Works Department [Stormwater and GIS Services Division](#) for completing a year-long program to become certified as [Stormwater STAR](#) businesses.

The [Stormwater STAR recognition program](#) began two years ago as a way for businesses to show off their efforts to protect creeks, rivers, and lakes in Durham. Everyday tasks like picking up litter, checking outside storage bins, and proper disposal of everything from grease to mop water help prevent storm drain pollution.

The four certified businesses recently became Stormwater STARs by answering questions about their current pollution prevention practices, participating in stormwater pollution prevention training with City staff, and setting and achieving pollution prevention goals.

According to Pollution Prevention Coordinator Emily Rhode with the City's Stormwater and GIS Services Division, STAR businesses have decreased their contribution to stormwater pollution by taking steps such as posting procedures for good housekeeping practices, planting vegetation to soak up stormwater, and labeling storm drains near their property to remind people that only rain should go down the storm drain.

“Our STAR businesses make protecting Durham’s creeks and streams a priority,” Rhode said. “They want to show the community that being good stewards of our environment is simple and makes good business sense. I hope that other Durham businesses will now join their efforts and participate in this program.”

There are now 10 participants in the Stormwater STAR program representing a variety of business sectors. For a complete list of businesses in the STAR program, visit the [City's website](#). Businesses interested in joining the program may complete an [online registration form](#) or contact Rhode at (919) 560-4326 ext. 30295 or by [email](#).

About the Public Works Department Stormwater and GIS Services Division

The [Stormwater and GIS Services Division](#) with the City of Durham Public Works Department is guided by the City’s [Strategic Plan](#) goals of Stewardship of City’s Physical and Environmental Assets as well as Innovative and High-Performing Organization. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; enforcing stormwater ordinances and regulations; education and outreach; stream monitoring, restoration, and watershed master planning; maintaining multiple layers of the City’s geographic information; and stormwater billing. To learn more, visit the [Web page](#), like on [Facebook](#), and follow on [Twitter](#).

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