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## **Atlanta Companies Add Environmental Choice For Employees**

*EFFORTS BENEFIT THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY*

October 5, 2001, ATLANTA – It's Fall – which means many employees are being asked to give at the office. A growing number of companies are adding environmental options because of concerns over dirty air, compromised water quality, and traffic gridlock—daily irritations for Atlanta's workforce. Companies like ebank, Emory University, and Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture are including Earth Share of Georgia in their payroll contribution programs, enabling their employees to give to environmental groups.

ebank is a federally chartered thrift that provides a full range of banking products and services to individuals and corporate customers. While its focus is on traditional community banking business, it also offers Internet banking to customers nationwide who bank online.

“Giving our employees the choice to make contributions to environmental groups is one benefit that sets us apart from other banks,” said Jim Box, President of ebank. “The competition is stiff when it comes to talented workers in our industry, and we believe this is one way to show our people that we care what's important to them.”

Emory University has opened its campaign to charities outside the United Way umbrella for the first time.

“Our employees wanted to have more giving options in our campaign,” said Michelle Smith, Emory's Executive Director of Corporate Relations. “We heard their request and responded. Our hope is that we will pick up people who haven't donated in the past.”

Lord, Aeck & Sargent Architecture is best known for its award-winning designs for science facilities, educational buildings, and historic restoration projects around the southeast region.

“When our staff designs a new structure, or plans to restore an historical building, we are always sensitive to the impact on the environment,” said Tony Aeck, company Principal, “so giving to environmental groups is a natural fit for our firm.”

Earth Share of Georgia, formerly the Environmental Fund for Georgia, is a nonprofit federation of local and global conservation and environmental groups. It is now conducting workplace campaigns in over 60 companies around the state including Emory University, Atlanta Public Schools, Worldspan, MARTA, and the State of Georgia. Member groups include Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Georgia Conservancy, Audubon Society, and Georgia and National Wildlife Federations. For more information, [www.earthsharega.org](http://www.earthsharega.org) or 404-873-3173.

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