I. An historic downtown Hartwell walking tour kick-off event, featuring the new brochure, was held on Friday, May 6. Historic walking tour committee members led guided tours for roughly 45 attendees. The project was a collaborative effort of 8 local organizations. The Hartwell Service League provided refreshments to tour participants.

II. A team of environmental engineering students worked with the Hart County Work Ready Committee and the Hart County School System to create designs for “Sustainable Cafeteria Food Waste Remediation and Methane Production by Two-Stage Mesophilic Anaerobic Digestion.” Goals of this project were helping Hart County “go green” via renewable energy and reducing cafeteria food waste going to the landfills. Another is linking students in the school system, particularly high school agricultural students and high tech science students (biology, chemistry, physics) so that they are exposed to/prepared for leading edge green and renewable energy technologies for the future. This is a long-term project due to the funding, which will need to be from grants and in-kind. The engineering students’ work will be a big asset for the next step, which will be identifying and applying for grants.

III. Nonprofit Organization graduate student, Jimbo Graves, completed the first stage of a community asset inventory project and presented it to the Archway Executive Committee. The Executive Committee hopes to foster the further development of the inventory to facilitate connections and the sharing of resources between individuals and organizations within the community. Next steps include strategic discussions and planning for the ongoing development of the inventory and ways to share the inventory with the larger community.