

## The Edge Connection

975 Cobb Place Blvd NW, Suite 101 Kennesaw, GA 30144

Founded in 1997, the Edge Connection is a training organization committed to launching, growing and sustaining small businesses. The Edge initially provided training and technical assistance to individuals looking to start small businesses through a variety of community entities. As the demand for their services grew, so did their need for a dedicated space for small businesses to operate. Thus, the idea of the social enterprise business incubator was born. In 2009, the Edge received a \$50,000 grant from Southface's GoodUse (formerly GoodUse) program for the construction of the green facility.

Unfortunately, the economic collapse ensued, and the Edge was forced to scale back the project to include only a kitchen for food-related businesses. Determined to be a leader in sustainability, the Edge renovated the new space with energy efficient features, including high-efficiency lighting and controls, low flow plumbing faucets, and a high efficiency HVAC system.



The kitchen has been a wild success, helping to launch businesses such as Tad's Tasty Treats, which was selected by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as a "Startup to Watch". Said Tad Spencer, owner of Tad's Tasty Treats, "The Edge provided me with an incredible commercial kitchen at a most reasonable cost. It would be foolhardy for a new business like my own to attempt to replicate this kitchen at my own expense."

### SITE DETAILS

**30,000** square feet

### IMPROVEMENTS

- High-efficiency lighting and controls
- Energy Star equipment and appliances
- Low flow plumbing faucets, toilets and other equipment
- A high efficiency HVAC system

### IMPACT

- 25** active members
- Multiple successful startups