

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### **Walk Bike Nashville Biking Workshops – April 2, 5, 9, 16**

Walk Bike Nashville hosts a variety of biking courses for Nashvillians looking to improve their bicycle skills or bike safety. Find the right class for you, from beginners to advanced topics, on the Walk/Bike Nashville calendar. More details here.

### **Annual Spring Stream Cleaning – April 2**

Be a part of the countywide effort to restore creeks, streams, and rivers back to pre-flood conditions, or better! Spring stream cleanups will take place April 2 from 9am to Noon. Following the cleanup, volunteers are invited to

April is Earth Month, and there are plenty of ways to celebrate around Nashville! Nashville's Earth Day Festival will feature exhibits and activities for the whole family, but there will be lots of other ways you can give back to the earth this month as well! Think about joining the Nashville-wide stream cleaning effort on April 2 or learn how to make a rain barrel to reduce your water use as we move into spring and summer months. As the weather gets warmer, more and more people are putting on their walking shoes and pulling out their bikes to get around town! Vanderbilt's newly formed group, WalkBike Vanderbilt, invites you to join them on their Vanderbilt Safety Walk to discuss issues surrounding biking and walking on campus and to highlight safety on campus. Vanderbilt and Walk Bike Nashville are both hosting courses on biking skills and safety this month if you want to learn more! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU website and Facebook page. SustainVU wishes you a happy and sustainable Earth Month!

join Cumberland River Compact for the Spring Cleaning After Party at 12:30 pm at the Bridge Building. More details [here](#).

### **WalkBike Vanderbilt Safety Walk – April 6**

Students, faculty and staff are invited to join in a walking tour of campus on National Walking Day, April 6, at 2 p.m. The policy tour event will highlight bike and pedestrian safety efforts on campus. The walk will begin on 21st Avenue between the Vanderbilt Law School and the Owen Graduate School of Management. More details [here](#).

### **Engage Green: Saving April Showers – April 6**

This month, join [Engage Green](#) as they partner with the [Cumberland River Compact](#) to learn about how to save water and money! The workshop will cover the benefits of collecting rain water through both rain barrels and rain gardens and will finish the workshop with a hands-on demonstration of how to make your own rain barrel. If you plan on purchasing a rain barrel, please RSVP by Friday, April 1st. More details [here](#).

### **Rand Produce Stand – April 7**

Stop by the Rand patio on Thursday, April 7th, from 11am-1pm to shop at the Vanderbilt Dining Produce Stand. The stand will feature: fresh produce, local Hatcher Family Dairy chocolate milk pints, locally made jams, local honey, other various specialty items,

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### **Speak up by hitting the pavement for campus safety walk with WalkBike Vanderbilt**



Students, faculty and staff are invited to join in a walking tour of campus on National Walking Day, April 6, at

2 p.m. The policy tour event will highlight bike and pedestrian safety efforts on campus. The walk will begin on 21st Avenue between the Vanderbilt Law School and the Owen Graduate School of Management. Participants are encouraged to join the walk at any point along the route.

Campus safety and planning officials as well as representatives of Metro Government Public Works and Planning will join in the policy walk, sponsored by WalkBike Vanderbilt, a newly formed organization on campus.

This policy walk is the Vanderbilt community’s opportunity to offer input into pedestrian and bike safety issues around campus – both what is working well and what could be improved,” said Mary Pat Teague, associate director, Community, Neighborhood and Local Government Relations. Read more [here](#).

Members of the campus community also are encouraged to fill out the [Vanderbilt Active Transportation Survey](#). Organized by the Hillsboro West End Neighborhood (HWEN), the survey will be conducted between April 3 and April 11. The collected data will be used to promote alternatives to commuting by car to campus.

### **City officials asking for input on 3 transit proposals**

and a special vegetarian entrée of roasted vegetable and avocado quesadilla with cilantro pesto mayo cheddar mix. Meal Plan will be accepted! More details [here](#).

## 25th Annual Green Tie Affair – April 7

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Green Tie Affair on April 7 at the Bridge Building in Nashville. Green Tie Affair is the [TN Environmental Council's](#) annual fundraising extravaganza that includes silent and live auctions, great musical entertainment, complimentary wine, beer, and food, the presentation of the 2016 Sustainable Tennessee Award Winner. Register and more details [here](#).

## VegFest – April 9

The first annual Nashville Vegfest will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> in the Student Life Center. The event will promote a plant based and cruelty free lifestyle. It is a family friendly event with over 50 local and regional vendors, 7 speakers, FREE entrance and food samples. More details [here](#).

## 2016 ECOS Meeting – April 10-13

The [Environmental Council of the States](#) is hosting their spring membership meeting from April 10-13 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Nashville. ECOS hosts multiple project-based meetings throughout the year, with this meeting being the spring membership convention. Speakers for this event will include



Mayor Megan Barry is opening a new dialogue about the future of transportation in Nashville. Barry is urging residents to weigh in on three separate plans from the Metro and Regional Transit Authority. One proposal calls for a comprehensive overhaul and includes plans for light rail lines on Gallatin, Charlotte, Nolensville and Murfreesboro Pike. The plan also calls for a new commuter rail line to Clarksville, street cars in Germantown and bus rapid transit lines. To increase ridership, there would be longer service hours and more frequent service along key routes. The other proposals call for more bus-focused service. [Take the nMotion survey](#) to give your input on the proposed transportation plans.

Transit talks by nMotion are taking place across Nashville and the surrounding areas throughout the next month. Check [nMotion's events page](#) for the meeting nearest you. If you're interested in having someone from Nashville MTA/RTA come speak to your business or organization about the nMotion process, you can request a Transit Talk [here](#). Read more [here](#).

## How to make electric vehicles that actually reduce carbon

An interdisciplinary team of scientists has worked out a way to make electric vehicles that are not only carbon neutral but carbon negative, capable of actually reducing the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide as they operate.

The unusual pairing of carbon dioxide conversion and advanced battery technology is the result of a collaboration between the laboratory of Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Cary Pint at Vanderbilt University and Professor of Chemistry Stuart Licht at George Washington University.

The team adapted a solar-powered process that converts carbon dioxide into carbon so that it produces carbon nanotubes. The nanotubes can be incorporated into both lithium-ion batteries like those used in electric vehicles and electronic devices and low-cost sodium-ion batteries under

U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. More details [here](#).

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## **Bike Safety Class – April 10**

A bike safety class will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. April 10 at the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center (VRWC). More details will be available on the [VRWC website](#) as they are available.

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## **Environmental Humanities Seminar – April 12**

Vanderbilt’s own Amanda Little will be speaking on her book-in-progress about the future of food. Come out at 4:10pm to the Robert Penn Warren Center’s seminar room to be a part of the discussion. More details [here](#).

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## **Lipscomb “State of Sustainability” Mini-Summit – April 13**

Just as the New Year is a time for personal reflection and fresh resolve, so it is for the profession of sustainability. On Wednesday, April 13, 2016, Lipscomb University’s Institute for Sustainable Practice will host a mini-summit entitled: The State of Sustainability: The Future of Environmental Professions. More details [here](#).

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## **Nutrition Workshop: Nutrition on the Go – April 20**

The best way to promote better health and nutrition is to eat in-season with local ingredients. [Team Green](#)

development for large-scale applications, such as the electric grid.

“Our climate-change solution is two fold: (1) to transform the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into valuable products and (2) to provide greenhouse gas emission-free alternatives to today’s industrial and transportation fossil fuel processes,” said Licht. Read more [here](#).

## **Regional Conversations on Transit**

The transit conversation continues, and [nMotion](#) wants to make sure you are part of it! As part of the ongoing nMotion



outreach, the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee is teaming up with Cumberland Region Tomorrow again to host a series of community meetings throughout Middle Tennessee. A list of these talks can be found [here](#). The Transit Citizen Leadership Academy is taking place this spring. The course is designed to equip private- and public-sector leaders across Middle Tennessee with the personal and group tools to lead conversations about the value of multimodal transit across the region and about the emerging mass transit options that can address our mobility needs. More information on the Academy can be found [here](#).

## **Bill Nye Discusses Climate Change in New Video**

[Adventures](#) is partnering with the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#) and [Bliss Holistic](#) Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, Amber Robertson, to discuss seasonality topics and tasteful new recipes! More details [here](#).

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## Nashville's Earth Day Festival – April 23

Nashville's Earth Day Festival in Centennial Park is a free, family friendly event with live entertainment throughout the day celebrated each year in April. [Nashville's Earth Day Festival](#) features exhibits and hands-on activities aimed at educating Nashvillians about protecting our environment and living green. More details [here](#).

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## David Pellow Lecture – April 27

David Pellow from the Sociology Department at U.C. Santa Barbara, will speak on his research about immigrants, working conditions, and the environment. The event will be at 12 noon. The event is cosponsored by the [Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies](#) and the [Sociology Department](#). More details [here](#).



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science around climate change in this [video](#). 13 of the last 16 years have been the warmest on record and CO<sub>2</sub> levels have been rising at a rate never seen before. Check out the video to see what this means and why these figures are so important!

## **“State of Sustainability” Mini-Summit: April 13, 2016**

[Lipscomb University](#)’s Institute for Sustainable Practice will host a mini-summit entitled: The State of Sustainability: The Future of Environmental Professions. Nationally recognized expert Joel Makower, creator of



GreenBiz.com, will outline the value opportunities and challenges for careers in sustainability-based jobs in the keynote speech. Spend an afternoon with respected, professional leaders identifying new value propositions for your career, client and employer in one of these career areas:

- Technical and service sectors including consultants, designers, specialties
- Academic and training credentials
- Preservation, management and advocacy opportunities
- Green business services and products

“The State of Sustainability” mini-summit is presented by [Nissan](#) and will take place on April 13 from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

## **Follow us on our social media accounts!**

We have added more accounts to our social media arsenal!  
Here are more ways you can connect with us online:

- [Facebook @SustainVU](#)
- [Instagram @SustainVUVanderbilt](#)
- [Twitter @SustainVU](#)
- [Google+ @Vanderbilt SustainVU](#)



For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 322-2057.

