

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### **VU Farmers' Market – Thursdays through October 27**

The Vanderbilt Farmers' Market features fresh fruits, vegetables, locally farmed meat, dairy, cheeses and bread from local farmers and vendors. The market is open each Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. from June 2 – Oct. 27 in the Medical Center Plaza across from Langford Auditorium and at One Hundred Oaks next to the Cinema (One Hundred Oaks market begins June 9). Cash, check, and credit and debit cards are accepted (some vendors are cash or check only). [Read more...](#)

### **Nashville MTA Public Hearings – August 1-2**

The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will hold hearings August 1-2 at several times and

Welcome back to those of you who will soon be returning to campus for the upcoming school year! For others who have stayed here this summer, we're glad you have successfully endured the heat here in Nashville. Please continue to use energy wisely as temperatures remain high through the late summer. Being a wise energy consumer and commuter can simultaneously save you money and reduce our environmental impact! We have lots of exciting news to share with you this month. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful, green start to your school year!

Andrea George, PhD, CHMM, Director  
VU Sustainability and Environmental Management Office  
(SEMO)  
(615) 322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Web site](#)



locations to gain feedback from the public regarding changes in the city's bus routes. Specific routes to be discussed include: 1 100 Oaks, 2 Belmont, 3 West End, 12 Nolensville Road, and 23 Dickerson Road. [Read more...](#)

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### Summer Local Night Fair – August 3

Join Team Green Adventures and Nashville Whole Foods Market for an evening street festival with local farmers, food producers, and artisans on the sidewalks of the Green Hills Hill Center near Whole Foods Market and Whole Body on Wednesday, August 3 at 6 pm. Enjoy local live music, kid friendly activities and grilling! [Read more...](#)

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### Tennessee Valley Solar Solutions Conference – August 9-10

Learn about technology innovations and development solutions for the deployment of solar energy on August 9-10 at Gaylord Opryland Convention Center at the 2011 Solar Solutions Conference. Speakers, presentations, region-specific solar initiatives, breakout discussions, vendor displays and networking opportunities within the solar field are available at this free conference. [Read more...](#)

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### Green Kids – August 10

Got junk? Learn some easy and fun ways to reuse things you may have lying around the house by turning them into functional items on Wednesday, August 10 at 1 pm at the

## Reduce air pollution on Air Quality Alert days and everyday

Throughout the hot summer days, air pollutant levels can rise contributing to reduced lung function, wheezing, coughing, and possibly triggering asthma



attacks. One of the pollutants that is harmful to human health is ground-level ozone. Ozone levels are often higher during warmer months because vehicle emissions react in the abundance of heat and sunlight to form ozone. Prior to heading out the door each day, be sure to check the Air Quality Index (AQI), a scale used to report the potential affect on human health from the air quality on any given day. You can also help to reduce ozone levels on air alert days and any day by making a few extra changes, such as reducing your driving and idling time, trip chaining, reducing electricity use, and more. [Read the full article](#) for more suggestions and to learn how several Vanderbilt community members have taken steps to reduce pollutants in the air by using alternative transportation.

## New Energy Star initiative distinguishes products with highest energy efficiency



Energy Star's new "Most

Efficient" rating is given to appliances that are in the top 5 percent of energy efficient products of all those manufactured. Currently, the rating is only being given to televisions, clothing washers and dryers, heating and cooling equipment, and refrigerators and freezers. However, later this year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will initiate a process for the potential inclusion of additional product categories. Consumers will be able to identify [Most Efficient products on the Energy Star website](#) and in stores by looking for the Most Efficient designation and logo. In addition to meeting established performance requirements, products must also be Energy Star qualified and certified by an EPA-recognized certification body. Manufacturers are encouraged to submit products that meet the requirements to EPA for recognition. [Read the Department of Energy press release](#) for more details.

## Heat advisory means time to conserve energy

Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. Register by calling (615) 862-8539. [Read more...](#)

### **Solar Energy & Energy Conservation Workshop – August 19-20**

Join the Sustainable Living Guild, Light Wave Solar, and E3 Innovate on August 19-20 for a two-day workshop on solar energy and energy conservation. Registration is \$55 per family and \$35 per individual. [Read more...](#)

### **Earth-Friendly Move-In for First-Year Students – August 20**

On Saturday, August 20, 1,600 first-year students will be welcomed into the Vanderbilt community as they move-in to the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons residence halls! In an effort to reduce the environmental impact of this weekend, recycling of plastic film and bags, cardboard, and Styrofoam will be offered. Water stations will also be set up throughout the Commons in lieu of distributing water bottles to families and students. [Read more...](#)

### **5th Annual Nashville Dragon Boat & River Festival – August 20**

Join the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association for the annual Dragon Boat Races and River Festival at Riverfront Park on Saturday, August 20! The event aims to raise awareness and promote the health of

As one of the largest energy consumers in Middle Tennessee, Vanderbilt University faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to do their part to reduce energy consumption on campus and in the medical center amidst hot summer temperatures. Slight modifications to energy use patterns can make a large impact when aggregated across the entire University. While particularly important during high heat conditions, conservative energy use should be sustained all year. [Read the full article](#) for quick and easy energy conservation tips, such as moderating your thermostat and turning off lights and electronics when not in use, that you can use on campus and at home.



### **Contest encourages development of online tools to help make environmental information more accessible to the public**



The EPA “Apps for the Environment” competition is challenging the information technology community to create innovative applications that will help people to make informed decisions about environmental issues that can affect their health. Apps that are submitted for the contest must use the EPA’s publicly-available data and be accessible via the web or a mobile device. The deadline for submittal of applications is September 16, 2011. Visit the [Apps for the Environment homepage](#) for more information, entry details, and judging criteria.

### **Nashville Energy Works initiative encourages home energy upgrades for Davidson County homeowners**

Mayor Karl Dean’s Office recently launched Nashville



Energy Works (NEW), a Metro Nashville Government, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Nashville Electric Service (NES) partnership that aims to promote energy efficiency in existing Davidson County homes. Homeowners participating in the program receive up to \$1,000 in financial incentives including:

An in-home energy evaluation by a trained energy advisor

the Cumberland. [Read more...](#)

## USGBC Middle TN Chapter Meeting: Green & Growing – August 26

The USGBC of Middle TN will host its monthly chapter meeting on Friday, August 26 at 7:30 am at the Adventure Science Center, featuring remarks from Dylan Siegler on sustainability initiatives in Austin, TX.

[Read more...](#)



and a customized energy action plan that sets out specific energy improvement measures and the projected energy savings associated with those measures. The \$150 evaluation fee will be refunded when homeowners complete their energy action plans.

A \$200 cash rebate for completing the energy action plan, which is considered complete when at least 15 percent projected energy savings have been achieved.

\$50 monthly credits on NES bills when signing up for NEW as part of a team for up to a maximum of six months. The more team members who complete their energy action plan, the longer the credit lasts.

A rebate of 50 percent of the cost of eligible energy improvement measures up to \$500.

An inspection to ensure that the improvements meet TVA quality standards.

For more information or to enroll in NEW, visit the [Nashville Energy Works website](#).



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.

