

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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22nd Annual Sarratt Holiday Arts Festival—November 29-December 7

This year's Holiday Arts Festival located in the Sarratt Gallery until Friday, December 7 features the work of 19 local craft artists. The festival is open from 11am-7pm daily and purchases can be made with cash, check, credit/debit cards and the Commodore Card. [Read more...](#)

Tennessee Local Food Summit – November 30 – December 1

Visit the Tennessee Local Food Summit at Hidden Valley Farm from November 30 – December 1. The event includes workshops for farmers, gardeners, and consumers, nationally known speakers, chef-made meals and a square dance. Prices range from \$20 to \$100, depending upon what you attend. [Read more...](#)

SPEAR Clean Air Summit – December 2

On Sunday, December 2 from 4-6pm Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) will be hosting an event on Wyatt Lawn to bring together organizations, Universities and individuals interested in fighting



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It's officially the holiday season, and 2013 is almost upon us! Can you believe it?! This December, we encourage you to green your holidays and try to reduce waste through sustainable shopping, traveling, eating and decorating. Check out our [top 15 ways to reduce waste](#) and also take a look at our more comprehensive [Holiday Greening Guide](#). Additionally, make sure to check out Sarratt's 22nd Annual Holiday Arts Festival to support local artists by buying unique gifts for loved ones. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a great December, and Happy New Year!

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**The Department of Pathology,
Microbiology and Immunology
named Vanderbilt's "Greenest"**

against climate change. The event will have speakers, music and free food! [Read more...](#)

LEED Green Associate Exam Prep Course—December 4

The USGBC will be hosting a LEED Green Associate Exam Prep Course on Tuesday, December 4 from 8:45am-4pm at Stites and Harbison PLLC. The course will assist in preparation for the LEED Green Associate credentialing exam. [Read more...](#)

TEC Holiday Mixer—December 4

On Tuesday, December 4 from 6-8pm the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) will be hosting its annual holiday mixer at Blackstone Brewery. [Read more...](#)

“Thinking Out of the (Lunch) Box: Conversations with a philosophical flavor with David Wood – December 5

Local food initiatives that view urban farming as a path toward a healthier community will be the focus of this event, which is open to the public and takes place at the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St. on December 5, beginning at 11:30am. The event will be hosted by David Wood, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt and founder of the series. Food trucks, farmers' markets and school gardens will be discussed. [Read more...](#)

Vanderbilt Blood:Water Mission Give a Dam Dinner – December 5

Join Vanderbilt Blood:Water Mission on December 5 from 5-7pm at Hillel to Give a Dam – a water dam that is! Last year, the desert region of Northern Kenya experienced the worst drought in over six decades. Construction of a new dam in Marsabit, Kenya will harvest rain and provide a long-term water supply for 3,000 people. It will prepare for future droughts and contribute to food security through small-scale irrigation farming. This dam will cost \$75,000. The Give a Dam Dinner will help raise money for this much needed water project! You will enjoy authentic African cuisine and speakers who will bring awareness to the importance of water issues, access to safe/clean

Group on Campus”

The winner of the first Vanderbilt Athletics' Sustainability Competition, the [Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology](#), celebrated their



accomplishment of being named the “Greenest Group on Campus” with a VIP tailgate, complimentary football tickets and on-field recognition at the Vanderbilt vs. University of Tennessee football game November 17th.

Dr. Sam Santoro, Chair of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Doris Culver, Administrative Assistant, accepted a recycled-glass award and a Coach Franklin-signed football during the game from Dr. Andrea George, Director of Vanderbilt's [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office \(SEMO\)](#), Tim Wells, Area Vice President for Waste Management, and Jessica Preston, Area Sustainability Program Director for Waste Management. [Read more](#) about how the winners excelled at acting creatively and sustainably.

Metro Clean Air Resolution and SPEAR Clean Air Summit

On November 13, the Nashville city council passed a resolution calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce greenhouse gases and to recognize the importance of climate change, joining a number of “Clean Air Cities” across the nation. This resolution was initiated by Sommers Kline, co-President of Vanderbilt's Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) and was sponsored by Councilman Jason Holleman. More info can be found [here](#).

In celebration of the passing of the resolution, SPEAR is hosting a Clean Air Summit on Wyatt Lawn on December 2 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Speakers will include Mayor Bill Purcell and Councilman Jason Holleman. Jackson Alley and Recent Southern Gentlemen will perform, and free food and beverages will also be provided.

Vanderbilt offers new environmental and sustainability studies minor

Fall 2012 brought with it academic change in the world of

water, how the environment influences standard of living, etc. [Read more...](#)

Food Truck Tuesday- December 11

Enjoy some of Nashville's finest food trucks and support a great cause! Visit Food Truck Tuesday on December 11 from 11am -1pm at Second Harvest, 331 Great Circle Road. [Read more...](#)

USGBC Meet the Candidates/Holiday Mixer—December 11

On Tuesday, December 11 from 5:30-8pm at Bar Louie, meet the candidates for the USGBC Chapter's 2013 Board of Directors while celebrating the holiday season. [Read more...](#)

Nashville Green Drinks—December 19

On Wednesday, December 19 at 6 pm, participate in Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability. Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub (1308 McGavock Pike).

Do Disasters Change Scientific Fields? Wetlands Ecology Before and After Katrina – January 18, 2013

On January 18, 2013 at noon in Buttrick 101, Scott Frickel, Washington State, will present a lecture entitled: "Do Disasters Change Scientific Fields? Wetlands Ecology Before and After Katrina". Using network analysis, the research shows how the disaster affected the shape of the scientific research field, a finding that has broad implications for thinking about the effects of climate change itself on research fields.

sustainability for Vanderbilt students. A new minor in environmental and sustainability studies was introduced with Dr. David Hess, professor of sociology, as the director. For more information about the minor and other news and events in the Undergraduate Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, click [here](#).

Stave off holiday excess by greening the holidays this season



The holiday season is traditionally a time of plenty, but it also can be a time of excess. The average American household generates 25% more trash during this time of year and holiday lights in U.S. use more than 2.2 million mega-watt hours of electricity every holiday season, enough electricity to run more than 173,000 homes for a year. Add in all the energy use from extra travel and hospitality, and the last six weeks of the year can have quite an impact on our natural resources.

SEMO has put together [a list of fifteen ways](#) everyone can reduce holiday waste and make the season a little greener. For more information on how to have a sustainable holiday season, visit SEMO's [Holiday Greening Guide](#).

Power down before leaving for the holidays



If you are going to be away from your office or home for an extended period of time over the holidays, remember to power down before you leave. This is a great opportunity to reduce Vanderbilt's energy consumption and environmental impact.

Students:

- Turn off all lights in your residence hall, including common rooms.
- Defrost and unplug your refrigerator before leaving.
- Turn off and unplug your computer, printer, microwave, lamps, televisions and anything else that is plugged in. Many types of electronic equipment still draw small amounts of electricity (vampire energy) even when turned off.
- Check the thermostat and set to 65 degrees.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and

Careers in Environmental and Sustainability Studies: Law, Government, and Nonprofit Work – January 23, 2013

On January 23, 2013 from 4:30-6:00pm in Buttrick 123, Chris Ann Lunghino will present “Careers in Environmental and Sustainability Studies: Law, Government, and Nonprofit Work.” Ms. Lunghino is an attorney and urban and regional planner who has worked to protect the planet and its people for more than 30 years. She is also the founder and executive director of Community Sustainability USA, a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a culture that is committed to sustainability – an appreciation of our earth and a desire to protect it, our communities, and future generations.



not dripping.

Faculty and Staff:

- If permitted in your area, turn off and unplug your computer, monitor, printer, microwaves, lamps, cell phone chargers, televisions, refrigerators, copiers, fax machines, coffee makers, etc. that will not be in use while you are gone to reduce vampire energy.
- Turn off all lights in your area including lights in the break rooms and bathrooms.
- Check the thermostat setting and set to 65 degrees.
- If you work in a lab, close your fume hood sashes before leaving for the holiday.

Visit the [ThinkOne website](#) for additional ways you can reduce your energy consumption at Vanderbilt.

This holiday season, be good to the trees!



Nothing beats the smell of a fresh cut tree in winter, but once the ornaments are removed and the lights are stowed away, there's no reason to toss that once beautiful seasonal icon into the landfill! Many counties, cities and

state parks will be offering programs where you can drop off your undecorated live tree and they will turn it into mulch, which can then be used on trails and in landscaping. Check with your local municipality to find a live tree drop off location and help to reduce space used in the landfill. Metro Nashville recycles approximately 12,000 live trees annually through their drop-off program. With approximately 33 million live Christmas trees sold in North America every year, turning your live tree into mulch can make a major positive impact!

Also, did you know that approximately 1.5 billion cards are sent over the holiday season in the U.S., which requires 300,000 new trees to be harvested per year not to mention the greenhouse gases created during transportation of those cards from place to place? Consider sending e-cards, social media, e-mails or using the good old-fashioned telephone to share your season's greetings!

Wondering what to do with old textbooks? Donate them!

With the end of the semester quickly approaching, it's time to decide what to do with all of those old textbooks! Donate your

old textbooks to [Better World Books](#), resell them, swap them with friends or post them on [Vandy FreeSwap](#). This might earn you money, and will reduce clutter in your dorm room and waste in the landfill!



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

