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**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### 23rd Annual Sarratt Holiday Arts Festival – December 2-7

This year's Holiday Arts Festival, located in the Sarratt Gallery until Saturday, December 7, features jewelry, pottery, book arts, glass, ornaments, leather, and more, all handcrafted by Tennessee artisans at affordable prices. This is a great way to purchase unique, sustainable gifts for others and to support local vendors! 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 [here](#).

### Vanderbilt Green Fund Application Deadline – December 3

The Vanderbilt Green Fund is a great way to connect student utility conservation ideas with the means to

The holiday season presents a unique opportunity to minimize your impact on the environment! Read below for ways to cut back your energy and waste this season, recycle your holiday tree, and donate books if you're a student. Be sure to check out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) for other tips to make your holiday events more sustainable! We thank Campus Dining for working hard to make our dining options on campus more sustainable. They received on-field recognition for being the Greenest Group on Campus at the November 16 game versus Kentucky (and we're bowl eligible! Go 'Dores!). Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to find out how you can be basketball's Greenest Group on Campus! Other exciting events happening this month include the Sarratt Holiday Arts Festival (a great place for sustainable gifts) and some really fun workshops and summits. With the cold weather creeping in, don't forget to wear layers before kicking your heat up, and lower the thermostat before leaving your office or home for holiday vacation. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Happy Holidays from SustainVU!

Andrea George, Director  
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Vanderbilt University

implement them. Vanderbilt Student Government (VSG) and Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) are looking for ideas from students to make Vandy a more sustainable place by identifying student ideas with both economic and environmental benefit by saving utilities. Have you got a great idea, or wondered “why doesn’t Vanderbilt do X”? Then submit an application! The deadline for applications is Tuesday, December 3 at midnight. Read more and apply [here](#) (click on forms to view application).

### Creating Lasting Culture Change – December 4

Join the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on Wednesday, December 4 from 8am – 2:30pm at the Bridge Building, 2 Victory Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN to explore the topic of culture change as it relates to sustainability. Panelists will provide insight into their organizations through a combination of presentations and facilitated panel discussions, including topics related to engaging students, faculty and staff, urban planning and development, and corporate culture change. Read more and register [here](#).

### Eating with the Seasons Workshop – December 4

Join Team Green and Urban Green Lab for “Eating with the Seasons: A Journey through Winter’s Flavors,” on Wednesday, December 4 from 6pm – 7:15pm at Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Road,

(615) 322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Web site](#)



## Shut Off Before Taking Off for the Holidays

Vanderbilt staff who are their residence classrooms or period of time



students, faculty and going to be away from halls, offices, homes for an extended over the holidays should

remember to shut off lights, electronics, and appliances and lower thermostats before taking off. Doing so is a great way to reduce one’s energy consumption and environmental impact.

Students:

- Turn off all lights, including in common rooms.
- Defrost and unplug refrigerators before leaving.
- Turn off and unplug computers, printers, microwaves, 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.
- Lower the thermostat to 65 degrees.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and not dripping.

Faculty and staff:

- If permitted in your area, turn off and unplug all computers, monitors, printers, microwaves, lamps, cell phone chargers, televisions, copiers, fax machines, coffee makers, etc., that will not be in use while staff are gone to reduce vampire power.
- Turn off all lights in offices, including lights in break rooms and bathrooms.
- Lower the thermostat setting to 65 degrees.
- If you work in a lab, close fume hood sashes before leaving for the holidays.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and not dripping.
- At home, consider turning down your hot water heater.

Visit the [Holiday Greening Guide](#) or the [ThinkOne website](#) for additional ways you can reduce your energy consumption and green your holidays at Vanderbilt.

## Campus Dining Wins Greenest Group on Campus Competition

[Vanderbilt Campus Dining](#) was the grand-prize winner this year in the Greenest



Nashville, TN. Food expert Alan Powell will guide participants through what foods are currently in season and how to best prepare and preserve them, all while emphasizing the importance of eating locally. Read more and RSVP [here](#).

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### “Little Green House” Open House – December 5

Stop by on Thursday, December 5 from 6pm – 8pm for an open house showcasing the completed high performance home known as the “Little Green House”, located at 1420 Shelby Avenue, Nashville, TN.

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### Vanderbilt EES Seminar Series – December 6

Join Vanderbilt’s Department of Earth and Environmental Science (EES) as they welcome topic experts to speak on a wide variety of environmental subjects throughout the year. Seminars are held in SC6740 at 3:10pm unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for more information about December’s speakers.

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### Tennessee Local Food Summit – December 6 – 7

The 3rd annual Tennessee Local Food Summit will be hosted by Trevecca Nazarene University on Saturday, December 7 from 9am – 5pm, with workshops on backyard gardening, urban homesteading, permaculture, health, school and community gardens, food deserts and political issues. Kicking off the conference will be a reception Friday, December 6 at 6pm at Sloco, and following the workshops on Saturday

Group on Campus competition for football season. Campus Dining won 25 tickets to the Kentucky football game on November 16, a catered tailgate, and received a recycled glass award and a Coach Franklin-signed football on the field during the Kentucky game. Additionally, the department now has bragging rights as the “Greenest Group on Campus.”

The Vanderbilt Hustler recently lauded Campus Dining’s use of local foods in [this article](#). Vanderbilt Campus Dining is an award-winning food service that operates in 20 locations across campus. Campus Dining is self-operated and financially self-supporting, and all programs are designed specifically for Vanderbilt’s 4,800 on-campus undergraduate students. Read more [here](#).

### Make Your Greener this

The holiday giving, so why planet this year?



the average American household generates 25% more trash during the holidays, and holiday lights in U.S. use more electricity than 173,000 homes for a year every holiday season? 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 energy usage, not to mention that approximately 33 million live trees are sold during the holiday season each year in North America and 300,000 trees must be harvested annually to manufacture the 1.5 billion cards sent during the holidays. 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](#) or even check out this great [list of green gift ideas](#) from Good Housekeeping.

### Holidays a Little Year!

season is a time of not give back to the Did you know that

### Anchor Down and Tackle Recycling at VU Basketball Games

Vanderbilt’s basketball season is in full swing and with that comes a great opportunity for fans to continue to recycle at all of the VU home games! Green totes are located in



the concourse area of each level of Memorial Gym, making recycling easy. Don’t be a bad sport and leave your cups and

night from 6pm – 10pm, there will be a farm-to-table dinner at Corsair Artisan Brewery Taproom. On Sunday, December 8 at noon, there will be a tour of Delvin Farms. Read more [here](#).

### Nashville Green Drinks— December 18

On Wednesday, December 18 at 6pm, 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).



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bottles in the stands – drop them in the recycling bins on your way out of the game and help VU Anchor Down and Tackle Recycling! Go ‘Dores!

### Students – Don’t Forget to Recycle or Donate Your Textbooks

Wondering what to do with textbooks? Donate them! Of the semester quickly approaching, it’s time to



old. 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](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.

