

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Nashville Green Drinks – January 16

On Wednesday, January 16 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

On Friday, January 18 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

Happy New Year from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office! As we enter into some of the coldest months that Tennessee will see, we remind everyone to keep energy conservation in mind. For energy conservation tips, please visit the SustainVU [ThinkOne](#) website. Also, read below for stories about alternative energy through wind turbines at Love Hill and alternative transportation options through RTA and the new B-Cycle program! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a great January!

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Energy conservation a top priority as temperatures drop and new semester begins

Vanderbilt’s energy consumption in January can be very high due to the cold, making conservation important. VU Plant

the scientific research field, a finding that has broad implications for thinking about the effects of climate change itself on research fields.

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

On Wednesday, January 23 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.

Volunteer Day at Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area – January 25

January 25th is Volunteer Day at Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area. Participate in trail work, planting native species, exotic plant removal and other park projects. Meet at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center at 8 a.m. CT. No RSVP required. For more information about the Radnor Lake Volunteer Work Day, call the park office at 615-373-3467 or visit the [Friends of Radnor Lake website](#).

Operations and VUMC Plant Services ask for faculty, staff and students’ help during colder winter months.

Some easy ways to help reduce energy usage:

- Moderate thermostat settings to 68° F or lower. Remember to adjust thermostats in classrooms, offices, conference rooms, and other areas when they are unoccupied for long periods of time, such as at night or over the weekends. Dress for the cold weather in layers so you can remain comfortable in more moderate temperatures.
- Open window shades or blinds during the sunniest part of the day to let sunlight help warm indoor areas.
- Turn off lights in your work space when you leave, even if only for a short period of time. It will save energy if you are gone for more than 30 seconds.
- Turn off lights to common areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, break rooms, classrooms, and conference rooms when you leave and especially before leaving for the day. Many of these spaces sit empty the majority of the day.
- Turn off office equipment. If allowed in your area, computers, printers, copiers and scanners can be turned off when you leave for the day (or at the end of your work shift if they will not be used again for several hours). Otherwise, activate sleep modes and energy-saving settings.
- Close fume hood sashes when not in use. A single fume hood running 24 hours can use as much energy as a single-family home uses in a year.

If your office or area seems unusually cold or hot or you have trouble regulating the temperature, please call VU Plant Operations at 4-WORK or VUMC Plant Services at 2-2041 to let them know. If you would like more ideas to conserve energy, visit SustainVU’s [ThinkOne](#) energy conservation website.

School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt visits wind-solar alternative energy site at Love Circle



Students from the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt trekked about three miles from campus to the School of Engineering’s wind-solar alternative energy site to see a wind turbine in action atop Love Circle hill in Nashville. “The visit complements their lesson plans on renewable energy and the students clearly had spent time reviewing the information on the VU/MWS Renewable Energy Showcase [website](#),” Amrutur

Careers in Environmental and Sustainability Studies: Business and Social Entrepreneurship – January 30

On Wednesday, January 30, at 4:10pm, Billy Parish will present “Careers in Environmental and Sustainability Studies: Business and Social Entrepreneurship”. Mr. Parish is an innovative youth organizer, social entrepreneur, and champion of the green economy. A co-founder of the Energy Action Coalition, Parish is also the co-author, along with Dev Aujla, of *Making Good: Finding Meaning, Money, and Community in a Changing World*, a book which shows others how to create a meaningful career. Room TBA. Click [here](#) for up-to-date information.

Climate Science and Climate Skeptics – February 8

On February 8 from noon – 1 pm, Bill Ruddiman from the University of Virginia will present “Climate Science and Climate Skeptics”. The presentation is open to undergrads and the campus community as a whole and will consist of a lecture and discussion that reviews current climate science and some of the major skeptical arguments. Professor Ruddiman will also discuss the early anthropocene theory and the reception of it.

Summit for Campus Sustainability, Knoxville, TN – February 15

Anilkumar, professor of the practice of mechanical engineering and director of the showcase wind and solar facilities, said.

Read more [here](#).

Regional Transportation Authority and VanStar add bus/van service from Williamson County park-and-ride direct to Vanderbilt

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has started direct-to-Vanderbilt bus service from park and ride lots in Franklin and Brentwood. Also, beginning Jan. 7, VanStar (a vanpool management agency under contract with RTA) will add three 15-passenger vans on a staggered schedule which will complement that of the bus. This will provide Williamson County commuters more options in both directions, either by bus, van or a combination. Read more about these alternative transportation options [here](#).



Mayor Dean establishes program to oversee city’s trees, green spaces, landscape

Mayor Karl Dean signed an Executive Order on December 19th to establish a program to oversee the city’s trees, green spaces and landscape. The Metropolitan Landscape Coordination Program grew out of recommendations made by the Mayor’s Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability, the Open Space Plan, the Nashville Tree Canopy Assessment and the Metro Tree Advisory Committee. Read more [here](#).

Learn before you burn



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages those who plan to burn a wood-fired stove or fireplace this winter to burn a more efficient and cleaner fire. [Burn Wise](#) is a partnership program of the EPA that emphasizes the importance of burning the right wood, the right way, in the right wood-burning appliance to protect your home, health, and the air we breathe. Click [here](#) for more information.

Mayor Dean launches downtown bike-share program

On Friday, February 15, "Investing in a Clean Energy Future" Summit for Campus Sustainability will be held on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. This summit will provide an opportunity for administrators, faculty, facility staff, and students from across the Tennessee Valley to collaborate in transforming campuses to sustainable models. Registration requests can be sent to Kristen Collins at Kristen@climateaction.net.

Vanderbilt Athletics Basketball Sustainability Competition – February 16

Vanderbilt groups, teams, departments, and campus organizations are invited to compete to be named the "greenest group on campus" during this year's basketball season! The winning group will receive a private VIP in-game hospitality event and tickets for 20 people for the Vanderbilt vs. Texas A&M basketball game on February 16. Follow [SustainVU](#) on Facebook or watch the [SustainVU webpage](#) for the release of the competition survey. Good luck!



A new bike-share program in Nashville will provide bikes at several downtown kiosks. Mayor Karl Dean demonstrated the program on December 13th by checking out a B-cycle bike from an automated kiosk at the city's Public Square, then rode to the



Nashville Farmer's Market and returned the bike to a kiosk there. Nashville's B-cycle program includes 190 bikes at 20 kiosks within a three-mile radius of downtown, including one at the corner of 21st Avenue and Wedgewood Avenue. Read more [here](#).

New app lets users check health of waterways anywhere in the U.S.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently launched a new app and website to help people find information on the condition of thousands of lakes, rivers and streams across the country. The [How's My Waterway app](#) and website uses GPS technology or a user-entered zip code or city name to provide information about the quality of local water bodies. Click [here](#) to read more or [here](#) to use the app.



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.

