

# SustainVU

*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

## National Trails Day - June 1

June 1 is National Trails Day. Get some exercise and enjoy the great outdoors! Find a hiking event near you by clicking [here](#).

## Home Energy Savings Workshop - June 3 - 4

On June 3, from 9am to 3pm, and June 4, from 8am to 12pm or 1pm to 5pm, Hands On Nashville's Home Energy Savings team, in partnership with Cummins Filtration, is hosting a free 10-hour workforce development workshop to provide participants with a Home Energy Efficiency Certificate upon completion. The workshop provides in-class knowledge of building science coupled with hands-on experience onsite to become familiar with materials and application. Participants must attend both days of

The days are getting warmer and summer is here, so we will start to see an increase in Air Quality Alert days. Read below to sign up for air quality alerts so you'll know when to carpool or take alternative transportation. Did you hear? The Vanderbilt power plant will soon be coal-free and all natural gas, greatly reducing the plant's air pollutant emissions! Read below for more detailed info and a timeline for the conversion. And check out the pictures of lemurs and elephants enjoying the leftover strawberries donated from Commencement to the Nashville Zoo by the Chancellor's Office...too cute! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful June and stay cool!

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**VU Power Plant to Convert to All Natural Gas – FAQs available**

training and lunch is provided both days. Read more and register [here](#).

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### **VU Farmer's Market - June 6, 13, 20, 27**

VU Farmer's Market is back every Thursday on the Medical Center Plaza from 3pm to 6pm. Read more [here](#).

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### **Book Signing, *The Southern Vegetarian Cookbook* - June 8**

On Saturday, June 8, food writers and Memphis residents, Justin Fox Burk and Amy Lawrence will be discussing various down-home vegetarian recipes from their new cookbook, *The Southern Vegetarian Cookbook*, at Vanderbilt Barnes and Noble. One [study](#) suggests that producing half a pound of hamburger for someone's lunch patty of meat releases as much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere as driving a 3,000-pound car nearly 10 miles! A book signing will follow. Read more [here](#).

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### **Rain Barrel Workshop - June 15**

On Saturday, June 15 from 10am to 11am, join the Cumberland River Compact's Mekayle Houghton at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center to complete your own 55 gallon rain barrel to take home. Learn how to capture rainwater to use on your landscaping and house plants while you slow storm water runoff and save energy used to process drinking water. Registration is required and space is limited. Read more [here](#).

Have questions about the VU Power Plant conversion to all natural gas? Visit [SustainVU](#) to read FAQs about the conversion and



stay up-to-date with the construction progress! The conversion will replace the coal-fired boilers with natural gas boilers, retaining the same power generation capacity.

### **Sign up for Air Quality Alerts this summer**

As temperatures rise, the air quality in Nashville begins to degrade. People with sensitive respiratory systems, such as those with asthma or COPD,



can be especially affected. One way you can help is to reduce your driving on days forecasted to have poor air quality. Bike or walk if you can, eliminate lawn mowing, and use mass transit or carpool or vanpool if you must drive. Visit [SustainVU's alternative transportation](#) page for more info. Sign up to get air alert notices for Middle Tennessee on your mobile device and on Facebook through the [State of Tennessee air quality website](#), and be in the know before leaving your house each day.

### **Commencement strawberries donated to Nashville Zoo**

The Vanderbilt Chancellor's Office donated leftover strawberries from the 2013 Strawberries and



Champagne Commencement event for the first time to the Nashville Zoo. Staff from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO) organized the donation and delivered the strawberries to the zoo after Commencement events concluded. The Zoo's elephants and lemurs enjoyed the strawberries at lunch the next day. The donation of the strawberries prevented the leftovers from being wasted and sent to the landfill and helped the zoo to offer an unexpected tasty treat to the animals! Read more [here](#).

### **Vanderbilt Farmer's Market Returns June 6**

## Starting Your Organic Garden Workshop - June 15

Interested in growing fresh organic vegetables in your back-yard, but not sure how to get started? On Saturday, June 15 from 10am to 11am, come learn how fun and easy it is to garden without harmful chemicals at Bells Bend Outdoor Center, located at 4187 Old Hickory Boulevard. Read more [here](#).

## Nashville Green Drinks - June 19

On Wednesday, June 19 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).

## Clean Air Partnership Night at the Nashville Sounds - June 29

Help support the Clean Air Partnership and a more sustainable Middle Tennessee while supporting the Nashville Sounds on Saturday, June 29! It's also Youth Jersey Night and fireworks follow the game! The game starts at 6:30pm.



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Visit the Vanderbilt Farmers' Market starting June 6 and purchase fresh fruits, honey, vegetables, locally farmed meat, milk, cheeses and bread. The market is open every Thursday on Medical Center Plaza to Vanderbilt employees and visitors. The Market resumes June 6 and ends October 24. Click [here](#) for more details.



## Carbon Dioxide Levels Set Record

In May, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) measured carbon dioxide levels at 400 parts per million. The last time the worldwide carbon level was that high was probably 2 million years ago, during the Pleistocene Era.



According to an article published by the Associated Press, the number 400 has been anticipated by climate scientists and environmental activists for years as a notable indicator. "Physically, we are no worse off at 400 ppm than we were at 399 ppm," Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer said. "But as a symbol of the painfully slow pace of measures to avoid a dangerous level of warming, it's somewhat unnerving." Read the full story [here](#).

## What Role Does Climate Change Play in Tornadoes?

Our thoughts are with those affected by the tornadoes in Oklahoma on May 20. *Scientific American* corresponded with Kevin Trenberth of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, to get his thoughts on whether global warming is making tornadoes stronger or more intense. You can read that story [here](#).



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.

