

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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### **Industrial Scars: A Talk by J Henry Fair – March 1**

Photographer and environmentalist J Henry Fair will share his work exploring the detrimental consequences of consumer society through aerial photography in Stevenson Center Room 4309 on Tuesday, March 1 at 7 PM. Join Fair for a reception and book signing following his presentation in the Center for Health Services. [Read more...](#)

### **Nashville Lawn and Garden Show – March 3-6**

Check out the 22nd Annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show March 3-6 at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Walk through gardens with design features such as fountains, waterfalls, rock walls and pergolas, shop exhibit booths, and attend lectures presented

As signs of spring slowly emerge, we hope you've been able to get outside and enjoy the more moderate temperatures. Don't forget to check out [Vandy FreeSwap](#) as you begin your spring cleaning. [Vandy FreeSwap](#) is the new VU-community website for giving away and getting free, usable, unwanted items instead of disposing of them in landfills. Also, remember to show your Commodore spirit by participating in [Recyclemania!](#) We'd like to let you know about several green events and sustainability opportunities coming up this month – more information can always be found on both the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have an earth-friendly and green March!

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by gardening and landscape design experts including Rosalind Creasy, James G. Robyn, and Anthony Archer-Wills. [Read more...](#)

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### Solar Workshop for Homeowners – March 9

Join LightWave Solar at a free solar workshop for homeowners on Wednesday, March 9 from 12-1 pm at the Williamson County Public Library in Downtown Franklin. The workshop will explain the basics of installing solar, including solar resource and site analysis, utility and tax incentives, and costs and benefits. Please bring your brown bag lunch! RSVP to Grace Safer at [info@lightwavesolar.com](mailto:info@lightwavesolar.com) or call 641-4050. [Read more...](#)

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### Designing Environments for Health Lecture Series and Panel Discussion – March 24, 31

The Nashville Civic Design Center and UT College of Architecture and Design will host Bruce Komiske, an expert in hospital operations, planning, design and construction, on Thursday, March 24 at 6 pm at the University Club. A panel discussion highlighting the application of Komiske's insights will be held on the following Thursday, March 31, at 5:30 pm at the Nashville Civic Design Center. The series aims to discuss how the creation and organization of space can meaningfully impact the human experience, health, and wellness. [Read more...](#)

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### Enabling Investment in Environmental

## Jump start your St. Patrick's Day with a Green Careers Fair on March 16

Are you looking for a way to add more GREEN to your St. Patrick's Day? Vanderbilt University's Sustainability and Environmental



Management Office (SEMO) and The Vanderbilt Career Center are teaming up to host a Green Careers Fair on Wednesday, March 16 from 3 – 5 pm in Ballroom C of the Student Life Center. The fair is a unique forum for students to learn about the breadth of professions related to sustainability and the environment, and is an excellent opportunity for exhibitors to share their organization's relationship to sustainability and the environment, business practices, and potential career opportunities with the Vanderbilt student community. Exhibitors from a wide range of sustainability career sectors including small businesses, non-profits, higher education, engineering firms, and governmental agencies have been invited to participate in this event.

Interested in participating as an exhibitor at the Green Careers Fair? Contact Kendra Abkowitz at [kendra.abkowitz@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kendra.abkowitz@vanderbilt.edu) or 322-9022 for more information. [Read more.](#)



### University introduces new Green Fund

The launch of the Vanderbilt Green Fund (VGF) was announced Tuesday, signifying the university's investment in sustainable energy. As written in a weekly Vanderbilt Student Government e-mail, the VGF "was created to systematically reduce Vanderbilt's greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects with both environmental and economic benefits," allowing students, faculty and administration to collaborate on "long-term conservation efforts." The Green Fund will provide students the opportunity to submit sustainable energy project proposals. Applications are available on the [Vanderbilt Green Fund website](#). The deadline for project applications is March 16 at 8 pm. [Read the full Hustler article.](#)

### High school students partner with VU students to promote energy conservation on Commons campus

## Sustainability – March 30

Vanderbilt Law Professor Heather Hughes' article, "Enabling Investment in Environmental Sustainability," was selected for inclusion in this year's Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review (ELPAR), a joint publication of the Environmental Law Institute and Vanderbilt University Law School. Come hear remarks and participate in a panel discussion regarding the article on Wednesday, March 30 from 12-1 pm in the Bennett Miller Room of the Vanderbilt University Law School.

[Read more...](#)

## Environmental Leader Class – Thursdays starting March 31

The Environmental Leader Class sponsored by Keep Williamson Beautiful will be held over six consecutive thursdays from 6:30-8:30 pm beginning March 31. Topics discussed during classes include recycling, energy resources, hazardous waste, alternative fuels, litter prevention, shopping green, green building, composting, and more. Cost for the class is \$35. Call (615) 790-5848 for information and to sign up. [Read more...](#)

## 2011 Green Tie Affair – April 2

The Nashville Civic Design Center and UT College of Architecture and Design will host a panel discussion highlighting the application of Alan Hedge's insights on Monday, February 24 at 5:30 pm at the Nashville Civic Design Center. The

The "Commons Cup" is awarded to the

Commons House that has accumulated the most points during competitions held throughout the year. The energy conservation component of the competition has been given a twist with the help of Metro Nashville high school students Emily Alsentzer and Catherine Caffey. The two developed a system that provides an incentive for Vanderbilt students to conserve electricity by awarding their efforts with points towards the Commons Cup. Both Alsentzer and Caffey attend the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt (SSMV), a four-year interdisciplinary science program for high-school students housed within Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Faculty member Jonathan Creamer supervised Alsentzer and Caffey on the project, which will be submitted to the Siemens Foundation's "We Can Change the World" Challenge in the hopes that this competition or partnership concept for energy conservation can be incorporated into university campuses nationwide. Additionally, Alsentzer and Caffey will be eligible to win a \$50,000 college scholarship, a trip to the UN to present their findings, and a \$5,000 grant for SSMV. [Read the full article published by Vanderbilt News Service.](#)



## Incentives from TVA for energy-related retrofits are paying off for local businesses



Businesses in middle Tennessee have saved enough energy to power 1,000 homes for a year due to the completion of lighting fixture retrofits and cooling system

overhauls as part of an energy-efficiency rebate program. Vanderbilt University, one of the program's participants, anticipates energy savings equivalent to \$40,000 per year for just one of its projects. Rand Dining Center's HVAC upgrade is expected to conserve half a million kilowatt hours each year. Lighting retrofits at the Brownlee Currey Jr. Tennis Center will conserve energy while improving lighting quality during tournaments. [Read the full article published by The Tennessean.](#) (Photo by Mary Donaldson)

## Climate change creates longer ragweed season

Changes in climate patterns over the last few years are leading to extended



series aims to discuss how the creation and organization of space can meaningfully impact the human experience, health, and wellness.

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ragweed pollen seasons, according to plant and allergy experts. The research found that ragweed pollen season lasted as much as 27 days longer in 2009 compared to 1995. As temperatures have increased across the earth, the first frost has been delayed, causing a longer season for ragweed. At higher latitudes in the Western Hemisphere, these changes are even more prominent. Ultimately, the extended season could alter the way ragweed allergies are identified and treated. [Read the full article published by Reuters.](#)



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.

