

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Summer Local Night Fair – Sept. 7

Join Team Green Adventures and Nashville Whole Foods Market for an evening street festival with local farmers, food producers, and artisans on the sidewalks of the Green Hills Hill Center near Whole Foods Market and Whole Body on Wednesday, September 7 at 6 pm. Enjoy local live music, kid friendly activities and grilling! [Read more...](#)

Urban Design Forum: Jazz, Beer, and BBQ – Sept. 8

Join the Nashville Civic Design Center for their September Urban Design Forum with special guest Michael Maher, AICP, and Director of the Charleston Civic Design Center. The topic will be: "Bicycle Infrastructure: Putting Mettle to the Pedal." [Read](#)

We've enjoyed the vibrancy around campus with everyone back and ready for action! Hopefully your semester has kicked off smoothly. Don't forget to take advantage of the various programs available this academic year that are part of the [American Studies Sustainability Project](#), which you can read about below. A special thanks to the Plant Operations Grounds Crew and Cardboard Crew student volunteers for helping to divert **17.84 tons of cardboard and two 26-foot moving trucks of Styrofoam and plastic bags** from the landfill during move-in weekend, up 30% from last year! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful, sustainable September, and welcome back!

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Chancellor says University is getting greener

[more...](#)

No Impact Week – Sept. 18-25

The No Impact Project and YES! Magazine are teaming up for No Impact Week, a weeklong experiment in environmentally-friendly living. Register as part of the VU American Studies Sustainability Project group and take on a series of eight daily challenges with other individuals in the Vanderbilt community. [Read more...](#)

Cooking with Sustainable and Local Foods from the VU Farmers' Market – Sept. 21

On Wednesday, September 21 from noon to 1 pm in Sarratt 189, join Stacey Kendrick, health educator at Health *Plus*, and Jeff Themm, Nashville Farmers' Market director, for the first Green Bag Luncheon: a demonstration and tasting of several healthy and delicious recipes using fresh and local items from the weekly Vanderbilt Farmers' Market. [Read more...](#)

"How I Ended This Summer" – Sept. 21

The International Lens Film Series, in conjunction with the American Studies Sustainability Project, will host a screening of "How I Ended This Summer," a film about two scientists stationed on a desolate outpost in the Arctic at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 21 in Sarratt Cinema.



At the Fall Faculty Assembly, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos noted that Vanderbilt has made efforts to reduce its environmental impact in recent years, such as lowering greenhouse gas emissions, purchasing green power, improving and expanding recycling programs, creating a sustainability office, and hiring staff dedicated to carrying out these efforts, such as a campus energy manager and recycling coordinator. A specific question was posed about the on-campus power plant and its impact on the environment and Vanderbilt's image. Chancellor Zeppos remarked that the power plant actually reduces Vanderbilt's greenhouse gas emissions, allowing the more efficient distribution of energy throughout campus over short rather than long distances. Moreover, Vanderbilt's renowned patient care operations require access to a reliable and uninterruptable power supply. Read the [full article](#) originally published in myVU for more information.

Photo by Anne Rayner, Vanderbilt University

Sustainability Project launched for 2011-2012 school year

The topics of sustainability, environmental stewardship, and social justice will be prominent on campus during this academic year,



thanks to programming spearheaded by the American Studies program. The Sustainability Project will offer a combination of lectures, field trips, courses, exhibits, and films with the aim of helping members of the Vanderbilt community create a dialogue about these important issues. For more information about activities being hosted throughout the year, visit the [Sustainability Project website](#) or read articles discussing this programming in the [Vanderbilt View](#) and [myVU](#).

Year-long Green Bag luncheon series to address current sustainability topics



Starting in September, the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO) and the American Studies Sustainability Project are sponsoring a Green Bag luncheon series that focuses on the environment and sustainability, both at work and at home. This educational series features informal

[Read more...](#)

Bill McKibben – Sept. 22

On Thursday, September 22, noted environmentalist, educator, and author Bill McKibben will kick-off the American Studies Sustainability Project lecture series. His talk, titled “Global and Local: Reports from the Fight for a Working Planet,” begins at 5 pm in Ingram Hall at the Blair School of Music. McKibben has written several books discussing environmental change, including *The End of Nature* and *Eaarth*. [Read more...](#)

Nashville Clean Water Project – Sept. 24

Help the Nashville Clean Water Project clean up trash and debris at Percy Priest Lake on Saturday, September 24. Volunteers will target several specific areas of the lake. Trash bags, gloves, sunscreen, snacks, hand sanitizer, t-shirts, and giveaways are provided. [Read more...](#)

VU Dining Farm to Fork Dinner – Sept. 27

VU Dining’s Farm to Fork dinner on Tuesday, September 27 on the Peabody Esplanade features a locally-sourced menu and provides an opportunity for students to dine and engage in conversation with local farmers and vendors. Reservations can be made in the coming weeks on Dining’s website. [Read more...](#)

Urban Forestry

lunchtime discussions and/or workshops – from sustainable food and dining choices to backyard composting to utility savings at home and work and much more. So bring your lunch and join us to learn interesting ways to incorporate sustainability into your life! At each single session, attendees will be entered into a drawing to receive one small giveaway relevant to that session’s topic. At the end of the series, individuals who have attended three or more sessions throughout the year will be entered in a drawing to receive one of two larger giveaways!

The first installment of the series, co-sponsored by [Health Plus](#), will be held on **Wednesday, September 21**

from noon to 1 pm in Sarratt 189. Join Stacey Kendrick, health educator at Health Plus, and Jeff Themm, Nashville Farmers’ Market director, for a demonstration and tasting of several healthy and delicious recipes using fresh and local items from the weekly Vanderbilt Farmers’ Market. For more information, a list of upcoming presentations, and video recordings of past presentations, please visit [SustainVU’s Green Bag Luncheon Series page](#) (information will be updated regularly).



Anticipation and adaptation to climate change are necessary

Freight transportation sector stakeholders and climate change researchers concluded



that effective strategies for maintaining functioning transportation systems and infrastructures need to be developed to combat the adverse and increasingly likely impacts of climate change at a recent summit hosted at Vanderbilt. Damages associated with extreme weather events are costly, and adapting to climate change is central to future economic and social well being in the United States. Conversations at the summit identified reasons for the present lack of response to this dilemma and key initiatives that should be developed in the near future. Read the [full article](#) for more information or [view videos of the plenary sessions of the summit](#).

Photo from iStock

Conference – Sept. 29-30

The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council is having its annual conference at Ellington Agricultural Center on Thursday and Friday, September 29-30, featuring presentations, panels, and hands-on demonstrations about trees. [Read more...](#)

Laura Dassow Walls – Sept. 29

Laura Dassow Walls, author of *Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America*, will speak at 4:10 pm on Thursday, September 29 on “Alexander von Humboldt’s American Horizon” as part of the American Studies Sustainability Project lecture series. Walls, William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, describes her work as healing “the breach between the humanities and the sciences.” [Read more...](#)

VU Farmers’ Market – Thursdays through Oct. 27

The Vanderbilt Farmers’ Market features fresh fruits, vegetables, locally farmed meat, dairy, cheeses and bread from local farmers and vendors. The market is open each Thursday from 3 to 6 pm from June 2 – Oct. 27 in the Medical Center Plaza across from Langford Auditorium and at One Hundred Oaks next to the Cinema. Cash, check, and credit and debit cards are accepted (some vendors are cash or check only).

[Read more...](#)

Household Hazardous Waste drop-off events this Fall in surrounding counties



Are you a non-Davidson County resident looking to dispose of your [household hazardous waste \(HHW\)](#) safely? The following items may be dropped-off at special

county-wide collection events which will be held over the next few months: solvent-based materials (varnish strippers, enamel paints, and driveway sealants); corrosive items (toilet bowl cleaner, oven cleaner, and drain opener); reactive chemicals (ammonia, chlorine based products, and mothballs); and toxic materials (antifreeze, pesticides, and wind shield washer fluid). View the [2011 HHW collection schedule](#) for event times and locations. Davidson County residents may bring HHW to the East Waste and Recycling Facility at any time. Visit [Metro’s Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste webpage](#) for more information. To learn more about HHW and some alternatives, check out [Metro’s HHW brochure](#).

Photo from TDEC

Changes to Metro trash pickup aim to increase recycling, reduce waste

For residents in Metro’s Urban Services District (the area in which Metro provides trash and curbside recycling services)



who still don’t recycle, Metro will soon be making some changes that may encourage them to start. These program modifications, many of which are summarized below, are meant to drive recycling efforts in lieu of throwing items in the trash. “Metro gets paid about \$23 a ton for the recycling we collect, whereas we pay over \$32 a ton for waste that is put in the landfill. So whatever we reduce is money that we save for the taxpayer,” said Gwen Hopkins-Glascock with Metro Public Works.

July 1, 2012 – residents and businesses that use more than 2 carts will be charged the collection and disposal cost for waste in additional carts. Additional recycling carts will be available at no cost.

July 1, 2013 – residents and businesses will no longer be allowed to place cardboard in trash carts. Residents and businesses will be able to recycle, and request additional recycling carts, from Public Works.

July 1, 2014 – residents and businesses that use more than 1 cart will be charged the collection and disposal cost for

Live on the Green – Thursdays through Oct. 13

Live On The Green is Nashville's free, environmentally-friendly, outdoor concert series, promoting live local, regional, and national artists and music, green initiatives, and community engagement at Public Square Park near Nashville's City Hall and Courthouse each Thursday night from September 8 – October 13. Each night will consist of 4 performances with the first starting around 5:30 pm and the headliner wrapping up around 10:30 pm. [Read more...](#)



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waste in any additional cart. Additional recycling carts will be available at no cost.

July 1, 2015 – residents and businesses will not be allowed to place electronic waste of any type in trash carts.

Note: These changes apply to those who live in the Urban Services District only. Find out if you live in the USD or GSD by visiting the [Metro Public Works website](#).

Metro offers free curbside recycling for paper, plastic, cardboard, and aluminum to residents in the Urban Services District, and you can get as many of those bins as you want without any additional fee. Contact [Metro Public Works](#) at 615.880.1000 to get recycle bins for your home or business. Read the [full article](#) originally published by Channel 4 WSMV.



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.

