

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Holiday Art Festival – Dec. 1-11

Sarratt Art Studios will host their annual Holiday Art Festival Thursday, December 1 through Sunday, December 11, featuring regional artists' pottery, jewelry, fused glass, photography, blown glass ornaments, and much more. Grab some great local and handmade holiday gifts while shopping for a good cause – purchases help to support art education. [Read more...](#)

Green Bag Luncheon: Utility Savings at Work and at Home – Dec. 7

On Wednesday, December 7 from noon to 1 pm in Sarratt 189, join us for the fourth Green Bag Luncheon, which will be a presentation and discussion led by Dave Parker, green building consultant and LEED AP, on

The holiday season has officially begun! This December, we encourage you to keep sustainability in mind when celebrating with family, friends, and colleagues. Take a look at SustainVU's [Holiday Greening Guide](#) for ideas on how to entertain, decorate, shop, and travel sustainably this season, and stop by Sarratt Art Studio's Holiday Art Festival to pick up unique, regionally-produced gifts. A special welcome to our newest staff member, Dejan Stjepanovic, who you can read more about below! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a sustainable December and enjoyable Winter Break!

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easy ways to save energy, water, and money in both your office and home environments. [Read more...](#)

TEC 2011 Holiday Mixer – Dec. 7

Join the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) on Wednesday, December 7 from 6 to 8 pm at Blackstone Brewery to celebrate the holidays, mix and mingle with other Council members, pay tribute to an Outstanding Environmental Leader in the community, and pick up a native Tennessee tree. The event will be held at Blackstone Brewery and coincides with Green Drinks, which begins at 7 pm. [Read more...](#)

Polar Probing – Through Dec. 8

Visit the Fine Arts Gallery in Cohen Memorial Hall to view *Polar Probing*, a set of works by Gabriel Warren. Warren uses natural ice formations as his medium and his sculpture is “intended to reflect the beauty of the natural sources from which they emerge.” The exhibit runs through Thursday, December 8. [Read more...](#)

Implementing the Interior Design + Construction LEED Rating System – Dec. 9

The USGBC of Middle TN will host a LEED Class on Friday, December 7 from 8:30 am – 5 pm at Stansell Electric. Cost for USGBC Members is \$280 and cost for Non-Members is \$330. [Read more...](#)

Power down before leaving for the holidays

If you are going to be away from your dorm room, office, or home for an extended period of time over the holidays, remember to power down before you leave. This is a great opportunity to reduce your energy consumption and environmental impact.



Turn off and unplug your computer, monitor, printer, microwaves, lamps, cell phone chargers, televisions, refrigerators, copiers, fax machines, coffee makers, etc. that will not be in use while you are gone. Many types of electronic equipment still draw small amounts of electricity even when turned off (“vampire” power), so it is important to unplug them as well.

Turn off your room, office, desk, kitchen, bathroom and common area lights.

Check the thermostat setting and set to 65 degrees.

If you work in a lab, close your fume hood sashes before leaving for the holiday.

Turn down your electric and gas water heaters to conserve energy and gas.

Visit the [ThinkOne website](#) for additional ways you can reduce your energy consumption at Vanderbilt.

Get to know Dejan Stjepanovic, VU’s new Assistant Recycling Coordinator



Dejan Stjepanovic joined SEMO in November as VU’s Assistant Recycling Coordinator. Dejan will provide support to the campus recycling program by assisting with special events and

athletics recycling and managing the student residential area recycling programs. Stjepanovic graduated from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in May 2011 where as a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity, he started a nonprofit focused on recycling with all proceeds from recovered materials being used to fund a music scholarship. In his free time, you might find Dejan reading, watching documentaries, spending time with friends and family, cooking vegetarian/vegan meals, eating veggie burgers at Fat Mo’s, or at the Bonnaroo music festival. Welcome, Dejan!

Engineering seniors design a bio-inspired solar cell with EPA funding

A team of Vanderbilt engineering seniors has been awarded \$15,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to design a nature inspired large-scale solar cell. The students participating in this interdisciplinary senior design project under

Volunteer Day: Tree Planting & Tree Giveaway – Dec. 10

On Saturday, December 10 at 9 am, join the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) in Spring Hill to plant trees to help stabilize the soil and improve water quality. TEC will also be giving away trees to those who want to plant trees at home or in their community. [Read more...](#)

Presentation and Q&A: How Are LEED Projects Reviewed? – Dec. 13

Join the USGBC of Middle TN for a presentation and discussion from the Green Building Certification Institute's (GBCI) Johnny Epstein regarding what happens once a LEED project is submitted for certification review on Tuesday, December 13 at 8:30 am. [Read more...](#)

East Nashville Green Drinks – Dec. 21

On Wednesday, December 21 from 6 – 9 pm, participate in East Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability. East Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub. [Read more...](#)



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the guidance of engineering professors Kane Jennings and Amrutur Anilkumar include: Andrew Couch, Eric Dilbone, Philip Ingram, Trevan Locke, Paul McDonald, Jason Ogg, and junior chemistry student Melinda Shearer. Funding was provided through the EPA's People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Program, a national competition that challenges students, working together on interdisciplinary teams, to design and build sustainable technologies that improve quality of life, promote economic development, and protect the environment. Read the [full article](#) published by the School of Engineering for more information.

Seeking game-changing energy technologies

At the School of Engineering's annual Hall Lecture, Arun Majumdar, formerly Department of Advanced Projects Agency-Energy (DARPA-e) director and just named the Undersecretary of the Department of Energy, expressed his views on the critical energy situation that Americans face. DARPA-e aims to identify and fund game-changing energy research. Majumdar presented a grave view of the global energy situation, including the nation's current \$1 billion per day appetite for imported oil, the hastening pace of climate change and its impacts, and predictions of rising global energy demand as increasing shares of the earth's over 7 billion people embrace western lifestyles. Majumdar ultimately argued that what we need is a paradigm transformation to sustainable growth. Read the [full article](#) for more on Majumdar's talk.



WeCar vehicle sharing program comes to campus

The Office of Traffic & Parking has added the WeCar vehicle sharing program to its repertoire of alternative transportation options on campus. A division of Enterprise, WeCar now has 5 vehicles at various locations throughout campus available for student, faculty, and staff use. The new program exists alongside the current Zipcar program. Read the [full article](#) for details about the program.



For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or

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