

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Climate Science and Climate Skeptics – February 8

On February 8 from noon – 1 pm in Buttrick 101, Bill Ruddiman from the University of Virginia will present “Climate Science and Climate Skeptics”. The presentation is open to everyone 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. Read more [here](#).

Summit for Campus Sustainability, Knoxville, TN – February 15

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

As we head into February, showing appreciation for loved ones is important, so remember to love the earth, too! Try to reduce waste and consider the environment when planning your Valentine’s Day festivities. There are a lot of activities to show your appreciation for the environment this month including a tree planting event, an on campus workshop about climate change, and even the chance for you to tell your sustainability story in the Vanderbilt Story Booth. Keep reading to discover what is in store for February. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a great February!

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will provide an opportunity for administrators, faculty, 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.

10K Tree Planting Day – February 16

Join the Tennessee Environmental Council on Saturday, February 16 from 9am-2pm for their TREE-mendous tree planting event. Join other volunteers in planting 10,000 trees in one day. Trees will be planted at [several locations](#) throughout Middle TN and across the state, followed by a celebration at a location in Nashville to be named. Read more [here](#).

Nashville Green Drinks – February 20

On Wednesday, February 20 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).

Volunteer Day at Radnor Lake State Park – February 23

Join volunteers, along with Radnor Lake staff, on Saturday, February 23 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Visitor Center off of Granny White Pike. Projects include exotic plant removal, mulching trails, and planting native vegetation. Volunteer Days sponsored

Vanderbilt scores big in 2012 Game Day Recycling Challenge

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced the results of the 2012 Game Day Recycling Challenge, and Vanderbilt University scored



big. The Game Day Challenge is a voluntary competition among universities to see who can recycle the most and generate the least waste at one football game of their choosing each October. Vandy has generated impressive improvement over the past several years with a whopping 84% increase in our recycling volume at this year's designated game over last year's.

Vanderbilt excelled in the waste minimization category, ranking 1st out of the Southeastern Conference schools, 8th in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision, and 22nd out of 63 participating colleges and universities, including Division II and Division III schools. Read more [here](#) and click [here](#) for full results.

Vanderbilt Story Booth collecting stories about sustainability next week in Buttrick Hall

Next week, February 4 – February 8, the Vanderbilt Story Booth, a mobile video booth designed to collect stories from Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff, will be set up in the Buttrick Hall atrium to collect stories about sustainability.



Here's how it works, visit the Vanderbilt Story Booth next week to tell your story about sustainability. Once you've thought of your story, head into the booth, tell a little about yourself, push record and go! Select videos will be featured on the Vanderbilt Story Booth website and other sites across campus. When you pop in your email address, the video can be sent to you! Read more about the Vanderbilt Story Booth [here](#)!

Dr. Hess and Dr. Krahn represent Vanderbilt at SEC Symposium

by the Friends of Radnor Lake. For more info call 615-373-3467.

Plan Your Event Using Eco-Friendly Practices – February 26

On Tuesday, February 26 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm at the University School of Nashville, attend an evening class and learn how to implement green, eco-friendly practices for parties and other social events. Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt Athletics Basketball Sustainability Competition – February 27

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 basketball game on February 27, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc.

Follow [SustainVU](#) on Facebook or watch the [SustainVU webpage](#) for the release of the competition survey. Good luck!

Green Tie Affair – March 22

Save the date for the 2013 Tennessee Environmental Council’s Green Tie Affair to be held Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm at the University Club of Nashville. Green Tie Affair is one of the Tennessee Environmental Council’s most important and fun events of the year, with a mission of

David Hess, professor of sociology, and Steve Krahn, professor of the practice of nuclear environmental engineering, will represent Vanderbilt at the inaugural [SEC Symposium](#), to be held February 10-12 in Atlanta. The symposium is designed to address a significant scholarly issue across the range of disciplines represented by the Southeastern Conference’s 14 member universities, with this year’s inaugural symposium addressing “Impact of the Southeast in the World’s Renewable Energy Future.”

EPA Administrator resigns

EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, announced her resignation in December 2012 and will officially step down following the State of the Union address on February 12. Jackson achieved notable successes during her tenure including successfully defending an EPA finding that carbon dioxide and five other global warming gases endanger public health, and so can be regulated under the federal Clean Air Act. Read Administrator Jackson’s resignation statement [here](#).



2012 breaks climate records

The year 2012 broke many climate records according to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2012 was the hottest year on record for the continental United States and the second worst year for extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods. Read the NOAA’s [State of the Climate report](#) for more information.



President Obama addresses climate change in Inaugural Address

President Obama addressed climate change in a prominent way during his second Inaugural Address January 21. “We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that failure to do so would betray our children and future generations,” said President Obama. “Some may still deny the



supporting all Council programs including the TN Tree Project, Sustainable TN, the Watershed Support Center and more. More information can be found [here](#) as it becomes available.

AASHE 2013 Conference – October 6-9

Save the date for the 2013 AASHE Conference, to be held in the “Greenest City in the Southeast”, Nashville! Befitting of this year’s conference theme, “Resiliency & Adaptation,” AASHE 2013 is taking place in a city that is part of the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, has a comprehensive strategy to ensure consistent access to an affordable, sustainable and nutritious food system, and features a new residential energy efficiency program that provides free in-home energy evaluations and other financial incentives to Nashville homeowners. Click [here](#) for up-to-date conference information.



overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms.” Read more [here](#).

Make your Valentine’s Day earth-friendly!

There are many ways to consider the environment for Valentine’s Day by reconsidering what you send, what you give, and what you eat. We’ve provided a quick list on how to lessen your global footprint.

- Send an e-card, which eliminates paper waste! Too unromantic? Look for recycled, sustainable paper when shopping for cards.
- Try to look for flowers that are in season, grown locally, or are potted and can be replanted.
- Consider local restaurants when dining out. Check our list for some Nashville-area restaurants [here](#).
- Consider making a memory by doing something fun for Valentine’s Day, like going to a show, instead of buying something that might contribute to waste.
- Purchase gifts that are fair-trade, locally made or grown, or organically grown. There are many great options for fair-trade and organic chocolates.
- Use reusable packaging, such as a gift bag, instead of wrapping paper.



Read [SustainVU's Sustainable Holiday Greening Guide](#) for more ideas.



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.

