The new school year is now well underway, and it is starting to feel a bit more like fall outside! October is Energy Awareness Month, and we want to challenge you to reduce your energy consumption! Visit the ThinkOne website for specific ways to reduce the amount of energy you use each day or check out our daily energy conservation tips this month on our Facebook page. There are many green events, opportunities, and news stories in the coming weeks that we would like to tell you about. More information about the stories and events in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU website. Have a sustainable October!

Andrea George, PhD, CHMM, Director
VU Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO)
(615) 322-4551 | e-mail | Web site
for the concert line-up.
Environmentally-friendly practices at Live On the Green include recycling, reusable materials, healthy food vendors, and organic merchandising.
Read more...

Summit for Campus Sustainability: Tennessee Valley Universities Investing in a Clean Energy Future – October 8

Join the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Tennessee Alumni and Students for Sustainable Campuses, and Belmont University’s Sustainable Campus Committee for the 2nd annual Summit for Campus Sustainability on Friday, October 8 at Belmont University. The agenda includes keynote speakers, expert panels, workshops, and facilitated breakout sessions on topics including: energy efficiency and conservation programs; integrating sustainability into curricula; long-term campus sustainability planning; sustainable building design; and renewable energy on campus. Read more...

Compass VII Conference on Green Jobs – October 8-9

The Tennessee Alliance for Progress will host its Compass VII Conference on Green Jobs October 8 and 9. This conference will bring together grassroots activists, labor, environmental and economic justice organizations, green businesses, government officials, concerned citizens, and youth who are interested in the creation of green jobs. Read

VU to release greenhouse gas inventory updates

In recognition of Campus Sustainability Day, SEMO will release a new report detailing VU’s greenhouse gas emissions from 2005-2009. The report, to be released on October 20, incorporates recent methodology required by the EPA as well as provides trending information for emissions over the past five years. Visit the SustainVU website on October 20 to read the full report and see how Vandy’s carbon footprint has changed over the past 5 years!

Vandy FreeSwap Launch

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, October 27, SEMO will launch the new Vandy FreeSwap website (a FreeCycle/Craigslist-like site specifically for the Vanderbilt community to freely swap unwanted materials) by hosting a live swap event open to Vanderbilt employees and students from 7:30 am to 4 pm on Olin Lawn. Acceptable items include: media, such as books, CDs, DVDs, and tapes; electronics and appliances; packing boxes and materials; school and office supplies; and household items and equipment. All remaining goods from the live swap will be donated to local charities. Clothing will NOT be accepted during this event. Individuals wishing to swap clothing items are encouraged to utilize the online Vandy FreeSwap system or to participate in the upcoming Holiday Recyclathon Clothing Drive. Contact SEMO for more information!

America Recycles Day and Holiday Recyclathon

In celebration of America Recycles Day, SEMO and Cintas will host a Community Paper Shred Day on Friday, November 12 from 7:30 am to 3 pm for the collection of items for confidential paper recycling. SEMO will also kick-off its annual Holiday Recyclathon Clothing Drive for the collection of gently used clothing and household linen items on Monday, November 15. The drive will continue through Sunday, December 19, at which time items will be donated to charities. Collection sites will be located conveniently at several main campus and medical center locations. Stay tuned for more
Living the Plan of Nashville 2010 – October 13

The Nashville Civic Design Center will host Maurice Cox, expert on urban design, professor of architecture at the University of Virginia, and former Director of Design for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), at Living The Plan of Nashville 2010 on Wednesday, October 13 at 11:30 am at the Hilton Nashville Downtown hotel. Cox’s address will discuss the role that design plays in creating successful cities that are healthy, sustainable, diverse, and economically vibrant. Individual tickets are $100 and may be purchased online. Read more…

OACS Eco Rolling Seminar: A Look at the Environment through the Lens of Mountain Top Removal – October 14 – 16

The Office of Active Citizenship and Service will host an Eco Rolling Seminar exploring energy, the environment, and mountain top removal during Fall Break, Thursday, October 14 through Saturday, October 16. Participants will travel to Hindman, Kentucky on a bio-diesel bus, attend several panel discussions, visit mountain top removal sites and the Berea College Eco Village, and experience an evening of Appalachian music and dance. The seminar cost, which includes meals, accommodations, and transportation, is $50 for Vanderbilt students and details on these November events!

Saturday University series to feature lectures on energy and the environment

This fall’s Saturday University series, “Heat, Light and Water: Lectures on Energy and the Environment,” will be presented in collaboration with the Vanderbilt Institute on Energy and the Environment (VIEE) and will feature lectures by Vanderbilt professors Jonathan Gilligan, Jack Barkenbus, Mike Vandenergh, and Jim Fraser on topics including Climategate, electric vehicles, behavioral aspects of energy and climate change, and effective floodplain policies. Lectures will be held in Cohen Memorial Hall from 9:30-11:30 am over four consecutive Saturdays beginning October 30 and ending November 20. The fee is $50. Saturday University is a program designed for adult learners in the community who enjoy engaging in lifelong learning. Read more information and register for Saturday University!

Photo by Daniel Dubois, Vanderbilt University

Vandy’s inclusion in the Nashville Post’s 50 most eco-friendly businesses in Middle TN

Vanderbilt was recently ranked among the Nashville Post’s 50 most eco-friendly companies in Middle TN! The list defined green businesses as those who provide goods or services intended to improve the sustainability of others and those who employ sustainable principles in their facilities and services. VU’s LEED-certified buildings, power generation on campus, and research on sustainability and the environment are several efforts that were recognized. Read the full Nashville Post article (subscription may be required).

Pollinating gardens created around Library Lawn as part of Fulbright Eco-Leadership Grant

Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR), with the assistance of
$250 for faculty. The application deadline is October 1 at 5 pm. Read more...


Join the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council for their annual conference, featuring expert presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on demonstrations about creating sustainable sites with urban forestry. Topics to be discussed include new sustainability initiatives, urban forest preservation, Chattanooga’s green movement, and green infrastructure design. Read more...

Photo by Mary Donaldson, Vanderbilt University

Peaceful Pastures Winter Meat CSA

Interested in local, sustainable meat this winter? Check out Peaceful Pastures' Winter Meat Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Purchase a 6 month share of the farm's output and receive 20-22 pounds of grass-fed, hormone- and antibiotic-free meat and a handmade bath and body product each month! The program features whole chickens and various cuts of beef, lamb, goat and pork. Peaceful Pastures meat is delivered frozen, each cut individually wrapped and labeled. Learn more about Peaceful Pastures Winter CSA.

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.