Sustainability at Vanderbilt

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SustainVU is a University-wide web site to serve as a promotional tool and meeting point for all sustainability efforts on campus.

- **SustainVU** assists in defining and discussing our institutional goals.
- **SustainVU** email list allows periodic communication to anyone who subscribes.
What is Sustainability?

- **Sustainability** is broadly defined as “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

- When applied within the university, sustainability is essentially a process or management system that helps to create a vibrant campus economy and high quality of life; respecting the need to sustain natural resources and protect the environment.

- **Sustainable** programs are those that result from an institution’s commitment to environmental, social and economic health -- or the “triple bottom line”
Vanderbilt’s Sustainability Initiatives

Campus-Wide
✓ Recycling
✓ Green Buildings
✓ Commuter Programs
✓ Energy Conservation
✓ Water Conservation
✓ Biodiesel Initiative
✓ Composting

Departmental & School
✓ Energy & Environment Institute
✓ VU Dining Services
✓ Keeping Peabody Green
✓ OGSM and NetImpact
✓ Commencement Office
✓ Commons Seminars
✓ Undergraduate and Graduate Programs
✓ Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs and Centers
✓ VU Printing Services
✓ Human Resources
✓ Procurement

The Sustainability movement is sweeping across colleges nationwide!
Recycling

Solid Waste Stream

**2007**

VU Campus + VUMC
- 720 tons of paper/cardboard
- 12.8 tons of aluminum
- 10.4 tons of plastic
- 25 tons of computers

**768 tons TOTAL recyclables**

Universal Waste

**2007**

VU Campus + VUMC
- 21,000 fluorescent light bulbs
- 1,590 lbs batteries
- 66,585 lbs (33.3 tons) of VU computers and electronics

At the May 2008 Electronics Recycling Event, >500,000 lbs of electronics were recycled.

1.5 tons of plastic recycled during Commencement Week!

40 cubic yards of paper recycled at the St. Patrick’s Day Paper Recycling Drive.

The Commons Move-In 2008 recycled 17,500 lbs of cardboard and 1 ton of plastic.
Green Buildings

The Commons has one LEED-Gold and three LEED-Silver Certified Buildings!

Commons Center GOLD
Gillette House SILVER
Sutherland House SILVER
Crawford House SILVER

2008 Green Schools Winner at the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards!

for incorporating sustainability education into the freshman experience

Additional buildings in The Commons, Benson Hall, and buildings at 100 Oaks are being renovated and constructed to meet LEED certification standards.

The use of natural light in The Dining Gallery is one example of the Commons Center’s green design and construction

The Commons Center has a LEED walking tour!

LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
ThinkOne Energy Conservation Project

→ Goal of **15% reduction** in overall energy consumption, or 54 million KwH and 63,130 metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings annually.

→ Current educational outreach is to faculty and staff on main campus, then residential students, then research faculty and staff and patient care areas.

→ Initial online data gathering survey is complete.

→ Postcards/emails are currently announcing the campaign and promoting HVAC energy conservation. Educational outreach is planned throughout Fall 2008.

→ September was temperature control month, October will focus on lighting, November will focus on computers and equipment, December will focus on energy savings in research.

www.vanderbilt.edu/SustainVU/ThinkOne
SustainVU’s Departmental and Event Greening Tips

What YOU Can Do
REDUCE the amount of materials your office consumes
- Change copiers and printers to default to double-sided settings
- Provide mechanisms to electronically transfer documents instead of printing
- Consider electronic subscriptions and books whenever possible
- Provide hard china, reusable mugs/cups and water fountains/bulk water dispensers to your staff
- Suspend printing your pay advice by sending an email to payroll@vanderbilt.edu with “Don’t Take Our Advice” in the subject line

REUSE
- Buy paper, office products, and furniture with recycled content

RECYCLE cardboard, paper, plastic, and aluminum
- If you are in a Vanderbilt academic or administrative building, contact Jennifer Hackett at 615-34EARTH for information
- Anywhere else, see www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu
Keep the thermostat set to 75°F in the summer and 68-70°F in the winter
  - Encourage employees to dress for the season
If the indoor temperature in your workspace seems extremely cold or hot, call Plant Operations (2-WORK) and alert them to the temperature extreme
Turn OFF lights when areas are unoccupied, especially in common spaces!
Make use of natural lighting as much as possible
Change to Compact Fluorescent Lights when possible
  - Energy Star-rated CFLs use 75% less energy and last 6-10X longer
Program sleep modes for computers, printers, copiers, and fax machines.
  - If you aren’t using the computer for over 2 hours, turn your machine off, or at least the monitor.
Unplug electronics from the wall when not in use—they still consume energy even when turned off!
Instead of using the elevator, take the stairs. You’ll save energy and get some exercise!
When replacing old office equipment or refrigerators, purchase Energy-Star-rated models
**Green Purchasing**

Buy paper products with **at least** 30% post-consumer recycled content

- No price or quality difference
- Available thru E-Procurement

Boise Aspen™ family of Recycled-Content Office Papers versus virgin grades

Vanderbilt used 24.41 tons of ASPEN 30%, 8.82 tons of ASPEN 50% and 0.46 tons of ASPEN 100% from Jan – Sept. 2008. Look at what we saved!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Recycled Content</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.41 tons</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.82 tons</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.46 tons</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th> </th>
<th>fewer trees used</th>
<th>less energy used (M btu)</th>
<th>reduction in GHG emissions (lbs CO₂ equiv.)</th>
<th>less water used (gal.)</th>
<th>reduction in solid waste (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>15,438</td>
<td>64,078</td>
<td>8,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>9,297</td>
<td>38,558</td>
<td>4,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>4,025</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Fewer trees used
- Less energy used (M btu)
- Reduction in GHG emissions (lbs CO₂ equiv.)
- Less water used (gal.)
- Reduction in solid waste (lbs)
Green Purchasing

- For cleaning supplies, choose Green Seal or Greenworks certified
- Buy paper products with recycled content
- Purchase recycled toner and ink cartridges from Guy Brown through E-procurement
  - Guy Brown will also take used cartridges back for recycling
- Purchase Energy Star computers with LCD flat-panel monitors

- When purchasing any type of electronics or appliances, look for Energy Star or EPEAT label
- Choose carpet and paints with low or no Volatile Organic Compounds, if remodeling
- Buy office supplies, carpet, and furniture that are high in post-consumer recycled content

Procurement is a great partner!
COMMUTING

- Ride a bike or walk to work and during lunch to eliminate air emissions altogether
- Take public transportation
  - MTA Free Ride to Work Program
  - Music City Star reduced-cost passes
- Consider carpooling and vanpooling
- ZipCar Program
  
  http://www.zipcar.com/vanderbilt

For more information on commuting options visit:

  www.vanderbilt.edu/traffic_parking
  www.VMCRideMatch.com
  www.rta-ride.org
  www.nashvillemta.org

Green Printing Options at VU Printing Services

- Ask for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified paper with high % of recycled post-consumer content made with renewable resources such as wind electricity.
- Ask for environmentally-responsible inks that use vegetable oils (soy oil included).
- Cost impact is very minimal, if any
Reduce paper waste by advertising electronically, online registration, and PowerPoint presentations instead of handouts

Consider holding a small conference or meeting via videoconference

Provide local accommodations that are within walking distance to the event

- Hutton Hotel (opening Winter 2008 on West End) offers sustainable accommodations

Hire shuttles to transport participants in groups to and from airports or hotels or give information about public transportation to reduce individual car travel

Post a ride-share network on the event’s website for carpooling opportunities

Reduce solid waste

- Utilize reusable china and utensils instead of disposables
- Provide bulk water, coffee and drink dispensers, and reusable mugs or cups

Request recycling bins for your event, if disposables are used

Use caterers that commit to using locally grown and/or organic food and minimal packaging