

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Engage Green: Music City Center Green Building Tour – February 3

Join [Team Green Adventures](#) and [Urban Green Lab](#) for their monthly Engage Green workshop. This month the workshop will visit the Music City Center to go on a tour of Nashville's landmark convention center, learning about the green features of the building along the way! Meet the tour at the MCC UPS store at 6pm. Read more [here](#).

Why Sustainable Agriculture Matters – February 4

Professor Norman Wirzba of Duke University will address the ways that sustainable agriculture can transform

Showing appreciation for loved ones is on everyone's mind as we head into February, so don't forget to love the earth, too! There are many ways to turn your Valentine's Day from green to red: think about sending an e-valentine or make your own from recycled materials, invest in potted plants or trees instead of fresh cut flowers which die within a few days, choose a [local Nashville restaurant](#) for your special dinner, and consider baking your own treats instead of buying chocolates (or buy locally made chocolates like [Olive and Sinclair](#) – YUM!). Check out more Valentines tips [here](#). There are plenty of ways to show your love to the earth this month including a tree planting and many lectures and workshops! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. SustainVU wishes you a happy and green Valentine's Day!

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our approach to health as part of a vision of population health which brings together commitments to ecology and public health. Join the lecture in Light Hall, Room 214 at 4pm. Read more [here](#).

Public Meeting for Regional Transportation Plan – February 4

The [Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) has scheduled public meetings in each of the seven counties of its planning area to review the draft regional transportation plan (RTP) for Middle Tennessee. The Davidson County meeting is being held on February 4 from 5-7pm in the Bridge Building. The purpose of the RTP is to outline the region's transportation priorities for federal funding. Read more [here](#).

Presentation of Greenest Group on Campus Award – February 10

Commodore fans can cheer on this year's VU Basketball "Greenest Group on Campus," on February 10, when they will enjoy a free catered in-game VIP event, free tickets and an award presentation on the court during the Missouri game. The award is presented by [Waste Management](#), [Vanderbilt University Athletics](#), and [SEMO](#). Join us in congratulating the winner, and don't forget to recycle at all of the VU home basketball games! Green totes are located in the concourse area of each level of Memorial Gym, making recycling easy. Go 'Dores!



Vanderbilt partners with Nashville MTA to develop Transit-Hub app

Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority ([MTA](#)) is now working with the Institute for Software Integrated Systems ([ISIS](#)) at Vanderbilt University to develop smarter and easier to use applications for commuters in middle Tennessee. As the need for public transportation increases, the need for easy-to-use and commuter friendly systems becomes increasingly important. The [T-HUB app](#) provides these tools for commuters.

Key features of the app include a real-time bus tracker, navigation, service alert notifications, calendar-based personal transit schedule management / notification and a comparison view to evaluate different trip options. By making public transit more predictable, the app encourages customers to use public transit more often. Read more [here](#).

Resolving the food-energy-water trilemma

Food. Energy. Water. Not only are these critical natural resources, they are also inextricably



linked with each other. Water is needed to grow food. Energy is needed to pump water and to plant, grow and distribute food. Water is required to produce energy. And so on. The trade-offs and synergies among the three are so important economically that it has a name: the food-energy-water nexus.

Researchers at [Vanderbilt's Institute for Energy and the Environment](#) and [Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment](#) have developed a computer model that provides new insights into the food-energy-water nexus and can help

Property and Renewable Energy: Conflicts in Development – February 15

Join the [Energy, Environment and Land Use Program](#) lecture on “Property and Renewable Energy” with Professor Troy Rule, faculty director, Program on Law and Sustainability at Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. The lecture will focus on land conflicts in the development of renewable energy, and in particular how property law can help to resolve conflicts between homeowners. The Lecture meets in the VU Law School Flynn Auditorium from 12-1pm. Read more [here](#).

Mobile Lab Launch – February 16

[Urban Green Lab](#) is excited to show the world what they have been working hard to make happen. The Mobile Lab is making its first public debut on Tuesday, February 16th, from 10am to 11am at the W.O. Smith School. The event will include the public debut and demonstration of the mobile lab, an official ribbon cutting, opportunities to reserve the mobile lab, and speakers. Read more [here](#).

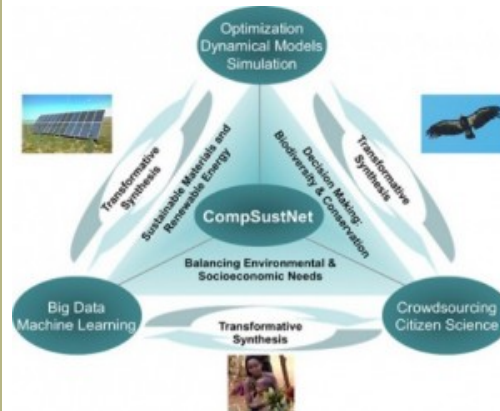
Environmental Humanities Seminar – February 16

Jason W. Moore, associate professor of sociology at Binghamton University, will speaking on his new book, *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. The seminar will take place at 4:10pm in

resource managers around the world do a better job of weighing food and energy tradeoffs when water is scarce.

The new model adopts a standard economic approach called a “tradeoff frontier” to visualize the tradeoffs among food, energy and water in times of water scarcity: a condition that is becoming increasingly prevalent. Read more [here](#).

Harnessing the power of computers to create a sustainable future



Harnessing the power of computers to help create an economically,

environmentally and socially sustainable future – that is the purpose of a major new grant issued by the [National Science Foundation](#) to a new network of universities and organizations that includes Vanderbilt University.

The five-year, \$10 million grant is part of NSF’s Expeditions in Computing program and will provide funding to establish a national and international research network, called [CompSustNet](#), that will explore new research dimensions in “computational sustainability,” a new field devoted to developing computational solutions to the challenges involved in creating a sustainable future. The new sustainability network will allow computer scientists, environmental and social scientists, biologists, physicists, material scientists to collaborate on these complex issues. Read more [here](#).

Pope’s call for ecological action focus of cross-disciplinary talks

the Robert Penn Warren Center.

Read more [here](#).

Nutrition Workshop: Seasonality 101 – February 17

The best way to promote better health and nutrition is to eat in-season with local ingredients. [Team Green Adventures](#) is partnering with the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#) to discuss seasonality topics and tasteful new recipes at 6pm. Read more [here](#).

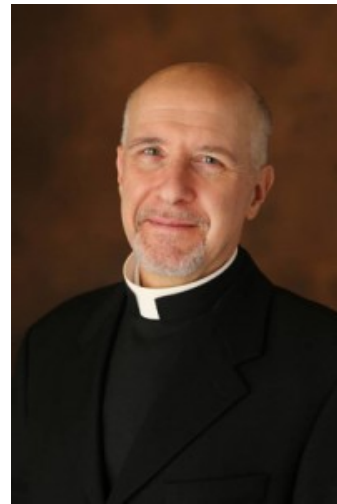
Cold Weather Gear Class – February 17

[Walk Bike Nashville](#) is hosting its first ever Winter Riding Class- it starts with this event to get you prepped with the gear you really need and answer the questions you've always wondered about riding in cold and wet weather. The class will be held from 6-7:30pm at Cumberland Transit. Read more [here](#).

Sustainable Climate Risk Management Seminar – February 25

Nancy Tuana, professor of ethics, philosophy, and women's studies at Penn State, will speak on "Sustainable Climate Risk Management." Dr. Tuana is part of an NSF sponsored research network for Sustainable Climate Risk Management that links a transdisciplinary team of scholars at 24 universities and research institutions across six countries. She is also doing research on feminist philosophical approaches to climate

"On Care for Our Common Home: Philosophical, Practical and Theological Perspectives on Pope Francis' Eco-Encyclical" will take place at [Vanderbilt University Divinity School](#) starting Jan. 22. The series of cross-disciplinary talks is designed to spark community conversations on Pope Francis' environmental letter.



Pope Francis explicitly addresses "every person living on this planet" in his recent call to action on the environment, according to [Bruce Morrill](#), the Edward A. Malloy Professor of Catholic Studies and primary organizer of this series. "The pope describes the ecological situation as urgent," Morrill said. "Picking up on both that note of urgency and encouragement for dialogue, 'On Care for Our Human Home' will bring pertinent scholars to campus, encourage reflective and spiritual opportunities around the talks, and invite engagement with the Middle Tennessee community."

The talks will continue on March 17 and 18, 2016. Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt on team to develop advanced nuclear reactors to reduce carbon emissions



Vanderbilt University is part of a new public-private partnership that has been awarded up to \$40 million from the [U.S. Department of Energy](#) to explore, develop and demonstrate advanced nuclear reactor technologies to help America meet

its goals for carbon emission reduction.

The research is aimed at developing molten chloride fast reactors, an advanced concept for nuclear power generation. Researchers believe molten chloride fast reactors will provide enhanced operational performance, safety, security and

change. The lecture will take place at 4:10pm at the Curb Center. Read more [here](#).

50K Tree Day – February 27

Saturday February 27 is planting day with the [Tennessee Environmental Council](#). Trees help reduce pollution by filtering stormwater runoff before it reaches our waterways. By keeping rivers and streams clean, we keep our drinking water cleaner. Tree pickup begins on Friday February 26 and continues Saturday morning February 27 between 8am and 10am. Read more [here](#).

Coyote Valley: Deep History in the Rockies Lecture – February 29

Thomas Andrews will speak on his book *Coyote Valley: Deep History in the Rockies*. In his book, Thomas Andrews offers a meditation on the environmental and historical pressures that have shaped and reshaped one small stretch of North America, from the last ice age to the advent of the Anthropocene and the latest controversies over climate change. The lecture will be held at 4:10pm, location TBD. Read more [here](#).



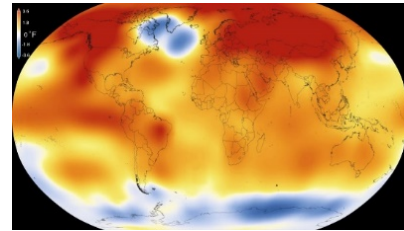
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economic value when compared with other advanced reactor concepts.

Vanderbilt has teamed with the Electric Power Research Institute ([EPRI](#)) for more than four years to perform research and applied engineering to evaluate the safety, health and environmental impacts of advanced reactor concepts as well as their readiness for implementation in the nuclear fuel cycle. Read more [here](#).

2015 was hottest year in historical record

Scientists reported in January that 2015 was the [hottest year in the historical record](#) by far, breaking a mark set only the year before —



a burst of heat that has continued into the new year and is roiling weather patterns all over the world.

In the contiguous United States, the year was [the second-warmest on record](#), punctuated by a December that was both the hottest and the wettest since record-keeping began. One result has been a wave of [unusual winter floods](#) coursing down the Mississippi River watershed.

Scientists started predicting a global temperature record months ago, in part because an El Niño weather pattern, one of the largest in a century, is releasing an immense amount of heat from the Pacific Ocean into the atmosphere. But the bulk of the record-setting heat, they say, is a consequence of the long-term planetary warming caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases.

“The whole system is warming up, relentlessly,” said Gerald A. Meehl, a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. Read more [here](#).

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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.

