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SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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The Development of Computer Earth System Models: Climate Change in the 20th and 21st Century - March 27

On March 27 at 4:10 pm in Jacobs Believed in Me Auditorium in Featheringill Hall, American climate scientist and National Medal of Science recipient Warren M. Washington will speak on “The Development of Computer Earth System Models: Climate Change in the 20th and 21st Century” as part of the 2014 John R. and Donna S. Hall Engineering Lecture Series. A reception will follow. Washington is a Senior Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, and he serves as chair of the National Research Council’s Review Committee for the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Read more [here](#).



April is officially “Earth Month” and there are tons of events going on around Nashville to celebrate the occasion, from SEMO’s No Impact Week and Nashville’s Earth Day Festival to the resurgence of gardens, farmers’ markets and produce stands. With Commencement approaching, we have included information on finding sustainability-related jobs for those about to graduate as well as how to apply to be SEMO’s summer intern! Don’t forget about recycling during Move Out – we’ve listed resources for donating and recycling to reduce Vanderbilt’s waste stream. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a gorgeous, green April!

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Vanderbilt is “Green, Clean and Lean”

Vegetarian and Vegan Buffet at Rand – April 2

VU Dining is hosting a Vegetarian and Vegan buffet at Rand on April 2 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. Come out and enjoy some tasty new dishes!

Small-Scale Gardening Techniques Workshop - April 2

Join Team Green Adventures and Urban Green Lab on Wednesday, April 2 at 6:00pm as they discuss the benefits of growing your own food at home and provide instructions and demo how to make a self-watering container garden. You'll even get to take home your own container garden! The event will be held at Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Road, Nashville, TN. The workshop is free and you can RSVP [here!](#)

Big East Fork Retreat's Spring Event - April 4-6

Join Big East Fork Retreat for their Spring Event on April 4-6. Big East Fork Retreat is located at 5375 Big East Fork Road, Franklin, TN. The focus of the event is on the environment, community and art. There will be camping and music, local food, local beer, speakers, yoga and more! Read more [here.](#)

Vanderbilt EES Seminar Series - April 4, 9, 11, 18

Join Vanderbilt's Department of Earth and Environmental Science (EES) as they welcome topic experts to speak on a wide variety of environmental subjects throughout the year.

Recently published in *Vanderbilt Magazine*, "Green, Clean & Lean" discusses Vanderbilt's academics, operations and research sustainability initiatives. Various professors and sustainability leaders across campus provided their views on



sustainability, how the world is changing because of it and what Vanderbilt is doing to stay ahead of the curve. Also mentioned are Vanderbilt's new undergraduate program in environmental and sustainability studies, notable faculty research projects, the Vanderbilt Green Fund, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, increased campus recycling and the ongoing conversion of the University's power plant. Read the full story [here.](#)

Earth Day No Impact Week – April 13 – 19

Join SEMO as we celebrate No Impact Week in honor of Earth Day from April 13 –19. No Impact Week

is a way to expand into a more sustainable lifestyle by taking on daily challenges. Throughout the week the challenges compound, so by Saturday you should be making "no impact" on the environment. The challenges are:



- Sunday – Utilize sustainable transportation (bike, walk, bus);
- Monday – Add a new energy conservation habit to your daily routine;
- Tuesday – Eat locally and seasonally;
- Wednesday – Throw nothing away – use only items you can recycle;
- Thursday – Add a new water conservation habit to your daily routine;
- Friday – Pick up a piece (or more!) of litter outside and dispose of it properly;
- Saturday – Attend Nashville Earth Day festival at Centennial Park.

There will be a photo booth set up outside Rand from 11:00am-1:00pm daily where you can document how you're making "no impact" that day. Can't make it to the photo booth? Use #VUEarthDay14 on Instagram and show us what you're doing to celebrate Earth Day!

Sustainability Intern Position for Summer 2014

A student intern position in the VU



Seminars are held in SC6740 at 3:10pm unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for more information about April's speakers.

Earth Day No Impact Week – April 13-19

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Nashville Green Drinks – April 16

On Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00pm, 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).

Rand Produce Stand - April 3 and April 17

On Thursday, April 3 from 11:00am - 1:00pm and Thursday, April 17 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, support local food by stopping by Rand Terrace for Vanderbilt Dining's Rand Produce

Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO) will be available full-time from mid-May through mid-August. The sustainability intern will assist SEMO in coordinating and promoting sustainability programs, primarily recycling, across campus and the medical center and is funded by Waste Management, Inc. Applications are due by Friday, April 11. Read more about how to apply [here](#).

Don't Toss it!—Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out Tips

With the hustle and bustle of finishing up the semester, moving out can be a hectic process of trying to fit a year's worth of stuff into cars, suitcases, and storage. For all the stuff that doesn't fit, Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out provides opportunities to keep a large volume of material out of the landfill while helping others at the same time.



OHARE will have donation locations set up across campus benefitting a variety of [non-profit charities](#). On Main Campus these areas are open April 22 – May 10 and the Commons locations are open April 22 – May 3. You can donate many items, including old textbooks, at any of these locations or post them on [Vandy FreeSwap!](#) In addition to donating, there are many convenient locations for recycling common items on campus. Please drop off your electronics, tablets, computers and appliances in the [specially designated areas](#) outdoors around the residence halls that are set up only during move out. For ink and toner cartridges, batteries, and pens, markers and mechanical pencils, recycling is available year round at the Sarratt and Commons Center main desks. Battery recycling is also available at all Reeve desks. Click [here](#) for a map of these locations. For more traditional recycling items such as plastic, paper (including textbooks), aluminum and flattened cardboard, students are encouraged to use the [residential recycling areas](#) located next to their dumpsters rather than throwing items away. For more information about Earth Friendly Move Out, please visit the SustainVU [website](#), contact recycle@vanderbilt.edu, call 343-2784 (E.ARTH on campus) or watch our award-winning recycling videos [here!](#)

World Water Day 2014

Stand!

Backyard Sustainable Gardening Workshop - April 19

Vegetable gardens are an enjoyable way to keep your kitchen stocked with delicious food, but how do you keep the bugs from chowing down on your tomatoes? On April 19 from 10:00am – 12:00pm, representatives from Hands on Nashville will talk about some Integrated Pest Management techniques to keep your plants healthy, maximize your growing space, and help you keep chemicals out of your garden. The workshop will be held at the Hands on Nashville Urban Farm, located at 361 Wimpole Drive, Nashville, TN. Register [here](#).

Nashville Earth Day Festival - April 19

Nashville's Earth Day Festival, held on April 19 from 11:00am – 6:00pm in Centennial Park, is a free, family friendly event with live entertainment throughout the day. This year's festival will help the community take another step toward Mayor Karl Dean's goal of making Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast. Read more [here!](#)

Earth Day - April 22

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, included 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other

"Water and Energy" was the theme of this year's World Water Day, recognized on March 22. Vanderbilt has many ongoing water conservation projects that not only reduce water consumption, but also decrease energy usage. As a result of the university's efforts, water consumption at Vanderbilt has decreased by at least 68 million gallons per year—enough to fill 2.3 million bathtubs.



Did you know?

- Plant Operations and VUMC Plant Services have retrofitted thousands of bathroom fixtures on the main campus and at the medical center with water-saving devices, such as aerated faucets, low-flow or dual-flush toilets, water-free urinals and low-flow, high-performance showerheads in residence halls.
- Plant Operations continues to capture groundwater that collects in utility tunnels beneath campus to irrigate the student athletic fields. By capturing this water and redirecting it, Vanderbilt reduces water purchases by 2.8 million gallons each year.
- Plant Operations and VUMC Plant Services have implemented condensation recycling in The Commons Center, MRB III and MRB IV, which takes water from the air and redirects it to the building's cooling towers rather than sending it down the drain. These projects save an estimated 5.2 million gallons of potable water each year, which could fill the pool at the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center almost 11 times.

Read more [here](#).

Interest in Green and Sustainability Jobs on the Rise

With Commencement quickly approaching, many students are wondering what career to pursue and which industries are growing in the aftermath of a severe recession. Reports indicate that interest in green careers is at an all-time high, [with 80% of young professionals preferring to work in a green job](#). Green jobs are defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as jobs that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or use fewer natural resources. If you're interested in learning more about opportunities to work in a green or sustainability field, speak with someone at the [Vanderbilt Center for Professional Development](#).



Science Academies Explain Global Warming Reality

groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. Read more [here](#).

Green Tie Affair 2014 - April 25

Green Tie Affair is one of the Tennessee Environmental Council's most important and fun events of the year, supporting all Council programs including Sustainable Tennessee, Tennessee Tree Project, Watershed Support Center and more. This year's event will be held on April 25 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm at the University Club of Nashville, located at 2402 Garland Avenue in Nashville. Read more and register [here](#).

Migration, Natural Resources, and Livelihoods in Rural South Africa - April 29

On April 29 at 12:00pm in Buttrick 123, Lori Hunter from the University of Colorado-Boulder will be speaking on "Migration, Natural Resources and Livelihoods in Rural South Africa". Read more [here](#).



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The U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society, which is the national scientific academy of the United Kingdom, recently released a [plain language report](#) on climate change that addresses 20 issues in a question-and-answer format, such as the recent slowing in the increase of world temperatures and how heat-trapping gases are connected to extreme weather. Read more [here](#).



Nashville Amp on Course for Federal Funds

Officials learned early in March that Nashville is on track to receive up to \$75 million in federal funding, which may be the deciding factor in whether the Amp project will move forward. President Barack



Obama's administration recommended that Nashville receive \$27 million in the next fiscal year to help pay for the Amp. Metro officials expect to receive the other \$48 million they've requested over "multiple, consecutive fiscal years," Mayor Karl Dean said. Read more [here](#).

VU Power Plant to Convert to All Natural Gas – FAQs available

The VU Power Plant Conversion has broken ground and construction is moving along well. Very exciting! If you have questions about the VU Power Plant conversion to all natural gas, visit [SustainVU](#) to read FAQs about the conversion and stay up-to-date with the construction progress! The conversion will replace the coal-fired boilers with natural gas boilers while retaining the same power generation capacity over the next three years.



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.

