

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Metro Nashville Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-Off – Through Feb. 17

Davidson County residents can recycle their live Christmas trees at several Metro sites this holiday season. Metro Public Works will collect the trees for mulching at the city's Bordeaux Mulch Facility. All trees must be free of lights, ornaments, icicles, all tinsel and garland. No flocked trees will be accepted. [Read more...](#)

Sustainability Project Speaker: Peter Gleick – Feb. 9

The American Studies Sustainability Project will host Peter Gleick, internationally recognized water expert and co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and

As we settle into 2012, please remember to be a wise energy consumer during the cooler months by adjusting your thermostat to 68-70 degrees F for maximum efficiency, dressing for the season and in layers, and opening window shades to take advantage of natural light and heating from the sun. Looking ahead toward spring and warmer weather, we encourage you to explore the variety of sustainability events available this month, including RecycleMania, our Green Bag Lunch on green spring cleaning, a "Sustainability and Creative Writing" symposium, a lecture discussing the future of energy law, and more! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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Security, on Thursday, February 9. His talk will begin at 4:10 pm in the Black Cultural Center Auditorium. [Read more...](#)

TRC Conference and Exhibition – Feb. 12-14

Join the Tennessee Recycling Coalition (TRC) and manufacturers, recycling vendors, government, institutions, non-profits, and small businesses at the Franklin Marriot Cool Springs for TRC's annual conference and exhibition from Sunday, February 12 to Tuesday, February 14. The conference schedule includes expert speakers, a wide range of session topics, a technical tour, vendor exhibit hall, networking opportunities, etc. [Read more...](#)

Nashville Green Drinks – Feb. 15

On Wednesday, February 15 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. [Read more...](#)

Conservation Education Day – Feb. 22

The Tennessee Environmental Council will host a Conservation Education/Sustainable TN Day on the Hill on Wednesday, February 22 from 9 am – 2 pm. The day is an opportunity for individuals and groups interested in environmental issues related to clean air and water, land

Show love for the Earth on Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, is a day filled with cards, sweets, flowers and gifts. Like many holidays, its celebration can create unintentional environmental side effects, such

as the consumption of natural resources and the generation of solid waste. But that doesn't have to be the case. A few simple ideas for reducing the environmental impact of your Valentine's Day celebrations include: sending an e-Valentine, giving organic or fair-trade chocolates, making a donation to an environmental organization on behalf of your Valentine, or making your own romantic meal with locally-grown ingredients. [Check out the full list of SustainVU's suggestions for showing the Earth some affection, while celebrating with those near and dear to you!](#)

Pitch In for RecycleMania

Recycling is a positive thing to do all the time, but [RecycleMania](#), a friendly competition between colleges and universities, provides an extra incentive to recycle during the months of February and March. With recycling bins in many indoor (most hallways and break rooms) and outdoor locations and recycling stations next to every residential dumpster throughout Vanderbilt's campus, it is easier than ever to pitch in.



RecycleMania isn't just about recycling, we get points for **REDUCING** our waste as well. A few simple steps you can take to reduce waste in your area include:

Set up computers and printers to print double-sided as a default and keep scrap paper next to your printer to use for printing or notes whenever appropriate.

Bring meals in reusable containers or eat in at Rand or the Commons to reduce packaging waste.

Communicate by email or voicemail instead of paper whenever possible.

Keep a reusable mug, water bottle, plate and silverware at your desk or in your room to use instead of disposables.

Read the [full article](#) to learn more about RecycleMania and for more ideas for reducing waste at Vanderbilt.

New Waste Disposal and Recycling Support Service Awarded to Waste Management

preservation, and energy to voice their concerns at Legislative Plaza in Nashville. [Read more...](#)

“Sustainability & Creative Writing” – Feb. 23-24

Take part in a Creative Writing Spring Literary Symposium on “Sustainability and Creative Writing” featuring author Alison Hawthorne Deming and Professor John Lane on Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24. The symposium is hosted by the English Department. [Read more...](#)

Future of Energy Law: Residential Renewable Energy by Whom? – Feb. 23

On Thursday, February 23, join the Vanderbilt Law Program, the Environmental Law Society, and the Climate Change Research Network for the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review in discussing law and the future of residential renewable energy. The event will begin at noon in Vanderbilt Law School's Flynn Auditorium. [Read more...](#)

USGBC Membership Meeting – Feb. 24

The U.S. Green Building Council of Middle TN will host their monthly membership meeting on Friday, February 24 from 11:30 am – 1 pm at the Adventure Science Center. Featured speakers include representatives of the Lipscomb University Sustainable Business Summit. A buffet style lunch will be served (\$20 for members, \$30 for

After nearly 30 years with another disposal service, Vanderbilt has awarded the contract for waste disposal and recycling support service to Waste Management, effective Jan. 1. The majority of equipment owned by the previous supplier was replaced with new dumpsters and compactors over the holiday break. Waste Management is now handling all Vanderbilt service requirements throughout central campus, the Medical Center, and Athletics.



Not only are there significant financial savings with this change, but Waste Management will allow Vanderbilt

University to further enhance recycling and sustainability programs through:

- The provision of expanded plastics and mixed recyclables collection;

- Where appropriate, the installation of Smart Energy solar-powered compactors, the first of which is already in operation behind The Commons Center;

- Targeted programs and initiatives for increasing the availability of and participation in recycling opportunities on campus; and

- State-of-the-art online dashboards accessible by the Vanderbilt community that will provide waste and recycling metrics necessary to focus and monitor the effectiveness of Vanderbilt waste minimization initiatives and programs.

Read the [full article](#) for more information.

Cumberland Project 2012 Call for Proposals

DEADLINE: FEB. 15, 2012

[Vanderbilt's Program in American Studies](#) and the [Center for Teaching](#) announce a second round of proposals for [The Cumberland Project](#), a workshop in May during which VU faculty engage in discussions and course designing workshops with campus leaders in sustainability education. Faculty who would like to develop new course materials that engage issues of sustainability and environmental awareness are encouraged to apply. Participants will receive \$500 in research funds for their participation in the two-day workshop.

Send a short, one-paragraph description of how you plan to change an existing course or develop a new one in Word format to [Joe Bandy](#), Assistant Director for The Center for Teaching. More information is available on [The Cumberland Project website](#).

non-members). [Read more...](#)

Green Bag Lunch: Green Spring Cleaning – Feb. 29

On Wednesday, February 29 from noon-1 pm in Sarratt 189, join SEMO for the sixth Green Bag Luncheon, which will include a presentation and discussion on ways you can simplify, organize, and clean your home and/or office without impacting the environment. So bring your lunch and learn about greening your spring cleaning routine! [Read more...](#)



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MTA Board approves BRT for East-West Connector

The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Board recently approved Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) running in exclusive lanes as the preferred alternative for the East-West Connector, the project formerly known as the Broadway-West End Corridor Study. This action by the MTA Board culminates a year-long study to evaluate high-capacity transit options for an eight-mile corridor beginning at Five Points in East Nashville and extending down Broadway, West End and Harding Road to White Bridge Road. The corridor study included analysis of several alternative transit options, including modern streetcar, light rail and BRT. Read the [full MTA press release](#) for more information about the study and the East-West Connector project.



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.

