

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### Lakes Appreciation Month

Sure, you may work on them, play on them, drink from them and dive into them, but have you recently taken the time to really appreciate your local lake, pond, or reservoir? Lakes Appreciation Month is the ideal time to set aside a week, a day or even just an hour to celebrate your favorite lake, pond or reservoir. See a list of ideas on how to participate [here](#).

### Vanderbilt Farmer's Market- July 5, 12, 19, 26

Purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, locally farmed meat, cheeses, and bread every Thursday on the Medical Center Plaza from 3pm to 6pm.

### Volunteer Home Energy Savings Project- July 3

July is shaping up to be hot, hot, hot with temperatures already topping 100 degrees! You can conserve energy by closing window shades, dressing in light loose layers, and setting indoor thermostats at 75 degrees or higher. For more energy conservation tips, visit our ThinkOne website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/thinkone/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/thinkone/). As the temps rise, we will also see more Air Quality Alert days, so consider taking mass transit, carpooling, or riding a bike to do your part to keep Nashville's air pollution levels as low as possible. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful July!

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Hands On Nashville has an exciting new Home Energy Savings Program to help improve the energy efficiency of low-income homes. Volunteers will have the opportunity to do a variety of home upgrades including attic and basement insulation installation, weather stripping doors and windows, installing low-flow shower heads and sink aerators, among others. [Read more...](#)

### Garden Work Day- July 7

The Nashville Food Project strives to provide increased access to healthy foods in homeless and working poor communities in Davidson County. Come help work on their organic farm that grows some of the food that helps serve approximately 500 meals each week! [Read more...](#)

### Nashville Green Drinks- July 18

On Wednesday, July 18 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 (1308 McGavock Pike). [Read more...](#)

### Rain Garden Workshop- July 20

Rain gardens are ideal for residential areas, helping improve water quality, reducing stormwater & flooding, and creating habitats for wildlife. Helping on this Tennessee Environmental Council project in the Duck River Watershed is a hands-on opportunity

## Love Circle Alternative Energy Showcase Nears Completion

A collaborative wind-solar alternative energy project between Vanderbilt University's mechanical engineering department and Nashville Metro Water Services has picked up speed with the installation of a modest 3kW (kilowatt) wind turbine at the Love Circle site close to campus. The main purpose of the project is to examine the feasibility of alternative energy production through solar and wind facilities, and the expectation is that about 30kWh (kilowatt hours) of power will be generated on a daily basis. Read the [full story here](#).



### Dr. Jim Clarke Recognized

Jim Clarke, professor of the practice of civil and environmental engineering, and longtime chair of the Vanderbilt Environmental Advisory Committee, has been approved for membership in the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) and for Certification by Eminence as a Board Certified Environmental Scientist (BCES) in the April 2012 inaugural class. Clarke, also a professor of earth and environmental sciences at Vanderbilt, focuses his research activities on chemical and nuclear waste management, sustainable approaches to the remediation of contaminated sites, environmental policy and environmental forensics. [Read more...](#)

## Community Forums Set for East-West Connector Bus Rapid Transit



The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee will kick off a series of ongoing public information sessions on the East-West Connector bus rapid transit (BRT) project with four sessions scheduled next month. The East-West Connector will run along an eight-mile corridor that stretches from Five Points in

to learn more about rain gardens including ideas you can use at home.

[Read more...](#)

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## USGBC Monthly Membership Meeting- July 27

TREEDC, a statewide network of 75 city and county mayors and businesses working together to create a path to fast-track renewables in Tennessee, is holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Upper Cumberland Forum at Tennessee Tech University. The agenda will include a Panel on the opportunities for renewable energy in the Upper Cumberland Region with talks from many industry leaders. Registration can be found on the [TREEDC website](#).

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## Radnor Lake Volunteer Day- July 28

Many trails need to be rebuilt in the wake of the 2010 flood at Radnor Lake. Volunteers work on trail projects including mulching trails, removing invasive plants such as honeysuckle, trail building, and occasional park/stream clean up. [Read more...](#)



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East Nashville to the White Bridge Road area in West Nashville. It will allow travel through the heart of the city faster than in a car stuck in traffic. For forum times and locations [click here](#).



## Music City Star 4<sup>th</sup> of July Tickets

Consider taking the Music City Star downtown to see the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks! Less than 300 tickets remain for the special July 4<sup>th</sup> Music City Star train to the Nashville fireworks at Riverfront Park. Online tickets will be on sale through 4:30 p.m. this Friday, June 22 or until they are sold out, whichever comes first. After this date, tickets must be purchased over the phone. Tickets will not be for sale July 4<sup>th</sup> on the platforms. Round-trip tickets cost \$12 and are available for purchase online at [musiccitystar.org](#) or [nashvillemta.org](#) with a credit card and over the phone by calling (615) 862-5925.



## July is Smart Irrigation Month!

Did you know that more than 50 percent of water used to irrigate lawns and gardens is wasted? The amount of water wasted by the average homeowner in just one year could be enough to fill three backyard swimming pools! Tips like watering when the sun is low or down, instead of in the heat of the day, can prevent losses up to 30% due to evaporation. Also, watering more often for shorter periods (three 5-minute periods instead of one 15-minute period) allows soil to absorb more water, reducing runoff. Learn more tips from the [Irrigation Association website](#).

## Young Receives 2012 DOE Early Career Award



Jamey D. Young, of the chemical and biomolecular engineering department, has received an Early Career Award for his proposal entitled, "Enhancing metabolic flux to photosynthetic biofuels." This research will directly contribute to DOE's mission by advancing toward production of renewable fuels that do not compete with agriculture. [Read more...](#)



For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 322-2057.

