

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Metro Nashville Holiday Tree Recycling – December 28-February 15

Metro is offering Davidson County residents a convenient way to dispose of their holiday trees again this year. Leave your tree at one of 11 facilities and Public Works will collect them for mulching at the Bordeaux Mulch Facility. Trees must be cleaned of all ornaments, lights, wire, string and other decor before bringing them to be tree-cycled. No artificial trees can be accepted. Recycling holiday trees into mulch, rather than putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills. More details [here](#).

Environmental Humanities Seminar: The Heatstroke Line – January 12

Happy New Year from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office! January and February typically bring us our coldest temperatures here in Nashville, so think about how you can save energy at your office and home as you pull out your warmest clothes. We have some great energy saving tips at SustainVU's [ThinkOne](#) website! Think your department, organization, class, or group deserves the title of "Greenest Group on Campus?" Tell us what sustainable actions your group takes and [enter to win](#) a catered VIP hospitality event for 20 people, 20 tickets to the game, an autographed item from Vanderbilt athletics, and on-court recognition at the Vanderbilt vs. Missouri men's basketball game on February 10. And don't forget to Anchor Down and Recycle while you are at basketball games this month! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. We hope your 2016 gets off to a great start!

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The first Environmental Humanities Seminar of the year is taking place January 12 at 4:10pm in the Robert Penn Warren seminar room. Ed Rubin will be speaking about his new cli-fi novel, *The Heatstroke Line*. More details [here](#).

The Paris Climate Agreement: A Review and Assessment – January 13

Columbia University environmental law professor Michael Gerrard will deliver a lecture January 13th at 3:15pm at Vanderbilt Law School titled “The Paris Climate Agreement: A Review and Assessment.” After a brief reception, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos will introduce an interdisciplinary roundtable of Vanderbilt experts titled “After Paris: What Next?” More details [here](#).

Vanderbilt Green Fund Application Deadline – January 15

The Vanderbilt Green Fund is a great way of connecting student utility conservation ideas with the means to implement them. The final deadline for applications is Friday, January 15 at midnight. Find the submission page [here](#) or click on the Forms tab of the [anchorlink](#) page. More details [here](#).

Seminar: Degrowth & the Papal Encyclical – January 21

Join Dr. Barbara Muraca, co-director of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy, as she discusses the European degrowth



Are you the Greenest Group on Campus?



[VU Athletics](#), the Vanderbilt Sustainability and Environmental Management Office ([SEMO](#)) and [Waste Management, Inc.](#) are looking for the

greenest group on campus during this year’s Basketball Athletics Sustainability competition. Your group could win a catered VIP hospitality event for 20 people, 20 tickets to the game, an autographed item from Vanderbilt athletics, and on-court recognition at the Vanderbilt vs. Missouri men’s basketball game on February 10, 2016! To qualify, just tell us about the sustainable actions your VU department, organization, class, or group regularly do in order to make Vanderbilt a greener campus!

Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt School of Engineering, partners awarded \$3.5 million from ARPA-E for transformational energy technology

A new \$3.5 million award from the Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-



Energy will support Vanderbilt University School of Engineering researchers’ efforts to create software that can control the Smart Grid – a decentralized power system that is more efficient, sustainable and reliable than America’s current electrical power delivery.

“The system we have now is power coming from the power company, flowing down to your neighborhood and into your home. That’s it,” said Gabor Karsai, associate director of Vanderbilt’s Institute for Software Integrated Systems and lead researcher on the grant. “In the future, we will have local power

movement and the Papal Encyclical on January 21 at 4:10pm in the Curb Center. More details [here](#).

Team Green Resolution Health and Recreation Fair – January 24

You're invited to Team Green's inaugural Resolution Health & Recreation Fair at the famous Riverwood Mansion in East Nashville on January 24. Meet the retailers, outfitters, industry leaders, and non-profit organizations spreading the message of health, fitness, sustainability, and commitment to our community. More details [here](#).

VINSE Colloquium Series: "Thermal Engineering of GaN Semiconductor Devices" – January 27

Dr. Samuel Graham, of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Energy Transportation Science Division at Oak Ridge National lab, will discuss the development of Gallium Nitride, used in a variety of devices for power electronics technologies. Such devices are poised to provide ultra-efficient power switching in applications such as servers, electric vehicles, and photovoltaic power sources. Join the discussion in 134 Featheringill Hall at 4:10pm. More details [here](#).

Organic Gardening Class – January 29

Learn how to grow an organic garden. The class will discuss topics such as composting, starting seeds indoors,

generation – solar panels on your home, a small generator in your neighborhood – and you need this software infrastructure to control the whole system, the individual substations and delivery to customers."

Vanderbilt received this competitive award from ARPA-E's OPEN 2015 program, a call to scientists and engineers for transformational technologies outside the scope of ARPA-E's existing focused programs. ARPA-E funds technologies that display technical promise and commercial impact but are too early for private-sector investment.

Read more [here](#).

Students from award-winning Whites Creek academy visit school's wind-solar demo site



When Whites Creek High School students and teachers looked for a ground-mount

solar cell installation to visit, they didn't have to go far. It's a mere 15 miles to the Vanderbilt School of Engineering's wind-solar energy demonstration site at the top of Love Circle, one of the highest points in Nashville.

The Vanderbilt wind-solar alternative energy site offers a 4.8 kW (kilowatt) solar array and a 3kW wind turbine. The site was set up in 2012 by Professor Amrutur Anilkumar in collaboration with Nashville Metro Water Services. It has been used as a one-stop field teaching ground for wind and solar renewable energy facilities for both Vanderbilt engineering students and students from Nashville schools. Eight teachers and 70 students representing Whites Creek's Academy of Alternative Energy, Sustainability and Logistics explored the site Nov. 4 as part of a "field-based experiential day" of learning.

Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt offers new environmental sociology major

planting dates, insects, soil preparation, plant care, etc. at the Warner Park Nature Center from 9-10:30am. More details [here](#).

Greenest Group on Campus Applications Due – January 29

[VU Athletics](#), the [Vanderbilt Sustainability and Environmental Management Office \(SEMO\)](#) and [Waste Management, Inc.](#) are looking for the greenest group on campus during this year's Basketball Athletics Sustainability competition. To qualify, just tell us about the sustainable actions your VU department, organization, class, or group regularly do in order to make Vanderbilt a greener campus.

Greenhouse Growers – January 30

The greenhouse is growing at the Warner Park Nature Center! Join the workshop to learn about what the greenhouse grows, planting methods, and more on January 30 from 10-11am. Read more [here](#).

Planting the Seed – February 2

Vegetables have begun sprouting in the Warner Park Nature Center greenhouse! Join the naturalist to learn about gardening in winter on February 2 from 10-11am. Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt's Department of Sociology launched its new [environmental sociology major](#) this year, the first environmental and sustainability studies major outside the sciences at Vanderbilt and one of the first such majors in the country.

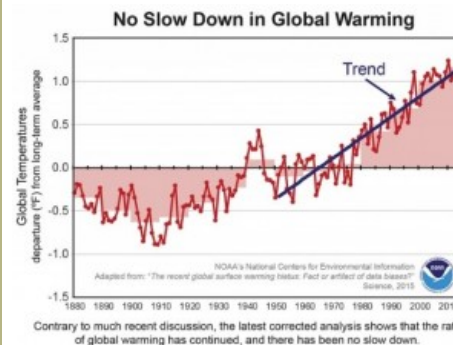


"Sociology developed the major in environmental sociology to provide students with more options," said David Hess, James Thornton Fant Chair in Sustainability Studies, who directs the major. It is a natural extension from the environmental sociology concentration that had already been available to sociology majors.

Students enrolled in the major receive a grounding in environmental science and general sociology, then focus on social questions surrounding environmental issues. Courses cover ecology and society, population and migration, environmental health, social movements and social change, business and civil society, green jobs, government policy and more.

Read more [here](#).

State of the Climate 2015



2015 had its share of headlines, and stories about climate research were not forgotten! Did you know that the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) has confirmed that nine of the first eleven months of 2015 have been record warm for their respective months? Or that 2015 was the 2nd warmest year for the contiguous U.S.? The first part of the year was marked by extreme warmth in the West and cold in the East, but by the end of 2015, record warmth spanned the East with near-average temperatures across the West. This temperature pattern resulted in every state having an above-average annual temperature. Middle Tennessee reached record high temps in

Greenest Group on Campus Awards – February 10

Commodore fans can cheer on this year's VU Basketball "Greenest Group on Campus" on February 10, when the winners will be presented during the 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! Go 'Dores!



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December. Nashville [broke an 88-year temperature record](#) on December 13, 2015 with the mercury topping out at 76°! Check out [NOAA's State of the Climate](#) and some of the [most interesting climate research stories of 2015!](#)

Follow us on our social media accounts!

We have added more accounts to our social media arsenal!

Here are more ways you can connect with us online:

- [Facebook @SustainVU](#)
- [Instagram @SustainVUVanderbilt](#)
- [Twitter @SustainVU](#)
- [Google+ @Vanderbilt SustainVU](#)



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.

