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SustainVU
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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Metro Nashville Holiday Tree Recycling – December 26-February 9

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 locations, and Public Works will collect them for mulching. Recycling Holiday trees into mulch, rather than putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills. Last year, over 14,400 trees were recycled through the Tree Drop-Off Program! Trees can also be placed with your regularly-scheduled brush pickup. See drop-off locations and more information [here](#).

Urban Green Lab Engage Green: 2015 Programming Unveiling – January 7

Happy New Year from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office! I am happy to say that Santa did not bring me any lumps of coal this year...in fact, Vanderbilt is now coal free! After 126 years, Vanderbilt no longer burns coal in our power plant. Read more about this very exciting improvement below! We are extremely proud of all the people in Plant Operations who have worked long and hard to make this happen – we salute you! You can help as well by conserving energy during our coldest months of January and February. We have some tips for you below, and be sure to check out SustainVU's [ThinkOne](#) website for even more ways to save energy. Also, the Athletics Sustainability Competition is starting up again for basketball season so get in your applications for a chance to win prizes and be named this season's "Greenest Group on Campus". Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Happy Holidays from SustainVU!

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Join Urban Green Lab and Team Green Adventures as they debut the Engage Green programming schedule for 2015. The unveiling celebration will take place at Blackstone Brewery on Wednesday January 7th from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. It will be an open-house affair, so feel free to just drop in. More information [here](#).

Developing a Green Career Lecture – January 12

Environmental and Sustainability Studies is offering a lecture on campus in Buttrick 123 on Monday, January 12 from 4pm-6pm. Two local environmental leaders, Tiffany Wilmot and Chris Lunghino, will speak about their own careers and give pointers on how you can develop a green career. Tiffany is a green building expert who has led the design of several major buildings in Nashville, and Chris is an attorney and Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign organizer. Pizza will be served. More information [here](#).

Resolution Health & Recreation Fair – January 25

Step back in time as you look to your future resolutions! The Resolution Health & Recreation Fair, at the Riverwood Mansion on January 25 from 11am-3pm, offers you the chance to meet retailers, outfitters, industry leaders, and non-profit organizations promoting health, fitness, sustainability, and commitment to our community all in one place! This event is free to the



Vanderbilt power plant has gone coal-free!



At 12:30 a.m. on Nov. 19, the Vanderbilt co-generation power plant burned off its last lump of coal! The plant, which produces 23 percent of

Vanderbilt's electricity, 90 percent of its heat and 40 percent of its cooling, now runs exclusively on natural gas.

The decommissioning of the plant's last coal boiler brings the power plant's 126-year reliance on coal to an end. The modern structure, built in 1962, has been partially powered by natural gas since 1988, but still burned 105 million pounds of coal and produced 15 million pounds of ash waste per year.

The environmental benefits of the conversion are significant. Greenhouse gas emissions—the carbon footprint of the power plant—will go down by as much as 40 percent. The conversion will also decrease the emission of particulate matter by more than 50 percent and virtually eliminates emissions of mercury, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide and other air pollutants.

Operationally, converting to natural gas will make the plant more efficient, require far less maintenance and be more reliable. Additionally, it will be better able to meet stricter [EPA](#) regulations.

See the infographic of the benefits of converting the power plant to natural gas [here](#). Read the full article [here](#).

New locations for glass recycling available on campus

SEMO has added six new glass recycling locations to main campus this semester, bringing the total to eight. In addition to existing glass recycling drop-off locations outside the Commons Center and on the Rand Hall loading dock, the VU community can now place glass for recycling in clearly labeled totes outside of the following buildings:

public and will include door prizes and giveaways. More information [here](#).

Energy and Environmental Policy after the Midterm Elections – January 29

Join the Vanderbilt Law School's [Energy, Environment and Land Use Program](#) as they welcome Jeff Wood, partner at Balch & Bingham and former Senate Environment Committee staff, for a lunch time talk on January 29. Jeff will discuss the variety of energy and environmental-related issues that will have implications from the 2014 midterm elections across many levels of government, and numerous issues that will be decided by the next Congress. The lunch will be held in the Wyatt room of the Vanderbilt Law School from noon-1pm. Pizza will be provided and the lecture is free and open to the public! More information [here](#).

EPA Environmental Education Grant Proposals– February 2

The Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Proposals are now being accepted



• Carmichael Towers West,

- Warren College,
- Moore College,
- Crawford House,
- Lewis House, and
- McTyeire Hall.

A map of these new locations is available [here](#). By continuing to expand recycling options, Vanderbilt has doubled our recycling amount in two years from 3 million pounds to 6 million pounds annually.

Energy conservation a top priority as temperatures drop and new semester begins

Vanderbilt's energy consumption in January can be very high due to the cold, making conservation important. [VU Plant Operations](#) and [VUMC Plant Services](#) ask for faculty, staff and students' help during colder winter months.

Some easy ways to help reduce energy usage:

- Moderate thermostat settings to 68° F or lower. Remember to adjust thermostats in classrooms, offices, conference rooms, and other areas when they are unoccupied for long periods of time, such as at night or over the weekends.
- Dress for the cold weather in layers so you can remain comfortable in more moderate temperatures.
- Open window shades or blinds during the sunniest part of the day to let sunlight help warm indoor areas.
- Turn off lights in your work space when you leave, even if only for a short period of time. It will save energy if you are gone for more than a minute.
- Turn off lights to common areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, break rooms, classrooms, and conference rooms when you leave and especially before leaving for the day. Many of these spaces sit empty the majority of the day.
- Turn off office equipment. If allowed in your area, computers, printers, copiers and scanners can be turned

through February 2, 2015. More information [here](#).

Commons Unplugged Kick-off: Climate Change Seminar – February 15

Michael Vandenberg, David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law and director of [Vanderbilt's Climate Change Research Network](#), will be giving a version of his TEDxNashville seminar on Sunday, February 15 from 3pm-5pm in the Commons Center to kick off “Commons Unplugged”, a weeklong sustainability and natural resource conservation event. Professor Vandenberg’s academic research explores the relationship between formal legal regulation and informal social regulation of individual and corporate behavior, the influence of social norms on corporate behavior, and the ways in which private contracting can enhance or undermine public governance.

Commons Unplugged Green Fair – February 18

Promote your organization at the first annual “Commons Unplugged” event this fall. The Green Fair will provide an opportunity to promote the sustainable activities, business practices, and achievements of various student groups, departments or organizations to the Vanderbilt community. Tabling display space will be provided in the Vanderbilt Commons Center to participants at no charge. If you or your group is interested in tabling at the Green Fair to be held Wednesday, February 18

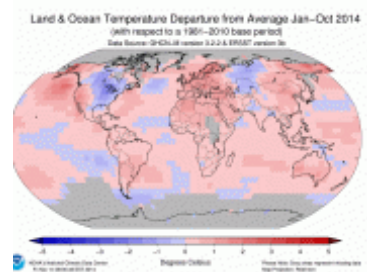
off when you leave for the day (or at the end of your work shift if they will not be used again for several hours). Otherwise, activate sleep modes and energy-saving settings.

- Close fume hood sashes in labs when not in use. A single fume hood running 24 hours can use as much energy as a single-family home uses in a year.

If your office or area seems unusually cold or hot or you have trouble regulating the temperature, please call VU Plant Operations at 4-WORK or VUMC Plant Services at 2-2041 to let them know. If you would like more ideas to conserve energy, visit SustainVU’s [ThinkOne](#) energy conservation website.

2014 on track to be hottest year on record

This year is on track to be one of the hottest, if not the hottest, year on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)).



“What we saw in 2014 is consistent with what we expect from a changing climate. Record-breaking heat combined with torrential rainfall and floods destroyed livelihoods and ruined lives.” said [World Meteorological Organization](#) Secretary-General [Michel Jarraud](#).

With records dating back to 1880, the first 11 months of 2014 was the warmest such period on record, with a combined global land and ocean average surface temperature of 1.22°F above the 20th century average of 57.0°F. The global temperature averaged across the world’s land and ocean surfaces for October 2014 was the highest on record for that month.

If the rest of 2014 plays out as expected, this year will be the hottest on record. “The provisional information for 2014 means that 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all occurred in the 21st century,” Jarraud said. “There is no standstill in global warming.”

We each play a role in energy conservation. Learn more about what you can do to help conserve energy and reduce your impact on the environment at SustainVU’s [ThinkOne](#) website.

from 5:00pm – 7:00pm, please email sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu.



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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.

