

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



# SustainVU

*Growing Responsibly*



April 2019

April is the Super Bowl of sustainability...it is both Earth Month AND Transit Month which brings green events galore! Vanderbilt has many speakers and events this month and there are tons of events happening throughout the city as well. Think about taking advantage of the warmer weather by skipping your car to walk or bike to your destination. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. SustainVU wishes you a super green Earth Month!

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## **VSG and SPEAR Transit Lunch and Learn – March 28**

Join VSG and SPEAR for a Lunch and Learn session entitled “How Public Transportation Combats Limited Parking and Saves Money.” This event counts for the Greek Member Experience in the Personal Development Category as well as a VSG attendance point. Free Two Boots pizza will be served. This event will be from 12:20-1pm in

## Children Create Sustainable Art



Recently the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office partnered with the Vanderbilt Child and Family Center (VCFC) to judge an “upcycled” art contest for VCFC students ages 1 through 5.

“Having our students reimagine materials through art expands their creativity while learning valuable lessons about reusing materials in a way that helps our planet,” said Kathleen Seabolt, director of VCFC.

Students used packaging materials left over from a shipment to the Child and Family Center and materials brought in from home to create art projects. Staff from SEMO visited the center to judge the contest.

“Learning to care for our environment through sustainable practices like upcycling is something we can begin to teach our youngest campus learners,” said Andrea George, director of SEMO. “Inspiring them to do something fun that is also good for the environment can make a lasting impression.” Read more [here](#).



## Impossible Burger Reduces Carbon Footprint of Campus Dining

Earlier last semester, Campus Dining began offering the “Impossible Burger” at various dining locations throughout

campus. The burger is 100% plant-based and is comprised of wheat and potato proteins. Compared to an all-beef burger, the Impossible Burger has an 89% smaller carbon footprint. Additionally, the plant-based burger used 87% less water than beef, uses 96% less land, and cuts water contamination by 92%. Read more [here](#).



Sarratt 363. Read more [here](#).

## Nashville’s Affordable Housing Crisis – March 28 and 29

Join Vanderbilt Law School for two events focused on the impact of Nashville’s rapid growth on the availability of affordable housing. A reception will be held on March 28 from 5-7pm where local organizations will discuss the role of gentrification and affordable housing in Nashville’s future. A panel discussion will be held on March 29 from noon-1pm which will delve into the legal dimensions of Nashville’s urban housing and gentrification issue. Both events will be held at Vanderbilt Law School. Read more [here](#).

## 4th Annual Nashville VegFest – April 6

Nashville VegFest promotes a plant based, healthy, cruelty free lifestyle. This year’s event will have over 80 vendors, tons of food, a family fun zone, and local, regional, and national speakers. The event will take place from 10am-6pm at the



## Nashville Earth Day Festival Coming Up



Nashville's Earth Day Festival is a free, family friendly event with live entertainment throughout the day celebrated each year in April. This year it's happening Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

from 11am – 6pm.

Nashville's Earth Day Festival features exhibits and hands-on activities aimed at educating Nashvillians about protecting our environment and living green. With over a hundred family-friendly booths, hosted by community groups, environmental organizations and government agencies, Earth Day is a fun festival for all ages.

The Nashville Earth Day Festival is pleased to announce that the Nashville Parks Foundation is the new lead organizer of the annual city-wide festival. NPF is a nonprofit organization committed to enhancing community and preserving natural resources by supporting Metro Parks, trails, and recreational programs.

Festival highlights include live music, a green market, local beer, KidsVille, recycling and disposal drop-off opportunities, and children's educational activities. Green transit options include a free bike valet parking from WalkBike Nashville and bus routes West End #3, Charlotte #10, and University Connector #21. Read more [here](#).



## Vanderbilt Commuter Survey Launched

On March 18, the Division of Administration launched a FutureVU-focused survey for students, faculty, and staff in order to receive feedback on two separate topics: child care needs



Nashville Fairgrounds. Read more [here](#).

### Affordable Housing with Transit Oriented Development – April 9

This Urban Design Forum will address challenges in affordability with high rise wood construction. There will be presentations by Gary Gaston of NCDC, Scott Lockyear of LP Building Products, Kelsey Oesmann from Urban Housing Solutions, and the Vanderbilt Engineering students participating in the project. The event will take place 5:30-7:30pm at 414 Union St #2000. Read more [here](#).

### Dr. Erik Sperling Lecture – April 19

Dr. Erik Sperling, Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences at Stanford University, will be leading a seminar in Buttrick 102 from 3:10-4:10pm. Dr. Sperling's research interests are Earth history and the evolution of life, and the interactions between the biosphere and the geosphere. As such this research can generally be considered paleontology, insofar as paleontology encompasses all

and commuting habits. The commuting section of the survey will provide the administration with a better understanding of commuting habits so more transportation options can be given to a diverse body of students, faculty and staff. Read more [here](#).



## Celebrate Transit Month



April is Transit Month! Take advantage of [Vanderbilt's alternative transportation options](#) or participate in one of the Nashville events below to reduce your transit footprint this month!

[Transit Now Nashville](#) has events all month long to encourage and enjoy getting around town without a car. These include:

- April 5 "Ticket to Ride": Take a ride on the Music City Star to Donelson.
- April 6 "Art Crawl": Take WeGo to the Downtown or WeGo Art Crawl.
- April 8 "Bus Travel Training": Navigate the city by bus, learn how to use the bus bike racks, find out more about the resources offered by WeGo.
- April 11 "Progressive Dinner": Edible Nashville and WeGo partner with local restaurants to host an all-inclusive progressive dinner on the bus.
- April 19 "Transit Night Market": Take transit to shop, sip, and dine under the stars and support community organizations.
- April 20 "Earth Day": Join Transit Now at the free Nashville Earth Day Festival in Centennial Park.
- Read more [here](#).

The [Commuter Challenge](#) is also happening in April! Nashville Connector is asking Nashville commuters to pledge to make at least one trip to work not driving alone during the week of April 27 to May 3. You can carpool, walk, bike, take the bus/train or work remotely. Grab your friends and co-workers and let's challenge each other to give some other commute

aspects of the history of life. Read more [here](#).

### **CityThink: Capping the Interstate – April 23**

Join Nashville Civic Design Center and Vanderbilt University students to learn about the possibilities for capping the interstate in Nashville, and the feasibility of the projects throughout the downtown loop. The event will be 11:30am–1pm at 615 3rd Avenue South, Suite #700, Nashville, TN 37210. Tickets are \$10 for Non-NCDC members. Read more and purchase tickets [here](#).

### **Plastic Pollution (A Bigger Problem Than You Think) – April 23**

Plastic use is out of control, creating devastating problems for the environment and human health. Matt Wilkins will lead a discussion about the impacts of our plastic use and common-sense solutions for individuals and communities. The discussion will take place at Warner Park from 6:30-7:30pm. Read more and register [here](#).

options a try (or celebrate the active options you already take!). You may sign up as a company or as an individual. Read more [here](#).



## TVA taking public comments on IRP until April 8

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) presented the at Vanderbilt on March 21. The plan provides direction on how TVA can best deliver reliable and affordable energy in the Valley over the next 20 years, and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) looks at the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the IRP. The meeting was open to the public and they are taking comments on the plan online until April 8. Comments on the plan can be submitted [here](#).



## Shelby Farms Park Down to Earth Festival – April 27

Celebrate sustainability at the biggest Earth Day Celebration in the Mid-South! Meet local eco-focused vendors, artisans and organizations who are helping to create a greener future for our community. Plus, you can enjoy live music, kid-friendly activities, crafts and more! The event will take place at Shelby Farms Park from 10am to 5pm. Parking is \$5. All proceeds from the Down to Earth Festival support Shelby Farms Park + Shelby Farms Greenline. Read more [here](#).

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.

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