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Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out – April 22 – May 10

Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out provides opportunities to keep a large volume of material out of the landfill while helping others at the same time. For Earth Friendly Move Out tips, read the article in the stories section of this newsletter, visit the SustainVU [website](#), contact recycle@vanderbilt.edu, call 343-2784 (E.ARTH on campus) or watch our award-winning recycling videos [here!](#)

National Air Quality Awareness Week – April 28 – May 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reminding everyone that air quality begins to become a concern in May. Increase your knowledge during Air Quality Awareness Week by visiting the EPA's [website](#). A new air quality topic will be posted each day on the [SustainVU Facebook page](#), so be sure to "like" us!

The academic year may be over, but that doesn't mean that things are slowing down any around here. There are lots of great events to attend this month and plenty to celebrate, including Vanderbilt's inclusion in the *Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges* for the THIRD year in a row and the VU Power Plant natural gas conversion feature in the AASHE 2013 Higher Education Sustainability Review! For those graduating this month, we wish you the best of luck in future endeavors, and don't forget to keep our Earth Friendly Move Out tips in mind when packing up!

Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderfully green May!

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Don't Toss it!—Vanderbilt's Earth Friendly Move Out Tips

You can also stay in the know by signing up for air quality alerts for Middle Tennessee [here](#).

Walking Wednesdays: Air Quality Awareness – April 30

Join [Health Plus](#), the [Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center](#), and the [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) (SEMO) on Wednesday, April 30 from 11:30am to 12:15pm, for the weekly “[Walking Wednesdays](#)” event. Steve Gild with SEMO will be leading the walk, which departs from the Medical Center North drop-off, and discussing air quality as part of [National Air Quality Awareness Week](#), which begins Monday, April 28.

Nashville Area Farmers’ Markets – Opening first week of May

Nashville is lucky to have many local farmers’ market options where we can enjoy fresh, seasonal, local food. Most markets will have their season opening this month, including [12 South Farmers’ Market](#) – Tuesdays 3:30pm to 6:30pm thru October; [East Nashville Farmers’ Market at Shelby Park](#) – Wednesdays 3:30pm to 7:00pm thru October 29; [West End Farmers Market at Vine Street](#) – Saturdays 10:00am to 1:00pm thru November; and [Nashville Farmers’ Market at Richland Park](#) – Saturdays 9:00am to 12:00pm thru October 25. Find out official opening dates and read more [here](#).

Community Food Advocates Night at the Nashville Sounds – May 1

Attend the Nashville Sounds game on Thursday, May 1 and support [Community Food Advocates](#), Waste Management’s



With the hustle and bustle of finishing up the semester, moving out can be a hectic process of trying to fit a year’s worth of items into cars, suitcases, and storage. For all the items that don’t fit, Vanderbilt’s Earth Friendly

Move Out provides opportunities to keep a large volume of material out of the landfill while helping others at the same time.

- Convenient locations are set up for donations at all campus residence halls benefiting a variety of [non-profit charities](#) or you can post your items on [Vandy FreeSwap!](#)
- Broken electronics, tablets, computers, and appliances can be placed in [specially designated areas](#) outdoors around the residence halls that are set up only during move out. Main campus locations are open April 22 – May 10 and the Commons locations are open April 22 – May 3.
- For ink and toner cartridges, batteries, and pens, markers and mechanical pencils, recycling is available year round at the Sarratt and Commons Center main desks. Battery recycling is also available at all Reeve desks. Click [here](#) for a map of these locations.
- Traditional recycling items such as plastic, paper (including textbooks), aluminum and flattened cardboard, can continue to be recycled at [residential recycling areas](#) located next to residence hall dumpsters.
- If you are Vanderbilt faculty or staff, please read the recent MyVU story [here](#) for donation sites that are available to you.

For more information about Earth Friendly Move Out, please visit the [SustainVU website](#), contact recycle@vanderbilt.edu, call 343-2784 (E.ARTH on campus) or watch our award-winning recycling videos [here!](#)

Vanderbilt again included in ‘The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges’

For the third year in a row, Vanderbilt University has been included in [The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2014](#). Schools were chosen for the guide according to their course offerings, campus infrastructure, activities, and career preparation to measure their commitment to the environment and to sustainability.

Vanderbilt’s multiple sustainability initiatives and programs are highlighted, including the [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#), environmental student groups like [SPEAR](#) and the [Alternative Energy Club](#), the range of environmental and sustainability course offerings, Vanderbilt’s commitment to LEED-certified new construction and a variety of recycling and clean commute initiatives. Read more [here](#).



Charity of the Night. Community Food Advocates works to end hunger by creating a healthy, just, and sustainable food system. Get tickets [here](#), and the game starts at 7:05pm.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – May 3

On Saturday, May 3 from 8:30am to 2:00pm, Williamson County will host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at Williamson County Administrative Complex, 1320 West Main Street, Franklin. Residential hazardous waste items such as paint thinner, sealants, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizers and aerosols will be accepted. Read more [here](#).

Urban Farm Workshop and Community Garden Volunteering – May 3

Learn some gardening tips while helping to support the operations of Hands On Nashville's Urban Farm, located at 361 Wimpole Drive, Nashville, by volunteering on May 3 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Produce harvested from the farm is used in Hands On Nashville's programs to give youth the opportunity to harvest, prepare, and taste healthy foods. Work may include digging new garden beds, planting starts and seeds, creating pathways, building benches or greenhouses, and more. Please bring a reusable water bottle and dress appropriately for the weather. Wear closed toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Read more [here](#).

DIY Home and Personal Care Workshop – May 7

Vanderbilt Power Plant Conversion Highlighted in AASHE 2013 Higher Education Sustainability Review

Join [Urban Green Lab](#) on Wednesday, May 7 from 6:00pm to 7:15pm as they welcome local experts who will show you how to make inexpensive but effective eco-friendly cleaning supplies and personal care products, highlighting essential oils. Take home samples and a lot of useful knowledge on what you can do to make your home a cleaner, greener place. Bring your own small container to take home a sample! The workshop will be held at East Park Community Center, 600 Woodland Street, Nashville. More details and registration information can be found [here](#).

May Seed Money Supper – May 13

Attend this month's Seed Money Supper on May 13 at 6:00pm. Seed Money Suppers are a once a month dinner event and community driven micro-grant program with the goal of building a healthier and more sustainable food system. This month's Supper will be held at The Wild Cow, located at 1896 Eastland Avenue in East Nashville. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Bike to Work Day – May 16

May is [National Bike Month](#), and there are many [events](#) to attend in and around Nashville, including [Bike to Work Day](#) on May 16. [Walk/Bike Nashville](#) invites bike commuters, curious and seasoned alike, to meet up at several [locations](#) around town and ride with each other on their way to work. Breakfast will be served at the Public Square at 7:45am to all bike commuters. Special guest Mayor Karl Dean will address the cycling public at the square. Biking to Vanderbilt? Click [here](#)

The Vanderbilt power plant's natural gas conversion was highlighted

to read more about bike resources available on campus!

Urban Gardening Festival – May 17

Join Master Gardeners of Davison County for the 2014 Urban Gardening Festival on Saturday, May 17 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the UT Extension Demonstration Garden, located at Ellington Agricultural Center, 5201 Merchant Drive. You can meet local exhibitors, artisans, and suppliers and watch numerous demonstrations such as container and raised bed gardening, water harvesting and conservation, and composting and fermentation. Click [here](#) to read more.

Nashville Green Drinks—May 21

On Wednesday, May 21 at 6:00pm, 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, located at 1308 McGavock Pike.

Vanderbilt Farmers' Market – June 5 – October 23

The Vanderbilt Farmers' Market will return to Medical Center Plaza on June 5 and will be open each Thursday from 3:00pm to 6:00pm through October 23. Purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, locally farmed meat, cheeses, pasta, bread, and more right here on campus!

Students! Sign up for Cardboard Crew at Move In – August 16

Sign up for the Cardboard Crew, move in early, get free food and a shirt, and enjoy the satisfaction of recycling tons of



as a high-impact energy initiative in the 2013 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)'s [Higher Education Sustainability Review](#), released April 15, 2014.

Vanderbilt was profiled by AASHE because of the [announcement](#) in spring 2013 that the University planned to convert the coal-fueled components of its co-generation facility to burn only natural gas, in order to meet the power needs of the University and the Medical Center in a more environmentally-sustainable way.

For more information about Vanderbilt's power plant conversion, including FAQs, click [here](#).

SEMO Celebrates Earth Day with No Impact Week

Vanderbilt's [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) (SEMO) celebrated Earth Day a little early by organizing a "No Impact Week" April 14-18 on campus. SEMO staffers converged on the Rand Wall to encourage the Vanderbilt community to improve their conservation efforts—including eating locally, conserving water and using only items that can be recycled—and then talk about it online. Many staff, faculty and students joined in and posted pictures of their Earth-friendly activities on social media. See them on the [SustainVU Facebook](#) page.

Michael Diamond, SPEAR Co-President, Named Udall Scholar

cardboard...literally! If you don't know about Cardboard Crew, it is a student-led alternative to Move Crew that recycles all of the cardboard normally discarded during move in day on campus. Last year, the Cardboard Crew diverted over 35 tons of cardboard from the landfill! Sign up [here](#).



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The [Office of Honor Scholarships](#) recently announced that Michael



Diamond, a junior in the [College of Arts and Science](#), has been named a 2014 [Udall Scholar](#). The [Udall Foundation](#) is an independent federal agency that was established by Congress in 1992 to provide

federally funded scholarships for college students intending to pursue careers related to the environment, as well as to American Indian students pursuing tribal public policy or health care careers.

Based on his demonstrated commitment to environmental issues and plan to pursue a career in an environmental field, Diamond was one of 50 scholars selected from a pool of 489 outstanding candidates nominated by colleges and universities across the United States. Click [here](#) to read more!

Follow These Tips to Make Your Spring Garden Grow

One of the best things about spring is the amazing assortment of flowers, trees and plants that bloom on Vanderbilt's campus and in our area. Vanderbilt landscapers and groundskeepers take care to ensure that the products and practices they use to keep campus grounds healthy and vibrant do not have a negative impact on the environment down the road, a practice commonly known as "[greenscaping](#)." Many of their tips can be used for home gardens as well. Click [here](#) to read more about recommendations from Vanderbilt's landscaping team for your home garden.

"If You Stay, Use a Tray" Campaign a Success

Since Vanderbilt Campus Dining unveiled an HOD group's "If You



Stay, Use a Tray” campaign in Rand, which began March 24, 687 fewer to-go boxes were taken out of Rand Dining Center on weekdays during breakfast and lunch hours, a decrease of about 137 boxes per day.

Through posters, social media, stickers, to-go box signs and buttons worn by Dining workers, the initiative intends to promote awareness of sustainability by encouraging people staying in Rand to eat off of plates instead of using disposable boxes. Read the full story [here](#).

Changes made to VU Office Supply Procurement Policy Promote Sustainability

Vanderbilt Procurement recently announced several changes to Vanderbilt’s office supply procurement policy through Guy Brown, with two focusing on further aligning procurement with VU’s commitment to sustainability.

Effective April 1, Guy Brown orders for most original equipment manufacturer toner cartridge orders will be fulfilled with comparable re-manufactured toner cartridges. This change supports Vanderbilt’s ongoing efforts to lower costs while enhancing sustainability efforts by using recycled products.

Also effective April 1, office supply orders placed through Guy Brown will require a \$25 minimum order, which will eliminate 988 pounds of shipping waste per quarter, further contributing to Vanderbilt’s commitment to sustainability. Read the full story [here](#).

The Kefi Project Celebrates World Water Day through Art

The [Kefi Project](#), whose mission is to bring together creative



individuals and challenge members of the university community to reconsider how they interact with their environment, teamed with Students

Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility to install three conscience-raising works for World Water Day. Using more than 2,300 plastic bottles collected by the Campus Recycling Program as the medium, they created a multicolored mural in the chain-link fence surrounding the Vanderbilt power plant, constructed plastic bottle towers on Olin Lawn, and hung a chandelier made of plastic bottles in Sarratt Student Center. Each piece featured information about water conservation and recycling. Read the full story here.

VU Power Plant to Convert to All Natural Gas – FAQs available

The VU Power Plant Conversion has broken ground and construction is moving along well. Very exciting! If you have questions about the VU Power Plant conversion to all natural gas, visit SustainVU to read FAQs about the conversion and stay up-to-date with the construction progress! The conversion will replace the coal-fired boilers with natural gas boilers while retaining the same power generation capacity over the next three years.



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.

