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**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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### **Amp Design Meeting – February 3**

Project managers for the Amp have confirmed that an additional design meeting has been scheduled to accommodate overflow crowds who attended the January 16 meeting at West End Middle School. The extra meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Monday, February 3, at Cohn Adult Learning Center, 4805 Park Avenue, in the Sylvan Park neighborhood of West Nashville. Read more about Amp [here](#).

### **Up-cycled Valentines Workshop – February 5**

Join Urban Green Lab, Team Green Adventures and SmART! Scrap Made ART on Wednesday, February 5th to learn how to make festive Valentines out of recycled materials! All materials and instruction is provided free of charge, and this event is open to all

In spite of the frigid weather that has overtaken Nashville recently, Vanderbilt is definitely doing its part to conserve energy! We are proud to recognize both the Commons Center and the Dr. Alex Brown lab (Pharmacology) in Preston Research Building (PRB) for their outstanding energy reduction measures taken over the holiday break during the campus Energy Bowl and the VUMC Go Green for the Holidays contest, respectively, which resulted in \$200,000 in energy savings. Way to go, and enjoy your pizza! Are you thinking about whom to make your Valentine this year? How about Mother Earth?! Read below for ways to show your love for the Earth this month and all year long! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Happy Valentine's Day from SustainVU and stay warm out there!

Andrea George, Director  
Sustainability and Environmental Management Office,  
Vanderbilt University  
(615) 322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Web site](#)



**University saves more than \$200,000; Energy Bowl  
and Go Green for the Holidays winners announced**

ages. Attend one of these two workshops: 10:30am at FiftyForward Knowles (174 Rains Ave, Nashville) OR 6:00pm at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center (1900 Davidson St, Nashville). Read more [here](#).

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### **Vanderbilt EES Seminar Series – February 7, 14, 21, 28**

Join Vanderbilt's Department of Earth and Environmental Science (EES) as they welcome topic experts to speak on a wide variety of environmental subjects throughout the year. Seminars are held in SC6740 at 3:10pm unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for more information about February's speakers.

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### **February Energy Series at Jackalope Brewing Co. – February 9, 16, 23**

Urban Green Lab's February Energy Series begins February 9th! Mark your calendars now for the 3 part series February 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Each week will focus on a different Sustainable Energy topic and dynamic discussions will be led by local experts in the field. This is a FREE event for ALL AGES and will be hosted at [Jackalope Brewing Company](#) from 5pm-6pm. Read more [here](#).

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### **VU Basketball "Greenest Group on Campus" Presentation – February 15**

Commodore fans can cheer on this year's VU Basketball "Greenest Group on Campus", [The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt \(SSMV\)](#) on February 16, when they will enjoy a

Energy conservation measures taken on the Vanderbilt campus during December's Energy Bowl Challenge and Go Green for the Holidays contest resulted in more than \$200,000 in energy savings, according to Vanderbilt Plant Operations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center Plant Services, and the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office.



The Commons Center was the winner of the [Energy Bowl](#), with an impressive 31 percent decrease in energy usage during the competition period. As a result, staff and faculty at The Commons Center received a pizza party on January 31. The Pharmacology laboratory on the 4th floor of Preston Research building, under the direction of Alex Brown, Ph.D., professor of Pharmacology, is this year's VUMC [Go Green for the Holidays](#) contest winner. As a result of their efforts, the entire 4th floor of Preston Research Building will receive a pizza party.



Congrats to The Commons Center and Dr. Brown's Pharmacology lab! Keep up the good work!

### **Love the Earth on Valentine's Day**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published a list of "Tips for February Fun," which encourages Americans to step away from the age-old Valentine's Day traditions and incorporate some Earth-friendly practices into the holiday!



- Invest in potted plants, bushes, shrubs or trees instead of fresh-cut flowers, which die within a few days of harvesting.
- Send electronic valentines or make your own using materials around the house such as magazines, paper bags, old greeting cards and scraps of fabric.
- Avoid the aisles of chocolates at your local markets and bake homemade treats for your loved ones, packaged in reusable containers.
- Consider local restaurants when dining out. Check our list for some Nashville-area restaurants [here](#).
- Purchase gifts that are fair-trade, locally made or grown, or organically grown.

For more ways to have a fun February without the waste, click [here](#).

free catered in-game VIP event, free tickets and will receive an award on the court during the Texas A&M game. Join us in congratulating SSMV, and don't forget to recycle at all of the VU home basketball games! Green toters are located in the concourse area of each level of Memorial Gym, making recycling easy. Don't be a bad sport and leave your cups and bottles in the stands – drop them in the recycling bins on your way out of the game and help VU Anchor Down and Tackle Recycling! Go 'Dores!

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### Nashville Green Drinks— February 19

On Wednesday, February 19 at 6pm, 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).

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### 10K Tree Day – March 1

Join Tennessee Environmental Council members, partners and volunteers on Saturday, March 1 from 9:00am to 1:00pm as they come together to plant more than 10,000 trees in one day at various locations in Middle Tennessee! This event is part of the Tennessee Tree project with a goal of planting or caring for 1 million native trees in Tennessee. Read more and register [here](#).



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### Vanderbilt Clothes Closet Provides Opportunity for Staff and Students to Donate

Cleaning out your closet and looking for a place to donate your gently used items?

Look no further than the Vanderbilt Clothes Closet, located on the first floor of the Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH). The



Vanderbilt Clothes Closet provides patients and families with clothes needed while they are staying at or visiting VUH. These patients may have lost their clothing in an accident or while receiving treatment in an emergency. Clothes are accepted at all VUH guest services/information desks and there is always a need for more clothing in all sizes. This is a great option for students that no longer want some of their clothes but don't want to leave campus to donate them. Read more about the Vanderbilt Clothes Closet and items needed [here](#).

### Vanderbilt alum, co-founder of Ubiquitous Energy, named to “Forbes” 30 under 30

Vanderbilt University School of Engineering alum, Miles Barr, is one of five VU alums to be named to *Forbes* magazine's “[30 Under 30](#).” The list highlights the brightest stars



under the age of 30 who are making waves in categories such as finance, technology, education and energy.

Barr, who received a bachelor of engineering degree from Vanderbilt in 2006, is the co-founder of Ubiquitous Energy, which creates a transparent coating that converts light into electricity. Barr's invention allows any surface to become an energy producer without impacting its appearance. According to *Forbes*, “This means one day soon, your smartphone could charge itself with just a little bit of light.” Read more [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

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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](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.

