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University Central “Energy Bowl” Challenge - December 16 - January 6

On Monday, December 16, at the request of Provost Richard McCarty, [Plant Operations](#) began implementing centralized energy conservation measures across the University Central campus until the spring semester begins on January 6. Those remaining on campus during the holiday break are asked to support these measures by participating in the Energy Bowl Challenge. The building that reduces its energy consumption by the highest percentage—compared to this time last year—will win a pizza party of up to 20 pies. Read more [here](#).

VUMC “Go Green for the Holidays” Contest - December 23 - January 1

December and January typically bring some of the coldest temperatures to our area, so Vanderbilt has organized two contests to promote energy conservation. Information for the Energy Bowl for main campus and the Go Green for the Holidays contest for VUMC are below, and be sure to check out SustainVU's ThinkOne [website](#) for even more ways you can help conserve energy. You could even win a pizza party because of your efforts! There are tons of opportunities to recycle this month including holiday tree recycling, recycling at basketball games and even a community swap to make room for all your new gifts! The VU Athletics Sustainability Competition is starting up again so get your applications in for a chance to be named this basketball 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](#). Have a great holiday break and Happy New Year from SustainVU!

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Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Plant Services and SEMO have organized "Go Green for the Holidays," an energy conservation contest open to research labs during the final two weeks of December. Faculty and staff who work in research labs located in Light Hall, the Robinson Research Building (RRB), Preston Research Building (PRB), MRB III, MRB IV and Medical Center North are eligible to compete to see who can conserve the most energy from December 23 through January 1, 2014 by shutting fume hood sashes, adjusting thermostats, and turning off lights and equipment. Read more [here](#).

Recycle your Holiday Tree December 26 – February 6

Metro Nashville is offering a convenient way for Davidson County residents to recycle their holiday trees this year from December 26 to February 6, 2014. Leave your tree at any one of the following locations: Cane Ridge Park, Una Recreation Center, Whitfield Park, Cedar Hill Park, Two Rivers Park, Joelton Community Park, Sevier Park, Richland Park, Elmington Park, Edwin Warner Park or Lakewood City Hall. For a listing of park locations and a county-wide map of parks, click [here](#). Recycling trees into mulch, rather than putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills and helps save Metro the cost of disposal fees. In 2012, an average of 645 trees per day or over 16,700 trees were recycled through the this drop-off program. Read more [here](#).



University Central encouraged to take the "Energy Bowl" Challenge this holiday season

On December 16, at the request of Provost Richard McCarty, [Plant Operations](#) began implementing centralized energy conservation



measures across the University Central campus until the spring semester begins on January 6. Those remaining on campus during the holiday break are asked to support these measures by participating in the Energy Bowl Challenge. The building that reduces its energy consumption by the highest percentage—compared to this time last year—will win a pizza party of up to 20 pies.

Plant Operations will turn off lights in all unoccupied areas, and staff are asked to turn lights out when they leave an area. Additionally, Plant Operations will turn the thermostats down or centrally lower the temperature in most University Central areas to 65 degrees F for the holiday break—even in areas that are operational. Almost all academic buildings and centers on main campus are included in this effort with the exception of certain research lab and specialized equipment areas. Those working in affected areas are asked to maintain the 65 degree F temperatures during working hours. Additional ways to reduce energy and possibly win a pizza party include turning off electronics and equipment when not in use and shutting sashes on unused chemical fume hoods in lab areas. For more information, tips, and contact information about the University Central "Energy Bowl", click [here](#).

VUMC hosts "Go Green for the Holidays" contest

VUMC's Plant Services and SEMO have organized "Go Green for the Holidays," an energy conservation contest open to research labs during the final two weeks of December. Faculty and staff who work in research labs located in Light Hall, the Robinson Research Building (RRB), Preston Research Building (PRB), MRB III, MRB IV and Medical Center North, are eligible to compete to see who can conserve the most energy from December 23 through January 1, 2014 by shutting fume hood sashes, adjusting thermostats, and turning



VU Basketball Games - January 2, 4, 11, 12, 16, 19, 22, 26

Don't forget to recycle at all of the VU home basketball games! Green totes 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!

Engage Green Workshop: Free Community Swap – January 15

Don't wait for spring cleaning! Join Team Green and Urban Green Lab for a free community swap on January 15 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at Goodwill – Lifsey Center, 937 Herman Street, Nashville, TN. Bring your unwanted holiday gifts or gently used items and trade them out for other items brought by community members. The event is free and open to the public. Click [here](#) for more information!

Nashville Green Drinks – January 15

On Wednesday, January 15 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).

Vandy Athletics Sustainability Competition Entry Deadline – January 24

Are YOU the greenest group on campus? VU Athletics, SEMO and

off lights and equipment.

A panel of judges from Plant Services and SEMO will conduct random, unannounced surveys of occupied and unoccupied labs during both weeks of the contest period to select the winner. The entire floor of the building where the winning research lab is located will receive a free pizza party! The winning lab will be announced in January and the pizza prize will be awarded in February. For more information, tips, and contact information for the VUMC “Go Green for the Holidays” contest, click [here](#).

MTA Amp would increase alternative transportation options to and from campus

The Vanderbilt community may soon have a new transit option for traveling to and from campus. The proposed bus rapid transit (BRT) system, called the Amp, would increase the number of alternative transportation modes already available to staff, faculty and students.



By 2016, the number of cars that travel on the busiest sections of West End each day will increase by 20,000, from about 48,000 per day to 68,000 per day, according to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). With around 55,000 to 60,000 cars, MTA reports that intersections would fail – meaning vehicles would sit through multiple red lights at those intersections. Check out this short [video animation](#) of the Amp and the [responses to a list of frequently asked questions](#) for more information. Read the full story [here](#).

Use water at ‘comfortable’ temperature to wash hands and fight global warming

Signs in many bathrooms across the country recommend washing hands in hot or warm water. In fact, if Americans could be persuaded en masse to use a comfortable water temperature when washing their hands, it could prevent the annual greenhouse gas emissions totaling the equivalent of a small nation, such as Barbados. It is true that heat kills bacteria; however, the level of heat required to neutralize pathogens is beyond what is considered safe for prolonged human contact. Read more [here](#).



Third environmental engineering professor is

Waste Management, Inc. are looking for the greenest group on campus during this year's Basketball Sustainability competition. Your group could win a catered, in-game VIP hospitality event, tickets for 20 people, a signed premium item, and on-court recognition at the Vanderbilt vs. Texas A&M men's basketball game on February 15, 2014! To qualify, just tell us about the sustainable actions your department, organization or group regularly do in order to make Vanderbilt a greener campus. You can fill out the application online [here](#), email the pdf application available [here](#) to sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or fax it to 615.343.0023. Applications are due by Friday, January 24! Finalists will be notified around January 31. Good luck and Anchor Down!



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Eugene LeBoeuf, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Vanderbilt, is the third Vanderbilt environmental engineering faculty member in two years to be accepted into the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists as a board certified environmental engineering member.



LeBoeuf's research interests focus on developing improved methods to manage and increase sources of hydro-based renewable energy and sustainable-energy water systems, including optimization of multi-reservoir hydropower systems. His current research projects are supported by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. Read more [here](#).

VU Power Plant to convert to all natural gas – FAQs available

The VU Power Plant Conversion should break ground in January once all permits have been received! 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.

