

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu



VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

VU Farmers' Market – October 3, 10, 17, 24

This is the last month to enjoy the VU Farmer's Market this season! Visit the Market every Thursday on the Medical Center Plaza from 3pm – 6pm until October 24. Read more [here](#).

Environmental and Sustainability Studies Lecture – October 2

On Wednesday, October 2 at 7pm in Wilson 126, David Padgett, associate professor of Geography and director of the Geographic Information Sciences (GISc) laboratory at Tennessee State University, will speak on "Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Related Technologies in Community-Based Environmental Justice Research." The lecture is open to all students and faculty who want to learn

October is Energy Awareness Month, so consider adding more layers while the chill is still mild or dig out your favorite blanket before you crank up the heat. Slay those "Energy Vampires" lurking around your office and home for Halloween by unplugging your electronics when not in use or using power strips! This month is chock full of workshops, lectures and events to attend indoors. Or enjoy the crisp fall air outdoors by helping VU win the Game Day Recycling Challenge. Attend the October 19th home football game and take your recyclables to the nearby recycling container to help us generate as much recycling volume as possible! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a spooky and sustainable October!

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



VU Achieves 60% Increase in Recycling in 2012

more about GIS and environmental studies. Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt EES Seminar Series – October 4, 18, 25

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 October's speakers.

Annual College & University Recycling Coalition Workshop & Tour – October 6

Join the College & University Recycling Coalition (CURC) for its annual Workshop on Sunday, October 6 from 9am – 4pm at Vanderbilt in The Commons Center. Attendees will be able to tour Vanderbilt's recycling facilities in the afternoon, network with collegiate colleagues to share challenges and solutions, and hear about Vanderbilt's recycling and sustainability program. Click [here](#) to register.

AASHE 2013 Conference—October 6-9

The 2013 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference is being held in the "Greenest City in the Southeast", Nashville! Are you a student or staff member at Vandy? If so, then you can get discounted registration fees because VU is an AASHE member. Click [here](#) for up-to-date conference information and

On a campus as large as Vanderbilt, do your recycling efforts make a difference? Statistics gathered from Vanderbilt's recycling program say the answer is a resounding "yes"! Last year, Vanderbilt recycled enough cardboard, plastic, scrap metal, aluminum and glass to make a major impact on the VU and surrounding Nashville communities. How major? **From 2011 to 2012, Vanderbilt achieved a growth in the amount of recycled materials from 3 million pounds to 5 million pounds, a 60% increase in the amount of material recycled!** Way to go, Vanderbilt! Read more [here](#).

Please continue to help us recycle cardboard and keep it out of the trash by flattening and placing cardboard at pre-established cardboard collection points in each campus building, behind recycling containers in your area, or directly into cardboard dumpsters or compactors located throughout campus at the Commons Center, Rand Dining, Branscomb, McGugin, Towers, and the Chestnut facility. A cardboard recycling flyer that you can post in your area of campus is available [here](#).

October is Energy Awareness Month – Slay Those Energy Vampires!

A silent menace may be lurking around your Vanderbilt office or home. "Energy vampires," electronic devices that slowly suck energy when they are turned off but still plugged in, provide no useful function and waste energy and money. Look for a glowing light that remains on even when you power off the device. That means it is still drawing power and is an "energy vampire". Even though each plugged-in device only draws a small amount of energy, that adds up when multiplied by Vanderbilt's thousands of students and employees.



Slaying these vampires is easy! Conserve energy and cut costs by following these simple tips:

At the office:

- Activate hibernate modes on your computer and other office electronics such as tablets, iPads, photocopiers, printers and scanners. Turn them off at night when no one is using them, if allowed by your area. (Standby mode on PCs will still allow the computer to draw energy.)



- Plug office equipment into a power strip/surge protector for an easier and quicker way to turn them off all at once. Shut down the equipment and turn

registration.

Vanderbilt Home Football Games – Missouri on October 5; Georgia on October 19

Vanderbilt has continued our partnership with Waste Management this year to support the university's environmental initiatives throughout campus, and Commodore fans can help protect the environment by recycling items at each home football game. At each game, one lucky Commodore fan that gets caught "green handed" recycling during tailgating will win a premium souvenir. So show your Vanderbilt pride, anchor down and tackle recycling!

Nashville Green Drinks—October 16

On Wednesday, October 16 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).

Tennessee Forest Carbon Workshop – October 18

On Friday, October 18 from 9am – 4pm at Bridgestone Americas, 535 Marriott Drive, The Climate Action Reserve, in collaboration with The Land Trust for Tennessee, Bridgestone Americas, and Finite Carbon invite you to attend a free, one-day workshop on the opportunities to generate forest carbon offsets and sell them into the California carbon market. The workshop will feature an introduction

off the power strip at night.

- Turn off lights when you are not using an area of the office during the day, and definitely turn them off before leaving for long periods of time.

At home:

- Use an automatic timer to turn off energy consuming lights or electronics when you're away.
- Unplug cell phones, iPods, iPads, Kindles, Nooks and tablet chargers when not using them. Unplug hand-held vacuums, power drills and automatic coffee makers, etc., when not in use.
- Unplug your phone charger when not in use.
- Donate or unplug the VCR or DVD player you haven't used in years, the TV that's collecting dust in the guest room and the empty refrigerator in the garage.

Anchor Down and Tackle Recycling at 2013 Game Day Challenge on October 19

Vanderbilt will participate in the 2013 Game Day Recycling Challenge for the fourth year in a row at the October 19 game against Georgia. In 2012, 79 participating schools with 5.4 million fans diverted just over 1 million pounds of waste from landfills.



For the 2013 Game Day Recycling Challenge, SEMO is recruiting extra volunteers to help out after the game by collecting recycling out of the seating areas. If you are interested, please email recycle@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-2784.

Fans can do their part to help by using these waste-reduction tips:

- Bring reusable food containers, plates and cups to tailgate;
- Make sure that any disposable items used are recyclable;
- Bring only what food and beverages are needed for tailgate and take home any leftovers;
- Recycle all plastics and aluminum cans in recycling bins located on the concourse, at the gates and near every tailgate; and
- Bring items that have as little disposable packaging as possible.

We need YOUR help for Vanderbilt to score on and off the field by reducing, reusing and recycling! To volunteer to help with recycling at the Oct. 19 game, e-mail recycle@vanderbilt.edu or

to the Reserve program, focusing on the practical issues of developing a forest carbon project as well as how to monetize forest carbon offset credits with an emphasis on serving the compliance market in California. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Wilson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – October 19

On Saturday, October 19 from 8am – 1pm, Wilson County will host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at James E. Ward Agricultural Center, Wilson County Fairgrounds, 945 E Baddour Parkway in Lebanon. Residential hazardous waste items such as paint thinner, sealants, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizers and aerosols will be accepted. Read more [here](#).

City of Gallatin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – October 26

On Saturday, October 26 from 9am – 2pm, the City of Gallatin will host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. Residential hazardous waste items such as drain openers, oven cleaners, wood and metal cleaners and polishes, paint thinner, adhesives, carburetor and fuel injector cleaners, batteries, medicines and aerosols will be accepted. Read more [here](#).

Sustainable TN Summit at University of Tennessee in Chattanooga – October 29

Join Sustainable Tennessee at their

call 343-2784. More information on the Game Day Recycling Challenge can be found at gamedaychallenge.org.

Metro Nashville Public Works Jingle Contest – Deadline October 15

The “Littering is Wrong Too” Campaign is hosting a jingle contest that will run through October 15 and culminate in a live competition on Thursday, October 24 from 6pm – 8pm. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,500, and his or her jingle will air on the radio throughout the month of November. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the crowd favorite. More information on the Metro Public Works “Littering is Wrong Too” Jingle Contest can be found on Facebook at



<https://www.facebook.com/events/503967023028053/>.

2012 Extreme Weather Events Show Influence of Climate Change

The report, “[Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 from a Climate Perspective](#)” shows that the effects



of natural weather and climate fluctuations played a key role in the intensity and evolution of the 2012 extreme events. In some events, the analyses revealed compelling evidence that human-caused climate change, through the emission of heat-trapping gases, also contributed to the extreme event. Read more [here](#). A [report](#) from the U.N. International Panel on Climate Change also indicates humans as the cause for climate change. Read more [here](#).

U.S. DOT Announces \$10 Million Grant to Improve Bus Service into Downtown Nashville

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently announced a \$10 million grant for the Nashville Transit Signal Priority System upgrade from DOT’s Transportation Investment



Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 discretionary grant program. The Nashville Transit Signal Priority System will upgrade decades-old traffic signals and add signal priority equipment for all of the fixed-route buses serving southeastern Nashville along Murfreesboro Road. The upgrades will speed bus movement throughout Nashville, allowing the city to provide riders with more frequent pick-ups and drop-offs without adding

annual summit on October 29 at University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. Sustainable Tennessee provides an infrastructure for collaboration on issues of greatest importance to our environment. Also, save the date for a shorter “Regional Summit” at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin on December 3. Both events will be a great opportunity for attendees to learn about opportunities to work with environmental groups, businesses and other concerned citizens to take action for clear air, water, land and energy. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



more buses to already busy streets. The improvements will benefit current riders, help attract new riders, and continue to improve air quality in Middle TN through expansion of mass transit. Read more [here](#).

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

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. Construction is slated to begin October 1!



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.

