

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Earth Friendly Move-Out – Through May 14

Vanderbilt student move-out generates many discarded items, such as bedding, mini-fridges, microwaves, TVs, computers, books, clothing, and more. Rather than having those items end up in dumpsters and eventually the landfill, Vanderbilt partners with local nonprofits to collect and reuse the items. Contact recycle@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

Food Summit – May 7

Community Food Advocates, in partnership with the Nashville-Davidson County Food Policy Council, will host Food Summit 2011: Growing an Agenda for Change on Saturday, May 7 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Millennium Maxwell House. The

Mother Nature has been quite excitable this turbulent spring! We hope you and yours have weathered it well. As another academic year comes to a close, there are several exciting events and opportunities that we'd like to share with you. As you do a little spring cleaning in your office, dorm room, or home, don't forget to visit [Vandy FreeSwap](#), the VU-community website for giving away and getting free, usable, unwanted items instead of disposing them in landfills. More information can always be found on both the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful and green start to your summer!

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Summit will celebrate food systems accomplishments in Nashville, discuss best practices, equip participants with advocacy and change-making skills, and help set an agenda for change for the future. The event is free and open to the public. [Read More...](#)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – May 7

On Saturday, May 7 from 8:30 am to 2 pm Williamson County will host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at 1320 West Main Street in the city of Franklin. Residential hazardous waste items such as, paint thinner, sealants, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizers, and aerosols will be accepted. [Read More...](#)

Reduced, Reused, Recycled: Visual Art from the Recycling Bin – May 7

Stop by Mir Gallery (space #44 in the Arcade) in downtown Nashville on Saturday, May 7 from 6-9 pm for the opening reception of “Reduced, Reused, and Recycled: Visual Art from the Recycling Bin,” an exhibit by Miranda Herrick. “Reduced, Reused, Recycled” will be on display at Mir Gallery on Mondays from 12-5 pm or by appointment through the month of May. [Read more...](#)

2011 ULI Nashville Excellence in Development Awards – May 10

Join Urban Land Institute (ULI)

VU receives ‘A’ for environmental transparency



Vanderbilt University received an “A” rating and was one of the top five universities recognized in a recently released analysis of

environmental and social sustainability transparency. Using data collected during the spring of 2010 from university websites and other voluntary reporting initiatives, the Roberts Environmental Center (REC) at Claremont McKenna College analyzed the 50 top national universities.

Vanderbilt performs particularly well in categories that evaluate environmental and social sustainability intent. University policies and commitments to environmental protection, diversity, environmentally and socially responsible procurement, and employee safety helped propel Vanderbilt to being the No. 1 ranked university in the country in “environmental intent” and “social intent” factors, receiving a perfect score of 100 for social intent. Read the [full article](#) and the [full, 85-page report](#).

Vanderbilt wins energy management award

On April 30, Mark Petty, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Plant Operations, Darren Bevell, Campus Energy Manager, and Mitch Lampley, Director of



Engineering and Technical Support (all pictured), accepted the 2011 Energy Management Award on behalf of Vanderbilt University from David Rehse of the Association of Energy Engineers and the Center for Energy Efficiency at Middle Tennessee State University. Vanderbilt won the Institutional Category for recent extensive energy retrofits completed at Rand Hall.

SEMO needs your input: Green Bag Luncheon Series

VU's Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO) is planning a Green Bag Luncheon Series throughout the 2011-2012 academic year. This educational series will feature a variety of informal lunchtime lectures and/or

Nashville for their 3rd annual Excellence in Development Awards on Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30 pm at the Noah Liff Opera Center. Entries are judged on criteria that support ULI's commitment to best practices in the use of land and leadership in creating and sustaining thriving communities.

[Read more...](#)

Engage Green: Indoor Air Quality – May 18

Lightning 100's Team Green will host a workshop on indoor air quality on Wednesday, May 18 from 6-7:30 pm at Tuned-In Café. HealthWay Direct and the American Lung Association will offer some quick and easy tips for reducing harmful air particles in your home. The event is free and open to the public. [Read more...](#)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – May 14

On Saturday, May 14 from 8 am to 12 pm Robertson County will host a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the Robertson County Fairgrounds in the city of Springfield. Residential hazardous waste items such as, paint thinner, sealants, adhesives, pesticides, fertilizers, and aerosols will be accepted. [Read more...](#)

Bike-to-Work Day – May 20

Friday, May 20 is Bike-to-Work Day! Check out the League of American Bicyclists' [Bike Month Guide](#) for neat ideas for recognizing this holiday. Consider riding your bike to and from

workshops discussing a wide variety of sustainability topics. Please take a few minutes to provide input regarding what you would like to see and which lunch sessions you might attend by [taking our Green Bag Luncheon Series Interest Survey!](#) Thank you!

Have a clean Spring: Add some green to your cleaning routine



Now that spring is well underway and the weather is warmer, thoughts turn to freshening up your surroundings. Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition, and can result in simplifying and organizing your home and/or office without impacting the environment by following some simple strategies.

“Spring cleaning is a great time to think about your environmental impact and strategies,” said Kendra Abkowitz of SEMO. “Start a recycling program, switch to a greener cleaner or donate gently used items to a charitable organization.” Read the [full article](#) for creative tips for green cleaning.

Vanderbilt turns in solid performance in RecycleMania competition

The RecycleMania competition is now over and has official winners for 2011.

RecycleMania is a friendly recycling competition among colleges and universities across the country.

Together, participating colleges and universities recycled or composted 91

million pounds of material during the 2011 competition. In most categories, Vanderbilt ranked in the middle, pulling ahead to 32nd out of 180 schools in the Waste Minimization Category, meaning we don't generate a huge amount of waste per person. During the competition, Vanderbilt recycled 24.51 percent of all waste generated, and a total of 102,373 pounds of materials.



Lindsay Walker, interim campus recycling coordinator, was pleased with Vanderbilt's rankings, but also sees ways to improve. “Vanderbilt did very well considering the tough competition and that this was our first year competing,” Walker

work, school, or any other places you may travel on this day. [Read more...](#)

Tour de Nash – May 21

Walk/Bike Nashville's annual Tour de Nash provides an opportunity to get out and get active, while introducing Nashville's network of bike lanes and greenways. A children's 1.5-mile, family 15-mile, and Gran Tour 29-mile and 58-mile rides will be offered, all of which will start and finish on Vanderbilt's campus on Natchez Trace at the parking lots across from the football stadium. [Read more...](#)



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said. Read the [full article](#).

Idea for community garden grows into reality



Last year, the Vanderbilt Initiative for Vegetarian Awareness (VIVA) had the idea to create a Vanderbilt Community Garden to grow crops for

Vanderbilt students in organic and sustainable ways. In April, the garden became a reality with the first planting.

"VIVA created the garden, along with generous support from Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR), and the Office of the Dean of Students, to educate the Vanderbilt and Nashville community on sustainable food sources, local environmental initiatives and healthy food options," said VIVA member, VU student and "Garden Czar" Bruce Spencer. Read the [full article](#).



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.

