

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Air Quality Awareness Week – April 29-May 13

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reminding everyone that air quality begins to be a concern in May. Increase your knowledge during Air Quality Awareness Week by visiting the [EPA's website](#) for a new air quality topic each day. You can also sign up for air quality alerts for Middle Tennessee [here](#). The [Clean Air Partnership of Middle TN](#) will be on Vanderbilt's campus on May 1 from 7-8am at the corner of 21st and Scarritt Place to help you sign up for Air Alerts and learn about VU's alternative transportation options!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – May 4

On Saturday, May 4 from 8:30am-2pm Williamson County will host a free Household Hazardous Waste

As another academic year comes to a close, there are several exciting events and opportunities that we'd like to share with you. We are proud to announce Vanderbilt's inclusion in the Princeton Review's "Guide the Green Colleges" as well as the 2013 Green Honor Roll! As you do a little spring cleaning in your office 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. Students – check out the Earth Friendly Move Out tips below as you're packing up your rooms. Consider getting outside and enjoying the outdoors on National Public Gardens Day or by going to the Spring Picnic in Centennial Park. In other exciting news, the Vanderbilt power plant will be shifting from using coal and natural gas to using solely natural gas over the next few years. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a sustainable May and enjoy the outdoors!

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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 [here](#).

USGBC Innovation Session – May 9

On Thursday, May 9 from 5:30-6:30pm, the U.S. Green Building Council of Middle TN will be hosting an Innovation Session, led by Kim Shinn, on the topic “Design Done Right for a Greener Future.” Read more [here](#).

National Public Gardens Day – May 10

May 10 is National Public Gardens Day! Celebrate by planting a garden of your own or by visiting Cheekwood Botanical Garden, who is hosting an event from 10am-2pm filled with tours and live music. Read more [here](#).

Strawberries and Champagne and Elephants? – May 11

On Saturday, May 11 at 1:30pm at the Nashville Zoo, leftover strawberries from the Vanderbilt Commencement Strawberries and Champagne event will be fed to the elephants! Everyone is welcome to come out and see the elephants get a great treat, courtesy of Vanderbilt’s Chancellor’s office.

EPA-Sponsored TRI University Challenge Deadline – May 13

Submit your ideas to the Environmental Protection Agency’s



VU Power Plant to Convert to All Natural Gas

Vanderbilt University will replace its coal-fired co-generation facility, converting it over the next two years to burn all natural gas to meet the power needs of the university and medical center. The university’s Board of Trust voted to approve the project April 19 during its annual spring meeting. The plant is currently fueled by both coal and natural gas. The conversion will replace the coal-fired boilers with natural gas boilers, retaining the same power generation capacity. Read more, including FAQs, [here](#).



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

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 stuff into cars, suitcases, and storage. For all the stuff that doesn’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.

Donate your old textbooks, resell them, swap them with friends or post them on [Vandy FreeSwap](#)

. This might earn you money, and will reduce waste in the landfill! Donate any other items that you do not want to a local charity by dropping them off in the residence hall lobbies or in the pods conveniently located throughout campus. Or you can post them on [Vandy FreeSwap](#).

In addition to donating, there are many locations for recycling items during move out.

- Electronics, tablets, computers, appliances, ink and toner cartridges, batteries, pens and pencils, papers, and books can all be recycled. Please drop off your electronics and appliances in the specially designated areas outdoors around the residence halls that are set up only during move-out.
- 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.
- For more traditional recycling items such as plastic,

(EPA) recently launched Toxic Release Inventory University Challenge, an initiative aimed at using academic partnership and university communities to find innovative ways to protect the environment and public health. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is EPA's annual report containing data on toxic chemical releases into the air, water and land. The EPA hopes to receive ideas from both individuals and institutions on how to use data collected in the TRI. EPA will accept TRI University Challenge Applications until May 13, 2013 for projects that will begin this fall. Read more [here](#).

Nashville Green Drinks – May 15

On Wednesday, May 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).

Urban Farm Workshop and Community Garden Volunteering – May 18

On Saturday, May 18 from 9:30-11:30am learn some gardening tips while helping to build Hands On Nashville's Urban Farm, HON's newest community project. Read more [here](#).

Spring Picnic – May 21

Stop by Centennial Park on Tuesday, May 21 from 6-10pm for a picnic to celebrate the end of spring! This free event will feature grilling, volleyball,

paper, aluminum, and cardboard, students are encouraged to use the residential recycling areas located next to their dumpsters rather than throwing items away. Please remember to flatten boxes to leave space for others wanting to recycle!

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

Vanderbilt featured in Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges

Vanderbilt is proud to announce its inclusion in [The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013](#) as well as on the 2013 Green Honor Roll.



The Princeton Review chose schools 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](#).

2013 Green Fund Winners announced

The 2013 winners of the Vanderbilt Green Fund were announced in early April. The Green Fund, which was established in the spring 2011, connects student sustainability ideas with the means to implement them via university funds. The winners were selected based on the various project's adherence to the criteria of saving utilities while also being visible and educational in nature. Winning projects range from low flow shower heads and occupancy sensors to display monitors in residence halls that display building energy usage. Read more [here](#).



Science and math students take green campus tour

On April 8, first-year



and a chance to mingle with others!
Read more [here](#).

USGBC Monthly Membership Meeting – May 24

The U.S. Green Building Council of Middle TN will host their monthly membership meeting on Friday, May 24 from 11:30am– 1pm at the Adventure Science Center. Anica Landreneau, Principal and Sustainable Consulting Director at HOK, will speak on “Achieving advanced energy and water objectives through integrated design. Read more [here](#).

AASHE 2013 Conference – October 6-9

Save the date for the 2013 AASHE Conference, to be held in the “Greenest City in the Southeast”, Nashville! Befitting of this year’s conference theme, “Resiliency & Adaptation,” AASHE 2013 is taking place in a city that is part of the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, has a comprehensive strategy to ensure consistent access to an affordable, sustainable and nutritious food system, and features a new residential energy efficiency program that provides free in-home energy evaluations and other financial incentives to Nashville homeowners. Click [here](#) for up-to-date conference information.



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students in the [School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt \(SSMV\)](#) participated in the annual “Earth, Wind and Fire” tour to learn about energy production and the sustainable features of Vanderbilt’s campus. [The Sustainability and Environmental Management Office \(SEMO\)](#) and Plant Operations act as hosts each year. Read more about the students’ tour [here](#).

VANTAGE Lab’s Gold LEED certification is 14th certified project at Vanderbilt

The [Vanderbilt Technologies for Advanced Genomics \(VANTAGE\)](#) laboratory, located in the basement of Medical Center North, recently achieved LEED



(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, making it the 14th certified project and the first laboratory renovation to achieve LEED certification at Vanderbilt.

Highlights from the renovation include a 20% reduction in lighting energy usage with more than 75% of lighting controls connected to occupancy sensors, a 38% reduction in water usage achieved through plumbing fixture upgrades, and 100% of eligible, newly purchased equipment is ENERGY STAR rated. Read more [here](#).



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.

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