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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



SustainVU

Growing Responsibly



January 2018

Happy New Year from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office! We hope everyone had a sustainable holiday season! Since January has brought icy cold temperatures here in Nashville, please think about how you can save energy at your office and home as you pull out your warmest clothes. Don't forget that applications for the Vanderbilt Green Fund are due this month, we can't wait to hear what ideas you have to make Vanderbilt more sustainable! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. We hope your 2018 is off to a green start!

Andrea George, Director

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Metro Nashville Holiday Tree Recycling – through February 16

Metro is offering Davidson County residents a convenient way to dispose of their holiday trees again this year. Leave your tree at one of the designated locations facilities and Public Works will collect them for mulching at the Bordeaux Mulch Facility. Trees must be cleaned of all decorations. Recycling holiday trees into mulch, rather than



VU Facilities Donates Office Supplies to Local Charity

Many students in Metro Nashville Public Schools do not have the supplies that they need; however, Vanderbilt offices have found themselves with surplus supplies as we strive to go more fully digital to conserve resources. [SEMO](#), [the VU ReUse Surplus Program](#), and [VU Plant Operations](#) coordinated efforts to donate supplies to [LP Pencil Box](#), a charity that gives office supplies to Metro Nashville Public Schools.



Part of the Pencil Foundation, LP Pencil Box ensures that classrooms are fully stocked. This donation-based program allows teachers to “shop” for free school supplies for their students, which keeps teachers from paying out of pocket for these supplies. Local companies, charities, and individuals can all [donate](#) or [volunteer](#). Read more [here](#).



Gaps in required curricula may explain differences in climate change views among college graduates



The average American college student has just a 17 percent chance of learning about climate change before graduation through required core courses. The finding may help explain why having a bachelor’s degree doesn’t always lead to increased acceptance of human’s role in climate change, according to new research led by Vanderbilt sociologist [David Hess](#). Undergraduate Brandi Collins, who has since graduated, contributed to the paper, “[Climate Change and Higher Education: Assessing factors](#)

putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills. More information [here](#).

Nashville Transit Improvement Plan Public Hearing – January 9

Mayor Megan Barry has formally filed legislation that would trigger a public referendum in Nashville on the \$5.4 billion transit plan. Vice Mayor Briley has proposed a series of meetings to allow Councilmembers to discuss the referendum ordinance and hear from members of the public about the proposal. A public hearing will be held on January 9 at 8:15pm. More information [here](#).

VIEE Weekly Meeting – January 10, 17, 24, 31

The Vanderbilt Institute for Energy & Environment meets every Wed from 8-9am in 162 Buttrick Hall. The meeting is open to all. The VIEE weekly meeting involves faculty and students from the social and behavioral sciences, physical sciences, engineering, law and policy, and that bear on energy and environmental decision

[that affect curriculum requirements](#)” available online [now](#) and appearing in print in the January 1, 2018, issues of the *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

Although a college degree can lead to increased acceptance of climate change, recent work in environmental sociology has found that the increases are unevenly distributed across ideological lines. Hess and Collins theorized that one culprit may simply be self-selection: because colleges offer hundreds of courses every semester, only the students already predisposed to accepting climate change choose to learn enough about it to change their minds. “The result is that there’s a very small chance—about one in five—that a college student will learn about climate change through required core courses,” Hess said. “As educators we need to be thinking more about how much we prioritize this important topic.” Read more [here](#).



Public Safety announces improvements to Vandy Vans services

Vandy Vans riders will benefit from a new student-designed shelter at a popular stop as part of [Vanderbilt University Public Safety’s](#) continuing efforts to keep improving the service.



The shelter is slated to be installed in January between Hank Ingram House and Murray House on [The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons](#). Future shuttle stops throughout campus will be explored as they align with ride share drop-off and pick-up points. VUPS also has added a Vandy Vans stop at the Highland Quadrangle in front of Morgan and Lewis residence halls. The VUPS improvements are part of [FutureVU](#), Vanderbilt’s land use planning initiative, and aimed to comprehensively improve pedestrian life and transit services on campus.

Over the last two years, nine undergraduates worked on the shelter with VUPS as part of their senior

making by individuals and by public and private institutions. More information [here](#).

2018 Advanced Beekeeping Winter Workshop – January 20

The Nashville Area Beekeepers Association will host their annual seminar targeted at intermediate and advanced beekeepers on January 20 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. National experts Jim Tew, Clarence Collision, and Joel White will present during the seminar. More information [here](#).

Green Fund Application Deadline – January 23

[Applications](#) for The Vanderbilt Green Fund are due January 23! The Vanderbilt Green Fund is a fund set aside for sustainability projects proposed by students. This student-run process allocates \$150,000 to innovative and educational ideas that make Vanderbilt more environmentally friendly. More information [here](#).

The Fracking Debate: The Risks, Benefits, and Uncertainties of

design project in the [School of Engineering](#). The ADA-compliant shelter features live tracking of shuttles, lighting, security cameras and blue light phone integration. The project is also supported by the [Green Fund](#), a program for implementing student-created sustainable projects that is co-led by [Vanderbilt Student Government](#) and [Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility](#). Read more [here](#).



Beyond Politics: Private industry needs to step up on climate change



“More than 100 of the largest businesses in the world came out and said, ‘We’re still in,’” said [Michael P.](#)

[Vandenbergh](#), David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law at Vanderbilt University and director of its [Climate Change Research Network](#).

Those corporations – including prominent firms like Hewlett Packard and Mars Incorporated – did that for a good reason, Vandenbergh said. “If you’re a company, whatever your political views, you have to function in the marketplace,” he said. “And 70 percent of people think companies should be doing more on climate change.”

Vandenbergh and Gilligan point to numerous ways private-sector companies can benefit by taking environmentally friendly actions. Reducing global warming can be profitable for companies, sometimes simply by lowering the electricity bill. Read more [here](#).



the Shale Revolution – February 2

The Fracking Debate directly addresses the most common questions and concerns associated with fracking, including: What is fracking? Does fracking pollute the water supply? Will fracking make the US energy independent? Daniel Raimi highlights stories of the people and communities affected by the shale revolution, for better and worse in Buttrick 102 from 3:10-4:00pm. More information [here](#).

Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training – March 21-23

The [Climate Reality Leadership Corps](#) is a global network of activists committed to spreading awareness of the climate crisis and working for solutions to the greatest challenge of our time. The program provides training for leaders to better tell the story of climate change and inspire communities everywhere to take action. The next training is in Mexico City and applications are

available now. More information [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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