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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



SustainVU

Growing Responsibly



February 2018

Showing appreciation for loved ones is on everyone's mind in February, so don't forget to love the Earth too! There are many ways to show [appreciation](#) for Mother Earth this Valentine's Day: think about sending an e-Valentine or make your own from found or recycled materials, invest in potted plants or trees instead of fresh cut flowers, choose a local Nashville restaurant for your special dinner, and consider baking your own treats instead of buying imported chocolates (or buy locally made ones like Olive and Sinclair). One great way to show the Earth some love is to share your best sustainability ideas for the Greenest Group on Campus competitions! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#), Instagram, Twitter, and [Facebook](#) page. SustainVU wishes you a lovely and green Valentine's Day!



'What is Nashville's Transit Plan?' Lunch Talk – January 30

Vanderbilt's [Office of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations](#) and the will host a lunch-and-learn event on campus Tuesday, Jan. 30, discussing Nashville's proposed transit plan. The event is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kissam Center, Multipurpose Room C210. More information [here](#).

Are you the greenest group on campus?

[Waste Management](#), the [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) and [Vanderbilt Athletics](#)

are in search of this year's greenest group on campus in the 2018 Vanderbilt Basketball [sustainability](#) competition. The winning group will be awarded in-game videoboard recognition at the Feb. 27 men's basketball game, as well as a hospitality event and 20 tickets to the game. Your team can enter to win by telling us about the sustainable actions that your VU department, organization, class or group regularly does to make Vanderbilt a greener campus. Applications are due by Friday, February 16. Read [more](#).



'What is Nashville's Transit Plan?' topic of lunchtime discussion Jan. 30



Vanderbilt's [Office of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations](#) and the [Vanderbilt Center for Transportation and Operational Resiliency](#)

([VECTOR](#)) will host a lunch-and-learn event on campus Tuesday, Jan. 30, discussing Nashville's proposed transit plan. The event is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kissam Center, Multipurpose Room C210. Come for lunch and learn what positive benefits the transit plan proposed for Nashville could bring to the area. The panel will include: **Steve Bland** of Nashville MTA; **Steve Gild** of Vanderbilt's SEMO office; **Erin Hafkenschiel** from the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Sustainability; **Craig Philip**, VU research professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of VECTOR; **Walter Searcy** of Transit for Nashville; and **Noah Van Mierlo**, a Vanderbilt University student. Read [more](#).

Careers in Environmental Law – February 1

Join VU's [Energy and Environmental Law Society](#) for a panel discussion with local environmental attorneys who will speak about their careers in environmental law at 4:30pm in Covington Room of the Vanderbilt Law School. The panel includes both private and public sector attorneys to represent the wide range of opportunities available for law students interested in environmental law. More information [here](#).

Tu B'shvat Shabbat – February 2

In celebration of the "New Year of the Trees" (AKA Jewish Arbor Day), Shabbat will have an environmental theme and will feature a special pre-dinner Seder to raise awareness of environmental issues at the Vanderbilt Hillel at 7:30pm. The Seder will be a short reflection on spirituality, the environment, and a chance to try new and special foods. More information [here](#).



Vanderbilt Campus Dining focuses on sustainability

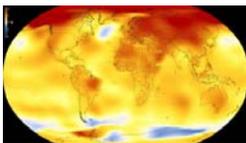
As a leader in sustainability and a member of the Menus of Change collaborative, Vanderbilt Campus Dining has implemented several initiatives that will lessen the university's environmental impact and enhance its overall dining program. These initiatives include:



- Members of Menus of Change University Research Collaborative ([MCURC](#)) are committed to advancing plant-forward menus as a cultural norm to improve our food system.
- On Jan. 3 and 4, Vanderbilt hosted a [Forward Food](#) training focusing on sustainable, plant-based menus featuring whole grains, plants.
- [Campus Dining](#), [Plant Operations](#) and [SustainVU](#) have collaborated to ensure that food waste generated by dining operations is collected and sent to a composting site to be converted into a useful material instead of waste.
- The Organic Refuse Conversion Alternative ([ORCA](#)) machine “digests” food waste into water that flows straight into the municipal sewage system.
- A pulper in the Commons Dining Center extracts water from the waste to reduce its overall volume by more than 80 percent. Read [more](#).



Long-Term Warming Trend Continued in 2017: NASA, NOAA



Earth's global surface temperatures in 2017 ranked as the second warmest since 1880, according to an analysis by [NASA](#).

Continuing the planet's long-term warming trend, globally averaged temperatures in 2017 were 1.62 degrees F (0.90 degrees C) warmer than the 1951 to

The Fracking Debate: The Risks, Benefits, and Uncertainties of the Shale Revolution – February 2

The Earth and Environmental Sciences department will be hosting a seminar by Daniel Raimi, a senior research associate at Resources for the Future and a professor at the University of Michigan. He will be discussing The Fracking Debate and the risks and benefits of oil and gas development. The seminar will be held in Buttrick 102 from 3:10-4:00pm. More information [here](#).

Book Discussion Event: The Water Will Come — Sustainability as Nashville Grows – February 10

Participate in a discussion of the NY Times bestselling book “The Water Will Come”. Learn about sustainability challenges and opportunities in Nashville and around the world with a water focus. Arrive early to avoid interrupting the event. This event will take place from 2:00-4:00pm at the Richland Park Branch Library. More information [here](#).

1980 mean, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York. That is second only to global temperatures in 2016. The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2 degrees F (a little more than 1 degree C) during the last century or so, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere. Last year was the third consecutive year in which global temperatures were more than 1.8 degrees F (1 degree C) above late nineteenth-century levels. Read [more](#).



Climate change concerns much higher in Latin America, Caribbean than U.S., Canada

Climate change is a far more partisan issue in the U.S. than anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere. More than eight in 10 adults in Mexico and Central America believe climate change is a very serious problem for their country, more than twice the proportion of adults in the United States and Canada, according to a new “Insights” report from Vanderbilt’s [Latin American Public Opinion Project](#) (LAPOP) titled “[Education and Risk Assessments Predict Climate Change Concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean](#).” Read [more](#).



Bicycle Maintenance Open House – February 22

Interested in getting your bike in tip-top shape for spring? Join Walk Bike Nashville at a workshop at Cumberland Transit 5-7pm to teach you the skills to fix and maintain your bicycle. Learn to fix flat tires, oil the chain, and adjust brakes and the derailleur. More information [here](#).

250K Tree Day – February 24

Volunteer to plant a tree to protect wildlife and improve water quality! On February 24th, the Tennessee Environmental Council will plant 250,000 native tree seedlings across Tennessee. This will be the largest community tree planting event in Tennessee history and in the United States. 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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