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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



# SustainVU

*Growing Responsibly*

December 2018

SEMO is celebrating because VU's greenhouse gas emissions have dropped 12% per square foot this year (see report [here](#))! Thank you for all of your help reducing our carbon footprint! The holiday season is in full force which presents unique opportunities to improve your sustainability. Think about how you can reduce waste during big meals and those holiday gatherings by checking out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) and the stories below, and please don't forget to power down your areas before leaving for the long break! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. Happy holidays and we hope you have a wonderfully sustainable New Year!

Andrea George, Director

Sustainability and Environmental Management  
Office

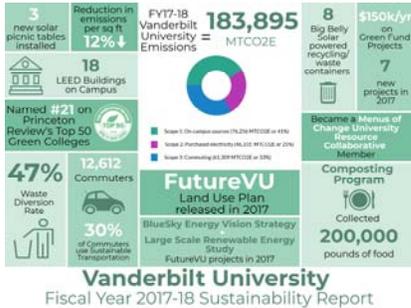
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## **Growing Together Kickoff – December 4**

Join Mayor David Briley and the Nashville Farmers' Market to kick off construction for the north and south sides of the Nashville Farmers' Market. Learn more about the upcoming renovations and a new program to support the growth and innovation of small food and artisan businesses. Kickoff will be held at the north entrance of the Market House from 10-10:30am. More information [here](#).



## Vanderbilt greenhouse gases emissions drop 12 percent per square foot, new sustainability report shows



Vanderbilt University's greenhouse gas emissions dropped 12 percent per square foot in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The findings are among those showcased in

the [annual sustainability](#) report.

Vanderbilt leaders are aligning sustainability efforts with the guiding principles of [FutureVU](#), the university's land use planning initiative. "Integrating sustainability efforts into every project on campus is a key component of the FutureVU campus plan," said [Eric Kopstain](#), vice chancellor for administration. "As we continue to develop Vanderbilt's physical environment, our goal is for each building project or initiative to bolster our standards for greenhouse gas emissions."

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, the university invested in a suite of projects making a positive environmental impact, [including a food waste composting program](#), a [dockless bikeshare](#) program, one [new LEED building](#), one new green roof, [eight BigBelly solar-powered recycling containers](#) and three solar picnic tables. Read more [here](#).



## Greening the Season – Holiday Waste Reduction Tips

Americans throw away [25% more waste](#) between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than other parts of the year, which



## J.U.M.P. Holiday Lunch – December 6

J.U.M.P. will host their 22nd Annual Christmas Extravaganza with keynote speaker Majora Carter, who will be speaking about urban renewal and the direct connection between ecological, economic and social degradation. The event will be held at Meharry Medical College from 12-1:30pm. More information [here](#).

## Farm in the City: Community Garden Volunteer – December 7

Help fight hunger in 2018 by working in a local community garden to help care for and harvest a variety of locally-grown crops! Join the guys from [Roots of a Rebellion](#) for a morning of giving back that will impact those in need in our Nashville community! This event will be held at 1609 Pearl St. from 9:30am-12:30pm. More information [here](#).

## Porter Flea – December 7-8

Get a head start on your holiday shopping with goods from hundreds of

is about 1 million extra tons of trash per week each year! Here are some tips to reduce waste and lessen your impact this holiday season:

- Don't just toss empty cans, bottles, and other food packaging- recycle them!
- When doing your holiday shopping, avoid plastic bags. Ask for paper if available, or even better bring along reusable shopping bags!
- Use reusable plates and utensils whenever possible and opt for fabric napkins and dish cloths instead of paper products.
- Take a few extra minutes to plan your menu and the amounts to cook. Preparing the right [portions](#) of food avoids food waste and saves you money.
- At the end of the meal, send leftovers home with guests and think about composting any food scraps you might have during prep and after you eat.
- Choose reusable gift wrapping like gift bags or repurpose household items like newspaper or posters to wrap gifts. Read our full Holiday Greening Guide [here](#).



## Vanderbilt Green Fund applications now open!

Have a sustainability idea that needs funding? [Applications](#) for The Vanderbilt Green Fund are now open! The Vanderbilt Green Fund, established in 2011 by members of SPEAR and VSG, 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. **Final proposals are due January 21.** Read more [here](#).



local/regional makers at Porter Flea. Now in its sixth year, the juried and curated, semi-annual market features modern handmade goods from the area's most talented designers. Hours and more information [here](#).

### **Music City Winterfest – December 8-9**

Shop the Music City Winterfest Holiday Market for unique gifts from Nashville craft artisans, enjoy live music by local performing groups, and treat yourself at our food trucks, s'mores stations, and tons more. Whether you are finishing up your holiday gift shopping or browsing for yourself, you are sure to find something wonderful, sustainable and one-of-a-kind. Hours and more information [here](#).

### **“Green” Elephant Social – December 13**

Team Lighting's Green Elephant is all the fun and excitement of a White Elephant gift exchange without the environmental footprint. Feel free to wear your wackiest Christmas sweaters, onesies, or other holiday attire as we experience a night

## Facilities Department Controls Group win 2018 football “Greenest Group on Campus” award



The Facilities department’s Controls Group has been named winner of the 2018 Vanderbilt football sustainability competition. The group celebrated its

title of “greenest group on campus” at the Vanderbilt vs. Ole Miss game on Nov. 17. Accepting the award on behalf of the group was Michael Perry and Brian Davis.

The sustainability competition, presented by [Waste Management](#), [Vanderbilt Athletics](#) and the [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office \(SEMO\)](#), invited all Vanderbilt groups, teams, departments, classes and campus organizations to compete for the title of “greenest group on campus” by detailing what sustainable actions their group routinely implement to reduce, reuse or recycle; save energy or water; use mass transit and alternative transportation options; or any other innovative sustainability programs going on within their department or organization.

The Facilities department Controls Group was recognized for their efforts to increase energy efficiency in campus buildings using an online energy management system, detecting mechanical failures, and recycling faulty equipment and scrap materials. Read more [here](#).



of green living and responsible giving! Here’s how it works: get a gift for someone (\$30 or less if buying something new), come to Little Harpeth Brewing at 7pm, add your gift to the pile, and let the gift exchange begin! More information [here](#).

### **Bicycle Maintenance Open House – December 20**

Walk Bike Nashville invites community members to join them this month at the Bicycle Maintenance Open House! Tools and knowledgeable instructors will be on hand to assist you in learning basic bicycle maintenance. This event will be held at Walk Bike Nashville from 5-7pm. More information [here](#).

### **VU National Climate Assessment Lecture – January 17-18**

Dave Reidmiller, the Director for the 4th National Climate Assessment for the USGS, and Joe Casola, Deputy Director of the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, will provide lectures and discussions on the

National Climate Assessment. This event is cosponsored by the VU Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. More information [here](#).

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 322-2057.

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