

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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RTA's New Year's Eve Train – December 31

Ride the Music City Star New Year's Eve Express train to the Jack Daniels Music City Midnight New Year's Eve event downtown this year! The train will depart Lebanon Station, Marth Station, Mt. Juliet, Hermitage, and Donelson and will arrive at downtown's Riverfront Station at 5:09pm. Tickets are of \$15, plus a \$1 processing fee, and are limited! Purchase tickets [online](#). Passengers can take the free Downtown Circuit or any MTA service from Second Avenue to Music City Central. Read more [here](#). MTA will also provide New Year's Eve service (read story in news section of newsletter).

Can you believe the holiday season is upon us? This season presents unique challenges and opportunities to reducing your impact. Think about how you can reduce food waste during big meals and reduce waste from those holiday gatherings by checking out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) and the stories below. Don't forget to power down before you leave your home, office, or dorm over the holidays! SEMO is gearing up for the New Year with two application deadlines: Vanderbilt Green Fund and the Greenest Group on Campus. Make sure you send in your best sustainability ideas for the Green Fund, and let us know if your VU department, organization, class, or group is the Greenest Group on Campus! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Happy holidays and have a Happy New Year!

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Engage Green 2017 Sustainable Social – January 4

Engage Green has a new logo, new team, and new events for 2017! Come out and join Team Green Adventures and Urban Green Lab for a social and reveal party! Enjoy the announcement of the 2017 events with a brew or two at Blackstone Brewing Company at 6:00pm. Read more [here](#).

“Conceptual Frameworks and New Frontiers in Energy Justice” – January 13

Is our global energy system fair? Who will suffer the most from climate change? In what ways are current energy technologies infringing upon the capabilities of future generations? Dr. Benjamin K. Sovacool, Professor of Energy Policy at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom, will give a lecture at 12:10pm in the Renaissance Room at the Vanderbilt Law School. Read more [here](#).

Nutritious & Delicious: Boost Your Immunity – January 18

During the winter months it's common to catch colds or other kinds of sickness. We may be coming down from a time of high stress in the post-holiday season and feel run down as a result. In this workshop you'll learn about some immune boosting foods to keep your body's defense mechanisms strong! Join the



Holiday Greening Tips

Want to reduce your impact this holiday season? Here are a few tips from SustainVU's [Holiday Greening Guide](#) to make your holiday a little greener this year.



- **Office/Residence Hall/Home Energy Use:** Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff who are going to be away from their residence halls, offices, classrooms or homes for an extended period of time over the holidays should remember to shut off lights and appliances, unplug electronics, and lower thermostats before leaving.
- **Food and Entertaining:** [Plan a meal](#) with a lower carbon footprint and a lower impact on the environment by serving food that is locally and sustainably grown. Visit your [farmer's market](#) to get fresh meat, produce and breads for your holiday feast (and support local farmers). Think about using reusable plates, napkins, and utensils for your holiday feast
- **Waste:** The average American household generates [25 percent more trash](#) during the holiday season. If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet! Remember to recycle cans, bottles, cardboard, and other packaging that comes along with your gifts or food this holiday season.
- **Decorating:** Remember to recycle your tree into mulch after the holidays – many counties (including [Davidson County](#)) have tree recycling programs! If you can, purchase a [live tree with a rootball](#) and replant it when you take it down. Decorate your home using items you already have or items that can be reused and enjoyed after your event, such as whole fruit, small plants, herbs and pinecones.
- **Gifts:** To reduce gas consumption, carpool and consolidate trips to the mall to purchase your gifts. When possible, buy locally produced gifts—they have a much lower carbon footprint than goods manufactured overseas (and it supports your local economy). Don't forget your reusable bag when you go to the store!
- **Travel:** The average Christmas/New Year's long-distance trip is 275 miles long. Carpool to holiday events, encourage guests to carpool, and offset the carbon footprint of any air travel at [com](#), or [carbonfund.org](#). For more green travel tips, check out the [“Everything You Need to Know about Traveling Green”](#) guide.

Read more [here](#), and for more Holiday Greening tips, visit our [Sustainable Holiday Greening Guide](#).

Catch a ride Downtown via MTA buses on New Year's Eve

workshop at the Nashville Farmers' Market from 6-7pm. Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt Green Fund Applications Due – January 23

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 funds to innovative and educational ideas that make Vanderbilt more environmentally friendly. The final deadline for applications is Monday, January 23 at midnight. Applications can be found [here](#).

Transit Mixer: The Future of Transportation – January 26

Join the Nashville Civic Design Center to discuss the future of transportation in Nashville and beyond! The mixer will include updates from MTA about the new and exciting projects they are working on. Join in to get together to mix with other people passionate about transit in Nashville from 5:30-7:00pm at Tennessee Brew Works! Read more [here](#).

Commons Unplugged: Kickoff Event – February 18

Kick off Commons Unplugged, a weeklong sustainability and natural resource conservation event for the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons, on Saturday, February 18! Students will be organizing a sustainability-themed



Looking for a ride downtown on New Year's Eve? On Saturday, December 31, 2016, Nashville MTA bus service will be

extended on 15 bus routes until 2:30 a.m. Sunday, January 1, 2017, and bus service will be free after 9 p.m. A full schedule of fares can be found online.

Nashville MTA buses will operate regular Saturday schedules until midnight, when 15 corridor and neighborhood routes will offer extended hours of service until 2:30 a.m. The Music City Blue and Green Circuits will be operating on a regular schedule until 6:15 p.m. and on a modified route until 2:15 a.m. Another option for customers traveling downtown to ring in 2017 is to park their cars and ride an MTA bus from an area Park & Ride. Locations available include:

- Hickory Hollow (at Global Mall at The Crossings), served by routes 15 & 55;
- Hillwood (at Nashville West), served by routes 10 & 50 ;
- Dollar General (at Hickory Plaza), served by route 52;
- Kmart (on Gallatin Pike between Walton Lane and Briley Parkway), served by routes 26, 34 & 56;
- and
- Vanderbilt University (parking lots on Natchez Trace), served by routes 3 & 5.

Read more [here](#).

FutureVU enters spring semester with focus on inclusion, sustainability and transportation

More than 650 faculty, students, staff and trustees have participated in [FutureVU](#), the university's land use planning process, since



its launch this fall, with multiple working groups forming now to develop detailed recommendations in the spring.

"Along with supporting a diverse and inclusive community, our plan is driven by the university's deep commitment to sustainability—an area that touches every aspect of this work

event on February 18th, so save the date and stay tuned for more details! Read more [here](#).

Commons Unplugged: Green Fair – February 22

Promote your organization at the Commons Unplugged Green Fair! The Green Fair will provide an opportunity to promote the sustainable activities, business practices, and achievements of various student groups, departments or organizations to the Vanderbilt community. Tabling display space will be provided to participants at no charge. If you or your group is interested in tabling at the Green Fair to be held Wednesday, February 22 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, please email sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu.

Commons Unplugged: Green Forum – February 23

Save the date for the 2017 Commons Unplugged Green Forum! Commons Unplugged is a weeklong sustainability and natural resource conservation event, and the Green Forum will wrap up the week's events featuring a lecture from a Vanderbilt Professor! Save the date and stay tuned for more details! Read more [here](#).

Metro Nashville Holiday Tree Recycling – December-February

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

and into which we will delve further in the spring semester through a campus town hall and other discussion opportunities.

“Vanderbilt is in many ways an incubator of life-changing and community-changing concepts. By maximizing the utility of our precious land and determining its highest use, we have a tremendous opportunity to be an innovator and model of a sustainable and healthy living and learning environment,” [Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos](#) said. Read the full story [here](#).

Vanderbilt Green Fund applications due January 23!



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 money to innovative and educational ideas that make Vanderbilt more environmentally friendly. Optional first drafts will be due November 18th, and the Green Fund will host two application workshops in early November to provide assistance with these. **Final proposals are due January 23. Read more [here](#).**

Are YOU the greenest group on campus?

[Waste Management, Inc.](#), the Vanderbilt [Sustainability and Environmental Management](#)

[Office \(SEMO\)](#), and [VU Athletics](#), and are looking for the greenest group on



campus during this year's Vanderbilt Basketball Sustainability competition. Your group could win a catered VIP hospitality event for 20 people, 20 tickets to the game, an autographed item from Vanderbilt athletics, and on-court recognition at the Vanderbilt vs. Texas A&M men's basketball game on February 16, 2017! To qualify, just tell us about the sustainable actions

designated locations facilities and Public Works will collect them for mulching at the Bordeaux Mulch Facility. Trees must be cleaned of all ornaments, lights, wire, string and other decor before bringing them to be tree-cycled. No artificial trees can be accepted. Recycling holiday trees into mulch, rather than putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills. Look for more details to be released [here](#).



your VU department, organization, class or group regularly do in order to make Vanderbilt a greener campus.

Applications will be available [online](#) soon. **Applications are due by Thursday, February 2!** Good luck and Anchor Down!

Follow us on our social media accounts!

We have added more accounts to our social media arsenal! Here are more ways you can connect with us online:

- [Facebook @SustainVU](#)
- [Instagram @SustainVUVanderbilt](#)
- [Twitter @SustainVU](#)
- [Google+ @Vanderbilt SustainVU](#)



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.

