

SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Holiday Arts Festival – November 28-December 10

Check out the annual Sarratt Holiday Arts Festival for wonderful handmade items from Nashville area's finest craft based artists and artisan vendors. Open daily from 10 am – 6 pm, the show features jewelry, pottery, book arts, glass, ornaments, delicious gifts, special guests, artisans and more. This is the perfect place to pick up a handmade/local gift for everyone on your holiday gift list! Read more [here](#).

Madison nMotion Community Update – December 3

Hear the latest updates on the Nashville MTA/RTA Strategic Plan at

Congratulations to the Vanderbilt Football team on their big win against Tennessee last weekend and their upcoming bowl bid! Go 'Dores! Vanderbilt Athletics has some other big news this month as well – the Currey Tennis Center is now being powered by the sun with the addition of solar panels and a solar hot water heating system! Check out the story below. The holiday season has arrived which 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. We have two opportunities this month for students to make a big impact with the applications open for two Mobile Lab Ambassadors and the Vanderbilt Green Fund and please don't forget to power down your areas before you leave for the long holiday break! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Happy holidays and a Happy New Year!

the Madison [nMotion](#) Community Update meeting at the Fifty-Forward Madison Station Social Room from 10:00-11:30am. Read more [here](#).

Seed Swap – December 3

It's time to start planning next year's garden! Bring seeds to share and swap with other local gardeners in preparation for next spring's growing season. The swap will be held from 10am-2pm at the Warner Park Nature Center. For more information about preparing and labeling seeds for swapping, visit [Nashville Public Library's Seed Exchange](#).

Murfreesboro Pike Transit Signal Priority Improvement Open House – December 5 & 6

Learn about planned transit improvements for Murfreesboro Pike at two upcoming meetings: December 5th at the Southeast community Center from 6:00-7:30pm (served by routes 15, 33x, and 55), and December 6 at Trevecca Nazarene University from 6:00-7:30pm (served by routes 15, 18, and 55). Read more [here](#).

Engage Green: Zero Waste Living – December 7

Did you know that the average person produces almost 5 pounds of trash a day? Do you want to learn how to not be so trashy? Eternal Returns, a local recycling and upcycling company, will be discussing all things sustainable during the Engage Green workshop this month. Learn how to live waste

Andrea George, Director

Sustainability and Environmental Management Office
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A 'bright' future at Vanderbilt: VU tennis center on forefront of solar energy technology on campus

free and start living the zero-waste lifestyle at the Nashville Farmers' Market at 6pm. End the wasteful cycle! RSVP and read more [here](#).

Saddle Up Santa Bike Ride – December 10

Do you love Santa? Do you love holiday cheer? How about bicycles? If you answered yes, then the Saddle Up Santa ride is just what you need! Join [Lighting 100's Team Green Adventures](#) for a bicycle ride through the heart of Nashville while bringing the holiday cheer bike party style. The ride will meet at the intersection of 1st and Broadway at 7pm in our finest ugly sweaters, Christmas, and Santa costumes. Read more [here](#).

Halcyon Bike Shop Birthday Bash – December 10

Come celebrate Halcyon's 8th birthday! Join in the fun with local art, music, and the Alley Cat Race. The bash will take place from 5pm-12am at the Halcyon Bike Shop! Read more [here](#).

A Park System Like No Other – December 12

Peter Harnik will challenge Nashville to walk its talk and take its "It City" status into the realm of parks. As the Director for Trust for Public Land's Center for City Park Excellence, Peter understands deeply the relationship between cities and parks—and what it takes to integrate innovative city park systems within growing, vibrant communities. Listen to Harnik's

When the sun shines on the rooftop at Vanderbilt's Brownlee O.



lecture from 12-1:30pm at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Read more [here](#).

Made in Nature: DIY Nature-inspired Holiday Gifts – December 17

Looking for a unique, sustainable holiday gift for someone on your list? Make some crazy cute holiday gifts from reused materials and a few items that are found in the Shelby Bottoms park! Learn to make snowmen ornaments out of old prescription bottles, and how to make bird feeders to hang outside during the cold months to help out our feathered friends. Class will be held at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center from 2-3pm. Read more [here](#).

Nutrition Workshop: Culinary Gift Giving – December 21

Tis the season to celebrate giving! Some of the most memorable and sustainable gifts are edible ones. Join Amber Robertson, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, and [Lighting 100's Team Green Adventures](#) for a workshop that will teach you how to make gifts to please the food enthusiasts in your life at the Nashville Farmers' Market at 6pm. RSVP and 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.

Currey Jr. Tennis Center, it means a little more to Marie Casares.

Casares, a former member of the Commodores' women's tennis program (2011-15), played a role in pushing Vanderbilt athletics to the forefront of sustainable energy on campus. Two years ago, she proposed the installation of solar panels atop the Currey Tennis Center, where she once starred as a Commodore student-athlete, to the [Vanderbilt Green Fund](#). The panels have greatly reduced the building's energy consumption, and they could be the precursor to a renewable energy movement across Vanderbilt's campus.

For Casares, the sun-soaked panels atop the Currey Center represent her energy-friendly way of giving back. Now she hopes the project will serve as a catalyst for a sea of change at Vanderbilt, and beyond. "There are so many resources we could use to make energy clean and make everything renewable," Casares said. "That's a change we should start making."

The project began in the fall of 2014 with the help of Vanderbilt's Green Fund program. Read more [here](#). If you would like to submit a Vanderbilt Green Fund proposal, [applications](#) are due on January 23rd.

Mobile Lab Ambassadors Needed!

We are looking for two students to become Urban Green Lab Mobile Lab Ambassadors for the spring semester!



[SustainVU](#), the [Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach](#) and [Vanderbilt Student](#)

[Volunteers for Science](#) are subgrant recipients of a \$91,000, two-year EPA grant to Nashville's [Urban Green Lab](#) to deliver hands-on science and sustainability education to Nashville middle- and high-schoolers.

The Urban Green Lab's mobile science and sustainability laboratory brings engaging exhibits and activities and interactive green technologies to MNPS students. The deadline for application is December 7. Applications can be found [here](#).

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 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](#).



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, 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. **Final proposals are due January 23.** [Read more here.](#)

Green the season: Holiday waste reduction tips

The Sustainability and Environmental Management Office ([SEMO](#)) has some tips for reducing waste and making your holiday season more



sustainable. Americans throw away [25 percent more waste](#) between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than other parts of the year, resulting in about 1 million extra tons of trash annually.

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 for your purchases at the grocery and the mall.
- Many cartons (stock, juice cartons, soup boxes, etc.) can be recycled in the paper recycling stream.
- Use reusable plates and utensils whenever possible. Be sure to recycle plastic plates and cups if you must use them.
- Opt for fabric napkins and dishcloths instead of paper products. They can be easily tossed into the washer after the festivities.

- 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 eating. Food waste is the highest component of our waste streams, with Americans generating 33 million tons each year.

For more information on steps you can take on campus before leaving for holiday break as well as other tips for greening the holidays, click [here](#).

Where would you want to see additional outdoor recycling containers?



Vanderbilt's Sustainability and Environmental Management Office ([SEMO](#)) would like your input on where additional outdoor recycling should be located across campus! When you are walking around our beautiful campus, where would you like to be able to recycle your bottles or cans? SEMO has visited many on-campus meetings and has hosted events at the Rand Wall and Commons Center, please email your ideas to sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu if you missed us out and about!

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.



