

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

## National Bike Month – May

May is National Bike Month, sponsored by the [League of American Bicyclists](#), and is celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Whether you bike to work or school; ride to save money or time; pump those pedals to preserve your health or the environment; or simply to explore your community, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons we ride. More details [here](#).

## Air Quality Awareness Week – May 2-6

Millions of people across the US live in areas of unhealthy air. The Environmental Protection Agency's

It's hard to believe that the academic year is already coming to a close! Even though students will be leaving campus, there are still many activities to attend in Nashville and many things to celebrate, including Air Quality Awareness Week, Bike to Work Day, and Vanderbilt Commencement. The Chancellor's Office is looking forward to once again donating leftover strawberries from Strawberries & Champagne to the Nashville Zoo and Walden's Puddle! Don't forget that Earth Friendly Move Out is underway, so donation and recycling locations have been expanded across campus with details in the story below. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Good luck to everyone graduating this month, and to all of our faculty and students on their summer plans!

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(EPA) Air Quality Awareness week brings attentions to how air quality can affect your life. Download the [AirNow app](#) or sign up for [air quality alerts](#) issued by the EPA and [learn](#) how to take action.

## Engage Green: Small Scale Gardening – May 4

Join [Team Green Adventures](#) and [Urban Green Lab](#) as they partner with [Gardens of Babylon](#) to present this month's Engage Green workshop on small scale gardening. This is a great opportunity to learn the benefits of personal gardening, as well as how to make this work in a limited environment. Please RSVP [here](#) to reserve your spot—space and supplies are limited. More details [here](#).

## Beginner-Friendly Bike Ride – May 7

Explore the variety of bike-friendly features and routes throughout Music City with [Team Green Adventures](#) and [Nashville B-cycle](#) during an hour long bike ride. Bring your own bike or rent a B-cycle bike for \$5. RVSPs are requested, more details [here](#).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk and Roll Day – May 11

In celebration of bike month, [Walk Bike Nashville](#) is hosting the second Walk & Roll to School Day. Last year more than 5,000 Nashvillians participated by walking or rolling to school. Schools can register online and participants can find resources about safe routes to school at the

## Donation and recycling options expanded on campus for Earth Friendly Move Out



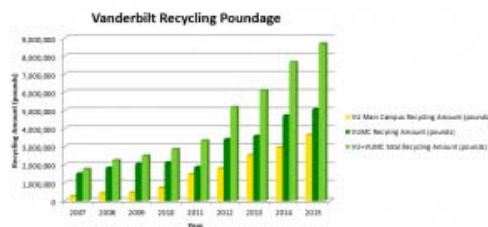
Just in time for student move-out and spring cleaning your office, donation and recycling locations on campus will be expanded from April 25 to May 14. [Earth Friendly Move Out](#) donation and recycling locations will be available until May 7 on the Ingram Commons campus until May 14 on main campus.

The Office of Housing and Residential Education ([OHARE](#)) will have multiple [donation locations](#) set up across campus that benefit a variety of non-profit charities. At these locations, you can donate any usable items, including appliances, clothing, and other goods. In addition to donating any unwanted items, there are many convenient recycling locations around campus for common items. Information on recycling and donation locations can be found [here](#).

In addition to donating any unwanted items, there are many convenient recycling locations around campus for common items. Electronics, batteries, ink/toner cartridges, CFL bulbs, and even pens and mechanical pencils can all be donated in locations listed along with additional information [here](#).

## Vanderbilt recycling up 500% since 2007

Once again, Vanderbilt has increased the amount of materials it recycled!



Recycling increased by 15% from 2014 to 2015, now totaling 8.7 million pounds of materials per year. That is the same weight as 19 Statues of Liberty! Vanderbilt has increased recycling by almost 500% since 2007.

In 2015, Vanderbilt recycled enough cardboard, plastic, scrap metal, aluminum, glass, bulbs, electronics, and ink/toner cartridges to conserve the equivalent of the following natural

Walk Bike Nashville [website](#). More details [here](#).

## “Racing Extinction” Movie Screening – May 12

Join [Cumberland River Compact](#), [Harpeth River Watershed Association](#), and [Urban Green Lab](#) as they cohost a screening of documentary film [Racing Extinction](#). This event is free and open to the public, light snacks will be offered and a time for a discussion to follow the film. More details [here](#).

## Vanderbilt Commencement – May 13

All Vanderbilt schools will participate in commencement on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm. After the commencement ceremonies conclude, the strawberries and champagne reception for the undergraduate class of 2016 will be hosted by the [Chancellor](#). All leftover strawberries will be [donated](#) to the [Nashville Zoo](#) and [Walden’s Puddle](#). Read more [here](#).

## Nutrition Workshop: Cooking with Greens – May 18

[Team Green Adventures](#) is partnering with the [Nashville Farmers’ Market](#) and [Bliss Holistic](#) Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, Amber Robertson, to discuss how to integrate one of the most difficult healthy ingredients, leafy greens. This workshop offers an interactive discussion and approach to incorporating greens into our diet. More details [here](#). Registration is

resources: 77,500 mature trees, 18 million kWh of electricity, 27 million gallons of water, and even more.

Vanderbilt also had a [record year](#) for ink and toner cartridge recycling in collaboration with [Procurement](#) and [Disbursement Services](#) and [Guy Brown](#). VU staff recycled over 13,700 cartridges with a 63% recovery rate in 2015, almost doubling that of 2014. For more information read [here](#).

## SEMO Celebrates National Walking Day!



The Sustainability and Environmental Management Office had a great time at National Walking Day with [Vanderbilt Health and Wellness](#) on April 6!

Members of the Vanderbilt community marked National Walking Day by taking group walks from the Eskind Biomedical Library and Alumni Lawn to a meeting point on Library Lawn. There, [Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan Wente](#) and other senior administrators offered remarks, and light snacks were served in celebration of Vanderbilt’s commitment to a culture of wellness. The National Walking Day event was sponsored by [Health Plus](#). Read more [here](#).

## A Plan for All Seasons: Vanderbilt Explores Land-Use Plan

Vanderbilt has embarked on land use planning effort that will guide campus infrastructure during the next decade, if not far longer.



The new land-use plan will focus on a “strategic playbook” that attempts to expand and improve Vanderbilt’s existing land while navigating the complicated web of day-to-day decisions that come with even the smallest of property deals. The land-use plan would dovetail with the recently completed Academic Strategic Plan, which includes a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, immersion learning and technological transformation, as well as with initiatives around diversity and sustainability.

encouraged, please RSVP [here](#). More details [here](#).

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## Bike to Work Day – May 20

National Bike to Work Day is May 20! 40% of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get to work. With increased interest in healthy, sustainable and economic transportation options, it's not surprising that, from 2000 to 2013, the number of bicycle commuters in the U.S. grew by more than 62 percent. More details [here](#).

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## Urban Gardening Festival – May 21

The Urban Gardening Festival is a unique educational outreach program inviting the public to learn more about a wide variety of gardening methods and techniques while also engaging with local producers from across the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee areas. The event is hosted on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center among their 8,800 sq.ft. Demonstration Garden. More details [here](#).

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Nash – May 21

[Walk Bike Nashville](#) offers a unique opportunity to explore all the neighborhoods of Nashville with its annual bike ride across the city. Participants can choose to ride a 45-mile or 25-mile course. Various classes are offered in preparation for the ride, all of which can be found on

Consensus is that both Vanderbilt and Nashville have reached important new points in their evolution that call for an overarching guide to direct future growth. Read more [here](#).

## Vanderbilt community engages in early dialogue on regional transit plans



The Vanderbilt community had the opportunity to interact with regional transit officials on efforts to ease traffic congestion and improve public transportation during a discussion April 14 at Vanderbilt's Student Life Center.

The panel discussion and Q-and-

A were part of the Food for Thought lunchtime series sponsored by the [Community Neighborhood and Government Relations](#) office at Vanderbilt.

Beth Fortune, Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs, noted that the university was an early supporter of [Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee](#), a nonprofit organization with a mission to build support for funding regional transit by mobilizing community leadership. She also highlighted the Vanderbilt/MTA Ride to Work program, which allows full-time faculty, staff and graduate students to ride the bus to and from campus for free. Last year, that amounted to more than 440,000 individual rides.

Also discussed was the new Music City Transit Tracker app for Apple and Android. It allows prospective MTA bus riders to access real-time transit info, including bus locations and times of arrival. Download it free at [nashvillemta.org/transittracker](#). Read more [here](#).

## 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](#)



the Walk/Bike Nashville [calendar](#).  
More details on the Tour [here](#).

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## ReCYCLE Bike Refurbish – May 25

As part of their [ReCYCLE for Kids](#) program, [Hands On Nashville](#) invites you to help refurbish donated bikes for underserved Metro Nashville school-aged kids, while learning a few things about bike maintenance. This event is free and open to anyone! More details [here](#).



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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.

