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SustainVU
Growing Responsibly

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Fareless Friday – November 28

For the second year, the Nashville MTA and Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) are offering free rides on all MTA and RTA buses and the Music City Star the Friday after Thanksgiving for “Black Friday.” The free rides last all day and are unlimited. Find out what routes will take you to area malls and find more information [here](#).

After-Thanksgiving Hikes at All 55 TN State Parks – November 28

Thinking of how you will work off that holiday feast while busily entertaining family and friends? Why not do both? Take a walk – in a state park! These

The holiday season is officially upon us! This time of year presents a unique opportunity to minimize your impact on the environment. Read below for ways to cut back your energy and waste this season, and check out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) for other tips to make your holiday events more sustainable! We thank SPEAR, who was recently named the Greenest Group on Campus, for their efforts to promote sustainability on campus and in the Nashville community. They received an award on the field at the November 8 game versus Florida. Stay tuned for next month’s newsletter to find out how you can be basketball’s Greenest Group on Campus! With the cold weather already upon us, don’t forget to wear layers before kicking your heat up, and lower the thermostat before leaving your office or home for holiday vacation. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Happy Holidays from SustainVU!

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annual After Thanksgiving Hikes offer food for the soul by enjoying nature while taking an easy to strenuous hike. With 55 state parks across the state, it's easy to find a [hike](#) at a park near you!

24th Annual Sarratt Holiday Arts Festival – December 1-6

This year's [Holiday Arts Festival](#), located in the Sarratt Gallery from December 1-6, features jewelry, pottery, book arts, glass, ornaments, leather, and more, all handcrafted by Tennessee artisans. This is a great way to purchase unique, sustainable gifts for others and to support local vendors! The festival is open from 10am-7pm daily and purchases can be made with cash, check, credit/debit cards and the Commodore Card.

ReCYCLE Bike Drive for Kids – December 2

Do you have kids, nieces/nephews, grand-children, or neighborhood kids who have outgrown their bikes? Instead of trashing them, donate them for [Hands On Nashville's](#) ReCYCLE for Kids bike drive! Gently used bikes will be collected, refurbished, and provided to children in the Metro Nashville area. Children benefiting from your donation will receive a free bike, helmet, and basic safety education so they can learn to love a lifetime of cycling! More details on bike donations [here](#).



Shut Off Before Taking Off for the Holidays

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. Doing so is a great way to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.

Students:

- Turn off all lights, including in common rooms.
- Defrost and unplug refrigerators before leaving.
- Turn off and unplug computers, printers, microwaves, lamps, televisions and anything else that is plugged in. Many types of electronic equipment still draw small amounts of electricity (vampire energy) even when turned off.
- Lower the thermostat to 65 degrees.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and not dripping.

Faculty and staff:

- If permitted in your area, turn off and unplug all computers, monitors, printers, microwaves, lamps, cell phone chargers, televisions, copiers, fax machines, coffee makers, etc., that will not be in use while you are gone to reduce vampire power.
- Turn off all lights in offices, including lights in break rooms, kitchens, and bathrooms.
- Lower the thermostat setting to 65 degrees.
- If you work in a lab, close fume hood sashes before leaving for the holidays.
- Make sure all faucets are completely turned off and not dripping.
- At home, consider turning down your hot water heater.

Visit the [Holiday Greening Guide](#) or the [ThinkOne](#) website for additional ways you can reduce your energy consumption and green your holidays at Vanderbilt.

Power plant conversion update



The [Vanderbilt Hustler](#) recently featured a front-page article on the conversion of the power plant.

Final Green Fund Application Deadline—December 2

The [Vanderbilt Green Fund](#) provides funding for student-generated ideas that would conserve utilities on campus. Are you a student and have a great idea, or wondered “why doesn’t Vanderbilt do X”? Then submit an application! Final applications are due on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2014 at midnight. Applications can be submitted on [Anchorlink](#).

Engage Green: Music City Center Tour – December 3

Join Team Green Adventures and Urban Green Lab at 6:00pm as they partner with the Music City Center for a tour of Nashville’s new landmark convention center, learning about the green features of the building along the way! This workshop is part of Team Green’s Engage Green Sustainability Workshop Series, which covers a new sustainability topic each month. See more details and RSVP [here](#).

Home Energy Savings Projects – December 4 and 18

Hands On Nashville’s Home Energy Savings Program engages volunteers in making energy-efficiency upgrades in qualifying homes owned by Nashvillians in need. This program costs nothing for homeowners and renters, and focuses primarily on homes in North, East and South

“We’ve been burning coal on this campus for well over a hundred years, and for the first time in those hundred years, we are about to stop,” Assistant Vice Chancellor of Plant Operations Mark Petty said. Petty added that the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels will “align with who we want to be as a university.”

With the replacement of coal-fired boilers with all natural gas-fired boilers, the power plant will not contain any machinery that is more than 10-12 years old after the conversion and the control systems will be modernized, making it much more efficient. Petty currently estimates the conversion to be 40 percent completed, although the next 60 percent will occur in a more compressed time frame. With structures already built, the remaining work involves setting up the new equipment and testing it.

The coal deliveries to Vanderbilt have been stopped for the last month as the power plant burns off the last of its coal reserves. After the coal runs out completely, the coal ash and noise pollution produced by burning coal will also be eradicated. The renovations will also reduce a number of hazardous air pollutants to near zero.

“I believe that the conversion is probably the most significant investment to improve Vanderbilt’s environmental footprint that could be made on campus,” Andrea George, [SEMO](#) Director, said.

Click [here](#) to read the full Hustler article.

SPEAR named greenest group on campus

The Vanderbilt student organization [Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility \(SPEAR\)](#) was named winner of the 2014 football sustainability competition and now boasts the title “greenest group on campus.” The group celebrated its win with a VIP catered tailgate before the Nov. 8 home football game versus Florida and was recognized on the field during the game. The annual



Nashville. No experience necessary!
See volunteer opportunities [here](#).

Tennessee Local Food Summit – December 5-7

National experts on organic farming and nutrition, alongside local chefs, will convene at Vanderbilt for the 2014 TN Local Food Summit. The three-day event kicks off with dinner and music on the grounds of [Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory](#), followed by workshops at the [Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center](#), a concert and dinner at [The University Club of Nashville](#), and on-site workshops at [Bells Bend Neighborhood Farms](#). Registration for the summit and more information about this year's speakers and workshops is available online at [TNLocalFoodSummit](#). Space is limited, so early registration is strongly encouraged.

Nashville Green Drinks – December 17

On Wednesday, December 17 at 6pm, participate in Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability. Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub (1308McGavock Pike).

Metro Nashville Holiday Tree Recycling – Beginning December 26

Metro is offering Davidson County residents a convenient way to recycle their holiday trees this year. Leave your tree at one of 11 facilities and



competition is sponsored by [Waste Management Inc.](#), [Vanderbilt Athletics](#) and the Vanderbilt [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#).

On behalf of the group, Vanderbilt seniors and SPEAR co-presidents Michael Diamond and Morgan Goldberg accepted a commemorative football autographed by head coach Derek Mason and an engraved recycled glass plate presented by Matthew Buckley, campus waste and recycling manager, and Tim Wells, area vice president for Waste Management Inc.

SPEAR's mission is to increase environmental awareness and promote more environmentally sustainable habits and infrastructure within Vanderbilt and the Nashville community. To achieve the "greenest group" title, SPEAR's efforts included providing 160 volunteers for Cardboard Crew during this year's student move-in, which enabled the university to recycle more than [35 tons of cardboard](#). SPEAR also co-founded the [Vanderbilt Green Fund](#) and is developing a model for a sustainability curriculum for first-year students at Vanderbilt.

Read more about the Athletics Sustainability Competition [here](#).

Vanderbilt featured in latest issue of Tennessee Public Works Magazine!

Vanderbilt's food waste reduction strategies were recently featured in the November/December issue of [Tennessee Public Works Magazine](#)!

Annually 33 million tons of wasted food are disposed of in U.S landfills.

Organizations across Tennessee are using a multipronged approach to reduce food waste and increase food security. In 2013 [TDEC](#) reported Tennessee counties diverted only 15.88 percent of food waste from landfills through composting. Based on a report from the [Natural Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#), each month more than 20 pounds of food per person will not be consumed.

Public Works will collect them for mulching. Recycling holiday trees into mulch, rather than putting them in the trash, keeps them out of landfills. Trees can also be placed with your regularly-scheduled brush pickup. See drop-off locations and more information [here](#).

“Commons Unplugged” – February 15 – 20, 2015

Promote your organization at the first annual “Commons Unplugged” event this fall. If you or your group is interested in tabling at the Green Fair to be held Wednesday, February 18 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm, please email sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu.



Vanderbilt University [Campus Dining](#) addressed this challenge by incorporating several sustainable waste reduction [practices](#) into their operations. Most notable are donations of unserved portions to [Nashville Rescue Mission](#).

For the past two years, the [Chancellor's Office](#) has donated large quantities of leftover strawberries from a commencement reception event called “Strawberries and Champagne.” The strawberries were donated to the [Nashville Zoo](#) in 2013 and again to the Zoo and [Walden's Puddle](#) in 2014.

See the full article [here](#).

MTA launches mobile website

Customers who use the [Metropolitan Transit Authority's \(MTA\)](#) bus system can now get the most crucial information they need on the go via MTA's new [mobile website](#). The mobile website allows customers to access schedules, purchase tickets, and plan their trip quickly and easily! Learn more [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.

