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June 2019

We hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of summer! Did you hear about the sustainability efforts at Commencement? We love when campus events go green! Animals at the Nashville Zoo and Walden's Puddle once again got to enjoy leftover strawberries from Commencement, see super cute photos of the animals enjoying their

### **WeGo Public Meetings – June 4-12**

The public is invited to attend a series of meetings to learn more

treat [here!](#) You can read more below or on the new FutureVU Sustainability [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. Stay cool this month!

Andrea George, Director  
Sustainability and Environmental Management Office  
615-322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Website](#)

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## Sustainability Efforts at Commencement



Over the years, the university has increasingly sought ways to make Commencement more environmentally sustainable. This year, organizers reduced paper use by exchanging what had been an over 20-page handbook for students and guests attending Commencement for a two-sided, single sheet brochure. The university also reduced the

number of plastic water bottles handed out by 20 percent from years prior. Parents and guests were encouraged to bring their own refillable bottles to use at newly installed hydration stations, offering filtered water on Alumni Lawn, and the first 2,000 to arrive received complementary refillable bottles. Food leftovers from the Strawberries and Champagne event were donated to the Nashville Zoo and Walden's Puddle in an effort to divert this waste from landfills. Read more [here](#).

## Sustaining and Scaling Vanderbilt's Environmental Stewardship

about proposed changes to the WeGo bus service and to give feedback. WeGo is proposing changes including service reductions and fare increases due to a budget deficit. More information [here](#).

## Tour of Nashville's Drinking Water Treatment Plant – June 5

Learn about how drinking water is treated in the city of Nashville on a 45-minute walking tour of the Metro Water Treatment Plant. This event will be held from 9-9:45am at the K. R. Harrington Water Treatment Plant. More information [here](#).

## Waste Not, Want Not: DIVE! – June 9

Join the Nashville Food Waste Project for a screening of the award-winning documentary DIVE! This film highlights the unsustainable and problematic nature of America's food waste habits, and will be followed by a panel discussion. This even will be held at 5:30pm at the Warner Park Nature Center. More information [here](#).

## Green Hour – June 9

Join the Tennessee Environmental Council and connect with other local environmentalists to learn about what you can do to improve your environmental habits and the health of your individual home. It

Chancellor Zeppos included the following on his “What’s on my Mind” column: In April, Vanderbilt announced a long-term strategy that will shape our course, affect our daily lives and improve our collective future. [We have pledged to power our campus entirely through renewable energy, and to be carbon neutral, by 2050.](#) Better yet, we are committed to generating more renewable energy than we consume.



Through the collaborative studies and efforts undertaken by university leaders, faculty, staff and students—including MoveVU, the [Large Scale Renewable Energy Study](#), the [BlueSky Energy Vision Study](#) and the [Zero Waste Study](#)—the next steps toward sustainability have become increasingly vital and increasingly clear. This initiative is not just about saving our environment—the natural resources like land, water and air that we rely on every hour of every day—although that could not be more important. It is also a reflection of our commitment to immersion, innovation, technology and our Academic Strategic Plan; it is a stride toward improving our own well-being, and our ability to connect and flourish as a university.

As one of the largest employers in the region, with more than 330 acres of real estate and more than 10,000 daily commuters, Vanderbilt has a responsibility to do away with complacency and apathy around sustainability. We are not only a crucial testing ground for our Nashville community, but—as one of America’s leading research universities—our role also extends much wider. We have the innovation and the faculty expertise to be bold in our solutions, to incorporate the technology and make the lifestyle leaps that others may be hesitant to make. We will apply our findings and demonstrate the benefits of reducing our environmental footprint. We are uniquely positioned to show that sustainability is not only critical in theory, but that it is doable in practice.

We can set an example not just for each other, but for the world. And

will be held at Miel Restaurant from 4:15-5:30 pm. More information [here](#).

### **Urban Green Lab’s 10 Year Anniversary Party – June 9**

Celebrate 10 years of this citywide partnership, focused in implementing sustainable practices in our everyday lives, at Marathon Music Works from 1–4 pm. This event is free and family friendly, and features sustainability crafts, music, face painting, local foods, a photo booth, and more! More information [here](#).

### **Living Building Discussion – June 12**

Join the International Living Future Institute for a collaborative series of discussions about some of their building projects, and about the upcoming Living Product Expo in Nashville. The event will be held in Featheringill Hall at 5:30 pm. More Information [here](#).

### **Hellbender on the Cumberland – June 20**

Join the Cumberland River Compact in celebrating river health and clean water with live music, local beers, cocktails, wine, Hattie B’s, art installations, and more. The event will be held from 5:30-8:30pm at the Cumberland River East Bank Landing, and all proceeds

as the seasons change and the flowers grow—and as we all gather outside on the vast green spaces of our campus—it’s clear that there is nothing more important. Our campus in Nashville has been home to research, learning, discovery and life-changing experiences for nearly 150 years. We have one campus; let us nurture and protect the land that has been our foundation for so long, and that connects us to the world. Read more [here](#).

## Nashville’s Zero Waste Plan



Metro Nashville Public Works and the [Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board](#) are working together to create a “Solid Waste Master Plan,” ultimately hoping to divert all waste away from landfills using methods such as composting, repurposing, recycling, and reducing consumption of materials..

You can view the Master Plan [here](#). They are looking to gauge public opinion on the current draft of the plan, and are accepting feedback on the plan through June 7th. Your comments, suggestions, and thoughts can be submitted [here](#).

## Vanderbilt recognized for social media engagement during city’s Commuter Challenge

Vanderbilt University was [recognized for its social media engagement](#) by Nashville Connector’s Commuter Challenge. Presented by Mayor David Briley on May 21, Ashley Majewski, coordinator for the vice chancellor of [administration](#), accepted the award on behalf of the university.



The university’s participation and social media engagement raised awareness and engagement during Transit Month and the [Commuter Challenge April 27-May 3](#). The annual challenge invited community members to try one new transportation mode other than driving alone during that week. Over 115 sustainable trips were taken during the week by Vanderbilt faculty, staff and students and Mr. C.

support the Cumberland River Compact’s mission of a clean and healthy river. More information [here](#).

## Walk Bike Bash – June 21

Celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Open Streets Nashville with the first ever Walk Bike Bash, featuring live music, food, and drinks. This event will be held from 7-10pm. All funds from tickets go to supporting Walk Bike Nashville’s advocacy for a pedestrian-friendly Nashville. More information [here](#).

## Nashville’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July – July 4

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee operates its special Music City Star train each year on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The train takes you to Nashville’s Riverfront Station and leaves after the conclusion of the Fireworks. Tickets are available [here](#). In addition, the MTA bus routes will operate with extended service to get customers home after the fireworks show. Bus route information can be found [here](#).

This award was a direct representation of our community’s efforts to come together to inspire mobility and transportation change,” said [Erin Hafkenschiel](#), Vanderbilt’s executive director of mobility. “While one alternative trip may not seem to make a difference, collectively, Vanderbilt sent a message that we support our environment, reducing regional congestion and exploring alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle transportation.”

For more information on mobility and transportation efforts, visit the [FutureVU website](#). Read more [here](#).

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit [vanderbilt.edu/sustainability](http://vanderbilt.edu/sustainability) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [futurevusustainability@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:futurevusustainability@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-322-4551.

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



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