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Congratulations to the Vanderbilt Baseball team on their amazing win this week! We are so proud of our newest National Champions! Summer has arrived, and it is getting hot out there – declare your independence from high energy use this 4th of July by powering down your office or home before you leave for a vacation. You can read more below or on the new FutureVU Sustainability [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. Happy Independence Day!

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Power Down for July 4th holiday

Nashville's 4th of July – July 4

The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee operates its special Music City Star train each year on July 4th. 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](#).

Please remember to power down before you leave the office or your home for an extended period over the holidays. Your reductions in energy use can have a large impact when aggregated across the entire university. Here are some things you can do to help conserve energy while you are away:



- **Set thermostat** settings to 76-78 degrees F. Remember to also adjust thermostats in classrooms and other unoccupied areas.
- **Close windows shades or blinds** when you leave for the holiday to keep heat out and cool air in.
- **Turn off lights** in your **workspace** when you leave.
- **Turn off lights** to **common areas** such as kitchens, bathrooms, break rooms, classrooms, and conference rooms when you leave for the holiday.
- **Turn off office or lab equipment.** If allowed in your area, computers, printers, copiers, scanners, and some lab equipment can be turned off when you leave for the holiday. Otherwise, activate sleep modes and energy-saving settings.

Engineering and Science Building, Eskind Biomedical Library designated LEED Gold by USGBC



U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) President and CEO Mahesh Ramanujam presented Vanderbilt with a plaque designating the

university's Engineering and Science Building and Eskind Biomedical Library with LEED Gold status at a community-wide gathering on Tuesday afternoon in the Engineering and Science Building lobby.

Waste Not, Want Not: DIVE! – July 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 event will be held at 5:30pm at the Warner Park Nature Center. More information [here](#).

For the Love of Bees – July 10

Buzz on over to the Nature Center for an afternoon about bees! Learn some facts about bees and their importance in nature. The event will be held from 1-2pm at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center. More information [here](#).

Vanderbilt Farmer's Market – July 11, 18, 25

The Vanderbilt Farmers' Market at Vanderbilt University Medical Center will be held every Thursday from 1:30-5pm at the VUMC plaza through Oct. 31. Stop by to check out fresh, local

[LEED](#), or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the rating system used to rank buildings of all types as either certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum based on a building's environmental and cost-saving green features. The Engineering and Science Building and Eskind Biomedical Library are the university's 19th and 20th LEED-certified buildings, respectively. These designations come after Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos [announced in April 2019 that the university will carry out a comprehensive long-term strategy to significantly reduce its environmental footprint by 2050](#). Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt hosts 'food-scrap' cooking competition to reduce food waste

Four Nashville chefs and their teams—including one from [Vanderbilt Campus Dining](#)—competed at [E. Bronson Ingram College](#) June 10 to



create high-quality dishes from food scraps. The [James Beard Foundation](#) and [Nashville Food Waste Initiative](#) co-sponsored the friendly competition to raise awareness of the problem of food waste in Nashville and promote creative culinary solutions. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, up to 40 percent of food is thrown away in the United States.

"We at Vanderbilt are very excited to be working together with so many of the people in this room to combat food waste, not only today, but for many generations to come," [Eric Kopstain](#), vice chancellor for administration, said during the community tasting reception. Read more [here](#).

Metro Council Approves Green Energy Bills

produce and other locally-made goods! More information [here](#).

Tour of Nashville's Drinking Water Treatment Plant – July 12

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](#).

5th Annual Waterfest – July 14

The 5th Annual Waterfest is a fun, free environmental festival for all ages! Join the Cumberland River Compact to learn about water, sustainability and our environment with educational activities from over 20 exhibitors. The event will be held at Cumberland Park from 1-4pm. More information [here](#).

Farm in the City – July 14

Help Second Harvest Food Bank fight hunger by working in a local community garden to help



The Metro Council gave final approval in June to a suite of ambitious green energy bills [pitched as a “green New Deal” for Nashville](#). The [trio of bills](#)

— which passed with unanimous support — puts Metro on a schedule to transition to using 100 percent renewable energy, making Metro’s vehicle fleet 100 percent electric, and adopting new green building standards for Metro buildings.

The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program established by one of the bills creates annual benchmarks weaning Metro off of fossil fuel-based energy. By 2020, the schedule states that the percentage of total carbon-free energy usage will not be less than 53 percent. By 2041, it will have Metro using 100 percent carbon-free energy sources. The Metro fleet electrification ordinance states that Metro’s vehicle fleet will consist entirely of zero-emission vehicles by 2050. Read more [here](#).

care for and harvest a variety of locally grown crops. The event will be held at one of Second Harvest’s partner farms from 9-11am. More information [here](#).

Pedestrian Infrastructure: For Who and For What – July 26

Join Walk Bike Nashville to hear from researchers Dr. Anthony Campbell, Adam Blair, and Dr. Cara Robinson as they discuss their research on how governments conceptualize pedestrian infrastructure. The event will be held from 12-1pm at Tennessee State University. More information [here](#).

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

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