

Having trouble viewing this email? [View as a webpage.](#)



We at SEMO want everyone to know we are thinking of you while you have had to adjust to new routines and circumstances in this scary and uncertain time. We hope this finds you and your family and friends well and safe. We also want to take a moment to share some sustainability online events and stories that we think you might like. While many in-person events have been cancelled due to current events, there are still many ways you can celebrate Earth Day which is coming up on April 20! Additionally, we have been sharing a series of social media posts titled “Green at Home” and “Green Spring Activities” for any of us who might have a little more time on our hands. Information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the FutureVU Sustainability [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. We hope everyone is remaining healthy and safe, and happy Earth Day!

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

Please Note Time Zones

**Community Lawyering
for Environmental and
Climate Justice – April 17**

Join the Environmental Law Institute and American University Washington College of Law as they welcome a panel of distinguished experts from academia, advocacy, and the private sector. This seminar will discuss how to use law to address the pressing climate and health issues faced by marginalized communities. After the panel presentation, participants will be invited into breakout



Earth Day 50 goes Virtual!

While many of us are home and with family during this difficult time, let's not forget that this year is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and we can still celebrate our beautiful Earth! Although in-person events have been canceled, numerous online events are open to anyone and everyone who wants to partake in Earth Day celebrations and activities. Check to see if there are any [virtual events you might be interested in!](#) The following list provides some of the events that will be available leading up to and on Earth Day:

- Sunday, April 19th– Join the Earth Day Initiative and March for Science NYC for their Earth Day 50 Kick-off. Activities and events will include the following: a virtual stage of high-profile speakers, including public officials, activists, performers, and scientists; virtual interactive presentations and workshops led by activists and scientists; and virtual exhibitor booths featuring environmental campaigns and sustainable causes. Register and learn more [here](#).
- Monday, April 20th– Join the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment for a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Everyone is welcome to hear reflections on how far we have come since the first Earth Day in 1970 and what the next 50 years may hold for the future of the Earth. Register and learn more [here](#).
- Tuesday, April 22nd– Join the Earth Day Network for EARTHRISE, a global digital mobilization that drives actions big and small, gives diverse voices a platform and demands bold action for people and the planet. Over the 24 hours of Earth Day, EARTHRISE will fill the digital landscape with global conversations, calls to action, performances, video teach-ins and more. Register and learn more [here](#).

sessions to discuss these topics in more depth. Participants will come away from this seminar with new tools for advancing the advocacy for environmental and climate justice issues. This free online webinar will take place Friday, April 17 at 2pm EDT. Register [here](#) by April 15.

The Decisive Decade: Reducing Value Chain Emissions to Achieve Science-Based Targets – April 22

This webinar will explore how companies are setting science-based targets to reduce their emissions in line with climate science. Achieving such goals requires companies to identify their most significant emissions reduction leverages across their value chains. While some companies have begun piloting approaches to reduce Scope 3 emissions, action in this area remains fragmented and limited. The webinar will take place April 22 at 11am EDT. Register [here](#).

Climate Action: Adopting a Regenerative Strategy – April 30

It's been reported that a regenerative approach to

Work from Home Green Tips

Since many of us have now moved to working from home, we want to try to make sure we are maintaining healthy habits both for ourselves and for the planet! Here are our top tips for how to stay green while working from home.

(If you follow us on Instagram, these may look familiar)



1. **Adjust your thermostat to save energy and money.** Adjusting your thermostats will help you save energy! We suggest 68-70 for heat settings and 74-76 for cool settings. Remember you can throw on a sweatshirt if you are chilly or turn on a fan and open a window if you get a little toasty. As an added bonus, you will save money on your next energy bill!
2. **Use Natural Light.** Natural light is good for your health and the environment. Turn off your lights and open all your blinds to let in natural light while you work or read. You'll save energy at the same time!
3. **Cut down on waste.** While working from home, try to reduce waste and recycle as much as possible. Get creative with reusing materials you have in your house. Don't forget to repurpose leftovers into new meals to reduce food waste!
4. **Cook a vegetarian meal.** As you are getting creative with cooking, consider vegetarian meals. Vegetarian meals are less carbon intensive than meat and better for the environment. Click [here](#) for some eco-friendly suggestions!
5. **Unplug it.** Did you know some devices use energy even when they are turned off? When you aren't using your chargers or other devices with permanent lights or displays, unplug them to save energy and money on your electric bill!

Kopstain and Breggin to co-chair Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Committee

forests, water and land can represent 28% of carbon savings by 2028.

Companies are realizing that one cost-effective way of tackling the climate crisis is by restoring, regenerating and protecting the biodiversity of the planet. But companies are helping reverse climate change through scalable regenerative strategies. To help you understand the latest regenerative strategies to climate action join the free online webinar Tuesday, April 30 at 10am EDT. Register [here](#).

Absolute Zero: A Climate Strategy for Business Resilience – May 5

Join Quantis and partners as they unveil the latest in science-backed sustainability strategies. Absolute Zero is a keystone concept for supporting a stable long-term strategy for sustainable model change. You will come away with an understanding of: The nuances between (and the interconnectivity of) Net Zero, Science-based Targets and Absolute Zero; The elements of a credible, science-based strategy; Why thinking about long-term business model



Vanderbilt University Vice Chancellor for Administration Eric Kopstain and Vanderbilt Law School lecturer Linda Breggin, a senior attorney with the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., and project director for the Nashville Food Waste Initiative,

have been named co-chairs of the Nashville Sustainability Advisory Committee. Mayor John Cooper announced the formation of the committee during its inaugural meeting on Jan. 9.

The Committee will provide advice on a range of sustainability issues and review active proposals as they are being advanced and implemented by the Mayor and Metro Council through legislation, executive orders, policy changes and practices. The Committee will start by advising and supporting the City’s commitment pursuant to the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) to develop a Climate Action Plan for the city of Nashville. Read the full article [here](#).

US colleges, universities contract for renewables in sustainability push



Vanderbilt University and the College of William & Mary, in separate announcements in January, became two more of a steadily growing number of U.S. colleges and universities to

obtain at least a portion of their campus energy needs through long-term power purchase agreements for electricity from renewable resources.

In some ways, colleges and universities are like any other corporate purchaser of energy looking for a stable, affordable supply that can contribute to the organization’s sustainability goals. However, colleges and universities have additional constituencies and motivations to satisfy.

“The X factor is, obviously, the students,” said Kyle Harrison, sustainability analyst at BloombergNEF. Read the full article [here](#).

change is the path any company can start with in their sustainability journey. The webinar will take place May 5 at 11am EDT. Register [here](#).

Limiting Temperature Rise to 1.5 Degrees: Roles for Investors, Companies, and Policymakers – May 5

With new awareness of the systemic risks if global temperatures rise above 1.5 , investors, companies and policymakers have begun making commitments to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. In this session, participants will: Explore how major asset owners decided to commit to net-zero portfolios; Compare corporate strategies to set and meet ambitious carbon reduction goals; Evaluate the critical role of policymakers in enabling deep carbon emissions reductions. The webinar will take place May 5 at 11am EDT. Register [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.

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:



Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
Vanderbilt®, Vanderbilt University®, V Oak Leaf Design®, Star V Design® and Anchor Down® are trademarks of The Vanderbilt University. ©2020 Vanderbilt University. All rights reserved.