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November 2019

Happy Halloween, and don't forget to [capture all of the energy vampires](#) in your dorm, home, and office to save some energy! After you have had your fill of candy, ghosts, and ghouls, come visit us at one of the many events in November. Former President Al Gore is visiting Vanderbilt on November 20 and the Commons Unplugged Green Forum on November 5 and Green Fair on November 7 are open for all! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the FutureVU Sustainability [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. Have a spooky and safe Halloween, a sustainable November, and a tasty Thanksgiving!

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

Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies & Human Rights – October 31

Join the Energy, Environment and Land Use Program as they welcome Wil Burns, Co-Director, Institute for Carbon Removal Law & Policy, American University, School of International Service for a talk: "Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies and the Potential Role of Human Rights." This event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Hyatt Room of Vanderbilt Law School from 12-1pm.

Annual Commons Unplugged Week celebrates sustainability

The sixth annual Commons Unplugged environmental awareness week, from Sunday, November 3 to Saturday, November 9 will celebrate sustainability, natural resource conservation and energy conservation through various events focusing on Vanderbilt's first-year student population.



Throughout the week, first-year students will compete in a residence hall energy conservation contest to earn points in the year-long competition; the Commons Cup. The week will include three events that are open to the entire Vanderbilt Community and that the first-year students will earn Commons Cup points for attending: The Green Activity, the Green Forum, and the Green Fair.

- The Green Activity: Sunday, November 3 from 4:30-6:00pm, Commons Center MPR – First-year students will take part in a green activity for their house team.
- The Green Forum: Tuesday, November 5 from 3:00-4:00pm, Commons Center MPR – Join us for a lecture featuring Vanderbilt's sociology professor Dr. Zdravka Tzankova as she discusses how individual actions and individual consumer choices can make measurable positive differences when it comes to solving larger environmental problems.
- The Green Fair: Thursday, November 7 from 5:00-7:00pm, Commons Center Atrium – Visit the Green Fair to meet with the organizations that make Vanderbilt and Nashville more sustainable!

Read more [here](#).

Al Gore to hold '24 Hours of Reality' global climate crisis presentation at Vanderbilt

Lunch will be served.
Learn more [here](#).

Nashville Tree Foundation Fall Kickoff Tree Planting Event – November 2

The Nashville Tree Foundation is having a Fall Kickoff Tree Planting event in for 3 Hermitage schools. SPEAR is organizing a team to plant at Dupont – Hadley Middle School (register [here](#))! Other volunteer opportunities are available from 9am-12pm. Register [here](#).

Where Hope Meets the Streets: a talk by Stephanie Stuckey – November 4

Stephanie Stuckey, the Sustainability Services Coordinator at Southface Institute and the former Chief Resilience Officer for the city of Atlanta, will be talking about why cities are at the forefront of the climate resilience movement. The talk will be at 2pm at the Vanderbilt Law School's Alexander Room. Learn more [here](#).

Tour of Nashville's Wastewater Treatment Plant – November 4

Nashville is holding a 1-hour walking tour of the



Former Vice President Al Gore will return to Vanderbilt University Nov. 20 for a global conversation on the climate crisis and its solutions. The presentation—part of a worldwide event called “24

Hours of Reality: Truth in Action,” led by Gore and The Climate Reality Project, which he founded and chairs—will be in partnership with the Vanderbilt Chancellor’s Lecture Series.

The climate crisis presentation at Vanderbilt will be one of thousands happening around the world that day. Climate Reality Leaders previously trained by Gore will hold public presentations and conversations on the topic in schools, community centers, workplaces and many more venues.

Gore has longstanding ties to Vanderbilt. He was a student in the Graduate School’s Department of Religious Studies from 1971 to ’72. He also was a law student from 1974 to ’76 before leaving to run for Congress. Last year he was a guest lecturer at an undergraduate political science class.

Interim Chancellor and Provost Susan R. Wenthe will host the free event in Langford Auditorium. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with the program beginning at 6 p.m. Seats are available to the public on a first-come basis, but an R.S.V.P. is required. Read more [here](#).

Sustainability efforts must address social inequalities first, environmental justice scholar says

Robert Bullard, an award-winning author and distinguished professor of urban planning and

environmental policy at Texas Southern University, described the economic and racial disparities inherent in



Whites Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Register [here](#) to learn how Metro Water services reclaims and cleans contaminated water from residential and commercial sewage to return it to the river! Tours will be held 9-10am and 2:30-3:30pm.

Sustainability in Fashion: Challenges and Proposed Solutions – November 5

Van Hoang, a sustainable womenswear designer based in Nashville, is hosting an event to discuss the environmental impacts of fashion industry and how action must be taken to foster sustainable patterns of consumption and use. The event will be held at Alfred Williams & Company in Nashville from 7-9:30pm. Learn more [here](#).

Kitchen Table Series: How Does Climate Change Affect Women? – November 14

The Women’s Center is hosting their next Kitchen Table Series in Sarratt 363 at 5pm. Climate change affects millions of people worldwide on a daily basis, especially those who live in impoverished conditions.

environmental issues before a packed audience in Wyatt Center Rotunda Oct. 1. Bullard, known as the “father of environmental justice,” spoke at Vanderbilt as part of a collaboration between the Chancellor’s Lecture Series and the Dean’s Diversity Lecture Series at Vanderbilt Peabody College of education and human development.

Bullard’s lecture, “The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice,” explored how racism and classism have created significant environmental and land-use inequities in community development and public policy. Prior to his lecture, Bullard met with Vanderbilt students and faculty, as well as students and faculty from Tennessee State University, Fisk University and Middle Tennessee State University and members of the Nashville community.

Bullard’s 18 books address topics such as sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, climate justice, community resilience, regional equity and more. He previously served as dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. He also founded the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University and the HBCU Climate Change Consortium.

Read more [here](#).

Campus Dining staff member named Greenest Commodore on Campus



Suzanne Herron, the sustainability coordinator for Campus Dining, has been named the 2019 Greenest Commodore on Campus.

Herron’s achievement was celebrated at the Vanderbilt vs. Missouri Homecoming game on Oct. 19 with a catered tailgate event, tickets to the game, a special prize of Vandy merchandise and an on-field award presentation. Accepting the award on Herron’s behalf was Don Jackson, assistant director of Campus Dining.

Since women and girls make up 70% of the world’s poor population, they are the most at risk to the impacts of climate change. Discuss the implications of climate change on women and vulnerable populations. Dinner will be provided. Read more [here](#).

Nashville Civic Design Center Annual Luncheon – November 15

The Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC) will be holding its Annual Luncheon from 11:30am-1pm at Music City Center. The luncheon will feature Emilio Cabrero, an architect and designer, as the keynote speaker and highlight projects in Nashville that illustrate how the city is moving forward. Read more [here](#).

Global Climate Crisis Presentation by Al Gore – November 20

Former Vice President Al Gore is coming to Vanderbilt on November 20 for a global conversation on the climate crisis and its solutions in partnership with the Chancellor’s Lecture Series. This presentation will be a part

Herron was recognized for her leadership in Campus Dining’s “No. More. Plastic.” initiative to eliminate single-use plastic water and soda bottles from campus dining facilities; for her efforts to give a reusable bottle to each undergraduate student and build more hydration stations around campus; for heading up the reusable to-go container pilot program; for installing food waste tracking technology that helps Vanderbilt eliminate food waste from its dining facilities; and for reducing food waste through composting and the use of the ORCA machine, which transforms food waste into liquid waste water. Read more [here](#).

of “24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action,” a worldwide event led by Gore and The Climate Reality Project. Doors will open at 5pm and the program will begin at 6pm at the Langford Auditorium. Read more [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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