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February 2020

February is a time we spend showing our love for the people around us, but don't forget to show love to the earth this month! In support of our carbon neutral by 2050 goal, Vanderbilt is excited to announce a one-of-a-kind renewable energy partnership with NES and TVA. There are many ways you can share your love for sustainability, you can sign up for the Sustainability Leaders program below or share with us your sustainable actions across campus for a chance to win the title of "Greenest Commodore." Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [FutureVU Sustainability website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. We hope you have a February full of the people and things you love!

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The Climate is Changing – February 5

Jonathan Gilligan, co-author of *Beyond Politics: The Private Governance Response to Climate Change*, will share creative ideas for reducing carbon emissions that can apply to households as well as businesses. Learn how environmentally friendly actions can reduce climate change and save you money. This event will take place February 5th at 6pm at the Warner Park Nature Center. Learn more [here](#).

Vanderbilt commits to first-of-its-kind renewable energy partnership with TVA, NES



Vanderbilt University has entered into a pioneering agreement with the [Tennessee Valley Authority](#) and [Nashville Electric Service](#) to procure [off-site large-scale renewable energy](#) to help mitigate the campus' greenhouse gas emissions. The 20-year agreement will [support Vanderbilt's goal](#) to power its campus entirely through renewable energy and become carbon neutral by the year 2050.

The renewable power will come from a solar farm to be built in Bedford County, Tennessee, by Nashville-based [Silicon Ranch Corporation](#), the U.S. solar platform for Shell and one of the largest independent solar power producers in the country. The new solar farm will supply up to 35 megawatts (MWAC) of renewable energy, an amount sufficient to offset approximately 70 percent of Vanderbilt's annual indirect greenhouse gas emissions from purchased electricity.

Vanderbilt is the first customer to partner with a local power company on this type of agreement in the seven-state TVA region. It is also the first agreement finalized under the TVA's new Green Invest program. Read more [here](#).

Join FutureVU Sustainability Leaders and help foster a sustainable campus

Downtown Public Listening Session – February 18

The Mayor's Office of Transportation will be hosting a public listening session focused on the future of public transportation in Nashville. As effective transportation becomes a greater priority, the Mayor's Office is looking towards the Vanderbilt community for input. Join the Vanderbilt group that will be attending this listening session on February 18th at 11:30am. Learn more [here](#).

Tatiana Schlossberg Lecture – February 19

Journalist Tatiana Schlossberg will speak on the subject of her book, *Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have*, sharing her knowledge of how our everyday practices connect to climate change, from our jeans to our online streaming service. This lecture will take place on February 19th at 12pm in the Bennett-Miller Room of the Vanderbilt Law School. Learn more [here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY LEADER

FutureVU»»»

As part of Vanderbilt's commitment to achieving zero waste by the year 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office is launching a new program—Sustainability Leaders—to improve sustainability outcomes on campus through culture change, education and the facilitation of actionable goals. Sustainability Leaders will act as peer mentors to foster a community that raises awareness of sustainability initiatives and sustainable behavior change practices.

The program is open to any undergraduate or graduate student interested in promoting sustainability on campus or any faculty or staff member interested in promoting sustainability within their academic department or administrative office. Read more and signup [here](#).

Spring 2020 Greenest Commodore on Campus



[Waste Management Inc.](#), the Vanderbilt [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) (SEMO) and [Vanderbilt Athletics](#) are looking for the greenest group on campus for this year's Vanderbilt Basketball Sustainability Competition.

Recycling, composting, using a reusable water bottle, taking alternative transportation and using energy efficient products are some of the many ways you can be sustainable on campus.

Tag FutureVU Sustainability on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) with a picture or image of what you do to make campus more sustainable before February 14th for a

Surviving Graduate School: Jobs Prospects for Masters and PhD STEM Students – February 24

Ruth Schemmer, Assitant Dean of Career Development, will speak about job prospects for STEM students. She will discuss statistics on academic jobs, possible industry and government jobs, and alternate career paths. This event will occur at 12:10pm on February 24th in the Stevenson Library. Learn more [here](#).

Society of Women Engineers FutureVU Impact – March 18

The Society of Women Engineers will be holding a presentation with a guest speaker to discuss the impact of FutureVU on our campus. The meeting will focus on the engineering design plan behind the many projects that make up FutureVU, as well as how students play a role in its efforts and the move towards greater environmental sustainability. Meeting will be held in Featheringill Hall from 5:30-6:30pm. Read more [here](#).

chance to win the grand prize! The winning post will receive a private suite catered with Chick-fil-A for 20 friends at the Vanderbilt vs. Missouri Men's Basketball Game on Wednesday, February 26th. Think Green and Anchor Down!

Annual report on campus sustainability efforts now available

Vanderbilt University greenhouse gas emissions have dropped 7 percent per square foot



compared to FY17-18, and 18.5 percent compared to CY16. The finding is among those showcased in the [annual sustainability report](#) released today by [FutureVU Sustainability](#) in the Division of Administration.

"The achievements highlighted in this report reflect the work of hundreds of faculty, staff and students in the Vanderbilt community," Director of the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office Andrea George said.

"It clearly demonstrates that collaboratively working together towards the university's carbon neutrality goal can help us make substantial progress. While we have made impressive strides during the last year, there is still much work to be done. We want to change the culture around campus and each member of the Vanderbilt community can help do that," she said. Read more [here](#).

Ecology and Economics Conference: Liberating People and Planet – March 19-21

Join the Divinity School as they talk about the exploitation of people and the planet, and the links it has to religion, economics, and ecology. With the help of an international group of scholars and activists, this conference will put these three areas of study into conversation to investigate this exploitation from different perspectives, in order to find new analyses and solutions. This conference will take place from March 19th – 21st at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. Learn more and 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.

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