

**SustainVU**  
*Growing Responsibly*

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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### **Sustainability Leadership Breakfast: Human Health & Transparency – November 2**

Join [USGBC Tennessee](#) for the Sustainability Leadership Breakfast focusing on human health and transparency, hosted by the International Interior Design Association Tennessee Chapter at Houston Station from 8:00am-12:30pm. Keynote Speaker Liz York will highlight the connection between buildings and their impact on the environment and public health. Read more [here](#).

### **Vandy Cooks: “Happy Hour” – November 3**

Happy Halloween! We are excited to announce that the hard work of all the ghouls and goblins here at Vandy have resulted in our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions having dropped 11% in one year, 27% from the peak in 2008, 35% per gross square foot of building space, and 45% per research dollar. This year’s GHG inventory report captures 10 years of data and begins to show the impact of the conversion of the Vanderbilt power plant to natural gas. A big ole thank you to everyone who did their part to conserve energy on campus to reach this reduction, and let’s all keep up the great work! In that vein...if you have an idea of how to make campus more sustainable or save energy, Vanderbilt Green Fund applications are now open. It may be 86 deg outside today, but it is almost the holidays so don’t forget to check out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) for tips to power down and make your holidays more sustainable. Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page. Have a spooky and safe Halloween, a sustainable November and a scrumptious Thanksgiving!

[Rooted Community Health](#), [Vanderbilt Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#), [Vanderbilt Dietetics](#), the [Eos Project](#), and the [Vanderbilt Osher Center for Integrative Medicine](#) will be hosting a collaborative lecture series beginning in November! The first event on November 3 will be a hands-on cooking event featuring fall produce from local farmers. Join the class to learn how to prepare healthy appetizers, take home recipes, and sample the prepared food! The event will be part of the “Vandy Cooks” series and will take place in the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center Demonstration Kitchen from 5:30-6:30pm. Area farmers will be present to speak about local food in Nashville. There are only 25 spaces available, so please RSVP for the event [here](#).

### **Shaul Cohen: Can there be common ground? – November 3**

Shaul Cohen, Associate Professor of the Geography department at the University of Oregon, will give a lecture entitled “Can there be common ground? Environment, identity and community in Palestine-Israel.” The lecture will be held in Garland 101 at 6pm and is co-sponsored by the Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Read more [here](#).

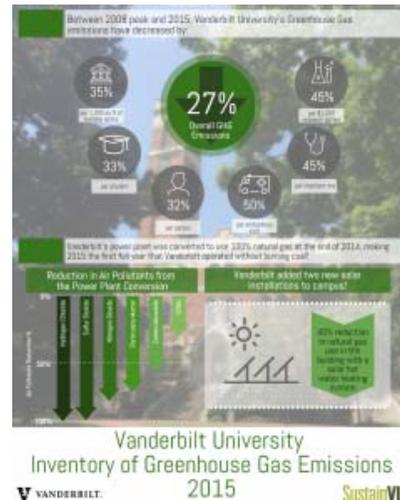
### **Miles Barr: Invention, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship Lecture – November 9**

Andrea George, Director  
Sustainability and Environmental Management Office  
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## **Vanderbilt greenhouse gas emissions down 11 percent in one year**

To celebrate Campus Sustainability Month in October, Vanderbilt's Facilities organization has released an updated [inventory](#) of the university's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the past decade, 2005 to 2015.



GHG emissions dropped 11 percent in one year and 27 percent from the 2008 peak. When Vanderbilt's significant growth in square footage, students, patient care, and research dollars is taken into account, GHG emissions have been reduced by almost 35 percent per gross square foot of building space and by 45 percent per research dollar since 2008.

The inventory report captures an important milestone in Vanderbilt's energy history- 2015 was the first year that Vanderbilt University's co-generation power plant was fueled entirely by natural gas.

The conversion of the plant has increased its operational efficiency while also contributing to significant environmental benefits. GHG emissions from the power plant have decreased 26% from the plant that burned coal pre-conversion in 2013 to the post-conversion plant fueled entirely by natural gas in 2015. Emissions of hazardous air pollutants have also been reduced significantly as well; hydrogen chloride by 100%, sulfur dioxide by 99%, nitrogen dioxide by 83%, particulates by 74%, and carbon monoxide by 56%. Further gains in emission reductions are expected in future years as the plant settles into maximum operational efficiency. Read more [here](#).

Miles Barr, founder and CEO of Ubiquitous Energy and a highly-recognized solar energy leader, will be giving a lecture on November 9 at 2:10pm in the auditorium of the Engineering and Science Building. A reception will follow at 3pm in the Wond'ry. Barr will discuss this process and the interplay between invention, engineering, and entrepreneurship using his experience launching Ubiquitous Energy as a case study.

Read more [here](#).

### **World on Wednesdays: 'Water and Food Security in Sri Lanka and United States' – November 9**

World on Wednesdays (WoW) is a recurring lunch lecture series held in Sarratt 325 from 12-1pm. What does the United States have in common with Sri Lanka, a small island nation in the Indian Ocean? Quite a bit actually! Similar agricultural pressures face both nations – from climate change to urbanization – which is prompting them to produce more food, while using less water. Read more [here](#).

### **Power of Ten Summit: Local Roots, Shared Vision – November 9**

Cumberland Region Tomorrow's POWER OF TEN Regional Summit returns this year with an exciting new program format and location. Join prominent community and business leaders at the Music City Center in downtown Nashville for an in-depth look at the impacts from effective

## **Vanderbilt Green Fund applications now open!**



Have a sustainability idea that needs funding? [Applications](#) for The Vanderbilt Green Fund are now open!

The Vanderbilt Green Fund, established in 2011 by members of

SPEAR and VSG, is a fund set aside for sustainability projects proposed by students. This student-run process allocates \$150,000 to innovative and educational ideas that make Vanderbilt more environmentally friendly. Optional first drafts will be due November 18th, and the Green Fund will host two application workshops in early November to provide assistance with these. **Final proposals are due January 23.** Read more [here](#).

## **Chancellor's Town Hall on October 28 discussed transportation as it impacts Vanderbilt**

Internal and external forces shaping the future of transportation on the Vanderbilt campus and in the larger Nashville community was the



focus of a town hall discussion hosted by [Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos](#) on Friday, Oct. 28, from 2:10-4:10 p.m. Specific focus of discussion was how to reduce the impact of parking lots and single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) on campus.

The town hall was part of [FutureVU](#), the university's campus land use planning process now underway. In addition to Zeppos, [Vice Chancellor for Administration Eric Kopstain](#) spoke about FutureVU and specifically about the transportation challenges and opportunities the plan will aim to address. Read more [here](#).

## **Slay Energy Vampires this Halloween**

regional collaboration from 10am-3pm. Read more [here](#).

## Nutrition Workshop: Spice it Up – November 16

Add some spice to your life and your meals when you attend this month's [nutrition workshop](#). Cooler weather is naturally a time to incorporate more warming spices into your meals. Join the workshop at the [Nashville Farmers' Market](#) at 6pm for a cooking demo where you'll learn about the health benefits of spices from around the world and how to use them in your meal preparation. Read more [here](#).

## PechaKucha: It's Not Easy Being Green – November 16

Join [Nashville Civic Design Center](#) at [oneC1TY](#) for PechaKucha Night, It's Not Easy Being Green: Challenges of Sustainable Design. At this Pechakucha, similar to a TED Talk, there will be presentations on various green infrastructure topics, and the challenges behind creating sustainable buildings. Doors open at 5:30pm and presentations start at 6pm. Read more [here](#).

## Bicycle Maintenance Open House – November 17

Join [Walk Bike Nashville](#) at their new East Nashville office for a workshop geared toward basic bicycle repair and maintenance, such as identifying problem noises, fixing flat tires, oiling your chain, adjusting your brakes, and adjusting your derailleur (if you don't know what that is, they're here to



As little ghosts and ghouls prepare to come out in search of Halloween treats, be sure you don't have any silent menaces lurking around your office or home tricking you into using more energy!

Energy vampires are electronic devices that slowly suck energy when they are turned off but still plugged in. They provide no useful function in this state but still waste energy and money. Individually, each device uses only small amounts of electricity, but added together, these devices are often responsible for 10% of an average home's energy bill. These small phantom loads add up to a significant energy demand when multiplied across the thousands of students, faculty, and staff on Vanderbilt's campus each day. Read more [here](#).

## Remember to power down before Thanksgiving Break

Vanderbilt community members who are going to be away from their residence hall, office or home for an extended period of time over Thanksgiving



break should remember to power down before they leave. Doing so is a great way to reduce energy consumption and its impact on the environment.

Take some simple steps to help conserve energy while you are away:

- Turn off lights in your work space when you leave, even if only for a short period of time.
- Turn off lights to common areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, break rooms, classrooms and conference rooms when you leave.
- Turn off office equipment.
- Set thermostat settings to 68-70 degrees.
- In laboratory spaces, close fume hood sashes when not in use or when the lab is closed over the break.

Read more [here](#). Check out our [Holiday Greening Guide](#) for more ideas on how to have a sustainable holiday season!

**Follow us on our social media accounts!**

help!). Drop by any time between 5:30pm and 7:30pm to learn from their expert instructors. Read more [here](#).

## ReLeafing Nashville Day – November 19

Join Lightning 100 and [Nashville Tree Foundation](#) for an annual tree planting that takes place every year the weekend before Thanksgiving. Learn how to plant and care for your own trees, while also joining forces with [Team Green Adventures](#) to make Nashville a greener community to live in! Participants will meet at 8:30am at IT Creswell Middle School. Read more [here](#).



We have added more accounts to our social media arsenal!

Here are more ways you can connect with us online:

- [Facebook @SustainVU](#)
- [Instagram @SustainVUVanderbilt](#)
- [Twitter @SustainVU](#)
- [Google+ @Vanderbilt SustainVU](#)



For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 322-2057.

