

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and
Princeton Review
Date: March 1, 2023
Subject: AASHE STARS Letter of Support

Vanderbilt University is honored to participate in the Princeton Review Green Colleges ranking through the AASHE STARS reporting tool.

In 2019, the university set a goal to power its campus entirely through renewable energy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Several efforts have made significant strides toward this goal. While the university continues to push innovation on many fronts, it identified a near-term opportunity to work with Climate Vault and use the cap-and-trade market—which is designed to limit harmful emissions—to accelerate its impact, allowing Vanderbilt to become the first member of the Association of American Universities to achieve carbon neutrality. In Spring 2021, Vanderbilt University began this collaboration with Climate Vault which allows the university to address the full extent of its carbon footprint for FY20 and FY21, achieving carbon neutrality decades ahead of its initial goal of the year 2050. The initiative effectively removes carbon pollution permits from regulated carbon markets while simultaneously stimulating research into emerging carbon removal technologies.

Vanderbilt is also a large-scale renewable energy leader within the Tennessee Valley region through a bold community partnership with TVA and the Nashville Electric Service launching TVA's inaugural Green Invest program to develop large-scale solar energy in middle TN. This collaboration resulted in the groundbreaking in January 2022 for the Vanderbilt One solar project in nearby Bedford County which is opening in spring 2023. The Green Invest collaboration developed by Vanderbilt serves as a model for other organizations, and Vanderbilt was awarded the 2021 TN Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for this initiative.

Vanderbilt University is serving as the host campus for the Clinton Global Initiative University annual meeting on March 3–5, 2023. The gathering is an opportunity for students from around the world to collaborate with influential leaders, experts and innovators on solving humanity's most pressing challenges including climate change, reproductive rights for girls and women, protecting human rights, health equity, and more.

Vanderbilt is also advancing sustainability through the development of on-site clean energy, decreasing the carbon footprint from vehicles, developing more green spaces on campus, reducing consumption and waste generation and sustainable buildings and infrastructure investments.

We are excited to provide the attached report highlighting these innovative and impactful efforts improving the sustainability of Vanderbilt and our local region as well as our progress over the years.

Thank you to AASHE for your tireless efforts furthering sustainability and supporting the university community!

Sincerely,



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