

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and Princeton Review
From: Andrea George, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Management
Date: March 4, 2021
Subject: AASHE STARS Letter of Support

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

Beginning in Spring 2021, Vanderbilt University began a collaboration with the nonprofit organization Climate Vault that allows the university to address the full extent of its carbon footprint now, achieving carbon neutrality decades ahead of its initial goal. The initiative effectively removes carbon pollution permits from regulated carbon markets while simultaneously stimulating research into emerging carbon removal technologies.

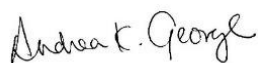
In 2019, the university set a goal to power its campus entirely through renewable energy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Several large efforts are already underway to make significant strides toward this goal. While the university continues to push action and innovations on several fronts, it has 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 it to become the first member of the Association of American Universities to achieve carbon neutrality.

Vanderbilt is also a large-scale renewable energy leader within the Tennessee Valley region with a bold community partnership with TVA and the Nashville Electric Service for solar energy that serves as a model for other institutions.

Additional efforts on campus and in the Nashville community around sustainability include on-site clean energy, decreased carbon footprint from vehicles, more green spaces on campus, reduced waste consumption and investments in sustainable infrastructure.

The attached report details these efforts and many more related to improving sustainability at Vanderbilt and our progress over the years. The report has been thoroughly reviewed for accuracy.

Sincerely,



Andrea K. George PhD, PMP, CHMM
Director, Sustainability and Environmental Management Office