

AMERICAN STUDIES

Sustainability Project



Final Report of The Sustainability Project

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American Studies Sustainability Project Final Report

The 2011-2012 academic school year marked a series of speakers, courses, road trips, films, and conferences, which together formed the Program in American Studies Sustainability Project. Greater than the contribution of any individual event, the year-long proceedings heightened the atmosphere of environmental awareness on Vanderbilt's campus. Our ultimate goal for this year of programming was to create a campus-wide conversation that would embolden Vanderbilt's efforts toward sustainability while deepening our understanding of what we are working toward.

Overview

The Sustainability Project actively pursued projects that could bring students, faculty, and staff together from across the campus. These projects ranged from Gabriel Warren's "Polar Probing" exhibit (with the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery) to Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom's lecture on collective action and the commons (with the Department of Political Science, Medicine Health and Society, and the Center for the Study of Democratic Institution) to the Eco-Rolling Seminar to Hindman, Kentucky (with the Office of Active Citizenship and Service) to courses on Energy and Environmental Law, Eco-Conscious Travel, and Water and Social Justice in Bangladesh. The Cumberland Project, a cross-disciplinary faculty development program organized with the Center for Teaching, created a space for faculty from across the University to work together as they redesigned or developed new courses on sustainability-related themes.

The Sustainability Project also welcomed input from student groups. As a result, some of our most rewarding collaborations were with students who found in the Sustainability Project a way to bring their ideas to the larger campus community. Among these projects were the Green Screen film series (with the Alternative Energy Club), which featured six films and discussions during the Fall semester, the Community Garden (with Vanderbilt Initiative for Vegetarian Awareness), a trip to the Keystone Pipeline protests in Washington D.C. (organized by SPEAR), and Joe Bozich's lecture on sustainable business models (with Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence).

The Sustainability Project also connected Vanderbilt to Nashville's diverse sustainability community. Events like our keynote lecture from Bill McKibben, the Green Bag Luncheon Series (with the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office), and a community forum on the Backyard Chicken Bill drew audiences from our larger community.

The American Studies Sustainability Project was directed by Teresa A. Goddu, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Program in American Studies, and coordinated by Derrick R. Spires, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of English. It was administered by Gabriela Luis, Program Administrator for American Studies and Film Studies. The Sustainability Project was generously funded by the Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science Fant Fund.

Core Programming

We focused our programming in three key ways: first, we invited a number of important speakers to share their expertise with the larger Vanderbilt community on issues related to sustainability; second, we devoted significant energy toward building the curriculum across the University on sustainability (both by coordinating courses that already existed and creating new courses through the Cumberland Project); third, we worked with units from across the University to encourage them to incorporate sustainability into their programming for the year.

Speakers

Bill McKibben provided the keynote address in early September at the Blair School of Music. Mr. McKibben is one of the nation's leading environmentalists, as well as a best-selling author and renowned 'green' journalist. Speaking to a crowd of three hundred, Mr. McKibben discussed the role of climate change in the future. McKibben explained that young people working through social media were creating the momentum for his organization 350.org, a global grassroots movement fighting to solve the climate crisis, and argued for the importance of coalitions that connected global and local concerns. Mr. McKibben also spent time over lunch with 25 Vanderbilt students, discussing current environmental issues, including the XL Keystone Pipeline, 350.org and other touchstones of environmental activism. He described climate change as the first real test for global civilization. He answered students' questions about grassroots activism and movement building more generally. "We need to think in terms of stories," he suggested, combining good story telling with data analysis. He concluded his time at Vanderbilt with a catered dinner from local 'green' restaurant, Tayst. Faculty and administrators Teresa Goddu, Cecelia Tichi, Carolyn Dever, Andrea George, Joe Bandy, Dana Nelson, John Ayers, George Hornberger, Michael Vandenberg, Amanda Little and David Wood joined Mr. McKibben for dinner at the Robert Penn Warren Center.

The Sustainability Project also supported an interdisciplinary graduate seminar, American Studies 300, entitled "The Commons: History, Sustainability, Activism." The course revolved around a speaker series, one for each three-week unit. The public speaker series featured internationally renowned experts on the Commons, including MacArthur Fellows and a Nobel Laureate. The speakers who lectured publicly and visited our seminar included: **Lewis Hyde**, poet, essayist, translator, and cultural critic with a particular interest in the public life of the imagination; **Peter Gleick**, an internationally recognized water expert, co-founder and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security in Oakland, California; **Elinor Ostrom**, the first woman to win the Nobel Laureate prize in economics for her empirical and theoretical work on actually-existing common pool resource regimes and on game theory. Ostrom passed away shortly after her visit, on June 12, 2012; **David Bollier**, an American activist, writer, and policy strategist.

Finally in the course's last unit, the class embarked on a field trip to study land, environmental, worker and activist commons. They visited the Woodlands Community

Land Trust a residential environmental trust where land is held in common by its residents, and Robinson Forest (southeastern KY), a University of Kentucky facility located in the heart of Appalachia's coal country, and one of the most biodiverse forests remaining in the US.

Sustainability Across the Curriculum

The Sustainability Project began and ended the 2011-2012 year with the Cumberland Project, two two-day course development workshops, each attended by 12 different Vanderbilt professors. The Cumberland Project seeks to incorporate sustainability issues into Vanderbilt courses by fostering discussion between members of different disciplines and by introducing faculty to pedagogical techniques and campus resources related to sustainability. The first day's events were held at the Center for Teaching on Vanderbilt's campus. The second day's events were held at the Dyer Observatory near Radnor Lake. Discussions at both conferences centered on defining sustainability across the curriculum, strategies for interdisciplinary teaching, and incorporating sustainability into pre-existing courses. Through small-group breakout sessions, participants discussed these topics and brainstormed practical ideas for course development. Faculty participants received a \$500 stipend to assist with the redesigning of one or more of their courses to incorporate a sustainability or environmental theme. These two workshops have supported the development of over thirty new and expanded Vanderbilt courses. (For a full report of The Cumberland Project see Appendix A).

The Sustainability Project also coordinated curriculum focused on environmental themes. These courses ranged across fifteen disciplines and included over forty different courses.

Fall 2011

- AMER 115F: Food for Thought (Susan Kevra)
- EES 115F: Sustainability: An Environmental Science Perspective (John Ayers)
- ENGL 211W: Writing for an Endangered World: Representative U.S. Writers Tackle Sustainability (Dana Nelson)
- PHIL 115F: Green Cities (Jonathan Bremer)
- PSY 115F: The Psychology of Sustainability (Leslie Kirby)
- SOC 115F: Sociology of Local Sustainability (David Hess)
- WGS 115F: Environmental Justice (Terrie Spetalnick)

American Studies

- AMER 115F: Food for Thought (Susan Kevra)
- AMER 294: American Studies Workshop: Blue Gold: Water Rights and Wrongs (Cecelia Tichi)
- AMER 295.01: Literature and the Environment in the Americas (Vera Kutzinski)

Earth and Environmental Science

- EES 115F: Sustainability: An Environmental Science Perspective (John Ayers)
- EES 201: Global Climate Change (Jonathan Gilligan)

Engineering

- ENVE 264: Environmental Assessments (Jim Clarke)
- CE 200B: Sustainable Buildings II (Summer) (Lori Troxel)

- CE 200C: Sustainable Buildings III (Fall) (Lori Troxel)

English

- ENGL 211W: Writing for an Endangered World: Representative U.S. Writers Tackle Sustainability (Dana Nelson)
- ENGL 243: Literature and the Environment: Can Poetry Save the Earth? (Dahlia Porter)

Human Organization and Development

- HOD 2690-02 (Undergraduate): Sustainability, Justice, and the City (James Fraser and Jason Adkins)
- HOD 3960-03 (Graduate): Sustainability, Justice, and the City (James Fraser and Jason Adkins)

Law

- LAW 732: Environmental Law (Michael Vandenberg)
- LAW 821: Environmental Annual Review (Michael Vandenberg)

Management

- Sustainability and Social Responsibility in Business (Jim Schorr)
- MGT-423-01: Corporate Strategies for Environmental, Social & Governance Issues (Mark A. Cohen and Jeff Gowdy)

Philosophy

- PHIL 115F: Green Cities (Jonathan Bremer)
- PHIL 274: Ethics and Animals (Joan G. Forry)

Political Science

- PSCI 253: Ethics and Public Policy (Brooke Ackerly)

Psychology

- PSY 115F: The Psychology of Sustainability (Leslie Kirby)

Sociology

- SOC 115F: Sociology of Local Sustainability (David Hess)

Spanish

- SPAN 103: Intensive Elementary Spanish (with sustainability focus) (Chalene Helmuth)

Women's and Gender Studies

- WGS 115F: Environmental Justice (Terrie Spetalnick)

Spring 2012

- HUM 161: Crisis and Creativity (Steven Tepper, Coordinator)

Commons Seminars

- ES 101.01: Energy Choices and Environmental Consequences with a Focus on Nuclear Power (Jim Clarke)
- ES 101.02: Constructing Vanderbilt's Virtual Eco-Village (Doug Fisher)
**Awarded a 2011-2012 Curb Creative Campus Innovation Grant
- SPAN 099.01: Eco-Conscious Travel (Chalene Helmuth)

W-Courses and First-Year Seminars

- HART 260W (proposed): Ancient Landscapes (Betsey Robinson)
- PHIL 239W Moral Problems (Joan G. Forry)
- WGS 115F: Environmental Justice (Terrie Spetalnick)

American Studies

- AMER 297: Senior Project on Sustainability (Teresa Goddu)

- AMER 300: The Commons: History, Sustainability, Activism (Dana Nelson/John Ayers)

Computer Science

- CS 265: Introduction to Database Management Systems (Doug Fisher)

Earth and Environmental Science

- EES 390: Water and Social Justice in Bangladesh (Jonathan Gilligan, Steven Goodbred, Brooke Ackerly)

English

- ENGL 243: Literature, Science and Technology — Green Romanticism: Can Poetry Save the Earth? (Dahlia Porter)
- ENGL 287: Investigative Writing (Amanda Little)
- ENGL 288: Whole Walden (Kate Daniels)

History of Art

- HART 260W: Ancient Landscapes (Betsey Robinson)

Human and Organizational Development

- HOD (TBA): Environmental Knowledge, Risk, and Society (Jim Fraser)

Law

- LAW 761: Energy and Environmental Law (Michael Vandenberg)
- LAW 821: Environmental Annual Review (Michael Vandenberg)

Medicine, Health, and Society

- HMS (TBD): “Global Food Politics” (Beth Conklin)

Philosophy

- PHIL 239W Moral Problems (Joan G. Forry)
- PHIL 273 Environmental Philosophy (Joan G. Forry)

Sociology

- SOC 221: Environmental Inequality and Justice (Joe Bandy)
- SOC 294: Sociology of Health and Environmental Science (David Hess)

Spanish

- SPAN 103: Intensive Elementary Spanish: (Chalene Helmuth)
- SPAN 99: Eco-Conscious Travel (Chalene Helmuth)

Women’s and Gender Studies

- WGS 115F: Environmental Justice (Terrie Spetalnick)

Three Road Trips on Sustainability themes supplemented the traditional curriculum. In the fall, American Studies’ juniors visited the Metro Nashville water treatment plant as a part of Cecelia Tichi’s seminar, “Blue Gold: Waste Rights and Wrongs.” In the spring, Joe Bandy led a “Nashville Environmental Justice” trip across Nashville. Sites included the communities of Edgehill, Bordeaux, North Nashville, and East Nashville. Trip guides included: David Padgett, Associate Professor of Geography at Tennessee State University; Dr. Robert Wingfield, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Fisk University; Sizwe Herring, Executive Director of Earth Matters Tennessee and Urban Agriculture Specialist for Community Food Advocates; Matthew Walker, Organizer, the Community at Bordeaux; and Kimberly Jackson, Doctoral Student at the Institute for Sustainable Practice, Lipscomb University.

Additionally, the Eco-Rolling Seminar Road Trip, sponsored in conjunction with The Office of Active Citizenship and Service, SPEAR, and the Office of the Dean of Students, took place over fall break. This Road Trip focused on the critical issue of the environment and energy through the lens of mountain top removal. Students traveled to Hindman, Kentucky and stayed at the historic Hindman Settlement School, nestled in the Appalachian hills. The trip included panel discussions on community activism, biodiversity, "Ecological philosophy" and the current state of energy and energy alternatives. Students also took a tour of an active mountain top removal site by a coal company as well as a bee hive reclamation site.

The Arts and Science Venture Fund also supported programming to extend the traditional curriculum. The Dean's Office tagged all of its Venture Fund grants for sustainability courses during 2011-2012 academic year. These mini-grants enabled professors to supplement their traditional teaching. For instance, Beth Conklin (Anthropology) used her grant for her Food Politics course, taking students on a trip to visit three local sites exemplifying issues in Nashville's local food system: the downtown Nashville Farmers Market (where students interviewed farmers and local food vendors); Foggy Hollow organic vegetable and fruit farm (where they toured the gardens, learned about horticultural techniques, USDA and EPA programs for small farmers, economic and ecological issues in developing an organic farm operation, and toured a LEED-Platinum-certified home that is the most-sustainable construction in middle Tennessee); and Ecotone Farm (a livestock operation based on biodynamic agriculture, which also included a lecture and discussion on ethical and social issues involved in animal husbandry).

The collective efforts of students and faculty to build the curriculum in sustainability over the year resulted in the creation of a new minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, which will begin in Fall 2012.

Co-sponsorships

The Sustainability Project encouraged interested units to focus their programming for the year on sustainability. As a result, sustainability became a theme that was integrated throughout the year into key programming that occurred across the campus.

Our collaborators included an array of departments, programs, centers, and student groups:

Alternative Energy Club
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Center for Teaching
Climate Change Research Network (CCRN)
Creative Writing Program
CURB, Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES)
Department of English

Department of Philosophy
Department of Political Science
Film Studies
FLiCX and International Lens
Medicine, Health, and Society
Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities
Martha Ingram Rivers Commons
Office of Active Citizenship and Service
Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR)
Sustain VU and The Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO)
Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery
Vanderbilt Initiative for Vegetarian, Awareness (VIVA)
Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and the Environment (VIEE)
Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence (VSN)

Additional programming that occurred through co-sponsorship included:

- “Polar Probing,” Sculpture by Gabriel Warren at the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery, co-sponsored with the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery and the Robert Penn Warren Center. Warren’s sculptures speak to the condition of the planet and are based on his observation of ice and its behavior during his many trips to Antarctica.
- Van Jones, “Rebuild The American Dream: Green Jobs & Beyond,” sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center. Van Jones is an award-winning activist and best-selling author in the area of the environment and jobs. He is currently a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a senior policy advisor at Green for All. This event was the 2011-2012 Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture.
- James L. Wescoat, Jr., “Water and Work in the Mughal Landscape,” co-sponsored by the 2011/12 "Sacred Ecology" Faculty Fellows Program of the Warren Center for the Humanities and the History of Art Department. Wescoat is Aga Khan Professor in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at M.I.T. His research has concentrated on water systems in South Asia and the US from the site to river basin scales. He led the Smithsonian Institution's project titled, "Garden, City, and Empire: The Historical Geography of Mughal Lahore," which resulted in a co-edited volume on *Mughal Gardens: Sources, Places, Representations, Prospects, and The Mughal Garden: Interpretation, Conservation, and Implications* with colleagues from the University of Engineering and Technology-Lahore. More recently, he led an NSF-funded project on “Water and Poverty in Colorado.” He is currently conducting comparative research on international water problems.
- Spring Literary Symposium: “Creative Writing and the Environment,” featuring Alison Hawthorne Deming, author of *Rope* and editor of *THE COLORS OF NATURE: Culture, Identity and the Natural World*, as well as John

Lane, Associate Professor of English and Environmental Studies and Director of the Glendale Shoals Environmental Studies Center, Wofford College. Sponsored by the Gertrude and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers' Series, the Department of English, and the College of Arts and Science.

- Laura Dassaw Walls, co-sponsored by the Department of English. Professor Walls is William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. While her work is based in American literature, centered particularly in Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and American Transcendentalism more generally, she seeks to understand these authors in both transdisciplinary and cosmopolitical contexts, leading to a continuing interest in both British and German writers, philosophers, and scientists. She lectured on her most recent book, *The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America* (Chicago 2009), which traces the Humboldt network from Germany to the Americas in science, literature, culture, and politics.
- Symposium on “Supply and Demand: Barriers to a New Energy Future,” sponsored by the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, Climate Change Research Network, and the Environmental Law Program. The editors of the *Vanderbilt Law Review* chose “Barriers to Renewable Energy” as the topic for their annual Symposium issue and conference. The symposium featured an opening keynote from Robert H. Socolow, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Princeton University; Co-director, The Carbon Mitigation Initiative; and Director, Siebel Energy Grand Challenge, Princeton Environmental Institute. Papers covered issues ranging from incorporating renewable energy into real estate development projects and challenges to creating infrastructure for renewable energy sources to environmental law and fossil fuels and the place of hydroelectric energy in a larger renewable energy strategy.
- Joe Bozich, “A Sustainable Corporate Model: Changing Lives One Shirt at a Time,” organized by the Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence. Bozich is CEO and Chairman of Knights Apparel, the leading supplier of college-logo apparel to American universities. His talk focused on Alta Gracia, a subsidiary of Knights as a model of sustainable corporate practices. Alta Gracia is the only apparel company in the world that pays its workers a living wage, embraces a factory union, and welcomes unrestricted monitoring of its factory by an independent labor rights watchdog.
- Luz Rivera Martinez, “Sowing Struggle: Urban and Rural Social Movements in Tlaxcala, Mexico,” co-sponsored with the Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities, the Center for Latin American Studies, the Vanderbilt Campaign for Fair Food, and the Workers' Dignity Project. Martinez spoke about her 20 years of experience constructing autonomy, organizing outside the electoral system, and resisting free trade. She established CNUC (the National Urban and Peasant Council) in the late 1980s to coordinate resistance to the impending North

American Free Trade Agreement, and today the organization includes thousands of peasant families across the Mexican state of Tlaxcala.

- Sander Katz, “Fermenting Change in Foods, Food Systems, and Society,” sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, in conjunction with ANTH 208. In his talk, Katz discussed how and why food movements are flourishing in communities across America, and previewed ideas from his new book, *The Art of Fermentation*.
- Public Forum about Domesticated Hens, organized by the Urban Chicken Advocates of Nashville (UCAN). Council members, representatives of Metro Health Dept. and Codes Administrators, grassroots backyard hen advocates, and opponents discussed backyard chicken ordinance NO.BL2011-47, the bill allowing residents to raise hens in their backyards. Panelists included: Councilwoman Karen Bennett; Tom Sharp, Policy Director, Metro Nashville Health Dept.; Bill Penn, Assistant Director, Metro Codes Department; And Mary Pat Boatfield, UCAN (Urban Chicken Advocates Of Nashville).
- Land Grab teach-in, organized by Vanderbilt Campaign for Fair Food. This event called for Vanderbilt to invest in sustainable agriculture and to support fair food.
- Symposium: “A Responsible Endowment for Vanderbilt,” organized by the Vanderbilt Responsible Endowments Campaign. The two-part forum featured Anuradha Mittal (Executive Director of the Oakland Institute) and Jeff Furman (Oakland Institute Board and Chair of the Ben & Jerry's Corporate Board), who discussed their research on Vanderbilt’s investment in Africa, and Dan Apfel (Executive Director of the Responsible Endowments Coalition), who described responsible endowment structures at universities across the country.
- “Dimensions of Sustainability: Reading Guide for Peter Gomes’s *The Good Life: Truths that Last in Times of Need*,” 2011-2012 Commons Reading. Joe Bandy, Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching and Affiliated Faculty in Sociology, developed a set of questions relating *The Good Life* to sustainability for use in Vanderbilt Visions sessions. The questions address basic themes in the book and how those themes might be applied to issues of sustainability. The guide can be found on the American Studies Sustainability Project website: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/americanstudies/GoodLife.pdf>.
- “Fall for the Arts,” sponsored by the Martha Ingram Rivers Commons. In support of the campus-wide, yearlong conversation around sustainability issues, The Commons brought environmental artist Juli Schumann to create a group piece, “The Art of Sustainability,” using recycled or found objects in an effort to show our commitment to reducing waste, the economy of repurposing objects, and that beautiful art can be created from materials that would otherwise find their way into the landfill. The project was supported by a Creative Campus Innovation grant from the Curb Center.

- Other Vanderbilt VISIONS and Commons programming linked to the Sustainability Project included:
 - VISIONS Modules: Environment and Sustainability, Climate Change, Thinking Globally; Environment and Sustainability, Sustainability on Campus; and Environment and Sustainability, Tour of the Vanderbilt Power Plant
 - Sutherland House discussion: “Living the Good Life on Our Planet: Editing for Sustainability” with Joan Forry, Department of Philosophy, Dan Morgan, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
 - Sutherland House group viewings of Bill McKibben and Van Jones lectures
 - Sustainability Sunday, a day of games and fun on the various Commons lawns to help reduce energy use by shutting off lights and appliances, sponsored by first-year students in the Psychology of Sustainability Writing Seminar.

- Green Bag Luncheon Series, co-sponsored with the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO). The sessions took place Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm. The eight lectures/workshops were free and open to the Vanderbilt community. Sessions included presentations from the Nashville Farmers’ Market, Health Plus educators, VU Dining, the Vanderbilt Sustainability and Environmental Management Office, and others on topics ranging from cooking with sustainable and local foods and backyard composting to utilities savings at home and at work and sustainable food choices offered by VU Dining.

- SustainVU/SEMO’s Earth Day festivities, including Shade Grown, an open mic/coffeehouse night featuring free shade grown coffee and performances by members of the Vanderbilt community. Collaborators: SEMO, Vanderbilt Dining Services, and the Vanderbilt Institute for Coffee Studies.

- Film screenings on environmental issues, including *O’er The Land*, organized by International Lens, and the “Green Screen” film series organized by the Vanderbilt Alternative Energy Club. Green Screen films included: *The Last Mountain* (2011), *Gasland* (2010), *Crude* (2010), *Waste Land* (2010), and *Queen of the Sun* (2011).

- Student trip to Washington, D.C.: Students from the Vanderbilt Environment group, SPEAR (Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility), traveled to Washington, D.C. in November 2011 to take part in the Keystone XL protest, joining thousands of others in activism on one of the biggest environmental issues of the year.

- Vanderbilt Dining: Annual Farm to Fork, Vanderbilt Dining’s unique FARM to FORK dinner is designed to reconnect Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff to the

source of their food, and to honor and celebrate the relationships with the talented farmers, food artisans, bakers, and chefs that contribute to the local food community.

- A Community Garden co-sponsored with the Vanderbilt Initiative for Vegetarian Awareness.

Budget

The Sustainability Project utilized the \$75,000, generously funded by the College of Arts and Science's Fant fund, for maximum impact. While the Fant Fund served as the core budget for the Sustainability Project—enabling us to bring in an expensive keynote speaker and to run a three-year faculty development workshop—we also supplemented that budget in a number of ways. First, we used the Fant fund as a way to seed collaborations with other units on campus. Second, we utilized our regular American Studies budget as a supplementary fund. The American Studies conference budget, for instance, funded the spring speaker series on the Commons. Third, we encouraged other units to utilize their funds toward this theme. The Robert Penn Warren Center, for instance, focused much of their programming for the year toward this theme. The Sustainability Project budget created the foundation for a broad, campus-wide initiative.

Key expenditures were flagged in this manner: \$25,000 allotted for the McKibben event, \$25,000 for the Cumberland Project (held in 2011, 2012; final conference to be held in 2013), \$25,000 for other events.

Breakdown of expenses:

Bill McKibben event: \$25,928

Cumberland Project, May 2011: \$8,000, including \$500 stipends for each faculty member

Cumberland Project, May 2012: \$8,319, including \$500 stipends for each faculty member

Promotion: \$2,993

Speakers: \$1,000

Co-sponsorship: \$5,740.36

Road Trips: \$2,994.54

With the remaining funds, approximately \$20,000, the Sustainability Project will continue the project into the 2012-13 academic year. The money will fund another iteration of the Cumberland Project, this time focusing on creating a strategic plan for the new minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. We will also host a one-day

conference titled, “Climate Change, Anti-Environmentalism, and American Politics.” Additionally, we will arrange a two-day residential scholar program on the theme “Jobs That Change the World.” This program will feature Billy Parrish, author of *Making Good: Finding Meaning, Money, and Community in a Changing World*, and will introduce Vanderbilt undergraduates to local innovators and entrepreneurs who are shaping new industries that are both for-profit and for the greater good, including those emerging in clean energy, efficiency, electric cars, and infrastructure. Through these programs, we aim to keep the momentum building on campus around the issue of sustainability.

Outcomes

The Sustainability Project engaged students, faculty, and staff from across the campus in a variety of programs and events. The ways in which our programming encouraged people and programs to commit to this crucial issue are hard to quantify in the short term. We are confident, however, that we have planted the seeds for a long-term commitment to this issue on our campus and within our community.

The most visible outcome of this year of programming was the creation of a new minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. This minor, directed by David Hess (Sociology), will begin in fall 2012. The course offerings coordinated by the Sustainability Project and developed within the Cumberland Project will serve as the core curriculum for this new minor. Our focus during the 2012-13 academic year will be to develop a strategic plan for this new minor and to build faculty support for it. By developing the Sustainability Project into an academic minor (and in time a major or program), we see the project as having a long-term institutional impact.

We also plan to report on the project to a national audience so others can learn from our model. Teresa Goddu, Director of the Sustainability Project, has organized a panel for the 2013 MLA on the topic of “Sustainability and Pedagogy,” where she and other members of the Vanderbilt English department faculty will report on the teaching they have done in the project. In addition, Teresa Goddu and Derrick Spires, coordinator of the Sustainability Project, are co-authoring an op-ed on the project for [Inside Higher Education](#) or [The Chronicle of Education](#). Finally, Teresa Goddu and Joe Bandy, co-director of the Cumberland Project, plan to write an article, reflecting on the pedagogical implications of The Cumberland Project after its completion this academic year.

A record of The Sustainability Project (this report and subsequent articles, its website, newsletters, student projects, etc.) will be archived at the Vanderbilt Library and accessible through the American Studies digital archive. This also includes a student project which documented the major events of The Sustainability Project during the fall semester. The project was covered by several Vanderbilt publications, including *MYVU*, *Arts and Science*, and *Vanderbilt View*. The Sustainability Project was also named in *The Princeton Review*, highlighting Vanderbilt’s placement on the ‘Green Honor Roll.’ Copies of press coverage on the project can be found in Appendix B.