

FALL INTO
SUSTAINABILITY



As the weather turns cooler, Socket continues to make his way around Nashville – and the nation – to spread the word about sustainability.

This edition of *theConnection* has all the latest.



Enthusiastic Metro employees explore the Nashville International Airport's geothermal lake and other sustainability features.

MetroConnect

CONNECTING METRO, ONE TOUR AT A TIME

Socket kicked off an exciting new initiative that provides behind-the-scenes tours to Metro employees.

MetroConnect is a new program led by the Department of General Services. It allows Metro employees to explore innovative and sustainable Metro projects and facilities via tours led by fellow Metro employees.

To date, 12 tours have allowed 140 participants to gain insight and appreciation for our city assets and meet and collaborate with peers across departments.



NASHVILLE GOES SOLAR



On August 1, with the summer sun high, **Music City Solar** plugged in. Now individuals and businesses alike can plug into clean, renewable energy through Nashville's first solar park. Music City Solar is the largest solar photovoltaic system in Davidson County, producing an estimated 55 million kilowatt-hours of green energy over its lifetime.

Metro Department of General Services has purchased 510 panels, enough to offset the energy use equivalent of 10 typical homes annually.

[Learn more about this exciting project in Socket's new video.](#)

A TREE GROWS IN NASHVILLE

ONE IN (HALF) A MILLION

On October 3, Mayor Briley, U.S. Senator Bill Frist, M.D., Rev. Sanders and campaign partners planted a tulip poplar tree at the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in North Nashville. This single tree represents the first of 500,000 that **Root Nashville** plans to plant by 2050. The campaign is designed to increase the city's tree canopy and more equitably distribute trees' health and sustainability benefits across all neighborhoods.

Want to help?

[Plant a tree, volunteer, or learn more.](#)





WE WON “MOST IMPROVED”

For the second year in a row, Metro Department of General Services brought home honors from the **U.S. Green Building Council** at its annual IMPACT Tennessee awards ceremony.

As part of an inaugural Benchmarking Challenge, the **Bellevue Branch Library**, managed by the Department of General Services, received the top award for Most Improved Energy Use. Curious how we cut energy costs by \$6,000 annually at Bellevue Library? [Watch the General Services energy team explain how in the video.](#)



Laurel Creech (second from right) with Sustainability Managers from Fort Collins, CO, Plano, TX, and Columbia, MO, who presented about employee engagement programs at the USDN conference.



Jennifer Westerholm presents her poster, "Building a Culture of Sustainability in Nashville, TN" at the BECC conference.

SOCKET ON THE ROAD

Nearly 1,000 conference attendees from across the country had the opportunity to learn about Nashville's Socket outreach program.

This October, Socket staff presented at the **Urban Sustainability Directors Network** annual meeting in Denver, CO and the **Behavior, Energy and Climate Change** conference in Washington, DC. Knowledge exchange with other cities is critical to improving our own performance and providing the best possible service to Nashville's residents and visitors.

SOCKET ALL ABOUT TOWN

Socket has been busy making the rounds at fun and educational events all about town.

From top left, moving clockwise: Socket makes the rounds at Walk to School Day, Celebrate Nashville Festival, Good Neighbor Day Festival, & PARK(ing) Day. Socket was also present at the Urban Runoff 5K, Drive Electric Day, & Nashville Farmer's Market October Night Market recently.





SOCKET'S BLOG SPOT

Stay informed about current sustainability happenings within Metro, and find out how you can be involved.

Our newest blogs feature [Nashville's Emerald Ash Borer Epidemic](#), the [Nashville Connector](#), a new tool to help plan and execute a better work commute, and [Hytech](#), a way to get paid to carpool.



GET IN THE SPIRIT

As the winter holidays draw closer, look for Socket to make appearances at the [Metro Christmas Tree Lighting](#) on Nov 30th and the annual [Nashville Christmas Parade](#) on Dec 1st.