

SUSTAINABILITY MONTH 2023



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY
THROUGH COMMUNITY AND
CONNECTION.



THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Throughout the fall, The Sustainable Agriculture Project welcomes students and members of the community who are interested in learning more about sustainable agriculture to join them for their volunteer hours. 3 days a week, those who volunteer were able to assist with many of the various projects being carried out on the farm. This is a great way for those who are interested to learn about sustainable food systems and organic farming practices, as well as many other topics related to sustainable agriculture.



THE SAP FARMSTAND

In the harvest season, the SAP runs a farm stand on campus every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at which they sell fruit, vegetables, and other goods such as bouquets of flowers and homemade honey that have been produced at the farm. This year, we achieved record sales, with the honey produced by the GVSU beekeepers being the star of the show. All the proceeds from the stand go toward supplies for the SAP and caring for the bees that are kept on the property.

HARVEST PARTY

On October 13th, the Farm Club and the Office of Sustainability Practices celebrated this season's harvest with their annual Harvest Party at The Sustainable Agriculture Project. Students, faculty, and staff were welcome to bring a dish to pass for a potluck. Throughout the farm there were games for everybody to play as well, and everybody has a great time learning more about the farm and the community built around it.



STUDENT PHILANTHROPY WEEK

October 9-16 was Grand Valley's first ever Student Philanthropy Week! Throughout the week, there were several hands-on events serving to educate students on philanthropy and what it means to give back - both financially and through volunteering. Events included a campus cleanup in the ravines, a cash-cab like game, and educational events. Our very own GVSU Beekeepers were selected to be a part of a fun competition between different student organizations on campus to raise money to go towards supplies for their club!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make A Difference Day is an annual day of service celebrated nationally dedicated to encouraging people to make a positive difference in the world. GVSU celebrates this event by transporting students to local community non-profits to participate in service activities. As part of this, a group of students were transported all over the Grand Rapids area and given various opportunities to serve the community.



CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

This October, GVSU hosted the fifth annual Climate Change Education Solutions Summit. During this 2-day virtual and in-person event, hundreds of environmental educators, students, sustainability professionals, and climate activists explored the theme "Connecting Minds for a Sustainable Climate Future."

The event was in partnership with Global Climate Change Week. Through bringing together scientists, educators, business leaders, students, citizens groups, and the public, we were able to share innovative ideas and perspectives on climate change education in Michigan and worldwide and its role in successful climate action.



ZERO WASTE FOOTBALL

Every year, our office partners with other groups from across campus and the community with the goal of trying to ensure that our home football games produce as little waste as possible. We do this through volunteers assisting guests in sorting their waste at the games at the various stations placed around Lubbers Stadium containing recycling bins, composting bins, and landfill bins.

On September 16th, a group of volunteers from The Farm Club, Laker Food Co., and other students came together to successfully divert 546 pounds of waste from the game from landfills.



LAKER FOOD CO.

During sustainability month, Laker Food Co. hosted several events to educate the campus community on sustainability. They kicked off the festivities with a Wipe out Waste event at Fresh Food Co., at which they helped to raise awareness on the environmental impact of food waste. They also hosted several food sampling events at the SAP farmstand to show the ways in which students can make use of the fresh produce harvested from the farm! They also did a sustainability taste cart at which students were able to sample local products, such as Hudsonville ice cream.

THANK YOU!



The Office of Sustainability Practices would like to thank everybody who helped to make celebrating Sustainability possible this month. It has truly been wonderful to see our community come together in immersing themselves and educating themselves on sustainability.

Without your support, participation, and dedication, our mission would be incomplete. We look forward to continuing to facilitate the growth of sustainability knowledge and practices all over the GVSU campus, and we hope to see you around!

Feel free to send us an email or stop by our office anytime!

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Follow us on Instagram to look out for upcoming events and to stay up to date on what is going on in our office at @gvsusustains.