



*Sustainability Week  
Report  
2016*

*Grand Valley  
State University*



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY®**

OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES



## **Sustainability Week 2016 Overview**

The Office of Sustainability Practices revived Sustainability Week this year with several great events. Along with many wonderful partners, we provided students with various ways to engage in the triple bottom line of sustainability; social, economic, and environmental. Preparing for and facilitating these campus-wide activities gave our office the opportunity to engage with students, as well as the opportunity to examine the week's events and establish a plan for future years. Our goal is to support students in a more sustainable lifestyle, and we were able to demonstrate realistic ways for students to do so through our events. We consider Sustainability Week 2016 to be a huge accomplishment, but we are also able to pinpoint ways to improve in the future.

We would like to recognize the amazing partnerships that helped make Sustainability Week 2016 a success. These partnerships include Brewery Vivant, Campus Dining, the Community Service Learning Center, Facilities Services, the Future Alumni Association, the Honors College, the President's Office, the Office of Student Life, the Padnos International Center, the Regional Math and Science Center, the Surplus Store, the Sustainable Agriculture Project, the Wesley Fellowship, WGVU, the Women's Center and Replenish, and various student organizations including the Farm Club, the Student Environmental Coalition, and the Green Team.

## Make a Difference Day at the Sustainable Agriculture Project



Volunteers for "Make a Difference Day," through the Community Service Learning Center, volunteered at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. They planted trees and learned about sustainable agriculture practices. Various trees such as apple, cherry, plum, chestnut, peach, nectarine, walnut, hazelnut, and pear, were planted with the help of these volunteers. Separately, members of fraternities on campus also donated time for the tree planting project.

- 25 volunteers planted 100+ trees
- 20 fraternity brothers came together to plant additional trees



## Energizing Our World

“Energizing Our World Saturday” was a one-day camp program designed to introduce students currently in grades 6th through 8th to the power of sustainable energy and its applications to various fields. The camp was held at GVSU’s Allendale Campus on Saturday, October 22nd, 2016 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Students participated in a large group introduction followed by breakout sessions providing them with opportunities to interact with solar, wind, and hydro power energy. **72 middle school students** were able to participate in this event.



## International Student Dinner with the Sustainable Agriculture Project

The Padnos International Center and the Office of Sustainability Practices teamed up to provide international and domestic students with an educational opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture practices at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. Students visited the Sustainable Agriculture Project and engaged in various activities such as seeding, weeding, and learning about general sustainable farming practices. A dinner on campus at the Connection followed with the help of Campus Dining and Chef Joe.

- ~20 lbs. of produce was provided from the Sustainable Agriculture Project to create ~150 meals for Campus Dining
- ~15-20 international students volunteered at the Sustainable Agriculture Project



## Office of Sustainability Practices and Surplus Store Information Tabling



The Office of Sustainability Practices and the Surplus Store partnered to hold informational tabling sessions downtown in DeVos C to celebrate, educate, and inform students about sustainability week and other sustainability efforts on campus. Approximately **35-45 students** stopped by our tables and asked about sustainability week, new promotional materials, what is available at the Surplus Store, and more.



## Sustainable Agriculture Project Volunteer Hours

Students visited the Sustainable Agriculture Project for open volunteer hours and engaged in various farming practices. **35 volunteers** visited the Sustainable Agriculture Project throughout the week and contributed to over **12 hours** of work.



## Student Environment Coalition and Green Team Campus Clean Up

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The Student Environment Coalition and the Green Team partnered to clean up the North side of campus, from housing all the way up to the Cook-Carillon Clock Tower. Students who participated learned about various composting and recycling efforts on campus and had an opportunity to see how campus is impacted by these programs.

- 4 bags of recycling collected
- 5 bags of trash collected
- 8-10 students participated

## Fresh from the Garden

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Professor Amy McFarland led a unique and creative workshop at the Sustainable Agriculture Project where students engaged in produce harvesting, cooking, and eating fresh food. Students engaged in discussion about agriculture, food, and sustainability. This workshop was the first of six. **10 participants**, which was the capacity for the workshop, had the opportunity to make stuffed peppers from freshly harvested sweet peppers, carrots, Swiss chard, winter squash, tomatoes, onions, chives, sage, and garlic from the Sustainable Agriculture Project.



## GVSU Founder's Day Festival: Partnership with Future Alumni Association and Office of Student Life – Laker Traditions Team

“Build your meal the way the Founders built GVSU.”

The Office of Student Life, Future Alumni Association, and the Office of Sustainability Practices partnered to celebrate GVSU Founder's Day with a festival highlighting the Student Legacy Scholarship and local sustainable food recipes. **Hundreds** of students participated in the events, stopped by our tables, and donated to the Student Legacy Scholarship through the Buck-a-Brick campaign. **\$167** was raised for the scholarship.





## Brewing Sustainability with Kris Spaulding from Brewery Vivant

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Kris Spaulding, GVSU alumna and co-founder of Brewery Vivant, presented on sustainability in the brewing industry and engaged participants in sustainability issues in the local area.

**30 attendees** had the opportunity to learn about sustainability in both economic and environmental capacities.



## Farmer's Market

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Though the last Farmer's Market of the season was cancelled due to weather, we had a great season overall. **\$4,560 worth of produce** was sold by the Sustainable Agriculture Project at the Farmer's Market this year, which equates to **~5,550 lbs.** in produce. Additionally, **~100 lbs.** of produce was donated to Replenish, the on campus food resource overseen by the Women's Center.

## Surplus Store Open Hours

The Surplus Store held open hours and offered **15% off all purchases** in celebration of sustainability week. **40 customers** visited the Surplus Store throughout the week to take advantage of this deal and participate in sustainability week!



### Recycling Program

2013-2016

#### • Scrap Metal •

170,269 LBS

#### • eWaste •

24,366 LBS

#### • Total Recycled •

194,939 LBS



## Food, Wine & All that Jazz

WGVU presented the Food, Wine & All that Jazz event at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The Office of Sustainability Practices encouraged visitors to engage in sustainable practices by reusing their dishware. **84 glasses** and **75 plates** that were not taken home were donated to local non-profits, including Seeds of Promise in Grand Rapids.



## Inhabit Film Screening

The film, *Inhabit*, features a documentary introducing permaculture: a design method that offers an ecological lens for solving issues related to agriculture, economics, governance, and more. A discussion on how permaculture ideas can be applied to understanding and solving issues related to sustainable agriculture followed the film. **~30** students watched the film and engaged in discussion.



## Food Forest Planting



**~10** volunteers donated their time at the Sustainable Agriculture Project to plant trees and learn about sustainable agriculture practices.

**Hundreds of Chestnut trees** were planted and volunteers engaged in discussion about the various types of trees at the Sustainable Agriculture Project and the importance of trees in agriculture.

## Zero Waste Football Games

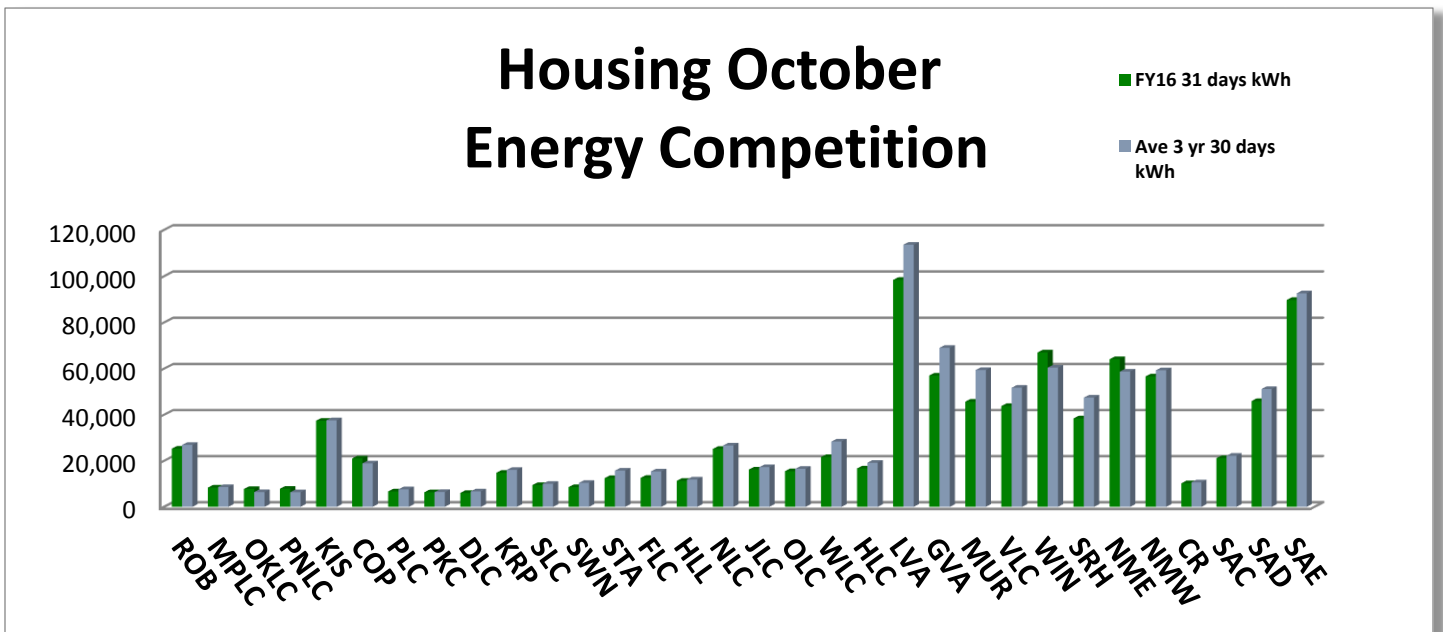


The Zero Waste Football Season had a high of **74% diversion** rate at the homecoming game with the help of GVSU's Backpacking Club, Student Environment Coalition, Farm Club, and Green Team.



## Energy Competition

The GVSU Energy Competition is an annual event facilitated by Housing and Residence Life and Facilities Services, during which residential living centers on campus compete to save the most energy. Communities are tasked with being creative and figuring out ways to conserve energy. This year's winner was **Ella Koetze – Weed Living Center** with **76%** of total consumption (**\$539.36 saved**), which is a **24% reduction** in energy usage from previous years! The honorable mentions include Murray Living Center with a 77% total consumption and Stafford Living Center with a 79% total consumption.



## Wesley Walks to Replenish 5k

The Wesley Fellowship, the Office of Sustainability Practice, Access to West Michigan, and the Women's Center, along with the on-campus food resource, "Replenish," partnered for a 5k walk to raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity in the GVSU community.



- 30 participants walked or donated





**We would like to thank all of our partners, on and off campus, and the students, faculty, staff, and community members who participated and supported this endeavor. You have all helped to make Sustainability Week 2016 a huge success! We plan to continue the work of engaging students in a more sustainable lifestyle on and off campus by providing the GVSU community with more activities and opportunities in the future. Sustainability Week 2016 would not have been possible without the support of the GVSU community.**

**Thank you!**



**To learn more about our office, how you can get involved with sustainability initiatives, or simply to better understand how to live a sustainable lifestyle, please come see us!**

