



*Sustainability Week  
Report 2017*

*Grand Valley  
State University*



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES



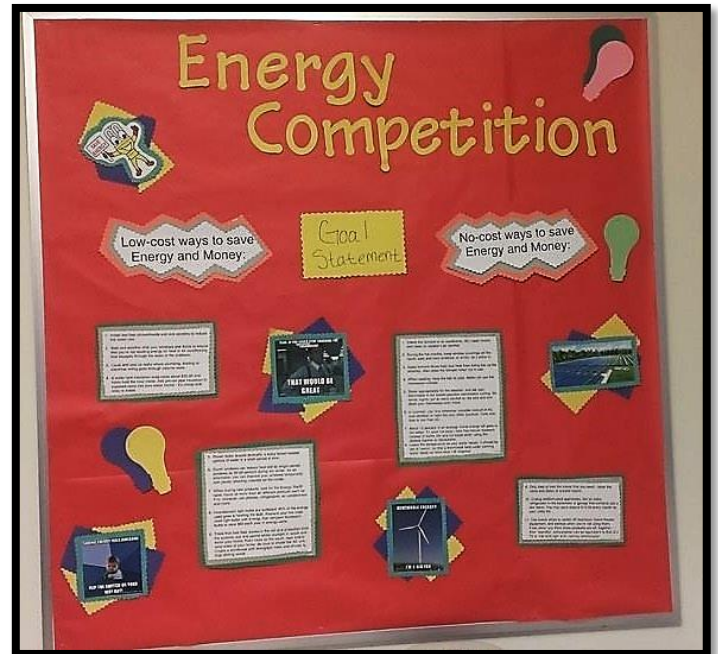
The Office of Sustainability Practices organized this year's celebration as part of Grand Valley State University's comprehensive plan to strengthen and broaden its achievements in the areas of triple-bottom line sustainability through faculty, staff, student and community collaborations. The week included a host of insightful events that promoted the awareness and application of sustainability best practices among students, and the GVSU community at large. Our goal is to work towards a more sustainable lifestyle on campus through the communication, coordination, and planning of sustainability related programs and activities that are student focused.

The Office of Sustainability Practices appreciates the support and help of all partners who worked together to ensure the success of this year's event. We are grateful to Consumer Energy, the Padnos International Center, the Geography and Sustainable planning faculty, the Green Team, the Peace Corps, the Surplus Store, the Bike Shop, the GVSU Health and Wellness Task Force, the Sustainable Agriculture Project, Campus Dining, and all the various student groups who supported our efforts.

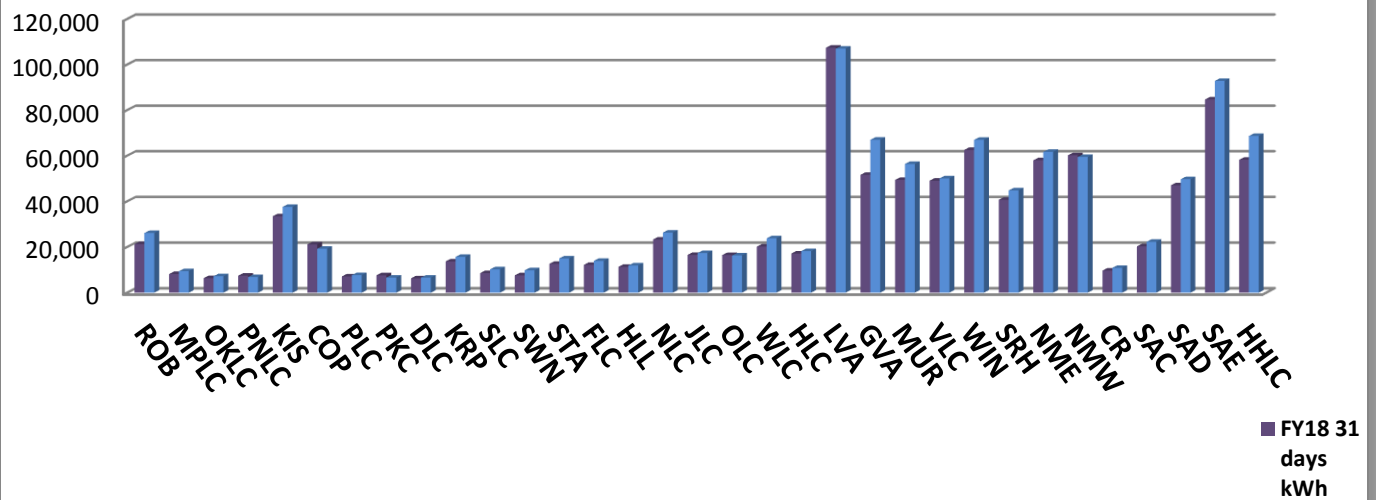
## GVSU ENERGY COMPETITION

The Energy competition is an annual event organized by Housing and Residence Life. Its goal is to promote the conservation of energy through creativity among participants.

Communities are tasked with finding creative ways to conserve energy. Grand Valley Apartment and Swanson both tied at first place with a **77%** of total consumption (**\$6,064.64. saved**), which contributed to **8% reduction** in energy usage from previous years! We wish to congratulate all participants, including Robinson who placed third with **81%** total consumption. This competition is part of a broader campaign to encourage behavior change among students and spread sustainable practices to communities.



## Housing October Energy Competition



## GLOBAL GROVE

The office of sustainability collaborated with the Padnos International Center to plant trees the represents GVSU's partnerships around the world at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. This year's tree planting brought together over 50 volunteers who learnt about sustainable agriculture and engaged in raking, digging and planting of trees etc. The event serves as an opportunity for the Padnos International Center to recognize its more than 17 international partnerships and dedicate trees to them. The aim is to strengthen GVSU's ties with its international partners.



11 students from 9 of GVSU international partnership were recognized



## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

The Sustainable Agricultural project continues to make enormous contribution to the Grand Valley community. We had over 20 student interns from 11 majors studying at the farm this fall, and also hosted 15 class visits from a wide range of disciplines.



## Volunteer and Classes at the SAP



20 students committed over 20 hours of work at the farm during sustainability week



Earth Science Capstone measuring infiltration

## TOMORROW FILM SCREENING

“Tomorrow” is a documentary that focuses on how people around the world offer solutions and actions to the environmental and social challenges facing our 21<sup>st</sup> century world in agriculture, education, energy, economy and governance. The film offers initiatives for a more sustainable future. We had students and staff from the geography department who watched and engaged in discussions.

## FARMER'S MARKET

The farmer's market creates an atmosphere where local food vendors collaborates with GVSU in delivering fresh and nutritional food options for staff, faculty, students, and surrounding community members.



GVSU's SAP grew ~5,000lbs of produce and donated ~500lbs to campus food pantry and other local pantries.



## **SOLAR GARDEN TOUR**

The solar garden was opened to students and the GVSU community during sustainability week. Managers from consumer energy hosted students at the solar garden to give brief lectures and address their questions. We had 7 classes, which included 157 students, registered for the Solar Garden tours.





## WELLNESS SUMMIT

“A healthy body is a healthy mind”

The wellness summit is organized to hear from GVSU students, faculty and staff who are/have implemented healthy lifestyles and to address the health and lifestyle concerns in our communities. The keynote panel for the event included former mayor of Grand Rapids, Mr. George Heartwell, John Kilbourne and Latrece McDaniel. The event housed over 50 students who engaged in series of activities to demonstrate wellness including cooking, biking among others.



*Here are some of the tips on how to boost your metabolism!*

- *Start out your day with a healthy breakfast rich in protein and good fat.*
- *Drink green tea throughout the day.*
- *Get your omega-3's from salmon, walnuts, fish or pills etc.*
- *Switch up your workout.*

*These are just a few ways to get started!*

## **SURPLUS STORE**

The surplus store offered a weeklong discount of 17% on purchases during Sustainability Week. There were 54 visitors and brought sales worth \$747.66.



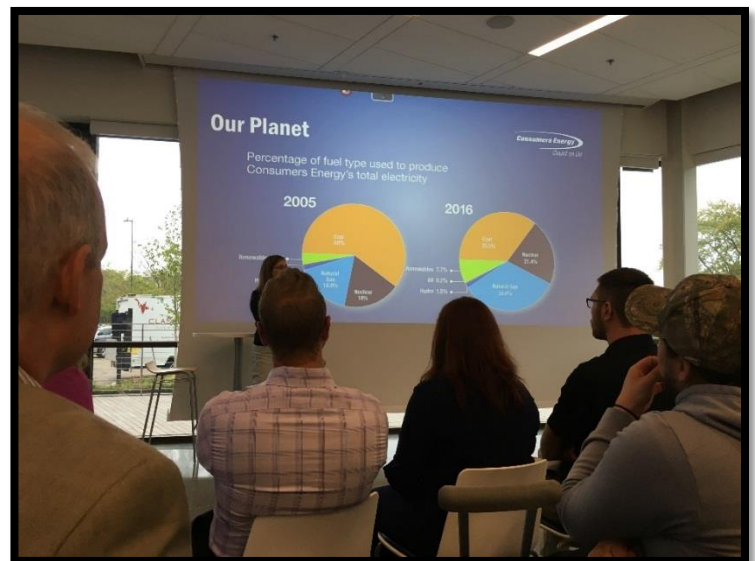
The surplus store has kept over 171 tons of items out of landfill

## **CONSUMERS ENERGY MIXER**

“A better tomorrow starts with wise decisions today”

The Office of Sustainability Practices partnered with Consumers Energy to organize an event on energy at the Russell Leadership Center. The networking event hosted representatives from consumer energy and GVSU Students to food and drinks, while it served students the opportunity to engage with stakeholders from the energy sector.

This underlines the office's commitment to strategically match student with the right skillset to the marketplace hence increasing employability in sustainability related jobs.





**We would like to express our profound gratitude to all of you for your efforts in making this year's sustainability week a success. Your support and participation in this special event is sincerely appreciated.**

**We hope you join together with us as we strive to guide GVSU community into a more sustainable lifestyle through future events and opportunities.**

**Thank You!**

