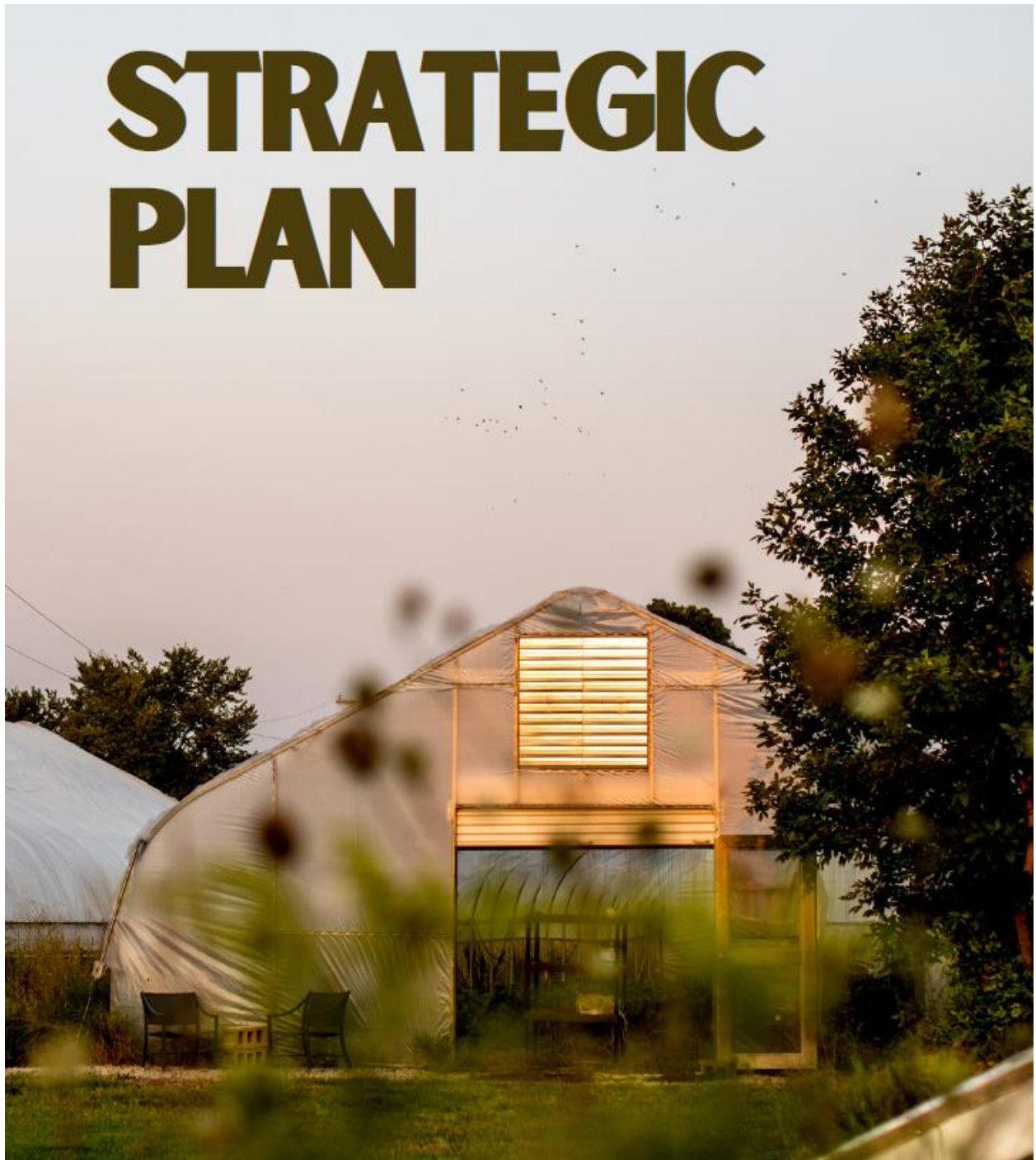


STRATEGIC PLAN



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**[®]

OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

CONTEXT FOR PLANNING

The GVSU Campus Sustainability Advisory Council (CSAC) was formed in 2014, and is made up of 25 faculty and staff members including representatives from all eight colleges and a wide variety of units and divisions. The CSAC focuses on planning and advancing sustainability as a campus-wide goal and value at GVSU.

The preliminary charter of the CSAC is to provide support and direction for:

- Developing a vision for the Office of Sustainability Practices that is more student focused where GVSU campuses are seen as learning laboratories for GVSU students and community members
- Establishing a sustainable lifestyle on campus that is embraced in the everyday work of faculty, staff, and students
- Promoting university-wide communications, coordination, and planning of sustainability related programs and activities
- Integrating sustainability programs and activities into the new University 2016-2021 Strategic Plan

The CSAC is made up of 10 specific workgroup areas, which meet on an as-needed basis. The full Council meets on a quarterly basis for updates and reports. The workgroup areas include building/landscaping, community engagement, energy/water management, education for sustainable development, finance/purchasing, food systems, health/wellness, student affairs, transportation, and waste management.

MISSION

To provide GVSU administration, faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders with the required skills and capabilities to become better stewards and responsible global citizens in the workforce, communities, and family life.

VISION

Sustainability is accepted and valued as having an integral role in fulfilling the mission of the university. This system integration of sustainability builds the capacity to positively impact sustainability issues across complex and interrelated economic, environmental, and social frameworks.

VALUE STATEMENT

"Grand Valley State University values the guiding principles of sustainability in helping to meet the current needs of our faculty, staff, and students without compromising the needs and resources of future generations. We are committed to working with our community partners to create a sustainable future for our university, our community, and our region. We will model applied sustainability best practices in our campus operations and administration, education for sustainable development, student involvement, and community engagement by promoting social responsibility, encouraging environmental stewardship, and creating efficiencies and value for the work we perform. We will provide our students with excellence in education for sustainable development by imbedding theory, systems- oriented thinking, and service learning into our curricular and extracurricular programs."

OBJECTIVE

Provide high impact experiential learning through the Sustainable Agriculture Project by hosting 15+ classes at the farm each year.

BASELINE

As of April 2016, we have hosted 10 classes at the farm with several already scheduled for next year.

PROGRESS

2021 Status

As of 2021, approximately 380 students have utilized the Sustainable Agriculture Project in classes, with some courses utilizing the SAP as an integral part of their course's curriculum. These students came from Environmental and Sustainability Studies, the Honors College, the Integrative Religions and Intercultural Studies department, Natural Resources Management, Women Gender and Sexuality Studies, Applied Food and Nutrition, and the Arts.

2018 Status

As of June 2018, approximately 350 students have visited the Sustainable Agriculture Project as part of 14 classes including courses in biology, environmental studies, Chinese studies, geology, honors, hospitality & tourism management, interdisciplinary studies, liberal studies, natural resource management, and women, gender & sexuality studies.

2017 Status

As of February 2017, over 300 students visited the Sustainable Agriculture Project as part of 16 classes, 20 students from 11 majors participated in internships, and over 700 volunteer hours were served during the summer and fall semesters.

OBJECTIVE

Increase the number of faculty engaging in sustainability research to 100 researchers.

BASELINE

AASHE STARS 2015 report - 86 sustainability researchers

PROGRESS

2021 Status

As of March 2021, there are 122 employees engaged in sustainability-related research.

2019 Status

As of March 2019, there are 93 employees engaged in sustainability-related research.

OBJECTIVE

Provide high impact experiential learning and community engagement through the Sustainable Agriculture Project by hosting volunteers from the campus and the West Michigan community.

BASELINE

In 2015, over 400 unique student volunteer visits were accommodated, allowing students to learn about soil conservation, nutrition, irrigation, crop rotation, and overall sustainable agriculture best practices.

PROGRESS

2021 Status

As of 2021, volunteer hours returned to normal operational capacity, with certain restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The SAP saw 5-25 students at any of the three open volunteer hour sessions, working 3+ hours a session.

2020 Status

In 2020, volunteer hours were held at a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019 Status

In 2019, the SAP gathered a total of 870 total volunteer hours. These students came both individually and with groups.

2017 Status

At the time of the 2017 Sustainability Week report, 20 volunteers came to SAP volunteer hours throughout the week, providing up to 20 hours of volunteering a week.

2016 Status

At the time of the 2016 SAP annual report, up to 35 volunteers came to SAP volunteer hours throughout the week, providing up to 12 hours of volunteering a week.

OBJECTIVE

Follow and maintain Healthy Campus 2020 guidelines for faculty, staff, and students.

BASELINE

Faculty and Staff annual Health Assessment and medical claims data (2014,2015) and the American Health Association Student National College Health Assessment survey (2014).

PROGRESS

2019 Status

Grand Valley State University was named a Healthy Workplace by the Michigan Fitness Foundation and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

OBJECTIVE

Identify, pursue and beta test new clean technologies for energy conservation and efficiency applications. This includes looking for long term energy contracts in the way of fixed pricing and renewables.

BASELINE

For all practical purposes we have zero renewables representing clean energy.

PROGRESS

2021 Status

The Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health (DCIH) has been selected as the winner of the Consumers Energy 2021 Project of the Year in the Large Commercial category. Long term energy contracts are still standing.

2016 Status

Consumers Energy built and maintains a 3 megawatt solar garden on approximately 17 acres of university property in Allendale, Michigan. GVSU agreed to subscribe for 500 kW which will generate enough electricity to operate approximately 70 to 80 homes for one year. The solar garden was completed in April 2016.

OBJECTIVE

Reduce food waste at dining venues.

BASELINE

The previous year's results.

PROGRESS

2021 Status

A sustainability manager has been hired for Laker Food Co. and they manage a food waste dashboard.

OBJECTIVE

Increase awareness throughout the campus of the GVSU Surplus Store.

BASELINE

Measure department participation against previous years

PROGRESS

2021 Status

An updated website includes the Property Disposal policy and a form for pick-up.

OBJECTIVE

Maintain or improve upon GVSU's "gold" rating in the AASHE STARS sustainability reporting system.

BASELINE

Total score = 66.05

PROGRESS

2021 Status

We received a gold rating with a score of 74.94 after revisions.

2019 Status

We received a gold rating with a score of 70.79 after revisions.

2018 Status

We received a gold rating with a score of 69.45 after revisions.

2017 Status

As of April 2017, we have a gold rating pending final review.

OBJECTIVE

Identify and implement campus energy projects with less than eight year paybacks based on energy alone and not taking credit for maintenance or operational savings. Utility rebates are also not included in the payback calculation either.

BASELINE

Previous Fiscal Years

PROGRESS

2017 Status

Various Exterior LED Lighting replacements done. Meijer Campus Parking Lot in Holland. In Allendale North Campus Housing near MAK, between GVA and South Apartments, and decorative Lighting in the MAK court yard & surrounding Padnos. Still slated for this year is Laker Drive, the Children's Center, Calder Arts, Irwin Parking the KFSC walkway, and the Kirkhof Center parking lot. Muskegon Campus is complete. GVSU has a patent pending on a new design method for DCV. A Combined Heat and Power study was completed. Due to our favorable gas & electric pricing the payback is longer than we would want to partake at this time. Heat Recovery project at Kindschi Lab is currently underway. Manitou interior lighting is complete.

OBJECTIVE

Reduce overall paper consumption and increase use of recycled products such as paper and ink print cartridges.

BASELINE

Previous Fiscal Years

PROGRESS

2020 Status

An HP Ink Cartridge recycling program was implemented.