

GVSU Sustainability Pledge

I pledge to live a more sustainable lifestyle. I will consider the environmental, social and economic impact of my everyday actions. I will make every effort to reduce my ecological footprint. I will also share my efforts in hopes of educating my peers and community.

By committing to do some of the actions below, I join the collective efforts of GVSU faculty, staff, and students, to help create a more sustainable future.

I will reduce my consumption of electricity by considering the following:

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED bulbs.
- Turn off the lights before leaving a room.
- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use.
- Adjust thermostats according to the season (up in summer, down in winter) and use clothing for comfort.
- Use windows and curtains to help maintain comfortable room temperature and natural light.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water and use a drying rack.

I will reduce my consumption of water by considering the following:

- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- Use the least amount of water necessary when washing dishes.
- Shower quickly or turn off the water while applying products.

I will reduce waste by doing the following:

- Recycle and compost.
- Buy recycled and used products, and donate goods instead of throwing them away.
- Drink tap water instead of purchasing bottled water.
- Put food and drinks in reusable containers and use re-useable utensils.
- Bring reusable bags to the store.

I will also reduce my ecological footprint by considering the following:

- Buy local and seasonal foods and support local farmers and companies.
- Eat less meat, seafood, and dairy.
- Walk, bike, and/or use public transportation.
- Spend more time outdoors, exploring and enjoying nature.
- Promote and support renewable energy sources.

I will be more socially and economically responsible by considering the following:

- Buy goods manufactured under fair conditions, such as "fair trade" certified.
- Actively support and advocate for equality.
- Take a course on sustainability or the environment.
- Keep up-to-date on important issues by following unbiased news sources and discussing them with others.
- Vote.

I will engage my local and educational community by considering the following:

- Attend a sustainability related lecture, film, workshop, tour, or bike ride on campus.
- Volunteer at the GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project or in my community.
- Volunteer to recycle at a zero waste event.
- Get involved with a student group that focuses on sustainability.
- Share ideas with my family, friends, and neighbors.