

Sustainability Month

Fall 2021





Sustainability Month takes place in October and is a month-long celebration filled with activities and events. This event is organized by the Office of Sustainable Practices in alignment with Grand Valley's mission, vision, and values. The purpose of the event is to bring the GVSU community together to celebrate sustainability, assist others in furthering their understanding of sustainability, and to provide a fun and inclusive space to engage in sustainability practices together.

Zero Waste Football Games



Zero Waste Football Games are a long tradition at GVSU. They are a collaboration between facilities, the Office of Sustainable Practices, and Student Organizations.

This year, the Office of Sustainability Practices was joined by the Student Environmental Coalition and the Farm Club. Together, volunteers stood by waste stations during the game and informed game attendees about where to put their trash: in the compost, recycling, or landfill.

The students of SEC and Farm Club were able to team together and tackle the many pounds of trash that was sorted during these games. The groups had a lot of fun talking to game attendees and teaching them more about sustainability!



Volunteering at the Sustainable Agriculture Project



The Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) is GVSU's campus farm. The SAP is a collaboration between students, faculty, and staff to experience sustainable agriculture on the Allendale Campus. The SAP's student leaders are passionate about contributing to sustainable food systems and building upon organic farming practices.

During the month of October, students, faculty, staff, and student organizations were encouraged to go out and volunteer! Student Senate, Circle K, and others joined the office to learn more about sustainability and to give back to their local community!



Harvest Party



Grand Valley's Farm Club and Sustainable Agriculture Project put on a wonderful Harvest Party Celebration. This annual event is a fun way to celebrate the harvest and the beginning of the semester!

Students, faculty, and staff came together and had the opportunity to volunteer at the SAP, and then enjoy yard games, food, and more!



Student-Grown Produce Sold at the Farm Stand



The SAP's Farm Stand is an icon of the Office of Sustainability Practices. Before the pandemic, the office co-managed a full farmers market on campus. As a result of the pandemic, it has not been possible the last two years. Fortunately, the SAP Farm stand has been up and running! All of the proceeds from the stand go toward supplies for the SAP and caring for its bees.

This year, there were plenty of fruits, veggies, and our very own Beekeepers Club honey! The stand even had a few guest appearances including Daddy's Dough, Mosby's Popcorn, and Post Farms.



Make a Difference Day



Make a Difference Day is a National Day of Service, recognized on campuses and in communities across the country! GVSU's Community Service-Learning Center is proud to have recognized this day of service for over 15 years. This even incorporates social and environmental justice.

This year the event was back in-person! It was so exciting to see students back in action and serving the Grand Rapids community.

Students joined the Office of Sustainability Practices at the SAP, helped out at Grand Rapids Parks, and served at other various environmental organizations!



Sustainability-Related Conference Presentations

During the month of October, the Office of Sustainability Practices had the pleasure of presenting at two conferences:

Michelle Holstege (Facilities Services Administrative Assistant) and Yumiko Jakobcic (Director of the Office of Sustainability Practices) joined Renae Hesselink (Vice President of Sustainability Nichols Paper & Supply), to facilitate a conversation about sustainability metrics and how they can be used to inform and implement sustainability practices at the PCAPPA (Pacific Coast Region of Association of Physical Plant Administration) & MAPPA (Midwest Region of APPA) 2021 Joint Virtual Summit.



Michael Hinkle (GVSU's SAP Farm Manager and Educator) and Yumiko Jakobcic (Director of the Office of Sustainability Practices) presented together at the AASHE's (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) global conference on sustainability in higher education! Their presentation highlighted the ways the Sustainable Agriculture Project here at GVSU has been able to engage across the disciplines, featuring research and highlights from a diversity of faculty and students.



Outdoor Adventures



GVSU's Outdoor Adventures Program ran two really awesome events during Sustainability Month: A fall bike tour and a backpacking trip!

The fall bike tour consisted of riding downtown Grand Rapids and into Millennium Park. Participants enjoyed getting outside and learning more about sustainability from the trip leaders.

The backpacking trip was a two day hike up at the Manistee River Trail. This was a 10-mile hike, with participants hikes 5 miles each day and carrying all their gear on their back! Participants learned all about Leave No Trace Principles and enjoyed the fall colors.



Sustainable Crafting

This year, there were two service projects offered: Decorating Kids' Food Basket bags and upcycling old t-shirts into a reusable tote bag!

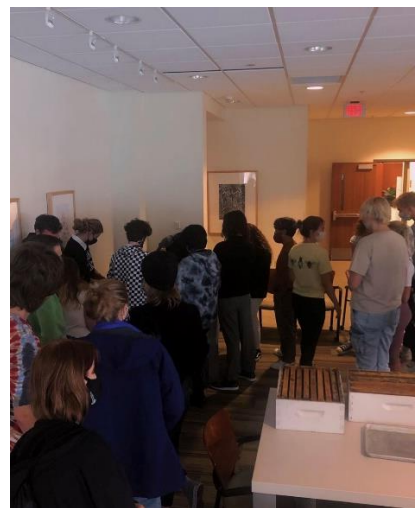
Kids' Food Basket is an organization in the Greater Grand Rapids area that provides food/sack lunches to kids all across West Michigan. They even have an urban farm on their campus, which grows food that goes into the sack suppers! Students were able to support this organization by decorating the sack supper bags, making it a lot more fun for the kids who receive them.

The upcycling craft is one that anyone can do right from their living room! Using an old t-shirt, students followed a few steps, and turned it into a reusable tote bag! Reusable tote bags are much more sustainable than using any single-use, disposable bag!



Honey Extraction and Bottling

The “To Bee or Not To Bee” class and the Beekeepers Club assist with managing honeybees in the apiary located at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. In October, they extracted and filled over 100 bottles of honey.



Looking Forward

There are plenty of ways to get, even after Sustainability Month:

CCESS 2021: Vulnerability and Justice:

GVSU Climate Change Education Solutions Network will be hosting a conference November 3rd-5th, 2021. The Summit will bring together scientists, educators, business leaders, students, citizens groups, and the public to share innovative ideas and perspectives on climate change education in Michigan and worldwide and its role in successful climate action.

GVSU Sustainability Pledge:

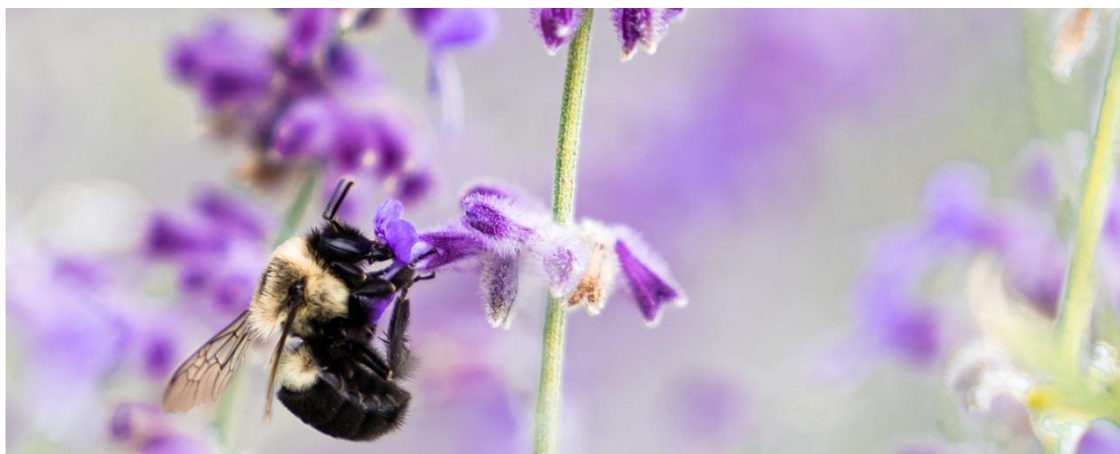
Join the GVSU community of faculty, staff, and students, in pledging to live a more sustainable lifestyle. This pledge can be found on the Office of Sustainability Practices website: gvsu.edu/sustainability/

Student Organizations:

There are plenty of student organizations that are environmentally focused. Get out and join one! GVSU Alternative Breaks, GVSU Beekeepers, GVSU Farm Club, the Student Environmental Coalition, the GVSU Green Team, and GVSU Soil and Water Conservation Society are just a few examples to get your started!

GVSU SAP Internships:

There are many internship opportunities at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. There are some laid out on the SAP website (gvsu.edu/sustainableagproject/), but our office is also happy to work with you to develop a unique internship that suits your interests.



Thank you!

The Office of Sustainability Practices would love to thank all who joined in celebrating Sustainability Month this year! It was great to be back in-person. This pandemic has been hard on everyone, and it was wonderful to see students, faculty, and staff back together and enjoying nature!

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

Stop by our office anytime:

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SUSTAINABILITY**