

# Sustainability Month Report

## Fall 2020





## Sustainability During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Office of Sustainability Practices organized this event in alignment with GVSU's mission, vision and values. The purpose of this event is to promote sustainability, as well as assist students in their understanding of living out a sustainable lifestyle.

During these unprecedented times, Sustainability Week looked a little different. There were many changes and adaptations that had to be made. The traditional week was expanded to a month in order to offer more opportunities for engagement. The Office of Sustainability Practices thanks all of those who participated and partnered with us during this month.

## Activities at the Sustainable Agriculture Project

All month long, volunteer hours were held at the Sustainable Agriculture Project. Students, faculty, and staff came out to do various projects around the farm. Volunteers also gain an incredible learning experience through volunteering at the farm, learning about sustainability, agricultural practices, and how a business runs. In support of the SAP during the month of October, the Beekeeper's honey was on sale. The Beekeepers is a group of students who are actively involved in managing honey bees at the Sustainable Agriculture Project.



## Undergraduate Research Fair

Due to COVID-19, this year's research fair was held virtually. This is a time for undergraduate students to present research that they have been working on throughout their time at GVSU. Students from any field can participate. It provided an interesting way to learn about sustainability through the eyes of students.

## Democracy 101



Democracy 101 is a series of co-curricular lectures, panel discussions and workshops, that focus on the idea and practice of democracy. During the month of October, there were several lectures that tied sustainability to democracy. One event focused on how your vote counts in your local communities. This pertained to sustainability due to the amount of local elections that have environmental proposals. Another lecture that was held talked about issues on the ballots. During this lecture, various environmental proposals such as the United States joining the Paris Climate Agreement again. Lastly, there was a lecture on how, as members of our community, we can go above and beyond our elections. When it comes to sustainability, this means not only voting on environmental proposals, but also engaging in your community, for example, volunteering at your local park.

## Upcycling

Students came together to upcycle used and mis-printed t-shirts into re-useable tote bags, reducing the need for single-use plastic bags.



## Virtual Events

Several virtual events were held this year:

- The Climate Change Education Solutions Summit: Attendees shared and discussed the latest developments in climate action and education in Michigan, nationally, and internationally.
- Rising Great Lakes Levels: Deanna Apps, US Army Corp of Engineers Lead Forecaster, gave a presentation entitled “Rising Great Lakes Levels.” Curt Terhaar and Curtis Dykstra from Ottawa County Parks spoke about lakeshore erosion and how Ottawa County parks have been impacted.
- Project Green Challenge: Each day during the month of October, a uniquely themed challenge was delivered to registered PGC participants by email.
- POW Purple Mountains College Tour – We joined Protect Our Winters, Jeremy Jones and Michigan’s own Professional Snowboarder Danny Davis, for the Michigan stop of the Purple Mountains College Tour. This digital event consisted of a showing of Jeremy's recently released film, Purple Mountains, followed by a Q&A between Jeremy and Danny on the film, the importance of protecting the places you love, and what students in Michigan can do to ensure this effort.

## Gratitude

The Office of Sustainability would like to give a big thank you to the Grand Valley community for another successful Sustainability Month! Your support and dedication to sustainability make our jobs so fulfilling.

We look forward to seeing the amount of sustainability practices grow all over the GVSU campus, and we hope to see you all next year.



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