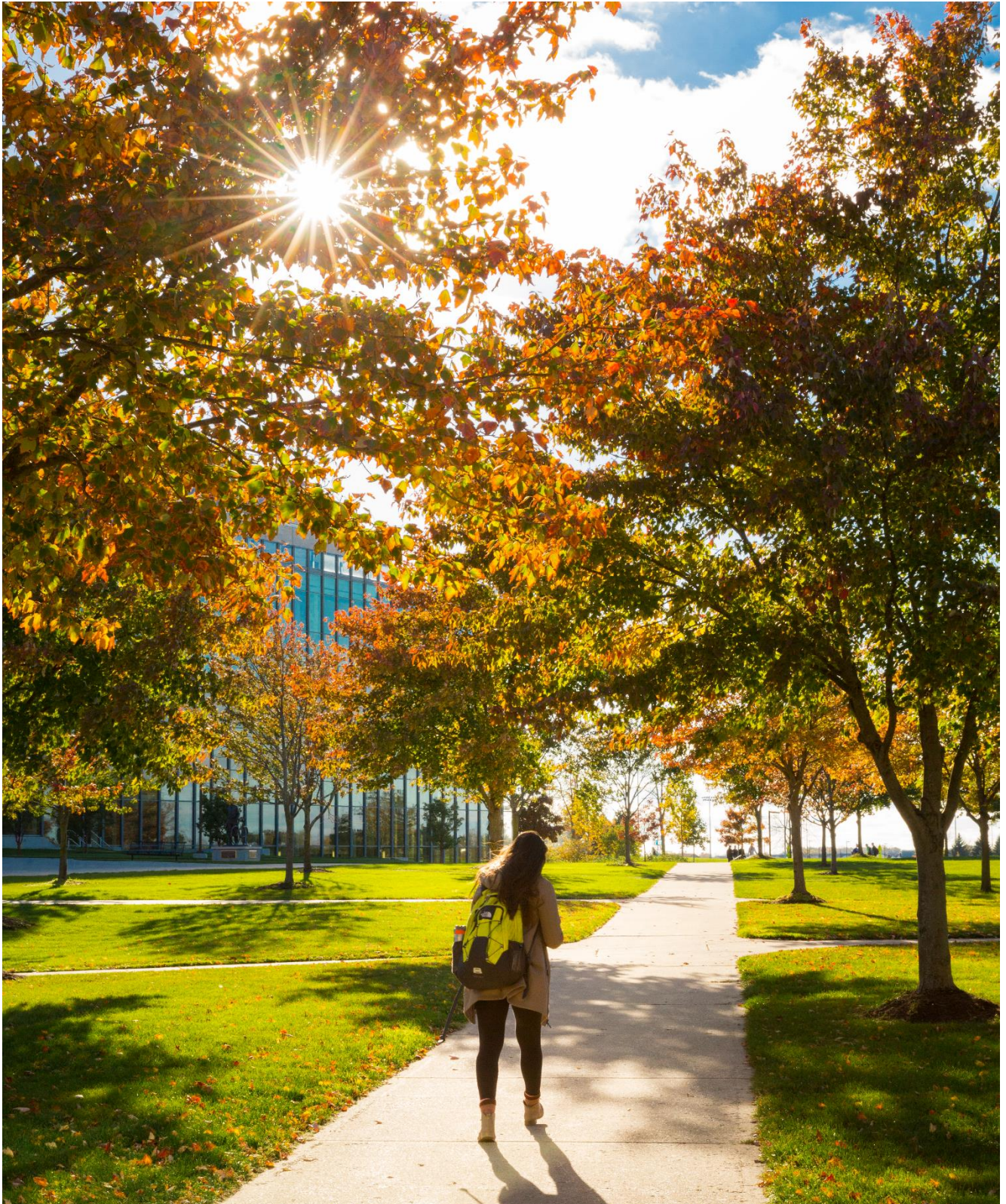


# Sustainability Week Report

## 2018







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 events that promoted the awareness and application of sustainability best practices among students, and the GVSU community. 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 Brooks College OF Interdisciplinary Studies, Campus Recreation, Housing, the Padnos International Center, the Geography and Sustainable Planning faculty, the Student Environmental Coalition, the Humane Society, 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.

## Demonstration Garden Dedication

In honor of the Sustainable Agriculture Project's 10 year anniversary, the office held a ceremony to dedicate the Demonstration Garden to students, faculty, and staff of the university as a symbol of our commitment to sustainability. The Demonstration Garden, located next to Au Sable Hall, is an extension of the SAP, a farming and learning space located south of campus on Luce Street. The ceremony hosted close to **30 community members** which included students, staff and faculty.





## Demonstration Garden Dedication

The dedication featured remarks from our keynote speaker, President Haas, who acknowledged the impact of students in shaping the commitment of the university to sustainability. President Haas further thanked campus partners for their keen leadership in moving sustainability as a value on Grand Valley's strategic plan. There were further remarks from the Brooks College by Dean Anne Hiskes, who highlighted the dedication of all stakeholders who help to make Grand Valley State University a high impact learning experience for students through sustainable education. We were pleased to have a faculty member and a student share their experiences with the Sustainable Agriculture Project.



## Sustainability Information Table

The Office of Sustainability Practices and the Sustainable Agriculture Project partnered to hold an informational tabling session in Kirkhof Center, Allendale to celebrate, educate, and inform students about sustainability week and other sustainability efforts on campus. Approximately 30 - 40 students stopped by our tables and asked about sustainability week. We handed new promotional materials and sustainable gift items to students who stopped to ask questions.



## Kid's Food Basket Bag Decoration



As part of our service responsibility, we organized a crafting session where students volunteered in decorating lunch bags for Kid's Food Basket. Members of various student organizations also volunteered time to be involved with the project. We decorated over 400 bags.





## Student Environmental Coalition Sorting Event

Members of the Student Environmental Coalition group partnered with the office to host a waste sorting event during the informational tabling session. The event aimed at raising awareness on proper waste disposal methods. Students who participated were quizzed and educated on waste disposal in Grand Valley. Participants were awarded afterwards with souvenirs from the office.





## Farmers Market

The farmer's market creates an atmosphere where local food vendors collaborate with GVSU in delivering fresh and nutritional food options for staff, faculty, students, and surrounding community members. The Sustainable Agricultural Project sold over 1000 lbs. of produce this year at Farmer's Market. The bike shop also provided free bike tune ups for visitors. We had healthy food demonstrations, and live music to keep everyone involved.





## Wellness Summit



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 community. The office and the Sustainable Agriculture Project had a tabling session during the event to give out free vegetables and flowers to anyone who visited the table. We also had the blender bike

available for patrons to make their own smoothie. We had over 30 people visit our table.

## SURPLUS STORE



The surplus store offered a weeklong discount of 15% on purchases during Sustainability Week.



The Surplus store fill date has kept over 197,432 lbs. of materials from landfill.



## Campus Walk

The Office of Sustainability took part in “Exercise is Medicine” 2 mile Campus Walk led by the vice provost of student affairs and the dean of students. The event worked to promote physical activity on campus and encouraged students to walk, run and ride bikes not only as a means of transportation, but as a healthy lifestyle.

Over 50 participants walked on the 2 mile stretch from the Carillon Clock Tower.





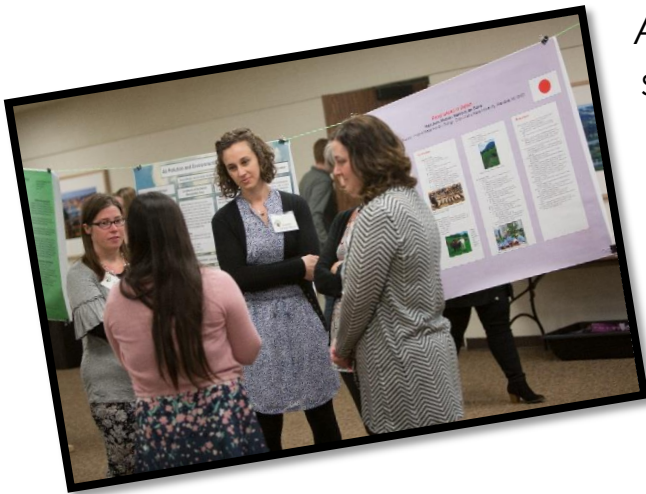
## Homecoming Zero Waste Football Game



The Homecoming Zero Waste Football Season had a high of 74% diversion rate at the Homecoming game with the help of volunteers from the Humane Society student organization.



## Sustainability around the World Poster Session



As part of our dedication to global sustainability, students of Geography 101 had a poster presentation session from Wednesday to Friday. This event educated audience on global issue areas both in the country and around the world.





## Before the Flood Film Screening

Before the Flood is a documentary on climate change that profiles Leonardo DiCaprio as he travels to five continents and the Arctic speaking to scientists, world leaders, activists and local residents to gain a deeper understanding of the complex issue of climate change and possible solutions. The film followed with a

productive discourse about our environment and how we can help act on climate.



The event hosted about 30 students to food and drinks while discussions followed up.



## SAP Volunteer Hours

The Sustainable Agricultural Project welcomes volunteers all year round. Volunteers either engage in tree planting, weeding and any activity as assigned. We had over 20 student stop by the farm to volunteer during sustainability week.





## Global Grove 2018

The Padnos International Center collaborated with the Sustainable Agricultural Project to participate in the annual international tree planting. The Global Grove is a tree planting event that serves as an opportunity for the Padnos International Center to recognize GVSU's international partnerships and dedicate trees to them. 7 international students were present to represent each partner institution at the event. The farm manager took students on a tour at the SAP and educated students on tree planting.





## UNPLUG with Campus Rec

Unplug is a sustainable project of carving out 5 hours per day for the entire week to unwind, unplug, relax, reflect, get outdoors, connect with and enjoy the world and people around. The office of sustainability promoted and served as a resource for students who unplugged during sustainability week.

Campus rec also provided opportunities for students to get involved, be active, and live healthy.



### Research indicates that exercise can:

- improve sleep
- decrease feelings of depression
- help protect against anxiety
- boost self-confidence
- improve focus & productivity



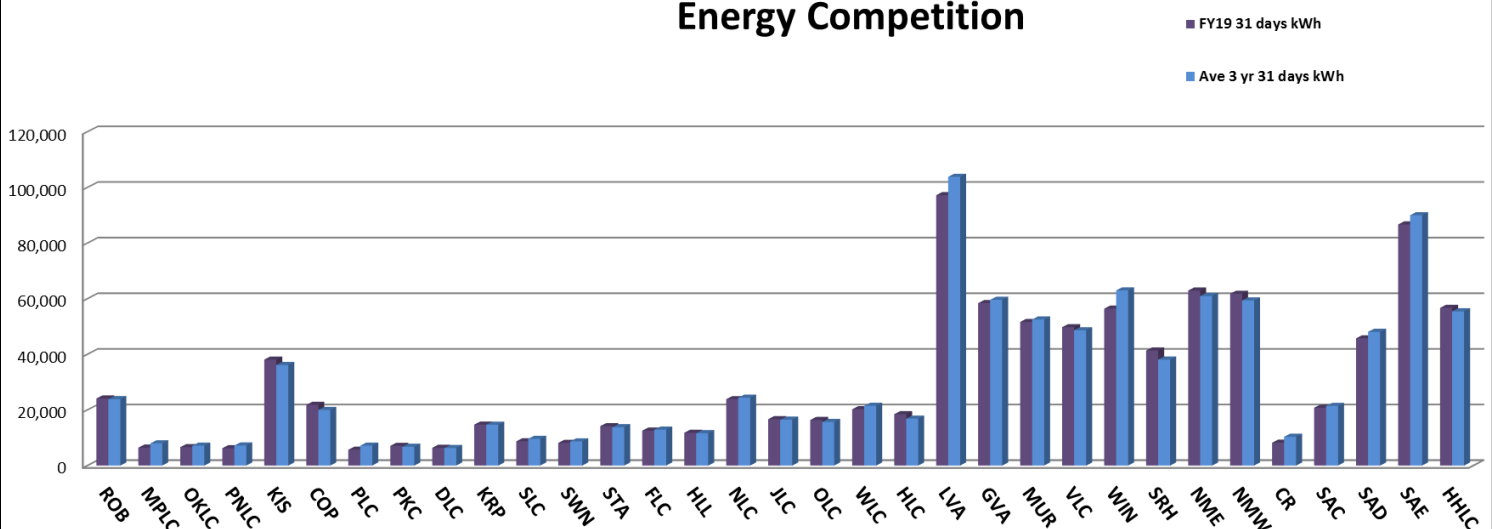


## Housing Energy Competition

The GVSU Energy Competition is an annual event facilitated by Housing and Residence Life and Facilities services, during which residential living centers on campus compete to save the most energy. Resident assistants engage residents with creative ways to conserve energy. This year's winners were Pickard and Calder Living Center with a tie of 80% of total energy consumption. Maple Living Center came second with 81% total consumption. Overall, we achieved a 2% reduction under the 3 year usage average and saved about 15,608 kWh with \$1,249 of economic impact.



### Housing October Energy Competition







# THANK YOU

Our most heartfelt thank you to all campus partners who help us make our vision & mission come to life. Sustainability Week 2018 couldn't have been successful without your keen support. It is our hope that, with your help we can guide GVSU towards a sustainable future.

We are forever grateful!