



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY®

www.gvsu.edu

Who We Are?

- Liberal Arts College Focused on Experiential Learning
- 4th Largest University in the State of Michigan
- 22,000 Students
- 3,500 Employees
- 6 million square feet with 7 locations
 - Allendale, Grand Rapids, Health Hill, Holland, Muskegon, Traverse City, Detroit & Battle Creek
- 24 LEED Certified Buildings Totaling 2 million square feet

Our Journey

- 2004 - GVSU Sustainability Journey Begins
 - Meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own
- 2005 - First Sustainability Indicator Report
 - 75 Sustainability measurements/Baseline
- 2008 - Second Sustainability Indicator Report
 - 10 major areas of impact - Student Focused
 - President's Climate Agreement
 - American Association of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
 - Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System (STARS)
- 2014 - Office of Sustainability Practices created
 - Best Practices University wide
 - Education for Sustainable Development
- 2015 City of Grand Rapids 2030 District Commitment
- 2021 Second Nature Commitment

Campus Operations Focus

- Waste Sorting
- Food
- Water
- Transportation
- Energy

Waste Sorting

- ▶ Recycle Mania
- ▶ Campus Race to Zero Waste - 2021 Winner - Large Campus Division
- ▶ Water Bottle Filling Stations
- ▶ Food Composting
- ▶ Surplus Store
- ▶ 25% Recycle Rate
 - ▶ Land Fill Savings

Food

- ▶ Compostable Dishware
- ▶ Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products
- ▶ Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP)
- ▶ Sustainability Certified Vendors
 - ▶ Local Farms and Products
 - ▶ Local Suppliers
- ▶ Education

Water

- ▶ Stormwater Management System Restoration
 - ▶ Irrigation and Retention Ponds
 - ▶ Ravines Protection
- ▶ Natural Landscapes w/drought resistant native plants
- ▶ Green Roof Installation
- ▶ Low Flow Showerheads and Low Flush Toilets
- ▶ Going Trayless
 - ▶ Saved on Water, Detergent and Sanitizer

Transportation

- ▶ Scope 3 Emissions Avoidance
 - ▶ Over 7,000 metric tons of CO₂
- ▶ Partnership with the Rapid for over 10 years
 - ▶ Avoid over 20 Million miles
 - ▶ Estimated \$15 Million in vehicle cost savings for students, faculty and staff
- ▶ Bicycle Friendly University - League of American Bicyclists

Energy

- Utility Budget
 - Cost Avoid \$2.2M annually
 - Energy Conservation Measures
 - LED Lighting
 - VFD's
 - Insulation
 - High Efficiency Boilers and hot water systems
- Building Footprint
 - 64% Growth in 15-year period
 - Electricity Consumption down 28.2%
 - Natural Gas Consumption down 34.3%
 - Water Usage down 43.8%
 - Steam Consumption down 35.3%
- Emissions
 - Baseline year 2004
 - 57,000 metric tons
 - 2022
 - 50,000 metric tons

Where are we Today?

- ▶ Member of Second Nature President's Council
- ▶ Updating Climate Action Plan and Developing Carbon Neutral plans for 2043
- ▶ 15% wind capacity
- ▶ 1.3% solar capacity
- ▶ Energy Rebates exceed \$2.4M
- ▶ Community Engagement and Service
- ▶ Utility Provider Partnership

How Did We Do It?

- Leadership Support
- University Mission
- 2004 Sustainability Focus Initiated
- Energy Conservation Measures (Energy Project Committee)
 - LED Lighting, VFDs, High Efficiency (96%), Heating Capabilities
 - Heat/Load Calculations
- Internal Competitions
 - Housing
 - Involvement from all students
- Building Management Systems
- Solar Capacity
- Wind Capacity

Future!

- Increase Solar Capacity
- Increase Wind Capacity
- Combined Heat & Power
- Alternative Fuels
- Grow Partnerships with Utility Providers