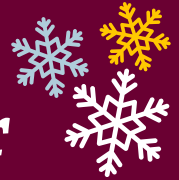




December 2024 Newsletter



Happy December from Central Sustainability!

As we near the end of 2024, Central Sustainability (CS) is grateful for all of those who have interacted with and supported us this year. We look forward to many more years of furthering sustainability on campus!

Keep reading to learn what CS has been up to and how to keep sustainability in mind this season.

AASHE Conference

In late October, CS team members Tiffany Jurge and Lauren Dey attended the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) annual conference in Anaheim, California. Hundreds of staff, faculty, and students from universities worldwide gathered to share insights on advancing sustainability. Tiffany and Lauren gained valuable knowledge on enhancing student engagement with sustainability and improving reporting and tracking practices, which they hope to apply at CMU in the near future!



Sustainability Fee Committee

The CMU Student Sustainability Fee Committee is a committee of up to seven (7) students, recently elected by the student body, who will oversee the optional \$5 Student Sustainability Fee. The committee's primary responsibilities will be to collect, consider, select, and provide funding support for campus sustainability projects proposed by students.

The Student Sustainability Fee and Committee will provide annual institutional support for sustainability efforts at CMU. Through the student-led committee and student-generated proposal process, the Student Sustainability Fee offers CMU students a unique opportunity to impact student sustainability priorities on campus.

CS will be sure to share updates about the Student Sustainability Fee Committee's progress in future newsletters. If you have questions regarding the Student Sustainability Fee Committee, please contact Student Affairs at studentaffairs@cmich.edu.

Topic of the Month: The Grinch's Take on Hyper-Consumerism



In *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (both the Dr. Seuss book and its film adaptations), the Grinch's critique of consumerism is subtle but powerful. The story highlights how the true spirit of Christmas isn't about material possessions or extravagant celebrations, but about love, community, and togetherness. The Grinch, initially disgusted by the Whos' over-the-top holiday consumerism—fueled by excessive gift-giving, decorations, and feasts—believes that by stealing all their material goods, he can destroy Christmas for them.

However, when the Whos continue to celebrate Christmas without any presents or decorations, the Grinch realizes that the holiday is about far more than just stuff. As he famously says, "Maybe Christmas... doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

The message here is clear: consumerism, with its focus on materialism and overconsumption, misses the heart of what the holiday season is truly about. It's a call to look beyond the commercial side of Christmas and embrace the intangible values of love, kindness, and connection—things that can't be bought. In this way, the Grinch movie subtly critiques consumer culture, showing that happiness and fulfillment don't come from what we buy, but from the joy we share with others.

Want to make sustainability a part of your daily life?

Check out our Sustainable Living Guide and make the CMU Sustainability Pledge today!

Sustainability Pledge



CMU Sustainable Living Guide



Sustainable Holiday Tips

The holiday season often brings a rush of shoppers eager to find the perfect gifts for their loved ones. While gift-giving is a cherished tradition, it's also a time to be mindful of the impact on overconsumption and waste. Here are some sustainable tips for this holiday season:

- Choose long-lasting or reusable gifts that can be recycled later
- Make your own gifts, like homemade breads, cakes, or crafts such as jewelry or crochet
- Limit the number of gifts you buy
- Bring your own reusable tote bag when shopping
- Use only the amount of wrapping paper you need
- Wrap gifts in reusable bags



Any Questions? Contact Us!

Stop by our office in Dow Science Room 275 or email us at sustainability@cmich.edu.

Also check out our socials for more updates!

Instagram & Facebook @cmucentralsustainability