



# September 2024 Newsletter



## Welcome to the 2024-2025 Year at CMU!

We hope that you are able to transition well into the upcoming school year! Over the summer, Central Sustainability (CS) has been busy furthering sustainability on campus and beyond. Keep reading for a recap of our summer sustainability efforts and to learn about the initiatives to come!

## What has CS been up to?

### Consulting Beaver Island Community School

Over the summer, CS conducted a sustainability audit at Beaver Island Community School. Three coordinators visited the school, performed waste audits, and interviewed students, staff, and local experts. Based on their findings, CS provided a report to the school with recommendations for improving sustainability in areas like waste, energy, water, and educational involvement. The coordinators will return this fall to review progress.

### AASHE STARS Report 2024 Results

Last spring, CS submitted CMU's 2024 AASHE STARS report, a tool that evaluates and provides feedback on CMU's sustainability efforts. This year, CMU earned a Silver STARS rating. The insights from this report will continue to guide CS strategically in its ongoing sustainability initiatives.

### Leadership Safari Tours

CS had the opportunity to lead campus tours during CMU's annual Leadership Safari program, which is a great way for incoming students to get introduced to CMU. CS introduced students to the five pillars of sustainability—human, cultural, environmental, economic, and social—and linked these concepts to specific locations. CS also discussed ways to get involved and upcoming opportunities.



## Topic of the Month: Transportation Emissions



### What are Transportation Emissions?

The term “transportation emissions” refers to greenhouse gas emissions created from the transportation sector, including gasoline-powered cars, trucks, planes, and boats. The greenhouse gas emissions produced through combustion in fossil fuel-powered engines contribute directly to climate change.

### Why are they Important?

Transportation accounts for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and it is the top contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Globally, transportations emissions are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, but reducing transportation emissions is difficult because of the role transporting people and goods plays in economic growth.

### What is CS doing about Transportation Emissions?

To combat the need for individual transportation, CS works to bring goods and sustainability services to campus through initiatives such as the CMU farmer’s market, electronics recycling drive, and other strategies encouraging non-motorized transport on campus.

Resources:

“Controlling Climate Change - Transportation.” Transportation - Business & Environment - Harvard Business School, Harvard Business School, [www.hbs.edu/environment/climate-change/Pages/transportation.aspx](http://www.hbs.edu/environment/climate-change/Pages/transportation.aspx).

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



## What is Happening Soon?

### CMU Farmer’s Market

This fall, CS is bringing back the CMU Farmer’s Market every Friday from 11 AM to 2 PM starting on September 6th and ending on October 25th. The market is in Lot 33N and will include a variety of crafts and food items to available for purchase. This is a great way to support local people and businesses without leaving campus!

### Campus Sustainability Month

Next October is Campus Sustainability Month! To celebrate, CS will host multiple events, including a social media challenge, a service opportunities, and collaborations with other campus organizations. Stay tuned for more details on specific events to come!

## Any Questions? Contact Us!

Stop by our office in Dow Science Room 275 or email us at [sustainability@cmich.edu](mailto:sustainability@cmich.edu).

Also check out our socials for more updates!

Instagram & Facebook @cmucentralsustainability