



May 2024 Newsletter



Congratulations on Finishing the Spring 2024 Semester!

Finishing an academic semester is like crossing the finish line of a marathon; it's a culmination of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Keep reading to reflect on the hard work that went into making CMU more sustainable this past semester and to learn of more initiatives to expect in the coming months.

A Special Message to Our Graduating Seniors

Ava Brewer, Claire DeBlanc, and Meghan VanDamme, three of Central Sustainability's hardworking team members, will be graduating after this semester! Ava and Meghan will both be working for Waste Management, and Claire will be interning in Meijer Gardens' sustainability program. They will be missed greatly!



Semester Wrap-Up

This past semester was a busy one in terms of sustainability programming at CMU. Here's a recap of major things that were accomplished:

Earth Month 2024

Central Sustainability was able to host a month-long celebration in April to commemorate Earth Day, which is an annual event to support environmental protection. The month was started off with a clean-up, where CMU students came together to collect 164 pounds of trash around the community.

The university also hosted a sustainability-focused Hackathon, where students brainstormed ideas on topics like green spaces, mobility solutions, and innovative systems for sharing resources (scan the QR code to see the winners and their solutions!).

The end of April focused more on environmental discourse. For instance, former CEO of Crystal Mountain ski-resort Jim MacInnes presented at CMU about sustainability energy transitions, sharing insight on how he was able to make much of his resort's operations carbon neutral.



Finally, author and researcher Britt Wray shared her insight with the CMU community about the importance of bringing emotion into climate change discourse on Earth Day. CS was beyond grateful to share these events with the CMU community.

AASHE STARS Report 2024

A major endeavor CS has undertaken is the 2024 submission of STARS report, which is a benchmarking tool that assesses how sustainable CMU is and provides feedback for the next steps CMU should take to be more sustainable. The report is scheduled to be submitted at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, and results should likely appear over the summer so stay tuned!

What's Happening this Summer?

Campus Grows

Group dues are \$10 for any students, staff, faculty, and community members looking to garden throughout the summer with the Campus Grows community gardening club. Email sustainability@cmich.edu to learn more!

Bike Benefits

Bike Benefits is a Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce program that incentivizes carbon-free transportation through special deals for customers with a Bike Benefits sticker and proof of carbon-free travel.

Mission Street Survey

Do you have ideas for improving Mission Street across Mt. Pleasant? The City of Mt. Pleasant is looking for CMU student input in this survey by **May 31st**.



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



Looking to CS Next Year...

Campus Sustainability Month

As always, next October is Campus Sustainability Month! To celebrate, CS will host multiple events, including a social media challenge and campus sustainability walking tours to help people connect concepts of sustainability to geographic locations at CMU.

CMU Farmer's Market

This year, CS has been organizing a CMU Farmer's Market for **Fall 2024**. Vendors are subject to change, but the market will include a variety of crafts and food items for people to explore. This is a great way to support local people and businesses without leaving campus!

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