

Community Partners



- **Who Are They?**

- Blandford Nature Center / Mixed Greens
- The Bloom Collective Info Shop
- C.A. Frost Environmental Academy (Grand Rapids Public Schools)
- FAIR
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Grand Rapids Child Discovery Farm to School project
- GVSU biodiesel collaborative
- Haworth Furniture
- Local First!
- Our Kitchen Table food diversity and justice project

Examples of Student Projects in Sustainability



- **Blandford Nature Center:** Students helped to plan farm, build hoop houses and develop youth farm team activities. Students learned and utilized organic farming methods, completed earthworks projects, developed local markets for produce grown, created learning opportunities for youth in organic farming and gardening.



Examples of Student Projects in Sustainability



- **The Bloom Collective:** Students organized a Critical Mass bike ride and 350 Day Rally in observance of Climate Justice Day 2009 and Copenhagen Climate Summit. Students mobilized a community coalition focused on demanding corporate accountability and climate justice.

See link for short video:

<http://griid.org/2009/10/24/climate-justice-day-in-grand-rapids>



Longtime activist: Mary Swain, 82, of Grand Rapids holds a 350 sign Saturday in Rosa Parks Circle while participating in 350.org International Day of Climate Action. "I've been an environmentalist since I was 25, and I just think we need to have more respect for the earth," she said.

Residents rally round global effort

Nearly 50 people march downtown

BY KYLA KING
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — A small group of mostly college students braved wet and chilly conditions to march in downtown Grand Rapids on Saturday as part of a simultaneous global effort to draw attention to carbon emissions and their role in warming the planet.

The event was one of thousands taking place as part of International Day of Climate Action by a group called 350.org.

The campaign is organized around the idea that 350 parts per million in carbon emission is the safe limit for the atmosphere. The group says scientific data shows the level is close to 390 parts per million.

Speaking out: From left, Grand Valley State University students Kristina Pepelleo, 19, Emily Colletti, 18, and Robert Zinger, 18, hold a banner while leading a march from Rosa Parks Circle to Calder Plaza on Saturday as part of the 350.org International Day of Climate Action, a global event to draw attention to the role of carbon emissions in global warming.

Examples of Student Projects in Sustainability



- **C.A. Frost Environmental Academy:**
GVSU students mentor middle school students studying sustainability.
Assisted class in building vermi-composting bin, tending the school greenhouse and doing habitat and nature trail restoration.

Learning their way



Students from GVSU's liberal studies program work with students from the C.A. Frost Academy on a soil project in the school's greenhouse.

By Joe Boogaard | TBL
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ALLENDALE – Students in Grand Valley State University's liberal studies program are engaging the community through directed practicum that's allowing them to wrestle with the meaning of sustainability.

Over the last three years, the liberal studies department has revised its program to afford students more opportunity to go out and experience what they're studying. Directed studies have focused on poverty or education, but this year the department has added the broad topic of sustainability to the mix.

"The premise of what we do is that good citizens are students who have the ability to reflect and engage," said Melissa Baker-Boosamma, affiliate professor of liberal studies, who's supervising the sustainability practicum. "They do the academic piece – the writing and reading, but they're also self-reflective. The set of skills they develop, we like to think, prepares them to become good citizens.

"Given the interest in the big idea of sustainability, we wanted to investigate what that means and what it has to do with

practiced in the community.

At Haworth, students are participating in an audit by helping to gather information about practices at various showrooms to help them become more efficient. Students at Local First are developing a curriculum aimed at local elementary schools to help the young students investigate the importance of local economies in creating sustainable communities.

After the experience at the partner school group, the students come back to the classroom to share with fellow classmates.

"It's really an exploration, a joint exploration...to attempt to better understand what sustainability means, how it's done and what forces you're up against when you try to live a sustainable lifestyle," Baker-Boosamma told TBL.

Baker-Boosamma hopes to develop relationships with existing and new community partners.

"We want to develop relationships with the community that are mutually beneficial. We want to know how can we partner (with other groups), what experience can we bring, what are your needs and how we can fill them. We want to build the spirit of sustainability into the program," she said.

The program, still a work in progress, crosses many academic disciplines, Baker-Boosamma said.

"It's a lot of work and mental exercise for all of us to see how sustainable practices fit together."

Baker-Boosamma believes a successful program would mean the students come

Learning Outcomes (inspired by AAC&U LEAP goals)



- Critical inquiry and analysis
- Dialogue
- Self-Reflection
- Community Organizing
- Cross-cultural and intercultural competency
- Written, oral and interpersonal communication
- Teamwork and problem solving
- Civic engagement
- Personal and social responsibility
- Synthesis

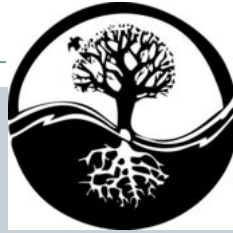
Student Reflections



“Each and every individual person must realize their connection to the world and their responsibility to care and to love. Only then can this movement make the change we want to see.”

-student, Abby Borst

Student Reflections



I entered into a relationship with the plants and land around me. This is sacred work.”

– student, Matt Tomac

Student Reflections



“To enter into and fully engage in, genuine dialectic relationships with everything one comes into contact with is to cultivate the practice of sustainability.”

-student, Paris Conwell

Applied Sustainability

