



Dear AASHE STARS Committee,

I am writing to affirm Grand Valley State University's Office of Sustainability Practices issued a report on the collective economic impact of sustainability.

The "2015 Grand Valley State University Collective Sustainability Impact Report" provides an updated look at the economic impact of GVSU's sustainability efforts. All data and key performance measurements have been converted to one primary metric – economic impact – in order to provide a longer term view of the overall effectiveness and value created by applied sustainability best practices on campus and in the community. Collective sustainability economic impact is defined as the total costs and benefits that various sustainability initiatives, programs, and activities have on the local economy.

Grand Valley's collective sustainability impact has been determined on a best efforts basis by estimating the total avoided costs and value created in economic impact dollars for FY2015 from its various sustainability programs, both on campus and in the community in the following areas:

1. Education for Sustainable Development
2. Sustainable Food Systems
3. Waste Minimization
4. Energy Conservation and Management
5. Water Conservation and Management
6. Alternative Transportation and Fuels
7. Sustainable and Local Purchasing
8. Fiscal Sustainability
9. Health, Wellness, and Nutrition
10. Sustainable Building and Land Use
11. Community Engagement and Service

It should also be noted that some of this data and information may have appeared in other GVSU reports and documents that have been published. However, this report specifically applies to the collective impact of sustainability best practices on campus and in the local community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Norman Christopher

Executive Director