Sustainable SAINTS
BYOM discount - Many of our local coffee shops offer discounts for bringing in your own coffee mug.

Both large and small locations, from Starbucks to Common Ground, and our own Moose Café offer a discount on your coffee if you bring your own mug.
Single-Stream Recycling
Blue bins are located in building common areas throughout campus to recycle (food-free) paper, plastic, glass and tin cans.

Composting
Green composting bins are located alongside the recycling bins throughout campus. Food scraps, coffee grounds, compostable plastic, food-soiled paper products and wax coated (i.e. paper milk cartons) paper waste are accepted.

Special Recycling
In all residence halls, apartments, and common areas of select buildings, special recycling collections are available for the following:
- Electronic Waste - Anything with a battery or a cord
- Ink Cartridges
- Batteries
- Terracycle Collection - Snack bags, candy wrappers, oral care items, drink pouches, energy bar wrappers, cereal bags, personal care and beauty items, writing instruments, cheese packaging, tape dispensers, and brita water filters.
- Styrofoam - Block foam, egg cartons, plates/cups. NO packing peanuts
- Goodwill - Clothing, jewelry, books, shoes, furniture (any condition), sports equipment, and other household items

One Saint’s Junk is Another Saint’s Treasure
This program allows Aquinas Community members to find goods for donation or sale, and to post unwanted items. You can find this program under the Sustainability Initiative section on the right-hand side of the Moose.

Reduce your waste
Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. Make sure to recycle aluminum - it can be recycled using only 5% of the energy used to make the original product!
Rethink Transportation

**Bus Discount**
With an Aquinas ID, it costs only $0.25 cents to ride the Rapid Bus System and it is an effective way to reduce the college’s carbon footprint.

**Ride Your Bike**
With over 80 bike racks on campus, there is no need to fret about secure parking for your bicycle. Each inverted U-Rack can hold 2 bikes! Visit ridetherapid.org to view routes and bus schedules.

**AQ Bikes**
AQ Bikes is a new and sustainable way to get around campus and the Grand Rapids area. As gas prices continue to fluctuate, eliminate uncertainty by checking out a more affordable way to travel. This school year, Campus Safety will be offering a limited selection of bikes that may be rented by the day, weekend, or quad... and they even have a tandem! Each bike will be inspected before and after use and equipped with a quality bike lock and helmet for safety and security. Check out the Campus Safety web page for more information.

**Carpooling**
Riding with other Saints is a great way to reduce carbon emissions, decrease the on campus parking burden, and make your daily commute more enjoyable. Visit the Sustainability Initiative section on the right-hand side of the Moose to access the Rideshare system and post or view carpooling requests.

Composting organic waste reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills or incinerators. Material resulting from composting is rich in nutrients and can be used for agricultural lands, recreational areas like parks and golf courses, mined lands, highway medians, cemeteries, home lawns and gardens, and much more.
**Eat Local**
Grand Rapids has tons of great local restaurants located near campus. Check out local establishments like Marie Catrib’s, Brewery Vivant, Terra, The Electric Cheetah, or Yesterdog and you won’t be disappointed. To view a list of local restaurants visit [localfirst.com](http://localfirst.com)

**Farmers Markets**
Support local farmers by shopping for produce at the Fulton Street Farmer’s Market. You can expect friendly service with an added bonus of fresh, flavorful food! The market is located just west of Fulton St. and Fuller Ave. From May-Christmas, the Fulton Street Farmer’s Market runs Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat from 8am-3pm. During the winter months (January - April) the market operates on Saturdays only from 10am - 1pm.

**Community Garden**
Volunteer to dig in the soil and join efforts to support Aquinas College’s own campus community garden. It’s a great opportunity to get involved on campus by growing local, organic food and, of course, you will also get to reap the tasty benefits of your harvest!

**GotArt?**
GotArt? encourages student, staff, and faculty art to be more widely displayed on campus. Visit the Sustainability Initiative section in the right-hand navigation of the Moose and access Got Art?, a virtual space for advertising art for display, and listing on-campus locations desiring art.
Sustainability Policies

Campus-Wide Smoking Policy
Smoking on campus is only permitted in eight select areas that are marked with signs as designated smoking areas. Visit the Sustainability Initiative page on Aquinas’ website to view a list of designated smoking areas. aquinas.edu/sustainability

Excessive Idling Policy
Vehicles on campus are only permitted to idle for 5 minutes or less, to help preserve the beauty of campus and support the Presidents’ Climate Commitment. By limiting the amount of time your vehicle idles, carbon emissions and your contribution to global climate change is minimized.

Take Action

Student Clubs
Get involved on campus to help Aquinas reach its overarching goal of sustainability. Consider attending a Students Striving for Sustainability (S3) or an EPIC meeting. Advisors: Jessica Eimer and Dr. Matt Tueth

Sustainability Initiative
Submit your great sustainability idea/proposal to be explored, developed, voted on, and possibly implemented. Visit AQ’s Sustainability Initiative page and submit your idea! aquinas.edu/sustainability

Electronic Waste recycling: According to the EPA, only 18% of e-waste is recycled. Recycle your used electronics responsibly to keep toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, beryllium, cadmium, and arsenic out of landfills and potentially out of groundwater.
For more information on AQ’s Sustainability Initiative, please visit our website: aquinas.edu/sustainability

Center for Sustainability at Aquinas College
Academic Building, Second Floor, Rooms 253 & 255
1607 Robinson Rd. SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Jessica B. Eimer
Director of Sustainability
Jessica.Eimer@aquinas.edu
616.632.1994

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Sources:
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