



Presenting Circular Economy Research at Compact26

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This past fall, we were approved to present a poster for the AmeriCorps*VISTA Campus Compact's Compact26 conference in Chicago on March 17th. The goal was to find a communicable way to present what researching a circular economy and its practices

look like, why it might be useful, and what it means. To accomplish this, I was able to create a poster that outlined the definition and goals of circular economy conversion in Michigan. For my service term, I also delivered a comprehensive and digestible timeline of service experiences as a circular economy specialist, accompanied with accessible resources for attendees.

During the conference, I was able to engage attendees with a friendly approach and make the information as relatable as possible, thereby reducing the struggle that communicating circular economy initiatives can bring. I would start by asking their name, if they were familiar with any of the terminology or related ideas presented, and ask if they might be interested in learning more. Then, I proceeded to walk them through a condensed definition of what circular economy means via the Ellen MacArthur Foundation; directed them to and explained our diagrams showing linearity vs circularity models and gave examples of proven and beneficial transition models and what they could look like in the future. Lastly, I provided attendees with a list of my service objectives and described positive outcomes as well as what might come in the future springboarding off my term.

One of the resources I provided was a map for attendees to view through a QR code using data from EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) on landfill use and capacity for the fiscal year of 2024, mainly because the public version was not generally accessible. I found very eye-opening data in the report that shows how little or how much space our landfills have left to fill. It shows the importance of diverting waste at the source and designing it out from inception; scaling up our landfill systems or recycling doesn't truly solve the problem of fixing what is being created. It is something that is instantly grounding for someone who views the website and is as eye-opening for them as it was for me, using visual understanding. I got very positive, interactive, and inquisitive

responses and was proud of the work I put into it. I am now working on implementing the next iteration focused on user-friendly editing and maintenance capabilities to account for prolonged use at the CCED, anticipating that the data will need to be updated with each annual report produced by EGLE.

In all, the conference had the largest turnout that they had seen in the history of the program (300 over expected capacity). I was able to attend great trainings and side room showcases of impactful research that Campus Compact members were working on, and gather ideas and strategies for community engagement, partnerships, and outreach.

MAP RESOURCE

If you would like to explore the map resource I created, please visit this link

<https://grggit.github.io/TestforAVCC/> or scan the QR code on any attached view of my poster. IF you might have any additional questions, feel free to reach out at grg7576@rit.edu

Domicology Traveling Display

AVAILABLE TO HOST AT NO COST FOR PERIODS OF 2–6 WEEKS.

The MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) has developed a traveling educational display exploring the challenges and opportunities related to structural abandonment and the transition toward a more sustainable, circular built environment.

Originally created as part of a Domicology exhibit at the MSU Museum, the display consists of seven roll-down, collapsible banner panels. Each banner stands approximately 82 inches tall, with a base measuring 37.25 inches wide by 7.5 inches deep.

The panels are designed to engage public audiences in understanding:

- The lifecycle of buildings and materials
- The social, economic, and environmental impacts of structural abandonment
- Policy and practice approaches for creating more just and sustainable communities

CCED is currently seeking additional host locations interested in providing educational programming or public engagement opportunities around sustainability, community development, or the built environment.

For additional background materials, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/domicology> or email ced@msu.edu