

Carbon Neutrality Task Force Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 1, 2022

Members Present: Gavin Leach, Bethany Beavers, Randy Klitzke, Sarah Mittlefehldt, Cindy Paavola, Kathy Richards, Brandon Sager, Jim Thams.

Absent/Excused: Mike Bath, Jes Thompson.

1. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes from February 4 and February 18, 2022 was made by Jim Thams, seconded by Sarah Mittlefehldt. Motion carried.
2. Jim Thams presented the process for analyzing classroom and lab space on campus and how effective space utilization ties to the university's carbon neutrality plan. Discussion followed as to the importance of communicating to campus the impact of this process on the capital construction initiatives planned for the next five years.
3. Progress was reviewed on assignments from Dec. 3rd meeting
 - a. University-owned Vehicles and Grounds Equipment: Jim Thams shared the inventory and annual fuel usage. The inventory will serve as a benchmark as progress is made towards carbon neutrality.
 - b. New Vehicles: Facilities recently bid and ordered a hybrid Ford F150 pickup truck to replace an existing unit. For comparison, the vehicle was bid with two options – standard powertrain and with a hybrid powertrain. The hybrid powertrain was approximately 80% more than the standard powertrain. The Purchasing Department will bid all future university vehicles two ways, both as a standard power train and hybrid or electric powertrain.
 - c. Trees: Sarah Mittlefehldt shared the progress that the student group in her class has made on the tree inventory on university property via GIS app. The students will report on the carbon sequestration numbers resulting from the tree inventory using the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR) tree carbon calculator. Grounds staff will pick up and complete the tree inventory from where the students leave off.
4. An invitation will be extended to Emily Leach, the chair of the Marquette Climate Adaptation Task Force to attend a future task force meeting for an experience exchange.
5. Next Scheduled Meeting: April 15, 2022, 11 am. Meetings will continue through the summer for those who can participate. Information will be shared with all members.
6. Schedule Next Meeting
 - a. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Prioritize areas of focus based on cost and impact
 - ii. Determine how progress will be measured for each goal

- iii. Experience exchange with potential local partners-City of Marquette, Marquette Board of Light and Power
- iv. Review potential carbon emission reduction initiatives identified by Black & Veatch

Reference Information:

Overall goals of the Carbon Neutrality Plan

- Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 in the most financially responsible way possible.
- Identify top opportunities for working toward carbon neutrality.
- Provide opportunity for academics to be involved with initiatives.
- Develop authentic carbon neutrality plan with transparent measurement and reporting system.

Northern 2030 Sustainability Plan Recommendation regarding Carbon Neutrality

Strive for Carbon Neutrality (*updated by Carbon Neutrality Task Force to be broader*)

- a. Renewable Energy Investment (transition to at least 35% renewable energy by 2030)
- b. Improvement of infrastructure and energy efficiency in existing and future facilities on campus
- c. Replace 50% of NMU's current transportation fleet with electric/hybrid vehicles by 2030, with complete transition by 2050

Established Criteria for Analyzing Initiatives Proposed for Carbon Neutrality Plan

Top Priorities

- b. Financial Viability
 - i. Consider Life Cycle Costs; Total Cost of Ownership
 - ii. Opportunity Cost
 - iii. Other Potential Financial Resources/Subsidies
- c. Tie to Academics
- d. Emissions Reduction Impact
- e. Measurability & Trackability
 - i. Probability of Success
 2. Behavioral Change/Extent of Campus Participation Required

Logistics

- a. Product Life Cycle/Proven Technology

b. Maintenance Impact

Extra Benefits

- a. Local Economic Benefit
- b. Recruitment/Marketing Impact/Visibility
- c. Help Achieve Energy Independence
- d. Community engagement/social impact
- e. Things that are "distinctly Northern"

Areas of Focus for Sustainability Plan and Carbon Neutrality Plan

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Waste Minimization/Diversion

Recycling

Composting

City Water Use Reduction

Storm Water Diversion

Education & Awareness

Employee Educator Program

Promoting Bicycle Use

Purchasing Policies

Sustainability Curriculum

Research

Food & Dining

Green Fund Application Review

Wellbeing & Work

Assessing Diversity and Equity

Communication

Local Partnerships

CARBON NEUTRALITY PLAN

Carbon Emissions-*Need Greenhouse Gas Inventory*

Energy Efficiency/Conservation-Electric and Gas-*Part of CEMP Process*

Sourcing of Electricity-*Part of CEMP Process*

Natural Gas for Ripley Plant-*Part of CEMP Process*

Natural Gas-Heating for Other Buildings-*Part of CEMP Process*

Refrigerants-*Part of CEMP Process*

Renewable Energy-*Part of CEMP Process*

Renewable Energy Credits-*Part of CEMP Process*

Air Conditioning-*Part of CEMP Process*

Natural Gas for Cooking-*Impacted by CEMP Process*

University-owned Vehicles

University-owned Ground Equipment

Trees

Building Construction

Space Utilization

Communication

Local Partnerships

Faculty/Staff/Student Commuting