

**Carbon Neutrality Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, April 15, 2022**

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

Absent/Excused: Mike Bath.

1. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve minutes from April 1, 2022 was made by Jim Thams, seconded by Gavin Leach. Motion carried.
2. Potential energy technology options to reduce GHG emissions were reviewed as presented by engineering consultant. Discussed current available technology on campus. Reviewed potential new energy technology options including those of high potential to explore further, those less viable but promising, those less viable, those not beneficial to NMU and those being researched and developed to consider in the future.
3. Task force reviewed the final draft of the Interim Strategic Plan Focus Area called "Builders of a Culture of Sustainability" and offered suggestions on how to streamline overview paragraph.
4. Decision was made to cancel the April 29, 2022 meeting due to scheduling conflicts with the Board of Trustees meeting to be held at the same time.
5. Next meeting will be held when new information is available from engineering consultant to review.
6. Future Agenda Items to Consider:
  - 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, Marquette Climate Adaptation Task Force.

## 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
    1. 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