



FOCUS AREA 4: ACTION PLAN

BUILDERS OF A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Enhance and grow sustainability efforts and education throughout the planning, operations, education, research and service aspects of the university.

Sustainable actions are commonly defined as those that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Most definitions of sustainability emphasize the intersection of environmental protection, economic development and social equity. Thus, a focus on sustainability reinforces other Focus Areas such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Rural Roots. Building a Culture of Sustainability will require a comprehensive strategy that infuses sustainability considerations into all university-wide decision-making, curricula and outreach efforts. This coordinated approach builds on existing goals outlined in NMU's 2030 Sustainability Plan and Campus Energy Master Plan, which have been developed in consultation with the Sustainability Advisory Council, the Carbon Neutrality Task Force and the efforts of many students, staff and faculty across campus. Coordinating these efforts will bring NMU's performance in this area to the next level, and will promote NMU's reputation as a regional leader in sustainability.

DOCUMENT LEGEND

Font color = BLACK: No dependencies to starting work outlined in the tactic have been identified

Font color = GRAY: Preliminary actions must be taken in order for the tactic to start; detailed in the "Dependencies" column

Text = DOUBLE-UNDERLINED: New or revised content since last update

Text = STRIKED: Content removed, revised or consolidated since last update

Ongoing Status: ■ On Track ■ Moderate Progress ■ Off Track

Common acronyms used:

SHINE: Sustainability Hub for Innovation & Environment

AASHE: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

STARS: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System

CSS: Campuswide Sustainability Survey

Adopted 12/5/22; updated 6/30/23

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STRATEGY I:

Centralize sustainability efforts to improve planning, coordination and communication.	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AASHE: STARS Rating Campus Energy Master Plan CSS: Awareness of sustainability efforts on campus CSS: Sustainability as component of campus culture 							
	SPONSOR	CONTACT 1	CONTACT 2	START DATE	END DATE	DEPEN-DENCIES	STATUS	PROGRESS METRICS
Tactic 1.1. Cultivate and grow an interdepartmental Sustainability Hub for Innovation & Environment (SHINE) to promote and align sustainability efforts.	SHINE	Jes Thompson	Dave Nyberg	Summer 2022	Winter 2024		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on SHINE development Sustainable/on-going funding secured
Tactic 1.2. Create Campus Energy and Carbon Neutrality Plan and disseminate executive summary and goals with the campus community.	Facilities	Kathy Richards	Tom Kitsos	Fall 2021	<u>Fall 2023</u>		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on plan development Recommendations/goals prioritized for future efforts
Tactic 1.3. Develop and implement a formal tool to evaluate and consider sustainable design measures for all new projects.	Facilities	Jim Thams	Brandon Sager	Fall 2022	<u>Summer 2023</u>		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool developed and implemented

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STRATEGY 2:

Implement sustainability initiatives to contribute to a diverse and sustainable world (NMU mission statement).	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:							
	SPONSOR	CONTACT 1	CONTACT 2	START DATE	END DATE	DEPEN- DENCIES	STATUS	PROGRESS METRICS
Tactic 2.1. Transition university vehicles to hybrid or electric, as feasible.	Purchasing	Joe Ombrello	Jim Thams	Fall 2021	Winter 2024		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of hybrid or electric NMU vehicles
Tactic 2.2. Pilot expansion to post-consumer composting systems on campus.	Dining Services	<u>Paul Schoonveld</u>	<u>Kathy Richards</u>	Fall 2022	Fall 2023		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of pilot implementation Proportion of NMU food waste diverted from landfill (weight, yards)
Tactic 2.3. Identify opportunities for sustainability practices in all aspects of Dining operations, including residence hall and community dining venues, retail, concessions and catering operations.	Dining Services	<u>Paul Schoonveld</u>	<u>Kathy Richards</u>	Fall 2023	Winter 2024		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of opportunities identified and implemented
Tactic 2.4. Use the student-initiated Green Fund to implement sustainability initiatives.	EcoReps, SHINE	Ryan Stock	Jes Thompson	Winter 2021	Winter 2024		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of initiatives implemented
Tactic 2.5. Integrate principles from the Decolonizing Diet Project into NMU Dining Services by continued implementation of the Week of Indigenous Eating.	Center for Native American Studies, Dining Services	Marty Reinhardt	Alden MacDonald	Fall 2021	Winter 2024		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals served during Week of Indigenous Eating

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STRATEGY 3:

Support sustainability education inside and out of the classroom to develop leaders capable of local and global impact (NMU vision statement).	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AASHE: STARS – Academics AASHE: STARS – Engagement AASHE: STARS – Innovation & Leadership 							
	SPONSOR	CONTACT 1	CONTACT 2	START DATE	END DATE	DEPEN-DENCIES	STATUS	PROGRESS METRICS
Tactic 3.1. Create the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Economy certificate.	SHINE	Jes Thompson	Dave Nyberg	Fall 2022	Fall 2023		Ongoing	• Completion of certificate
Tactic 3.2. In collaboration with local partners, develop a database of sustainability-focused internships, service projects, research and other experiential learning opportunities.	SHINE	Jes Thompson	Dave Nyberg	Fall 2022	Winter 2024		Ongoing	• Progress on database development
Tactic 3.3. Create a sustainability certificate program that is accessible to a wide range of audiences.	SHINE	Ryan Stock	Jes Thompson	Fall 2022	Winter 2024	An academic department to "house" the certificate	Dependent	• Certificate program enrollment and completion • Student characteristics
Tactic 3.4. Facilitate educational efforts around Indigenous practices, including Indigenous food movements and relational accountability.	Center for Native American Studies, Olson Library	Lynne Lambdin	Joe Lubig, Marty Reinhardt	Fall 2022	Winter 2024	CNAS Director hired	Dependent	• Documentation of educational efforts