

Nov 15, 2024 | Sustainability Advisory Council Meeting

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Attached files: Updated_SAC Agenda_ 11_15_2024.pdf

Notes - Sustainability Advisory Council Meeting_ 10-25-2024.pdf

1. Welcome

- a. Sound & accessibility - please continue to use the microphone
- b. Upcoming meetings: Next semester we'll have four Friday meetings (Jan. 24, Feb. 14, March 14, April 11). All meetings will be in Jamrich, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
 - Keep an eye out for the room for the SAC meetings next semester

2. Key Initiatives, Updates & Continued Discussion

a. Campus Move Out planning (Brandon Sager & Jes Thompson)

EcoReps + Ripple Effect

- Stuff Swap Collaboration (Saturday, April 26th.
- 10-4 pm with 3 different locations across campus.

Facilities

- Ian Hogan has experience organizing Notre Dame's "[Old 2 Gold](#)" event at Notre Dame.
- This is a move-out sale event with student organizations working the sale for funds for their university, with the sale open to members of the community.
- Have a sale in the dome with leftover items (i.e. fridges & microwaves for \$5).
- We could partner with NMU truck driving school to fill up a truck with stuff for the sale(?)
- This is helpful because students are not putting things in landfills or overloading local thrift stores.
- Move-out program with EcoReps & Ripple Effect on April 27th-2nd to collect donated items & potentially create something like the "Old 2 Gold" event.
- There will be a tent between the woods & quad to collect the donations.
- [This](#) is what Notre Dame is currently doing to collect leftover items (they no longer run the old 2 gold event).
- There is potential for a new subcommittee running the pilot to move out. We can form a "stuff/facility" committee in the future.
- Where to store these items before the move-out sale? The basement of quad II under fit zone after the library storage moves is a possibility.

b. Household Goods Trade/Swap/Fix-it Space

Brainstorm ideas for a campus restore & repair cafe. This could be a part of the new subcommittee. Was included in US EPA Community Change Grant proposal

c. Food Insecurity - new data from Healthy Minds Survey - create a new action item in the Our Compass strategy. Host a sustainable food festival? Create a task force to address food insecurity on campus. (Jes Thompson, Shawnrece Butler, Rhea Dever)

- 32% of students feel food insecure which came out of the Healthy Minds Survey.
- Key groups: DEll office, Center of Wellbeing, Center for Rural Health (partnered with Feed America) , Marquette Ending Hunger, NMU Food Pantry, Hoop House, ASNMU.
- How to shop, prepare, and store food→ creating workshops for students on this knowledge base.
- Creating a food festival talking about this issue.
- Food recovery overall since there is a problem with state legislation & Michigan health code that prevents recovering food and donating or serving
- Educational programming with children.
- Michigan Tech/ Lake Superior State has a program where they take food and put them into these packages to go into the food pantry.
- UMACS (Upper Midwest Assoc. for Campus Sustainability) is hosting [CoLab conversation on Food Security](#) First Meeting: **January 22, 2025 from 3:00-4:00 pm CST** (Join us to discuss these initiatives on our campuses, where we'll cover everything from operational tips to how to determine our priorities, mission, and impact. This group is primarily designed to support those directly involved in food security efforts, but everyone interested is welcome to participate. (The group will decide in January how often to meet in the future.) Hosts: Assistant Professor [Clement Loo](#), UMN Morris and [Ellie Rizk](#), Husky Food Access Network Coordinator, Michigan Technological University *NMU is a UMACS member so you can register for free to attend - we can invite as many people as we want to join.
- Creating a task force or around food security on campus (aka another sub-committee)

d. Respect Marquette & Leave No Trace poster contest (Heather Vivian)

- Engagement with NMU students → creating a “Leave No Trace” poster contest.
- The 1st place winner will receive a “Love on Local” gift card of \$150 & a respect Marquette hoodie.
- Work with student org/ Ecoreps/ Art+Design department
- Need a poster to promote the contest!
- Keep your eye out for how the poster will be submitted.
- SHINE interns can help circulate information with SHINE Instagram, newsletters, and posters.

e. Water is Life Festival April 19, 2025 (Sarah Mittlefehldt & Tyler Dettloff)

- These SAC members were not in attendance at this meeting.

f. Climate March & Sustainable Living Festival in April (GTU & Isabelle Honkomp)

- Working with GTU- Gamma Theta Upsilon, the international honors society in geography on the sustainability festival hosted at the end of Earth Week
- Farmers market style earth fest
 - Community sustainability-related organizations
 - Campus organizations
- ASNMU can help support with contacts with vendors they created hosting their farmers market event
- Climate march through Northern Climate Network participants ending up at the Earth Fest event.
- Live music with local bands.

g. Hoop House moving in Spring 2025 (Susy Ziegler & Jes Thompson)

- The Hoop House moving to campus, behind the woodland park apartments
- This location has easy access to electricity & water.
- A different organization will be providing the funding to support this move.
- At the Jacobetti they are expanding their program which gives students an opportunity to learn how to lift & hoist posts as part of their class where the Hoop House was located.
- There is a future woodland park project:
 - Hoop House– This is the first step for this vision!
 - Solar Panels from the SHINE building
 - Sustainable living demonstration
 - Pollinator gardens
 - Native grasses
 - Large composting demonstrations
 - Eventually trails with signs

3. Committee Updates

a. Strategy Team: Our Compass ([university strategic plan](#)) Grand Challenge #1, Strategy #4 .

Action items have been prioritized (for now) and we'll continue to revisit and rank as opportunities to pursue new initiatives arise.

- Up next: get a draft with the board of trustees
- Meeting next week to streamline action items
- Put items in order from the next couple of months, and the next two years; and prioritize what items to move forward quickly.

b. [Green Fund](#) Committee

Update on submissions and the committee's next steps

Timeline

1. Submissions are due Sunday, Nov. 18 11:59 pm
2. EcoReps review & rank (Nov. 18-Dec.6)

- Open to all students
- Monday, Nov. 18, EcoReps meeting 4-5 Jamrich 1311
- 3. SAC Green Fund committee review & rank (Dec.6-Jan.?)
 - Keep your eyes out for an email
 - Rank the projects individually
- 4. Announce Green Fund projects at PEAK week (Feb. 21)
 - Announce them during peak week once they get approved

c. **Outreach Committee**

- Members & Goals - Meeting Thursday, Nov. 21 at 11 a.m., at the SHINE building
- Sustainability Summit - February 18, 2025
- Headliner: Edible Campus, Chef Brian Flowers (food innovation director)
 - Presenting in the theater
- At the meeting, we will discuss:
 - Outline/events for the summit
 - Networking in different breakout rooms
 - Posters created by student organizations, research, and projects related to sustainability on campus hanging in Jamrich.
 - Confirm the location for the summit
 - Start communication with Professors & Student Orgs.

4. Student Group Reports

a. **Gender & the Environment class project**

- For their class project, they looked at the Northern 2030 sustainability plan to provide suggestions to improve this plan relating to gender gaps.
- They noticed a missing conversation relating to intersectionality, gender, and identity in this plan.
- The difference between financial disparity between genders and financial literacy gaps is important to acknowledge as well.
- Ideas to improve this conversation/revise the 2030 sustainability plan:
 - a. A specific and intentional plan about how Northern is going to be inclusive.
 - b. Inviting more people related to gender studies, wellbeing, and Native American studies to the planning conversation.
 - c. Professional development for faculty and staff about how to incorporate conversations relating to gender, the environment, and race in class.
 - d. Requirements for students to take a course in intersectionality (similar to world cultures requirement).
 - e. Adding pronouns & preferred names in online spaces like Educat, or including to use that in introductions in spaces.
- A copy of their project is included [HERE](#).

b. **EcoReps**

- Green Friday!
 - Goal: reduce stigma around using different resources at NMU to their advantage.

- Groups involved:
 - NMU food pantry
 - Ripple Effect
 - ASNMU career closet
 - Ecoreps clothing swap
- Reviewing Green fund proposals next week
- The week before finals events:
 - Zero waste gifting event Tuesday, December 3, 12-3 pm
 - Clothing swap & Terracycle event Thursday, December 5, 10 am to 4 pm

c. Compost Crew

- Video on SHINE Instagram to check out!
- 12,782 pounds of food waste was composted in the month of October with Partridge Creek Compost
- 10 people on the student team at Northern Lights Dining
- Always looking to reach out to more people to join the compost crew so NLD can cover more shifts to compost longer in the day.
- Last week 5 different students worked which ended up in having the dining hall composting for 12 hours straight!
- There has been an increase in composting causing Partridge Creek to now collect the waste twice a week.
- Reach out to [Partridge Creek Composting](#) if you know someone with a composting need!
- For every 10,000 pounds of composting, we are diverting 2 imperial tons of greenhouse gas emissions.
- LETS SHARE THIS STORY :)
- Grace did an interview with Northern Today about the compost crew

d. Green Athletics

- Stay tuned for newsletter/social media updates on how Athletics is continuing to help NMU reach its Climate Neutrality Goals.
- All athletic travel accounts for around 31 metric tons of CO₂e (GHG emissions carbon equivalent)
 - Efficiency:
 - Men & Womens teams travel together
 - Not having to switch the floor for the Berry Ice Arena for basketball
 - LED lights
 - Zero-waste Volleyball game
 - Green Athletics did a team apparel swap which went well
 - Working with Travel Marquette for January 25th for the Michigan Tech hockey zero-waste game

e. Northern Climate Network

- AMAZING turnout, 60+ participants for the last presentation by Dr. Alex Stoner
- Presentations for next semester are lined up
 - Look for the room number next semester!
 - The next event is January 17, at noon by Dr. Jongeun You who will be discussing policy & energy siting

f. Northern Parulas

- Bird club on campus
- Making campus bird-safe
- Working on a research project on how many bird deaths occur due to the buildings on campus

g. Conservation Crew

- Cooperwood mine- mine as close to 100 ft to Lake Superior and Porcupine State Park, it is a Canadian Company that will mine copper
- Organizations (Yellowdog Organization & Citizens for a Clean & Safe Lake Superior reached out to Conservation Crew)
- Share with organizations and individuals that are interested in joining to sign to reject this project
 - December 2nd to sign [this form](#)

*In November 2023, the President wrote a letter of support for the state-funded grant for the Highland-owned Copperwood Mine project. In June 2024, there were several discussions with the President and he rescinded his support for the project. He (President Tessman) is happy to talk to anyone about that process, you can schedule a meeting with his executive administrative assistant, Laura Glover. Because of those conversations it is clear that NMU-funded organizations can not support or oppose - they can't sign if they are funded by the University because of state funding. Individuals can sign and non-funded NMU organizations can as well.

*MEDC's \$50 million grant may be back on the docket for the Michigan Senate appropriations committee to possibly vote on in the last 8 days of the legislative session (sessions end December 19, if it doesn't pass, Highland will likely have to have to start all over to secure state funding)

5. Upcoming Events / Other updates/Good of the Order

Exciting News/events:

- **Reuse pass at NLD** has now launched so students can have a to-go box by "checking one out"
 - This was a green fund proposal!
 - Check out this project on the NMU dining website [here!](#)
- **Marquette 2049** Event/discussions:

- Table discussion about Land Use is December 4th in Northern Ballrooms at 10-11:30 AM
- Check out this event [here!](#)
- December 2nd is the last day to apply to the Sustainable Business course this summer in France
- **Carbon Neutrality Plan Progress Report:**
 - Go building by building to update lighting
 - Completed LED lighting in Cohodas
 - A projected 30% reduction in lighting usage
- **Marquette climate action plan**
 - To add feedback to the Marquette Climate Action Plan fill out this survey [here!](#)
- **Michigan Healthy Climate Corp** (Americorp) Position
 - There is a new member joining the County of Marquette
 - Anna Solberg will be joining the SHINE team as a Climate Action Coordinator
 - These people will start soon for their 11-month position