

ACTION PLAN

GRAND CHALLENGE 01 TACTICS

STRATEGY 4:

Assure successful progression of targets outlined in the NMU Carbon Neutrality Plan in order to embed sustainable values into all aspects of the University, including curriculum, operations, and external partnerships.

STRATEGY LEADS

Jes Thompson & Kathy Richards

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Environmental impact - Carbon emissions, Energy consumption, Water usage, Waste reduction, Recycling rates
- Social impact - Campus sustainability knowledge, Community engagement
- Economic impact - Divestment, Ethical purchasing, Utility savings

	OVERSIGHT	CONTACTS	START DATE	END DATE	SEQUENCE	STATUS	PROGRESS METRICS <small>(NOTE: MAY BE EXPRESSED AS GOAL, BENCHMARK, OR OUTCOME FOR TACTIC TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE)</small>
1.4.1. Reduce Waste: Conduct a baseline assessment to understand what is in NMU's waste stream; set targets to reduce amount sent to landfill, increase recycling and compost diverted from landfill.	Finance & Administration	Jes Thompson, Jelili Adebiyi, Brandon Sager	October 2024	December 2025			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of waste (tonnes) • Increase of recycling (tonnes)
1.4.2. Reduce Waste: Expand post-consumer composting systems on campus.	Dining Services	YTBD	Underway	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of compost (tonnes)
1.4.3. Reduce Waste: Eliminate petroleum-based products and offer as many compostable and/or recyclable items at concessions as possible.	Dining Services	Makaylee Kuhn, Dining Services/ YTBD	October 2024	December 2025			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in recyclable and compostable products purchased
1.4.4. Reduce Waste: Develop robust campus move-out and move-in programming that diverts waste from the landfill; repurposes homegoods & student-owned furniture; and properly recycles cardboard, electronics and other materials.	Finance & Administration	Brandon Sager, Jes Thompson	December 2024	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of waste (tonnes) • Increase of recycling (tonnes)
1.4.5. Reduce Emissions & Energy Use: Convert 50% of all the lighting on NMU's campus to be LED by 2030 (approx. 12,500 MWh of electricity are purchased per year for campus lighting); 100% by 2040.	Finance & Administration	Kathy Richards	October 2024	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy use • Proportion of lighting converted

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1.4.6. Reduce Emissions & Energy Use: Gather data for an initial Scope 3 assessment; building toward a baseline.	Finance & Administration	Jes Thompson	November 2024	December 2025			• Reduction in Scope 3 emissions
1.4.7. Reduce Emissions & Energy Use: Create partnership with Marquette Board of Light and Power (MBLP) for an off-campus installation and operation of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system to serve 89% of NMU's electrical demand (15 MW).	Finance & Administration	Kathy Richards	October 2024	YTBD			• Partnership with MBLP • Invest in renewable energy
1.4.8. Reduce Emissions & Energy Use: Installation of 75kW solar array on roof of new WellBeing Center (could provide 80,000 kWh/year).	Finance & Administration	Kathy Richards	Summer 2025	December 2026			• Invest in renewable energy • MDARD grant funding secured
1.4.9. Reduce Emissions & Energy Use: Develop plan to potentially transition from natural gas to renewable fuel (e.g., woodchip/biomass or renewable natural gas (RNG)/recovered methane) at the Ripley Plant.	Finance & Administration	Kathy Richards	Summer 2025	YTBD			• Invest in renewable energy • USDA-USFS grant funding secured
1.4.10. Increase Indigenous-informed Sustainability Knowledge: Create Indigenous-informed sustainability curriculum focused on deba'ookii (has enough to give away, has enough for everyone).	Academic Affairs & Student Success	Tyler Dettloff	January 2025	YTBD			• Increase in sustainability knowledge

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1.4.11. Increase Indigenous-informed Sustainability Knowledge: Create a living-learning community focused on sustainability and/or food systems.	Academic Affairs & Student Success; Northern Student Experience	Jes Thompson, Jeff Korpi	January 2025	August 2026			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in sustainability knowledge
1.4.12. Increase Indigenous-informed Sustainability Knowledge: Host Annual Campus-wide Sustainability Summit.	People, Culture & WellBeing; Academic Affairs & Student Success	Jes Thompson	February 2025	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in sustainability awareness and knowledge
1.4.13. Increase Indigenous-informed Sustainability Knowledge: Create a sustainable living demonstration area with food, forests, and Indigenous traditions and practices. 	Finance & Administration; People, Culture & WellBeing; Academic Affairs & Student Success	Jes Thompson, Kathy Richards	May 2025	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in sustainability awareness and knowledge US EPA Community Change grant funding secured
1.4.14. Increase Care for All Species: Work toward implementing bird-friendly practices on campus (e.g., reduce bird kills with glass collision, turn-down the lights during migration periods, and make sure that native species of plants are available for birds and pollinators).	Finance & Administration	Jes Thompson, Kathy Richards	May 2025	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce bird deaths on campus
1.4.15. Increase Sustainability Awareness: Amplify the opportunities, impact, and implementation of Green Fund projects on NMU's campus.	People, Culture & WellBeing	Jes Thompson	February 2025	YTBD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in sustainability awareness

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