Sustainability Advisory Council Minutes
09/12/25

1. Orientation

a. What's new and who is new
   - New SAC Roles:
     1. Tim Cleary - Chair of SAC
        a. Gave a brief overview of SAC being a fairly new council, so we're all learning together as we figure things out!
     2. Tyler Detloff - Vice Chair of SAC
   - *We went around the room with everyone introducing their name and title.*

b. Upcoming meetings
   - Friday, October 17, 10-11:30 a.m. in Jamrich 1318
   - Friday, November 14, 10-11:30 a.m. in Jamrich 1318

c. Council Charter Update - poll results
   - The results were unanimous!
   - Over the summer, a group of SAC members gathered two different times to revise the council charter and have conversations about the role of SAC in the university's structure. Changes include the addition of detail and precision, a new committee (research), and a more specific definition of SHINE's role in coordination with SAC and the larger university.

2. Student Org Reports

a. What are student orgs interested in? / What events and initiatives are they working on?
   i. **EcoReps** - *Taryn Anderson*
      1. They had a great turnout at their meeting two weeks ago!
      2. On September 9th, they attended the Sustainability Demonstration Area Design Jam

together as a group and had a good time sharing their thoughts and ideas about the space
3. They will be hosting a Clothing Swap on Monday, September 15 @ 12-3
4. They will also be hosting some campus cleanups this fall
5. They will be hosting a skillbuilder about the Green Fund on September 17, along with some additional workshops during their meeting to get more students involved in submitting Green Fund proposals
6. Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Mattea presented about the Green Fund to SLFP in the hopes of getting more proposals submitted
7. Mattea also sent out an email to departments seeking more input on Green Fund proposals

ii. **Hoop House** - *Abby Owen*

1. Abby also attended the Sustainability Demonstration Area Design Jam on September 9th. She presented about the Hoop House and their plans for the future
2. They signed up to attend Agropalooza through the Marquette and Alger County Conservation Districts on September 26th
3. Hoop House will have a table at the ASNMU Farmer's Market next Tuesday (Sept 16) - they'll have arts and crafts available to get funding for Hoop House and the Lincoln Community Garden (LCG), who they collaborate with often.
    a. LCG only has 3 people in leadership currently, so it works well to collaborate!
4. Next Saturday, September 20, Hoop House will have a table at the NMU Homecoming tailgating. They plan to have kids games available

5. Hoop House co-leader is writing emails to see about having canning sessions to show people how to do canning
6. Hoop House is also writing a Green Fund proposal!

iii. **Green Fund** - *Mattea Muscat*
1. She has promotional materials, write ups, etc. available for faculty who want to share resources about the Green Fund

iv. **Move NMU** - *Alex Berrones*
1. Move NMU is a new group on campus this year! They see themselves as advocates in the university planning process to look at more sustainable transportation options. They'd like to work with other organizations (both on and off campus) to educate and learn about sustainable transportation options. They've met with MarqTran, and they'd like to table with them on a regular basis, have them come to campus, and educate about it being a FREE and reliable service to get to campus.
2. They are also hoping to work with NMU PD to educate students about safe biking
3. They hope to be an advocacy group, helping educate students on the importance of attending public meetings (ASNMU, NMU, and city) to put this on their radar!
4. Possible events: Share bikeshare program and campus biking tours

v. **Plant Futures** - *Chloe Ravenscraft*
1. Chloe is working to create a new organization revolving around people educating themselves about sustainable food systems. There is no set plan this year, but they're looking to discuss and learn.

2. First meeting will be next Monday, September 15. They will have snacks from Sundre, talk about what the group would like to see and what students are interested in doing for projects, and see where there could be collaboration with other groups!

vi. **Conservation Crew** - *Taylor Kenyon*

1. Conservation Crew is excited to be involved with SAC and learn more about sustainability initiatives on campus. Conservation Crew has been operating since 2018. They lead hikes, lead workshops, and engage with the community through trash clean ups and volunteering. Two big events they help out with are the UP200 and the Noquamenon Ski Marathon.
2. Anyone interested in joining can connect with them via email nmucc@nmu.edu or on the Hub (Conservation Crew).
3. Upcoming events this month include:
    a. September 15 @ 4pm → Bad River documentary in Jamrich Hall
    b. September 23@ 3pm → Hiking segment 19 of the North Country Trail

3. Director's Report

a. Update from SHINE Director / AVP Sustainability

- *See the document above for a more detailed report or the quick points listed below*
- **Annual Report**
    1. There has been some misinformation spreading on campus about sustainability, SHINE is working hard to get information out about share what work is being done, plans for the future, and how to get involved. If anyone has a class or organization and wants an

update on campus sustainability, Jes has a presentation available to share. SHINE is always happy to connect and share about sustainability on campus.

- **Michigan Healthy Climate Fellows**
    1. Anna Solberg has been serving as our Sustainability Program Coordinator through the MI Healthy Climate Fellowship for one year. Her last day will be October 17 - You can join for Anna's going away party on October 16 from 12-2 in Hedgcock 2603
    2. A 3rd cohort is being funded for this program, SHINE has applied for a position to help with the Sustainability Demonstration Area behind Woodland Park Apartments. We will know in October if we were selected.
- **SHINE moved!** We are now in Hedgcock 2603 & 2605. SHINE will be moving to Harden Hall in December.
- **Sustainable Citizen Badge** - We've done a few in-person versions of this badge over the summer, and have it available to share with any groups that are interested.
- **Divestment** - In August, the 4th of 6 moves of funds was made. The last two are scheduled for next May and August. We're down to approximately less than 2% of funds that are associated with some aspect of the fossil fuel industry.
- **Sustainable Campus Index** - NMU is featured in the Sustainable Campus Index!
- **SISU Project Funded** - Waste reduction is a priority of ours this year, and we'll be designing outreach campaigns to help educate how to best reduce our waste on campus.
- **We have new SHINE Interns!**
- **Upcoming Events:**
    1. September 16: Tabling at ASNMU's Farmer's Market

2. September 16: Tabling at Toolkit Tuesday
3. September 19: Homecoming Parade

b. Insights from the University's leadership team

- **Sustainability Priorities:** *We will now be focusing on 5 priority tactics through our strategic plan. This does not mean we are ignoring the other 10, but rather that we are focusing on 5 priorities this year.*
    1. **Waste Reduction**
    2. **Move-In/Out Programs**
    3. **Transitioning to LED Lighting**
    4. **Solar on the roof of the WellBeing Center**
    5. **Sustainability Demonstration Area**
- **University's Budget**
    1. The University is waiting for the final state appropriations.
    2. On-campus enrollment is down, and less than what we budgeted. ⅔ of NMU's budget is based on campus enrollment..
    3. Global Campus, Housing, and Dining are making up for the difference and have shown growth.
    4. Why? We're competing with free community colleges and higher ed. enrollment is down in general across the nation.
- **Construction**
    1. The new campus apartments are on schedule! These apartments will add 388 beds to the housing stock in Marquette. Why are we doing this? Because more students are living on campus because it costs more to live off campus.

2. Harden Hall is on schedule. The second phase will begin in January with the lower floors moving out and construction beginning in May.

- **Legal**
    1. NMU's legal team has been helping to navigate relevant lawsuits and White House executive orders.
- **Our Core Values**
    1. NMU will continue to align with our Core Values, though we will continue to show how we're using state tax tuition dollars and be transparent about our spending.

4. Committee Reports

a. Strategy 1.4 Team - *Kathy Richards*

i. Strategic Plan

1. We had 15 initiatives originally, but leadership asked that they be narrowed down to 3-5 to show progress. All 15 were being worked on, though some were making more progress than others. 5 were selected to show significant progress (*noted by Jes above*):
    a. Waste Reduction
        i. NMU will now be measuring our waste! Through Waste Management, our dumpsters will be picked up separately from the neighborhood route and weighed, so we will have a weekly total of how much waste we generate.
    b. Move In/Out Program
        i. We have had our first intentional move-in and move-out programs this year. These have both created a baseline to build off of

and design sustainable programs around in the coming years.

c. Converting Lighting on Campus to LED
    i. Cohodas Hall lights were updated in 2024
    ii. Weston Hall was updated in the Summer 2025
        1. 62.5% reduction in lighting load
        2. Project cost was $122,000 to replace lamps (included rewiring, hiring externally, lamps - with a total cost of $29/lamp). We will have payback in less than 4 years with a cost avoidance of $32,000/year.
        3. New Biology Labs were added over the last year, so there is an additional electrical load with the addition - so it should be a wash!
    iii. Next Summer - The Science Building
    iv. We'll continue to do buildings one at a time
d. Install Solar on Campus
    i. The WellBeing Building will be getting solar on its roof. The project is currently out for bid. Estimated 75kW total, which will support about 40% of the building's energy production. The solar panel installation will likely be completed by May 2026
    ii. The total cost of this project is estimated at about $250,000. It will be funded through:
        1. $100,000 - MDARD grant
        2. $100,000 - Inflation Reduction Act funds (in order to receive these funds,

we must begin construction before the end of December).

3. $50,000 - Green Fund (funds have been set aside from past proposals to install solar panels; as it's a large undertaking, this funding has been compiled over time)

iii. Future Solar:

1. NMU's entire campus electricity needs are about 3-4 megawatts with the daily electric bill being around $12,000. To offset this, we would need a 50MW system - so the hope for the future is to have a full solar system, though this is looking far into the future.

iv. Other Future Energy Options:

1. NMU received a grant to support the engineering study to convert our Ripley plant to burning biomass. The grant covers about half the cost of the study ($112,000).
2. The Ripley plant has gas bought out through 2027, so the study will give ideas on what we can do into the future.

e. Sustainability Demonstration Area

i. Development has begun on this space with the relocation of solar panels and the construction of two new hoop houses. Planning is underway for future projects on

this space. You can learn more on the Sustainability Demonstration Area website.

b. Green Fund Review & Implementation - *Mattea Muscat*

i. 2025 Projects:

1. Composting at Woodland Park Apartments: this project is still in process as we are deliberately working with Housing to figure out what works best
2. ASNMU Bikes: The bikes are up and running in the Fit Zone. They're available to students to rent.
3. Bat Houses & Bird Feeders: We have supplies for the houses and feeders, but we are waiting to install them until we know exactly where to place them on campus.
4. Pollinator Overwintering Houses: Molly (President of the Entomology Club) is working to get students involved. Students will do fieldwork to see where the most effective places will be to place the habitats. They will also be putting on an event to make the houses fun and engaging! The houses are also plastic free.
5. Solar Panels on the WellBeing Center - See more information in the above Strategic Plan Report. We will be in touch with students that proposed this Green Fund project so they know it is happening and their proposal is finally coming to fruition!

c. Outreach Committee - *Anna Solberg*

i. Anna will be sending out a SAC-wide email to ascertain interest in serving on the Outreach Committee. Keep an eye out for that email!

d. Bee Campus Committee - *Grace Freed*

i. Grace submitted the initial application, and it was approved 17 hours ago!

ii. Grace had a few people sign up last semester, but she sent around another sign-up sheet to gauge interest in involvement in the Bee Campus Committee.
iii. Next steps: We need to create an integrated pest management plan, website page, native plant plan, and then we can submit the final application.

e. **Research Committee*** (proposed summer 2025)
i. A sign up sheet was sent around; looking for people to serve on this committee.
ii. Committee Goal: *Gathers and organizes information about current sustainability-related research on campus, identifies sustainability-related research needs, funding, and collaboration opportunities.*
iii. News:
1. NMU receives USFS Wood Innovation Grant - Dr. Sarah Middlefeldt has been a big part of this and a good person to reach out to.

5. Good of the Order

a. **Environmental Action Week** - *Ryan Stock*
i. September 17 - 29
ii. The goal of this action week is to illuminate the role of activism in sustainability and environmental protection. Of particular importance is highlighting that activism and advocacy are integral to sustainability, although the role of advocacy and activism cannot officially be a part of SAC, many people do this work outside of the council.
iii. The hope is for this week to complement Earth Week and the Sustainability Summit in the Winter semester. This has been a passion project in the making for a while.
iv. Please attend and promote!

b. **How/do we turn this into something more visible and tangible?** *New System: Good of the Order is intended as a way to celebrate*

and share the exciting work we're doing! We will provide post-it leaves to write down your good news, updates, and thoughts. We'll then stick it to the tree so we can highlight the great work being done across campus! The long-term hope for this system is to make sustainability more tangible and to display this in the new SHINE office where more people will see it.

i. 🍁Emily Meier - Emily is excited about the intentional and meaningful connection happening between SHINE, WellBeing, and OEP. Having our first intentional connection with the Homecoming Float!
ii. 🌿Mattea Muscat - EcoReps will have a joint table with SHINE at the ASNMU Farmer's Market this Tuesday. We'll have an eco-friendly raffle if they submit a green fund idea!
iii. 🍂Brett Peterson - Through the new reusable take-out container program, we saved 6,450 single-use containers and 4,359 lbs of emissions by implementing this program. If you know of a business that has to do with food, connect them with NMU Dining.
iv. 🍃Tesse Sayen - On October 2, the College of Grad Studies and Research has Buzz Sessions (generally faculty) where they share their research in 5 minutes. There will be another Buzz Session toward the end of October, and the first Undergraduate Research Week on Sept 29-Oct 3. Share your work, network with other people, garner supporters, etc. *She also loves this visual idea!*
v. 🍁Dave Nyberg - Strategy 2.4 Update: Part of the Strategic Plan is to assess the university's economic impact in the UP, and the committee is getting ready to kick off the project this fall. This project is quantitative in terms of data collection and providing updated analysis of NMU's economic impact, and there's a qualitative impact because it's trying to understand how we can talk about NMU's impact in the UP when it relates to civic and cultural engagement, economic growth, how our projects aligns with regional opportunities, etc. Although sustainability is

captured separately in the plan, they'd like to have it overlap here - more to come!

vi. 🌿Avery Case - Divestment update will be in this week's SHINE newsletter. It will go in depth on the funds Jes mentioned earlier, where the money is going, and what it's supporting. SHINE interns are also headed to the UMACS conference in a couple of weeks and she's very excited to hear from other campuses and learn about what we can do in the future - excited to bring ideas back to NMU!

vii. 🍂Randy Klitzke - We have a lot of opportunities ahead of us! We have the year upcoming, and we've had a lot of opportunities in the past that have come to action. We can see that now unfolding in front of us! He's inspired by the innovation to do things as we don't have to come up with a new idea - we don't have to reinvent the wheel. This is our opportunity to SHINE!!! Note: if we could have more recycling dumpsters than trash, that would be great!

viii. 🍃Abby Owen - Abby is excited about the new Sustainability Demonstration Area behind the Woodland Park Apartments. The Design Jam showed how enthusiastic everyone was about it! Great way to gather people together and get input on sustainability.

ix. 🍁Susy Ziegler - Shoutout to Mary Brundage who came up with the large grant that is helping with food security on campus. Part of this grant is what's helping to build the two new hoop houses in the sustainability demonstration area. Moving of the hoop house took place because of the linetech program taking over the space where the old hoop house was. Food production will be ramping up soon! Construction management students will be building a stand for fresh produce, raised beds, and a washing station. Such a cool collaborative effort coming together around sustainability. Something to highlight is that students participating in the hoop house voted to donate produce in 2020, and each year they've continued to vote to donate what they grow to the NMU food pantry!

x. 🌿Abby Owen - She'd love to have the stone dinosaur located behind the plant nursery moved to the new hoop houses! We could have people paint it every year, make it a planter, etc.

xi. 🍂Kathy Richards - Harden Hall second and third floor are all new fixtures for lighting - so we'll accomplish our lighting goals through renovation projects as well.

xii. 🍃 Randy Klitzke - Randy would like to have more conversations about sustainable transportation and automobiles. He'll connect with Move NMU.