DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 2025

PERFORMANCE AUDIT of WORKPLACE SUSTAINABILITY (PAWS) - The SHINE team has been working on an internal sustainability audit for campus offices and departments. This is an abbreviated version of the STARS audit for individual departments to complete. Delany Frank, the Audit Intern, can administer the audit in person, or any department can complete the Qualtrics questionnaire independently. Scores are based on office-wide behaviors and practices related to energy conservation, reducing waste, proper recycling, sustainable choices for office events, purchasing and travel, community wellbeing, outreach and engagement, and there are bonus points for office innovations (e.g., the health center requested a compost bucket for their breakroom). Scores earned will be translated into one of four ratings: Reporter, Bronze, Silver or Gold. We're looking for departments to help us pilot the program. Let Delany or me know if you/your department is interested!

DECARBONIZING CAMPUS - Our 2024 GHG inventory is near-complete, at 26,300.93 MTCO2e - we're only slightly up from last year (we added 14,000 sq. ft. in lab space, among other additions and projects) and still trending toward achieving our 2030 goal of 25,000 MTCO2e. We continue to gather data for Scope 3 (NMU Dining provided purchasing data). Working on building a "decarbonization dashboard" to illustrate projects and progress. Again, this process is not linear, so we'll need to be really transparent and explanatory with the details as we make progress.

2026 SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT - We've been invited to collaborate with UNITED and PEAK this year. The UNITED theme will be "Rest: Reclaiming Power Through Resilience and Resistance." We'll host a lunch keynote with cross-listed sessions (and poster gallery?) on Wednesday, March 26

GREEN FUND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - The bat houses, bird houses, and pollinator over-winter houses have been installed around campus; examples of each of these can be found at the sustainability park behind Woodland Park apartments. We're working on the signs!

STRATEGY 1.4 PROGRESS - Moving into 2025-2026, we're going to focus on five priority action items; we've moved two from our action plan (sustainability summit & green fund promotion) to general operations, and the remaining 8 items are in the "ongoing" category. We've created an action plan web page: https://nmu.edu/shine/sustainability-action-plan-2

CLASSROOM COLLABORATIONS - Working with Dr. Jelili Adebiyi (EEGS) & Dr. Lucy Miller (COB) and their students on waste audits and waste reduction strategies and outreach campaigns for campus. Dr. Miller's students invite SAC to attend their final project presentations on **Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. in Jamrich 2317**. Working with instructor Maggie Bailey (TOS) on designing projects for more rooftop solar on campus. Invited to teach an Honors Program course (HON 211) next semester, it will be a social science focus on climate change solutions - "People & Possibility: The Human Dimensions of Climate Solutions."

MI HEALTHY CLIMATE CORPS - We were NOT selected to be a host site, but Marquette County and the UP Land Conservancy were selected and are taking applications until Nov. 17. Encourage graduating students to apply!

ELECTIVE PAY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM - We were NOT selected to host an elective pay ambassador for Region 1 (the entire U.P.) Again, encourage a graduating student to apply.

GRANTS - We have several applications in the works, from small ($1250) microgrants to a fulltime AmeriCorps VISTA position… we'll keep you posted if anything is funded!

SHINE OPERATIONS

- **SHINE OFFICE** - We're temporarily located in 2603 & 2605 Hedgcock. We'll move to 310 Harden Hall on Friday, December 19. Interns have keys to 2603 to access the building after 5 p.m. for meetings and workshops.
- **WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER** - Email newsletter goes out to 573 people on Fridays at noon. We have about a 50% open rate (which has gone up, but "click" rate has dropped a bit). We're using MailChimp, any feedback, insights are always welcome. Make sure you are subscribed!
- **SUSTAINABILITY CHANNEL** - Follow sustainability on Panopto - we'll put meeting recordings and other videos there as available and appropriate.

INTERNS' INITIATIVES

- **CARBON NEUTRALITY** - Avery Case is working on creating a Decarbonizing Campus website and expanding the narrative on NMU's progress toward decarbonization. She's co-hosting a Skillbuilder focused on Energy and offering the Sustainable Citizen Badge.
- **CLIMATE EDUCATION** - Chloe Ravenscraft hosted UPPCO last Friday. They presented on the Republic Solar Project on an old mining site. She has next semester's line-up nearly complete - awaiting a couple date confirmations, but it will include some students, alumni, community members, and hopefully a faculty member - all doing cool climate work.
- **COMM & OUTREACH** - Janelle Harris is leading all of SHINE's communications - the newsletter, social media, website updates, and the creation & posting of promotional materials. She has some exciting ideas for producing a music video and podcasts in the Winter semester.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** - Lucy Planica (SLFP) is our first SLFP intern and is primarily focused on external engagement. She's focusing on building out a community engagement event at the Sustainability Demonstration Area during Earth Week.
- **GREEN ATHLETICS** - Joanne Arbic is the team lead this year. She organized and hosted the first Zero Waste volleyball game in the Vandament on Tuesday, October 28. Looking toward January for a Zero Waste hockey game and creating a checklist for each venue, and information for each station, and volunteer.
- **NATIVE PLANTS** - Ashlyn Albert & Grace Freed are working on multiple mini-grant proposals for engraved metal native plant signs and seeds for a pollinator pathway at the Woodland Park area. This is Grace's last SAC meeting - she's graduating, and Ashlyn will play a larger role with the Woodland Park project starting in the Winter semester.
- **SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT** - Delany Frank is developing a Green Office certification process - a micro-audit for departments to complete. She is also cataloging all of the sustainability course offerings for 2025-2026 and helping with updates to the Dashboard webpage.