

Carbon Neutrality Task Force Kickoff Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 12, 2021

Attendees: Gavin Leach, Cindy Paavola, Kathy Richards, Jim Thams, Sarah Mittlefehldt, Jes Thompson, Randy Klitzke, Bethany Beavers.

Absent: Mike Bath, Brandon Sager, Nicole Shoup.

1. Introductions-Gavin Leach gave an overview of the intent of the task force.
2. Task Force Charge-Cindy Paavola reviewed the charge noting that the deliverable will be a preliminary plan that will be presented to the Board of Trustees for funding purposes. The BOT approves the university budget.
3. Difference between a Sustainability Master Plan and a Carbon Neutrality Plan-This determination is the first step of the Task Force Charge and will be the focus of the first meeting.
4. Plan Development Timeline-Cindy Paavola reviewed the proposed timeline for developing the plan.
5. During the exploration phase, the benefits of being transparent and communicating to campus the process the task force is following, not specific actions, were discussed. Jes Thompson noted that the Northern Climate Network holds a monthly presentation that updates could be provided at. The EEGS Department has a student doing an internship at the Northwind this year. The discussion led to the importance of releasing a formal communication at the end of each semester and annually. Also, a link to Task Force updates should be added to the university's sustainability webpage.
6. A Google drive will be created to post documents for the task force to share, access and review.
7. Kathy Richards noted that an engineering firm, Black & Veatch (B&V), will be calculating the university's greenhouse gas inventory for the campus utilities (Scope 1 and 2). B&V will also be developing the university's campus energy master plan. Feedback will be sought from the task force during the plan development.
8. Sarah Mittlefehldt highlighted the hybrid vehicle that Director Mike Bath shared with her that the NMU Police Department recently purchased.
9. Sarah Mittlefehldt shared that the City of Marquette will be declaring the development of a Climate Neutrality Plan which may create opportunities for collaboration with the university.

- a. Before the next meeting, members were asked to post carbon neutrality plans from other institutions seen as a leader in this field to the Google drive for others to review along with reviewing the student-drafted conceptual Northern 2030 Sustainability Plan. The discussion of the next meeting will be reviewing the initiatives that should be the focus of the Sustainability Advisory Council and those of the Carbon Neutrality Task Force.

10. Next Meeting: November 19, 2021 at 10:00 am.