

Carbon Neutrality Task Force Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 19, 2021

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

Absent: Mike Bath, Nicole Shoup.

1. Members shared the following outcomes they would like to see as being part of the task force.
 - Create a plan based on data-based evidence with actionable items to reduce carbon.
 - Action items to reduce sources and increase sinks; tie to education.
 - Excited for academics to work with Facilities Department.
 - Establish a climate action certificate and climate literacy assessment.
 - Collaborate with Michigan Tech University to create a STEM center for researching climate innovations.
 - Make plan and develop regional partnerships.
 - Achieve missing pieces to acquire additional points in STARS report.
 - Being a part of the process in creating a plan to understand how to implement action items.
 - Search for grant possibilities to implement ideas.
 - Be the translator to campus of what the plan is; how does it boil down to employee level?
 - Get student involvement to make all of NMU feel part of the process; integrate students in the research of ideas being reviewed; potential internships for students.
 - See how the plan hits main street and affects people directly. What can individuals do to have an impact when implementing the plan?
 - Consider transportation center dedicated to electric vehicles that is solar powered and has charging stations; could be a teaching point.
 - Another idea for indoor agricultural program would be to have a green roof that is harvested to develop biodiesel.

2. Task Force Charge
 - a. Defined Difference between a Sustainability Master Plan and a Carbon Neutrality Plan-see list on page 2. List was created through the review of the student-drafted conceptual Northern 2030 Sustainability Plan and posted peer institution plans from University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Michigan and West Chester University on the share drive.
 - b. Discussion acknowledged that many items would cross over to both plans such as education, research, food, waste and composting. Due to the limited time to develop a carbon neutrality plan, it was determined that Scope 1 and 2 must be the focus of the carbon neutrality task force.

- c. The next step is to prioritize the areas of focus based on their cost and impact in achieving carbon neutrality. Jes Thompson shared two sources that will be helpful in this process:

Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming <https://g.co/kgs/kSVn57>

Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation <https://g.co/kgs/PsyQsb>

Here is a link to the Drawdown table of solutions:
<https://drawdown.org/solutions/table-of-solutions>

3. Next Meeting: December 3, 2021, 10 am

- a. Potential Agenda Items- Set Goals by reviewing Northern 2030 Sustainability Plan and Define Boundaries of Each Goal

Areas of Focus for Sustainability Plan and Carbon Neutrality Plan

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Waste Minimization/Diversion

Recycling

Composting

City Water Use Reduction

Storm Water Diversion

Education & Awareness

Employee Educator Program

Promoting Bicycle Use

Purchasing Policies

Sustainability Curriculum

Research

Food & Dining

Green Fund Application Review

Wellbeing & Work

Assessing Diversity and Equity

Communication

Local Partnerships

CARBON NEUTRALITY PLAN

Carbon Emissions

Energy Efficiency/Conservation-Electric and Gas

Sourcing of Electricity

Natural Gas for Ripley Plant

Natural Gas-Heating for Other Buildings

Natural Gas for Cooking

University-owned Vehicles

University-owned Ground Equipment

Refrigerants

Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy Credits

Air Conditioning

Trees

Building Construction

Space Utilization

Communication

Local Partnerships

Faculty/Staff/Student Commuting

University-Sponsored Travel