



MARQUETTE COUNTY
**CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE**

CATF Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2024
2:00 p.m. Cohodas Rm. 604

Members in Attendance:

Zosia Eppensteiner, Jane Fitkin, Jenn Hill, Isabelle Honkomp, Brian Hummel, Bob Kulisheck, Michael Larson, Emily Leach, Brad Neumann, Tyler Penrod, Erik Powers, Greg Seppanen, Dave Stensaas, Jes Thompson, Johanna Worley

Guests in Attendance: Ali O'Neal, Quinn T, and Krystle Baecker

1. Welcome our guest Ali O'Neal from Partridge Creek Compost

- You can support Partridge Creek Compost by signing up for curbside pickup, buying compost, or donating by visiting: <https://www.partridgecreekcompost.org/>

2. Committee Updates

- Membership Committee Update
 - The committee has begun offering membership renewals.
 - Jane Fitkin from CSCLS has joined CATF
 - The committee is continuing outreach to provide representation to local tribes and west end communities.
- Outreach Committee Update
 - Over 60 people have registered for next week's health housing and transportation Learning Circle. The Learning Circle Series will continue through the fall. At the end of the series, we will plan an event to reconvene the full group to reflect on what we've learned and beginning planning for what will come next.

3. Marquette County Climate Action Plan

- Marquette County Planning gathered survey data and facilitated two discussions with County employees and four Dialogue Dinners to gather community feedback to inform the plan. The County completed an energy audit, GHG inventory, fleet review, and 10 year facilities assessment to guide decarbonization/sustainability planning.

4. Round Table Updates

- Friday, September 13 is the next Climate@Noon seminar celebrating 10 years of the Northern Climate Network with an engaging and interactive event.
- Jenn Hill met with the Central and Western Upper Peninsula Counties Road Commissions the lasting impact of the big snow melt of 2023. The repair estimate is \$64 million, but only \$10 million has been allocated.
- The state is considering a mileage fee as an alternative to the gas tax. This is in response to decreased tax revenue to fund road infrastructure due to increased vehicle efficiency and increased adoption of electric vehicles.
- Direct pay has been instituted to simplify reimbursement for non-profits and local units of government for renewable energy installations. It's now as easy as submitting a receipt.

- Comments are due Friday, September 13 on the UP Energy Study. The energy study conducted by the MPSC will examine the current state of UP energy and how we got here.
- Jenn Hill is looking for paid interns in Lansing who would do writing and constituent responses.
- Marquette Township is updating their master plan and is seeking community input through a public survey.
- CSCLS hosted wetland walks this summer and will continue their focus on wetland protection by engaging the public and local officials.
- NMU has a new strategic plan called My Compass which includes a pillar on sustainability and will develop an action plan to put those ideas into practice.
- NMU, MEC, Marquette County, and SWP were awarded and are hiring a MI Healthy Climate Corps member.
- Local units of government are encouraged to include aging infrastructure and bridges in updates to hazard mitigation plans.
- Emergency Management is updating their EOP to rethink and condense existing plans to make them easier to use in the future.
- Emergency Management received a fellow through the NMU Rural Fellowship Program who will conduct outreach and planning with local small businesses and non-profits to increase local resiliency. Studies show 50% of local businesses and non-profits permanently close after a major natural disaster.
- The Lakeshore Boulevard project is fully permitted and grading of the site has begun. The first of the cobble armoring/beach access rocks are currently being placed
- The City of Marquette Planning Commission will review and vote on the updated Master Plan which includes a Climate Action Plan framework. Once approved by the planning commission the Marquette City Commission will vote on the Master Plan.

5. Good of the Order

- Adjournment 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.