

CATF Agenda

June 27, 2024 at 2:00pm

Cohodas Rm. 604 or Zoom



1. Committee Updates
 - a. Membership Committee Update
 - b. Outreach Committee: [Marquette 2049 Learning Circles Series](#)
2. Round Table Updates (*Some updates below- but not an inclusive list!*)
 - a. County of Marquette
 - i. Energy Audit, GHG Inventory, Fleet Review- bids due June 25th
 - ii. Climate Action Plan Development
 - iii. Regional Materials Management Plan Development
 - b. City of Marquette
 - i. [Community Master Plan](#) public comment period through Thurs. 7/18
3 to 8 p.m. on Tues. 6/25: public engagement session at Lakeview Arena
 - c. Community Foundation
 - i. Grant Distribution
 - d. SWP
 - i. Summer Volunteer Events
 - e. NMU
 - i. Northern Climate Network Schedule
 - ii. NMU was selected to be a data collection site for [SpheriCity](#), a National Science Foundation research project
3. Quarterly Resources to Share

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81100257265?pwd=XYVTtvBCtr5v9MLUpI0HzURSVbTWIe.1>

Meeting ID: 811 0025 7265

Passcode: 807877

MARQUETTE 2049

Climate Change Learning Circles

Please join the Marquette Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF) for a community-wide learning circle series. The idea of a learning circle is that we share key resources (articles, podcasts, policy documents, etc.) and participants arrive ready to discuss a variety of scenarios related to that issue. The community conversation is the most important outcome and helps us build capacity to think about critical issues for the next 25 years. Thus, *under the conditions of a changing climate, with equity and justice in mind, how might we address the following:*

Food Systems

May 8

Trash & Recycling

June 12

Healthcare, Housing, Transportation & Public Services

September 11

Economic Development & Diversification

October 9

Energy & Power

November 6

Water & Land Use

December 4



All sessions will be 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
in NMU's Northern Center.
RSVP online and resource materials will be
emailed to you.



MARQUETTE COUNTY
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TASK FORCE



FOOD SYSTEMS & SECURITY

LEARNING CIRCLE SUMMARY

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Climate change will continue to impact agriculture sending shocks throughout the food system and revealing vulnerabilities to food access and security. The Upper Peninsula seems particularly vulnerable with relatively little food production compared to other regions, and our geographic isolation from primary areas of food production. Primary concerns include access to and availability of food, as well as economic losses due to climate change impacts that harm regional food exports that do exist and result in even greater reliance on food imports from other regions. How might our community develop a more resilient food system with greater food security amidst impacts of climate change?

THE IDEAL VISION FOR OUR REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM FUTURE

Participants shared their ideal vision for a local food system future (the next 10-25 years), with a shared focus on creating thriving farms that boost production while providing easier access to diverse, healthy foods without depleting land resources. These visions emphasized sustainable growth by protecting current mid-sized farms, preserving farmland, improving soil quality, and supporting regenerative agricultural practices. Key themes included:

Exploration of Non-Traditional Food Production: Supporting methods such as indoor growing, aquaculture, foraging, and container gardening. Emphasizing resilient growing techniques like hydroponics, season extension, and advanced technology to reduce fossil fuel dependency and ensure food storage and USDA processing facilities.

Regional Distribution Network: Establishing a regional commercial co-op or corporate distributor to wholesale locally-grown foods; consider mimicking historical models like the Cohodas Bros. cold storage warehouse in Ishpeming. This network would strengthen regional food system integration, creating demand and supporting local growers. The less miles food travels, the better.

Midwest Connections and Unified Vision: Strengthening ties across the Midwest to develop a unified purpose and organizational structures for long-term sustainability; building cohesive relationships among food systems workers, communities, and institutions, such as farm-to-school programs.

Education and Engagement: Engaging children and families through educational initiatives like school, community, and neighborhood gardens. Promoting cooking, healthy

eating, and the concept of food as medicine. Specific ideas included highlighting seasonal foods in farm-to-table restaurants and involving youth in agriculture and food production.

Value-Added Processing: Providing facilities for farmers to process, preserve, freeze, and dry crops to ensure year-round availability.

Policy Support and Cultural Shift: Implementing policies to support urban gardening, converting underutilized properties for agriculture, and fostering a cultural shift towards local and wild foods. Normalize native ecosystem farming that empowers individuals to grow their own food (bees, chickens, etc.).

Extended Growing Seasons and Food Recovery: Educating farmers on extended growing seasons and teaching families about food growing and preparation. Increasing community and neighborhood gardens, and developing food recovery systems to minimize waste.

Living Wage and Agricultural Tourism: Ensuring farmers earn a living wage and exploring agricultural tourism opportunities to further support the local food system.

The participants shared visions of the future that collectively aim to balance natural ecosystems with agricultural needs, ensuring sustainable, resilient, and locally-focused food production and distribution systems for decades to come.

FACTORS INFLUENCING OUR FOOD SYSTEM'S FUTURE

Participants explored and explained how our food system, and its resilience to climate change, will be influenced and impacted by several key factors simultaneously:

Transportation and Infrastructure: The development of a robust last-mile delivery system and improved distribution networks across the UP and Midwest are critical. Changes in mass transit, such as railways, and the shift from fossil fuels to electric fleets could affect food production costs. Increased property costs and infrastructure adjustments will also play significant roles.

Housing and Population Dynamics: The availability and affordability of housing will influence farming viability. Farmable land might be developed for residential purposes to meet the needs of a shifting population. Rising housing costs and population movements will impact both farming affordability and land availability.

Diet and Food Preferences: Future generations will have different dietary habits and food preferences, necessitating a re-evaluation of what can be grown and raised locally. Focusing on calorie-dense crops and animals will become important.

Economic Challenges: High entry costs and low returns make farming a challenging investment. Rising utility and operational costs, along with limited subsidies and difficulties in accessing funding, exacerbate this issue.

Demographic Shifts: An aging population, potential influx of climate refugees, and increased tourism will heighten food demand. The next generation's prioritization of food, coupled with the need for in-migration and seasonal labor, will influence who grows food.

Land Use and Environmental Concerns: Land use changes, such as mining, contamination, and pollution from large farms, will impact agricultural viability. Water scarcity and quality issues, particularly related to nearby mining and pipelines, are also concerns.

Cultural and Societal Norms: Education and knowledge is key to improving the system. Shifts in societal norms towards prioritizing food production over non-edible landscaping will be essential. Education efforts to change cultural attitudes and build community consensus are crucial.

Implementation of Sustainable Practices: Systems need to be established to make sustainable practices the default, such as providing compost bins, reducing costs, and lowering barriers to implementation. This includes fostering community engagement and integrating diverse viewpoints to support the envisioned future.

Overall, creating a resilient food system future will require addressing these multifaceted challenges through strategic planning, community involvement, and sustainable practices.

NEXT STEPS: HOW DO WE GET TO OUR IDEAL FUTURE?

To work toward a resilient food system future will require a combination of the right policy and partnerships. The following next steps are essential:

Enhanced Communication and Collaboration: Regular meetings among community leaders, municipal staff, private interests, and developers are crucial. Hosting symposiums to engage and educate stakeholders will facilitate wider sharing of insights with policymakers and the public. Foster supportive, inclusive, and solutions-oriented dialogues involving diverse perspectives, including youth and farmers. Promote the good work already happening to motivate others. Encourage students to create

podcasts and other media to share success stories. Create tools tailored to various audiences, taking action, and being transparent about current realities will be key to building a resilient food system future.

Securing Funding and Resources: Establishing a central coordinator and building capacity are necessary to actualize the ideal future. Seeking funding and resources is a key step.

Comprehensive Education Programs: Implement educational initiatives for all ages, starting from an early age. This includes integrating local food into school lunch programs, teaching agriculture in schools, and life skills such as cooking and nutrition. Engaging vulnerable populations and providing outreach through institutions like NMU are vital. We should also explore the use of school cafeteria kitchens for processing crops and enhancing cooking and agriculture programming in schools. Additionally, eco-garden tours, sustainability education, and water conservation discussions should be promoted.

Community Engagement and Neighborhood Governance Models: Encouraging small community and neighborhood projects to expose people to different ways of thinking. Organizing neighborhood garden governance models to facilitate hyper-local conversations, shared resources (e.g., compost sites, seed sharing, tool libraries), and policy development.

Deep Community Building: Creating critical connections through entities like the UP Food Exchange (UPFE) and restarting its policy committee. Integrating efforts with other initiatives, such as growing under solar arrays, will build momentum. Plowshare is the UPFE's newsletter and could be a useful forum for connecting with local farmers. Other organizations are ready to connect (e.g., MSU Extension, UPCAP, Lions Clubs, Partridge Creek Farm, etc.). While farmers are at capacity, maybe our community can develop programming and facilitate/coordinate to expand successes.

Taxing, Zoning and Ordinance Adjustments: Tweaking taxing and zoning laws to support small-scale agriculture and updating planning ordinances to permit urban gardening. Amending local zoning for more flexibility in food production by homeowners, small businesses, and small communities is essential.

These steps collectively aim to build a resilient and sustainable local food system through collaboration, education, community engagement, policy support, and effective communication.

TRASH & RECYCLING

LEARNING CIRCLE SUMMARY

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

[“The Story of Stuff”](#) will continue to evolve with local, regional, and statewide pressures over the next 25 years. Garbage and waste management, recycling, and composting are in the beginning stages of a revamped planning process, with the passage of significant amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451.

Recycling rates in the United States are up for the first time in several years (the national recycling rate is close to 32%). Marquette County is at about 11% counting only in-county materials, the Central UP is closer to 8%, and if you go UP-wide it falls to 2-3%.

Climate change may create demographics and population changes that will open opportunities to get away from the business-as-usual “cradle to grave” approach to trash and recycling and build a circular economy in our region. The Trash & Recycling Learning Circle participants discussed how Marquette County can leverage existing strengths such as its central location, recycling, and composting facilities to reduce pollution and strengthen our workforce and economy.

THE IDEAL VISION FOR TRASH & RECYCLING IN OUR REGION

Participants shared their ideal vision for waste management in the region’s future (the next 10-25 years). In the table discussions, many participants noted the importance of improving education and outreach about materials management and recovery across the region and across multiple generations. The key characteristics of our ideal future include the following:

Sustainable Practices: Many participants noted the importance of a future that has more sustainable practices as part of everyday action, including increasing initiatives to reduce plastic packaging, promote more reuse of goods, support (curbside and industrial-scale) composting, and transition away from disposable or single-use items as a regular practice, potentially assisted with policy.

Infrastructure and Policy Support: Participants also noted the importance of policies supporting improved waste management, recycling, and composting systems. Beyond policy, there needs to be support for the necessary infrastructure, including the establishment of municipal compost facilities and improved recycling transportation or drop-off networks. Regardless, building institutional and systemic changes are necessary to enhance waste management practices in our region.

Governmental Involvement and Collaboration: The ideal future will include national, state, and local governments driving change through legislation, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering collaboration among many entities for effective waste management solutions.

Behavior Change: Every table recognized the need for a cultural and behavioral shift to actualize a future with widespread responsible waste management. From increased individual and household intentionality to community-level outreach and education to create a more informed and proactive set of norms within our region.

Community Engagement and Education: Related to behavior change, participants were adamant about improved and increased waste management education at all levels. Resources for everything from technical training to homeowner and classroom recycling/compost methods is needed. Additionally, there is a need for community members to understand the true cost of waste and its management.

FACTORS INFLUENCING OUR MATERIAL MANAGEMENT FUTURE

Participants explored and explained how our trash, recycling, and compost systems will be impacted by several key factors over the next 25 years. The factors that are most likely to influence our ideal waste management future include:

Policy and Legislation: Participants emphasized the need for state laws and policies that incentivize reduced consumption and increased recycling. We will need legislative pressure to shift funding and systems to be more sustainable (as the default). We will also need to explore financial incentives (e.g., deposit programs) to promote the robust recycling required for a circular economy.

Community Engagement and Behavior Change: Highlighting the importance of public opinion, behavior change, and education as key factors in achieving sustainable waste management practices, especially focusing on starting young with children and promoting field trips to understand waste disposal processes.

Infrastructure and Logistics: To improve materials management in our region we need to address challenges, like the lack of infrastructure for specialty (or “odd materials”) recycling. Many of the logistical challenges are also tied to the need for efficient and cost-effective transportation of materials. To overcome these challenges we need to better incorporate waste management into city and county master planning activities across the region.

Economic Considerations: Economics play a large role in the viability of our ideal future, both at the local and national levels. If we can create an ideal local/regional closed-loop system then we might simultaneously identify opportunities for new economic development. Recycling innovation could be an entrepreneurial opportunity (e.g., aggregators or intermediaries help to process difficult-to-recycle items).

Social and Cultural Factors: Local attitudes about recycling and composting may shift in the years to come, especially as the population changes. There may be new, or unprecedented influence on waste management policies because of changing political and social dynamics in the

region. Recycling rates could also suffer with an increase in poverty and competition to meet basic needs persists. Finally, volunteer burnout can diminish recycling rates (e.g. battery collection).

NEXT STEPS: HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR IDEAL FUTURE?

To create systemic change in waste management and sustainability, the following key actions and strategies are proposed:

Education and Demonstration: We need to emphasize the importance of education, particularly through demonstrations, to make a significant impact. We need to support educational initiatives that inform the public about waste disposal and recycling processes. Developing an all-age curriculum and providing real-world learning experiences through field trips (to MRF, Partridge Creek Compost, etc.) can inspire action.

Community Engagement: For real change to happen we need to foster relationships with neighbors and mobilize local networks to model and encourage behavior change within our communities. We can also encourage active participation in the democratic process by filling vacancies on boards and commissions.

Government Outreach and Communication: We need to enhance outreach efforts by local governments to residents. Effective communication about new waste management plans and requirements will improve understanding and action. Likewise, there is an opportunity for better communication between county and local governments to ensure alignment and shared strategies. CUPPAD's new Materials Management Plan is a great example. Let's promote the plan and help to foster a shared vision for our region's future.

Spotlight Current Successes: Leverage the Recycle 906 brand to highlight local and regional waste diversion champions. Partner with organizations like Partridge Creek Compost to promote curbside composting services for businesses and residents. Encourage local stores and restaurants to adopt compostable products and practices and then promote their efforts.

Funding and Incentives: Apply for grants to support and subsidize sustainable behavior shifts. Use grant funding to invest in capacity building and infrastructure development. Advocate for subsidies from organizations like MDARD for curbside recycling collection. Create incentives for current business owners and opportunities for entrepreneurs to improve the waste management sector.

Keep it Neutral: Keep the issue of waste management apolitical and focus on implementing long-term, sustainable solutions rather than short-term fixes.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE ~ ENERGY AUDIT

The project will include an ASHRAE Level II Commercial Buildings **energy audit** of the following buildings:

Marquette County Courthouse
Courthouse Annex
Marquette County Jail
Negaunee Service Center
Ishpeming Service Center

Other project components include evaluations for **electric vehicle charging infrastructure locations**, a **GHG inventory**, and **fleet electrification review**.

Due Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Anticipated Award: Tuesday, July 2, 2024



https://www.co.marquette.mi.us/rfps_bids/index.php



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2024

For More Information:
City Planning Office / 225-8103 / dstensaas@marquettemi.gov

DRAFT COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN RELEASE – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At their meeting on May 13, the Marquette City Commission authorized the distribution of a Draft Community Master Plan (CMP) that has been under development since early 2023. The Draft CMP is now available to view online, from the City of Marquette's homepage – www.marquettemi.gov. Public comments may also be provided through a link found on the City's homepage.

The public comment period runs from Friday, May 17 to Thursday, July 18.

Physical copies of the Draft CMP may also be viewed at City Hall (300 W. Baraga Ave.), the Municipal Service Center (1100 Wright St.), and at the Peter White Public Library (217 N. Front St.). Public comment forms will be attached to the Draft CMP copies for those who wish to provide written comments.

The City of Marquette encourages all interested parties to view the Draft CMP and provide comments on the contents, and particularly would like city residents, business and property owners to provide input on the Draft CMP that planners, advisory boards, and decision makers may find valuable for determining the accuracy of the contents and information provided, as well as in consideration of their opinions on the recommendations contained in the Draft CMP.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2024

For More Information:

City of Marquette Community Development Department – 228-0425 /

dstachewicz@marquettemi.gov

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION SET FOR JUNE 25

From 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25 there will be a public engagement session at Lakeview Arena regarding the City Community Master Plan update. There will be presentations at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., with time to discuss the plan with City staff. To view the full Community Master Plan draft, go to www.marquettemasterplan.org.

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JULY 12 & 26

AUGUST 9 & 23



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www.SuperiorWatersheds.org

Northern Climate Network

Climate@Noon Seminar Series

2024-2025

Sep 6, 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: 10 Year Anniversary: The NCN at NMU

Presenters: Isabelle Honkomp & Jes Thompson, NMU / CATF / MQT 2049

Oct 4, 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: Rural Electric Co-ops and the Climate Crisis

Presenter: [Nicholas Jansen](#) , Groundwork Center

Nov 1, 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: Climate Change & Higher Education / OR / AI & the Environment

Presenter: [Dr. Alex Stoner](#), NMU Department of Sociology & Anthropology

January 17, 2025 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: Policy & Energy Siting

Presenter: [Dr. Jongeun You](#), NMU Department of Political Science

February 7, 2025 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: Ceremony and Storywork: How to decolonize contemporary climate narratives

Presenter: [Dr. April Lindala](#), NMU Center for Native American Studies

March 14, 2025 - **CONFIRMED**

Title/Topic: Your Brain on Nature

Presenter: [Dr. Jon Barch](#), NMU Department of Psychology

→ Could connect this with forest bathing with Dr. Medina after (If its not too cold)

April 18, 2025

Title/Topic: Student Research on Climate Change

Presenters: Panel of NMU Students

Celebration of Student Scholarship faculty advisors - Dr. Diana Lafferty, Dr. Sarah Mittlefehldt, Dr. Josh Carson, Dr. Susy Ziegler