

A Resolution for Action and Engagement in Sustainable Practice at Michigan Technological University

Michigan Technological University's vision is to develop and implement the value of sustainability throughout the campus community. Principles include demonstrating sustainability leadership, acting as stewards of our natural resources, recognizing the broader social impacts of our decisions, and managing the economic interests of the university to reflect and support those objectives. Integrating sustainability into the University's research, teaching, outreach, and operational activities will improve the quality of life for our campus community and promote a healthy environment.

For Michigan Technological University, sustainability means being accountable to the environmental, social and economic welfare of the campus to secure a more suitable future. Michigan Technological University is recognized as a leader in the research of complex problems, innovation, and in understanding the natural world that surrounds us here in the Upper Peninsula. By incorporating knowledge of sustainability into practices and culture across the University, we shall build a resilient community and prevent emergent problems.

Here we affirm our accountability as individuals and a community to:

1. Leadership and Innovation

- 1.1. Develop the means to readily recognize new frontiers in sustainability and respond to them.
- 1.2. Reward the innovations of students, staff, faculty, administrators, community partners, and alumni in the generation of sustainability solutions.
- 1.3. Act as a *living laboratory* to provide experimental, deliberative, and diverse models for creating the future of Michigan Technological University's campus.
- 1.4. Furnish leadership opportunities for any students, staff, faculty, administrators, and student organizations, to develop and test transformational innovations in sustainability related policies, practices, and knowledge that address critical, complex, and systems-level challenges of the University.
- 1.5. Integrate sustainability into all of Michigan Technological University's campus activities and management by setting long-term and measurable goals, establishing mature measurement systems, and harmonizing all campus-wide systems, operations, and personnel.
- 1.6. Contribute substantially to national and international sustainability conversations and solutions through membership, leadership, and service in sustainability-related organizations and forums on and off campus.
- 1.7. Enhance the appreciation of the interconnections between human prosperity and ecological health through *education* and *outreach*.
- 1.8. Incorporate sustainability learning opportunities into daily life across the University, focusing on topics concerning environmental impact and natural resource management, water quality and climate adaptation/mitigation, and ethics

of responsible social and economic behavior in the built environment, respectively.

- 1.9. Use innovative technological services to make sustainability practices accessible to all.

2. Environmental Sustainability

- 2.1. Account for the direct and indirect impacts created by Michigan Technological University's consumption and disposal of natural resources.
- 2.2. Ensure biodiversity, ecosystem health, and sustainable landscaping are prioritized in facilities development and operation.
- 2.3. Increase our outreach efforts toward natural resource managers, scientists, practitioners, and the community as a whole, to share research, knowledge, and volunteers related to sustainable resource management.
- 2.4. Utilize biotic and abiotic systems to enhance the function, aesthetics, and character of the campus.
- 2.5. Identify and restore ecologically sensitive areas on campus.
- 2.6. Advocate for legislation that promotes sustainability for our broader community networks.

3. Social Sustainability

- 3.1. Recognize broader social impacts and global consequences of individual actions.
- 3.2. Value the contribution of diverse stakeholders and campus community members in the classrooms, research, cultural programming and expression.
- 3.3. Embrace the fundamental ethical right of all human beings, both now and in the future, to access healthy food, clean water and air, dependable healthcare, a living wage, affordable housing and education.
- 3.4. Recognize human beings are intrinsically connected to nature, and therefore share a collective commitment to treat nature with the highest level of care that is attainable.
- 3.5. Direct decision-making activities to follow moral and ethical rules of conduct to balance resource access and equality, and to comport in an open and transparent fashion with all University community members. This includes:
 - 3.5.1. Ensuring the policies and initiatives adopted on our campus will not place unequal burden on any minority group.
 - 3.5.2. Supporting the personal and professional development of individuals from all walks of life.
 - 3.5.3. Promoting a high quality of life for students, faculty and staff at Michigan Technological University.
 - 3.5.4. Engaging in democratic processes and discourse for the management of shared spaces and resources.
 - 3.5.5. Committing to provisioning goods and services from fair sources of trade and labor.

4. Economic Sustainability

- 4.1. Develop fiscally secure and mature budgets for fundraising, grant seeking, development projects, maintenance, investment, and spending procedures.
- 4.2. Provide economic means for addressing human needs and ensuring the long-term health of ecosystems.
- 4.3. Provide living wages and safe conditions for Michigan Technological University.
- 4.4. Prioritize investment with groups that promote environmental health and the just use of natural resources.
- 4.5. Manage the benefits derived from university investment to promote equity on Michigan Technological University's campus.
- 4.6. Promote decisions and initiatives that meet fiscally responsible standards to bolster financial savings from increased operational efficiencies and reduced energy costs.

In adopting this resolution, Michigan Technological University commits to improving the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of our campus and community; propelling the institution forward empowers Michigan Technological University to be a leader in research and practice related to sustainable systems and solutions. Our leadership will inspire others to pursue innovations in sustainability policies, practices, and knowledge generation that promote equity for society and stewardship of the environment.