

Sustainable Marquette ERG

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NEW ACTION ON LAUDATO SÍ

At Marquette's Jan. 25 presidential address, Pres. Lovell announced that the university is an official participant in the global [Laudato Sí Action Platform](#). The university's enrollment marks a year-long commitment to developing a strategic sustainability plan that uses the Laudato Sí Goals as a framework.

The initiative's core team—Lora Strigens (Vice President for Planning and Facilities

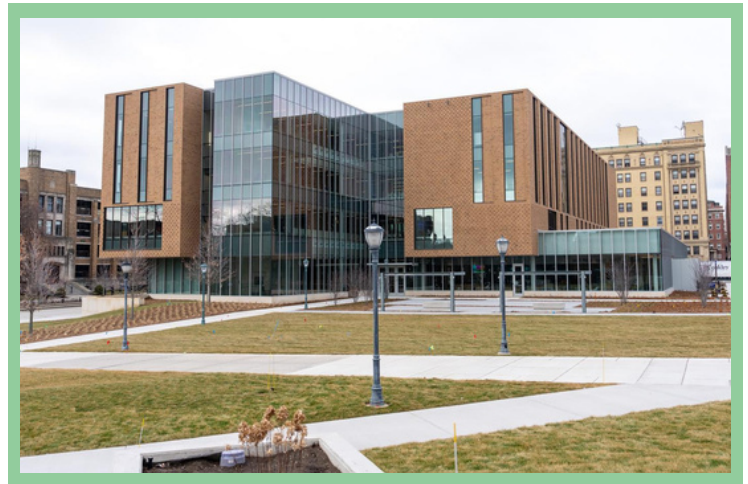
Management), Rev. James Voiss (Vice President for Mission and Ministry), and Chelsea Malacara (Sustainability & Energy Management Coordinator)—will share more in the coming weeks about the initiative's timeline, working groups, and ways to get involved. Please reach out to them with questions.

O'BRIEN HALL: SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CENTER

Years of careful planning have ensured O'Brien Hall does not significantly add to Marquette's carbon footprint and minimizes waste as much as possible.

- More than 90% of McCormick Hall's demolition materials were recycled; the furniture was repurposed or donated.
- Trees removed from the McCormick property have been repurposed for wooden building materials featured in the Brew cafe.
- O'Brien features an outdoor area with:
 - Porous paving to ensure rainwater
 - Landscaping that exclusively uses native plantings (non-invasive, drought and disease resistant)

[Read more](#) about how sustainability is in O'Brien Hall's DNA.



YOUR INPUT SOUGHT: CLIMATE BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Sustainable Marquette ERG is hosting a book discussion this semester. Help us choose the book!

[Submit your book idea here.](#)

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: DR. TIMOTHY THARP



Dr. Timothy Tharp
College of Arts & Sciences
Physics Professor and
Sustainability Fellow

Tell us about your background and the source of your passion for environmental protection.

I really started thinking about sustainability for the first time in high school, when I attended a conference hosted by a senator from my home state. One of the speakers talked about the radical idea (at that time) of getting around using electric bikes and electric cars, and how this would be a really good way to reduce pollution. Around the same time, I started learning about the concepts of climate change, fossil fuels, and renewable energy.

In college I developed my passion for physics, and in particular the topics of electricity and magnetism. Then, in graduate school I pursued a PhD in fusion—an exciting and environmentally friendly way to produce abundant energy (and coincidentally, rooted in my favorite physics subjects!). Though fusion energy remains promising, this technology is not yet ready to contribute to our energy needs. Today, I'm focused on facilitating action to deploy existing technologies to help quickly transition our society to a lower carbon future.

Why is it imperative that human beings prioritize environmental protection and ecological flourishing?

While there are many reasons to promote a healthy environment, one sticks out as being particularly pragmatic: Humans need to protect this biosphere because we are part of it! We, perhaps more than any other species, have benefitted from the stable conditions of our environment: We've built houses in places that don't flood, infrastructure in places where water is plentiful and diseases are scarce, and farms in locations that have ecological conditions appropriate to growing crops. If our choices and actions don't promote ecological flourishing, our environment won't be able to support human flourishing.

Imagine Marquette 10 years from now. What would you want it look like, sound like, feel like?

In 10 years, I hope Marquette will be seen as an example of how people can live vibrantly while engaging in a major transition to create a more sustainable community—one in which our lifestyles also enable future generations to thrive. I'd like to see an infrastructure overhaul and a clear path to carbon neutrality, hear fewer internal combustion engines and more of our non-human neighbors, and feel the excitement of an atmosphere where students are able to pursue their dreams without diluting the potential for future generations to do the same.

"Humanity simply cannot survive the status quo, and neither can many other species and ecosystems...we need transformational leadership.

~ Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katherine K Wilkinson, All We Can Save



EXPLORE MARQUETTE'S 1,400 TREES

Did you know the Marquette campus has over 1,400 trees within its boundaries? Thanks to the dedicated work of Sarah Knott, environmental studies senior and our sustainability intern manager, we now have a comprehensive inventory of all campus trees. The public data set now lives on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Tree Plotter website. View [Marquette's tree inventory](#).

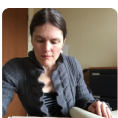
Milwaukee County Climate Action 2050 Plan Survey

If you live and/or work in Milwaukee County, please take 5 minutes to lend your voice and share your climate concerns for the region.

ERG CO-CHAIRS



CHELSEA MALACARA
Sustainability & Energy
Management Coordinator



ELISA COGHLAN
Coordinator of Marketing and
Outreach, Raynor Memorial Libraries

CAMPUS EVENTS

MISSION WEEK February 5-11
**FEB 6: Ignatian Peacemaking
Lecture with Molly Burhans,**
Catholic environmentalist &
cartographer. 7-8 pm. [RSVP here.](#)

FEB 17: Lunch & Learn
Tour Haggerty Museum Exhibit
Entangled Air followed by lunch at
Tory Hill Cafe. 11:30 am-1 pm.

**MARCH: Sustainable
Development Goals Teach-In**
Sign the pledge for March 2023

RESOURCES

- [How to teach climate change towards empowerment](#)
- [NEW! Guide to hosting a green event at Marquette](#)
- "Wonder and Awe: How Ecospirituality Can Inspire Us in 2023" [Webinar](#)

TIP: BE SALTWISE

Over-salting is for the birds. Wait, no, birdseed is for the birds. Support feathery friends AND protect freshwater by using birdseed for traction. Need to use salt? You only need 1 teaspoon of salt for one square of a sidewalk; clean up leftover salt to use later.



House finches eat bird seed from snow covered ground.