Adopted August 24, 2023

Position Description
MiCAN Steering Committee

MiCAN Calendar

Organization Background

Formed in 2015, the Michigan Climate Action Network (MiCAN) is a statewide network of nearly 80 organizations and thousands of individuals working to solve the climate crisis by building a more powerful and more justice-centered movement, elevating climate to be a top priority in Michigan, and moving forward ambitious and equitable solutions at the local, state, and federal levels. We engage over 5,000 people to take action each year, support the work of dozens of partner groups, and convene hundreds of people at the annual Michigan Climate Summit. Our vision is to serve as the megaphone of the climate movement, amplifying the collective call for bold climate action and lifting up the people, organizations, and communities leading on real, equitable climate solutions that put Michigan on track to meet or exceed the 2030 MI Healthy Climate Plan targets.

Steering Committee Goals

The overarching goal of the Steering Committee is to help establish an operating model for MiCAN membership that promotes collaboration, connection, and shared investments of time, energy, and resources in the movement for a more just, equitable, resilient, and sustainable Great Lakes State.

Specifically, the steering committee will provide insight and direction in support of MiCAN's five-year strategic plan (2022-2027) operating model and grassroots mobilization objectives to:

- Develop a democratic decision-making process for members to provide input and feedback on the priority issues MiCAN should focus its resources on, such as campaigns, policy advocacy, and movement building.
- Connect individuals with the local organizations that will help invoke action, and thereby radically expand MiCAN's reach and recognition among Michiganders interested in climate justice.
- Help plan and host a variety of online, in-person, and hybrid joint engagement opportunities in partnership with MiCAN's organizational members that are responsive to individuals' interests and needs.
- Promote local initiatives, connect grassroots climate leaders, and align implementation of local climate solutions with the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

Member Qualities & Experience

Committee members provide the specialized knowledge and understanding of how local communities are working to address the climate crisis, and how MiCAN can best help accelerate that process. Ideally composed of local leaders in the climate movement, steering committee members will understand the support and advocacy needed to keep our governments focused on climate solutions and on the impacts of the most affected communities. Committee members should be passionate about the need to move people and communities to achieve (or exceed) the commitments in the Michigan Healthy Climate Plan. Along with their passion, committee members are expected to add value to MiCAN because of their experience, their networks, their relevant leadership experience in climate action advocacy, and their commitment to ensuring that diversity, equity, and inclusion is at the core of all that MiCAN does. Members are expected to represent a wide and diverse portion of our state's population to ensure that the benefits of MiCAN's work accrues to all of Michigan's citizens and communities.

The steering committee reports to MiCAN's executive director so that it can most effectively support MiCAN's operations. The steering committee is a separate entity from the Board of Directors.

Term

Committee members will commit to serve a two-year term renewable by mutual agreement.

Responsibilities

- Attend (via Zoom) and contribute to quarterly (February, May, August, November) steering committee meetings.
- Read and respond to written communications as requested.
- Provide general advice to the Executive Director.
- Serve on sub committees when possible (i.e., Climate Summit Committee, Climate Champion Awards Committee, Membership Committee, etc.)
- Serve as a reference or ambassador to represent and promote MiCAN to other organizations or institutions when needed.
- Introduce the organization to prospective funders, partners, and other value-added people or organizations as the opportunity arises.
- Stay informed about committee matters, prepare for meetings, and review/comment on minutes and reports.
- Other duties that may be requested from time to time.

Inaugural Members (seeking 12-15 total groups represented)

Capital Area Friends of the Environment, Heather Douglas (alternate Randy Dykhuis)
Climate Adaptation Task Force of Marquette County, Emily Leach
Clean Water Action, Erik McCleary
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Andrew Kaplowitz
Grand Rapids Climate Coalition, Janet Zahn

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Ashley Rudzinski
Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition, Jenny Doezema & Skip Lee
Michigan Environmental Council, Carlee Knott
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, Sarah Tresedder & Jan O'Connell
Soulardarity, Michelle Jones
Turn Oakland County Green, Fred Miller (alternate Andrew Sarpolis)
Van Buren Climate Action Team, Jonathan Gingerich
White Lake Area Climate Action Council, Lori Coleman

Pending Invitations

Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4 Grand Rapids)
Detroit Environmental Agenda
Holland Climate Collaborative