Find your place on the planet, dig in, and take responsibility from there.

—Gary Snyder

*Turtle Island, pg.101*
Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resource Alliance (NEW ERA), links the region’s public colleges and universities to better serve the educational needs of the 1.2 million people in northeast Wisconsin.

- College of Menominee Nation
- University of Wisconsin Two Year Colleges – Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Marinette, Fox Valley and Manitowoc
- University of Wisconsin – Extension
- University of Wisconsin Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
- Technical Colleges – Fox Valley, Northeast Wisconsin, Lakeshore, and Moraine Park
NEW ERA emphasizes cooperation and collaboration to unify higher education’s role as a catalyst for economic vitality in northeast Wisconsin.
Accomplishments

- Founding member of New North, Inc., the regional economic development entity
- Bachelor of Applied Studies degree for technical college graduates
- Annual public policy program focused on higher education and regional collaboration
- Regional library card—universal access for faculty and students at all NEW ERA libraries
In 2008, NEW ERA formed a Sustainability Task Force

- 10 members representing all institutional types
- Lead, advocate and collaborate on sustainability initiatives across the region

Areas of collaboration
- Degree programs
- Research
- Best Practices
- Communication
Sustainability Mission

“To be the recognized leader in valuing and utilizing education to build communities that prosper while preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural, social, and economic capital.”
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena was founded in 1993 on the principles of environmental stewardship

- Menominee Forest – twelve forest habitats with over 30 species of trees.
- USDA Forest Service partnership in research, forest management and conservation practices.
- 1996 Presidential Award for Sustainable Development.
- *Introduction to Sustainability* is a general education requirement.

Green Pride
Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland, a community college leader in wind energy technology

- First college in Wisconsin to offer wind technology courses in 2005.
- Four wind turbines on campus for research, training, and offset energy consumption.
- Lead statewide and business collaboration, Wisconsin Wind Works, to promote industry partnerships and wind energy careers.
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, a national leader in sustainability initiatives.

- The nation’s first dry fermentation anaerobic biodigester facility opened in May, 2011.
- Developed Campus Sustainability Plan in 2007 and set a Climate Action Plan in 2009 to be carbon neutral by 2025.
- For the last two years, UWO was named in the “Guide to Green Colleges”, Princeton Review and U.S. Green Building Council.
- UWO finishes 14th in the nation in Recycle Mania.
University of Wisconsin Extension and UW Colleges committed to growing people, jobs and strong communities.

- UW–Extension launched the nation’s first totally online sustainable management bachelor’s degree in 2010.
- UW–Fox Valley’s new Communication Arts Center is a registered LEED project and is striving for Gold Certification.
- UW–Fond du Lac’s Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, the campus has 37 acres of native prairie grasses, two wildlife ponds, and native trees and shrubs.
Green Pride

- University of Wisconsin Green Bay “EcoU”
  - Environmental Management and Business Institute (EMBI) established in 2008 to strengthen environmental awareness and eco-friendly initiatives between the university, businesses and communities.
  - Cofrin Center for Biodiversity promotes education, research, and community services focused on the conservation of the western Great Lakes.
  - The Lower Fox River Watershed Monitoring Program, a collaborative watershed education and stream monitoring program.
Activate Sustainability
Education Leadership

- Over 40 certificates, associate, bachelor, and graduate degrees
- Over 120 faculty, academic staff, outreach experts in sustainability
- Environmental Management/Sustainable Institutes at nearly all campuses
- National leaders in sustainability best practices on campuses
  - recycling, composting, renewable energy
Every high school in northeast Wisconsin will have a college credit course in sustainability by 2015

Current Program:
- Energy & Society – 4 cr. NWTC/3cr. UW Green Bay
- Educator Feedback
  - Excellent course/student engagement in class projects and tours of green businesses.
- Student Assessment Survey
  - 82% of the students agreed/strongly agreed “course made me more interested in environmental sciences.”
  - 70% stated “I have taken some actions in the past 3 months to reduce my environmental impact.”
Collaborative use of resources for applied research and industry partnerships

Research programs:
- Anaerobic Digestion – UWO, UWGB
- Best Practices – UW–Ext
- Biofuels – NWTC, FVTC, UWGB, UWO
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Assessment – UWO, UWGB, CMN
- Biomass – UWGB, UWO, UW–Ext
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation – CMN, UW–Ext
- Environmental Economics and Policy – UWGB
- Environmental Education – all NEW ERA institutions
- Impact/Outcome Assessment of Implemented Practices – UW–Ext, UW–Fox, UWO, UWGB,
- Sustainable Community Design – CMN
- Water Quality – UWGB, UWO, UW–Manitowoc, UW–Sheboygan, LTC
- Wind Turbine Development – LTC, NWTC, FVTC, MPTC
Best Practices

- Ongoing Awareness and Advocacy….
  - Collaboration on speakers, forums, programs, films, and student activities

- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) membership
  - STARS assessment lead by UW Oshkosh and UW Green Bay, other campuses to begin internal reporting and tracking.
Developing a sustainability portal as the “go to” website for news and resources in northeast Wisconsin

- Community of Science – Experts in colleges/industry
- Sustainability events in the region
- Educational pathways to green jobs

sustainabilitywisconsin.com
Activate Sustainability 2.0
If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn. If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees. If you want one hundred years of prosperity, educate people.

—Chinese proverb
Thank You!