

ISSUE 2

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October 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Office of Sustainability and Innovations! It's been an incredibly busy summer and early fall as we've begun laying the foundation for many of the actions outlined in our A²ZERO Carbon Neutrality plan. This newsletter provides updates on some of these activities, but more detail can be found on our new website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. And of course, please continue to share your questions and ideas with us by sending a note to sustainability@a2gov.org. And, as always, thank you for your interest in climate and sustainability activities in Ann Arbor.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure: As part of our A²ZERO Plan, OSI staff are actively working to create energy benchmarking and disclosure policies. Staff have completed best practice research and literature review and are partnering with peer cities to share experiences and lessons learned. Simultaneously, a local task force is being formed of community liaisons to support creation of the commercial and multi-family portions of our benchmarking and disclosure program. More information is available on the [City's website](#).

Solarize: Our Solarize initiative is a group buy and education program that helps residents access rooftop and ground-mounted solar at discounted rates. Over the last several months we've organized 8 group buys, which have supported over 600 kW in new solar. Currently we are working on assembling battery/storage information about local installers for publication to the public and eventual inclusion in the program. And our program is getting national attention. We've been asked by the Rocky Mountain Institute to share our story with others around the nation. To learn more about this program and/or sign up to join a group buy, visit [our website](#).

Electrification of Vehicles: Staff recently presented at a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Operations Meeting with DDA staff to advocate for the addition of 100+ L2 electric vehicle chargers within DDA garages. In addition, staff continue to work to transition the City's vehicle fleet to electric. In the coming months, we'll be meeting with major vehicle manufacturers to discuss an initiative to scale EV ownership in the community. In addition, staff are preparing an electric vehicle readiness ordinance for presentation to City Council in early winter. This ordinance will ensure that new developments and major renovations are equipped with the electrical equipment necessary to support a transition to EVs. More details on all of these programs will be available on our [EV webpage](#) as the program evolves.

Bikes: Sic Transit Cycles has joined the Office's bicycle discount program. In July, OSI launched a discount program with local e-bike shop, Human Electric Hybrids (HEH). HEH chose to discount two models of electric bikes to support alternative transportation in Ann Arbor. Since that time, two more vendors have joined the program, Arbor Vacuums and Sic

GET INVOLVED

Learn more and get involved at

www.a2gov.org/sustainability or by sending a note to sustainability@a2gov.org

Transit Cycles. Arbor Vacuums discounted their entire line of IZIP e-bikes. Sic Transit has chosen to discount a “Commuter Package” of helmet, bike lock, and lights by 15%. For more information or to join this program, visit our [website](#).

10,000 Trees Initiative: In early fall the City announced a new 10,000 Trees Initiative to support individuals with planting and nurturing trees on private property. The goal of planting 10,000 trees is in the City’s carbon neutrality plan: A²ZERO and will help address issues related to urban heat, stormwater, air quality, and climate change. The program is currently being designed so individuals interested in learning more should continually check the [City’s website](#).

A²ZERO Ambassadors: We are launching our A²ZERO Ambassadors program late this fall. This 9-week training program will equip interested individuals with the knowledge, connections, and information they need to help support the community’s transition to carbon neutrality. Individuals interested in applying to join the Ambassadors program can do so at [this link](#). The first event of the Ambassadors is tentatively scheduled for November 18th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at one of the following upcoming events (register and see more on the City’s public [calendar](#)):

- October 13th, 7:30am – **Natural Areas Preservation Stewards’ Circle.** [Click here](#) to join the meeting in Zoom.
- October 13th, 8:00am – **Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce Energy Efficiency Event.** Register for this event [here](#).
- October 21st, 7:00pm – **Solar Options Event.** Come learn about the various ways you can access solar. [RSVP here](#).
- October 29th, 10:00am – **Energy Fireside Chat at Michigan Energy Summit.** Learn more and register [here](#).
- November 12th, 8:00am – **Climate, Coffee, and Conversation.** Join us for an open community chat about anything and everything A²ZERO and sustainability. [Register here](#).
- November 12th, 6pm – **Transportation Power Hour.** Join us for a presentation and discussion of all things electric vehicle. [Register here](#).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **2019 community-wide greenhouse gas inventory** has been completed and submitted to the Carbon Disclosure Project. Compared to 2000 emission levels, greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by about 20%, but we still have a lot of work to do to reach our 2030 goal to eliminate the 2.1 million metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases associated with the community's activities. That's around 43 metric tons per household. Learn more about estimating your own household's carbon footprint with the [CoolClimate Calculator](#).

We’ve **updated our website!** It’s been a long time coming but if you haven’t yet, please check it out: www.a2gov.org/sustainability.

We’re launched a **YouTube Channel!** Did you miss an event? Want to see some of the things we’ve been up to? Check out our new YouTube Channel. Events added almost every week.

Northside Community Center has solar and storage! That’s right, in September a 23kw solar system that includes both rooftop and ground mounted solar, two Lithium-ion batteries, and an information kiosk were installed at Northside. This system provides nearly 100% of the electrical needs for the Center, allowing it to operate during rain, shine, snow, or sleet. This project was funded by a Solar Moonshot grant and through a Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant.

Matthaei Farms and Friends Solar Group-buy: Open for the next few weeks to Washtenaw County residents interested in solar for their homes. Contact Julie Roth juliekayeroth111@gmail.com for information. A recording about this group buy can be found [here](#).

Remember that our **Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant program** is available to those who have ideas for how to advance sustainability in the public right of way. Learn more and apply on the [sustainability website](#).