# THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A<sup>2</sup>ZERO AND THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



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#### **ABOUT THE EDITOR**



Bryce Frohlich (he/him) supports local community resilience initiatives, including working with several Resilience Hubs in Ann Arbor and advancing emergency preparedness practices. Bryce also manages the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador program, working alongside dedicated community members to build local resilience. Reach out to Bryce at bfrohlich@a2gov.org to learn more.



Darlington residents gather at the kick-off event of the Nourishing Neighborhood pilot.

# **WELCOME**

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this issue of the Charging Station, OSI is delighted to share details about the initiatives happening in the Ann Arbor community to enhance the resilience of our people and our place. If you are interested in learning more about resilience and how our community is preparing to bounce forward after disruptions, check out Strategy 6 of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan on the website: a2zero.org. As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we'd like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

# **RESILIENCE**

### THE ACT OF BOUNCING FORWARD

Resilience: If ten people were asked to define "resilience," there would be ten unique answers. Regarding work done in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), resilience is "the act of bouncing forward." But what exactly does it mean to bounce forward? Let's look to the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan for guidance. Strategy 6 of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan defines bouncing forward as "enhancing the resilience of our people and our place..." to ensure "...our community can not only survive but thrive, regardless of what disruptions or changes may occur."

It takes imaginative and innovative thinking to envision a community capable of thriving in the face of acute shocks such as power outages, extreme temperatures, and flooding. Long-term and persistent shocks/stressors, such as a local increase in annual precipitation (we've experienced an increase of 13.9 inches (46%) from 1951 to 2022) also have significant impacts. Residents can expect to see a higher total amount of rain falling during extreme rain events and extreme rain events occurring more frequently. Ann Arbor will most likely see 13 to 29 more days exceeding 90°F by mid-century, and 31 to 64 more days by the end of the century. The effects of these shocks are amplified by other stressors, such as disruptions to power grids powered by fossil fuels and fossil gas. Although resilience is an often aspired-to goal, it can be an out of reach for many, especially under-invested in-communities. Here in Ann Arbor, OSI and OEM, along with other City departments, are working to prepare for and bounce forward from these climate impacts by improving resilience at the city and neighborhood levels, starting in traditionally underserved neighborhoods. This includes prioritizing people and places that

will be most affected by existing and future climate impacts.

Guiding this work are two of the six prioritized actions in Strategy 6 of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan, which focus on resilience programming and help to explore how Ann Arbor can become more resilient.



### Sydney Parmenter, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Ann Arbor

A resilient Ann Arbor is a community that is interconnected and able to survive and thrive during times of disruption. Working together to build a more resilient Ann Arbor means developing new strategies while simultaneously enhancing existing partnerships to codevelop programs that are equitable and accessible for all, particularly those who have been marginalized and under-served. Together, this community can and will mitigate and adapt to present and future challenges stemming from climate change. There are also commitments at the national level to climate resilience such as the National Climate Resilience Framework, FEMA's Strategic Plan, and the Fifth National Climate Assessment.

# Action 1: Investing in Resilience Hubs

At the Bryant Community Center (BCC) Resilience Hub, no matter the day or time of year, youth from the surrounding Bryant neighborhood can be found engaging in afterschool programming. Some sit in a classroom-style space decorated with album covers of their favorite artists, while others explore the playground out back. Community Action Network (CAN) staff facilitates programs at BCC to improve academic skills, social and mental development, and life skills. CAN's programming success is realized in the astounding 97% graduation rate of youth who consistently participate in the BCC afterschool programs. This is just one example of what operating and investing in a Resilience Hub looks like at the neighborhood scale.

In partnership with Food Gatherers, CAN operates one of the most utilized food banks in Washtenaw County out of BCC. This effort provides critical food security to the surrounding community, delivering over 644,000 meals in 2023.



Less visible at BCC but no less important to its role as a Resilience Hub is the 13.07 kW solar system resting on the roof paired with an onsite storage battery system, providing renewable energy and a source of backup power for use during storm outages.

Now, even in the face of city-wide power outages and other disruptions, the lights at BCC remain on and

# **RESILIENCE**

### THE ACT OF BOUNCING FORWARD

the ability to run vital programs out of BCC means the community is making notable strides to not just survive but thrive during disruptions. Facilities like the BCC and communities like the Bryant Neighborhood are crucial to OSI and OEM's resilience work. To learn more about Resilience Hubs in Ann Arbor, please check out the article Peace Neighborhood Center: Ann Arbor's Next Resilience Hub on page 8.

### Action 2: Foster Neighborhood and Youth Ambassadors

Taking climate action as an individual can feel daunting or difficult. One of the beautiful features of imagining what a sustainable future will look like is the ever-clearer realization that we must act together. This is why the A²ZERO Plan includes the goal of training 100 A²ZERO Ambassadors! These Ambassadors are helping create groups of residents who can organize and collectively take action to increase the resilience of our community.

Ambassadors learn and work with OSI and OEM to tackle resilience projects. Some recent projects have included: building a framework to implement a community tool-sharing program, monitoring and reporting on air quality, installing green infrastructure, and organizing neighborhood responses to disruptions. Building a more resilient Ann Arbor is not something one person can do alone. By working together, the Ambassador program let's us take meaningful collective action. To learn more about Ambassadors' current resilience work, please read the article Nourishing Neighborhood Networks: Building Relational Resilience on page 6.

BCC is the hub for community communication as well. CAN and OSI partner to connect with and offer resources to 262 households as part of the Bryant Sustainability Project. The project aims to identify and sustainably address energy burden and hazardous environmental health concerns in Bryant neighborhood homes, as well as scheduling home and energy assessments for Bryant residents free of cost. This well-established collaboration puts Bryant on the path to becoming the first existing carbonneutral neighborhood in Ann Arbor. To learn more about visit the Bryant Sustainability Project website.



The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador Program is a consecutive, 12-session training that brings together cohorts of up to 25 community members to explore what it takes to equitably transition Ann Arbor to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. Upon completion of their training, Ambassadors pledge to assist on a sustainability-related project with other members of their cohort supported by OSI, OEM, or a community collaborator.



A celebration at BCC for solar panels and battery installation.



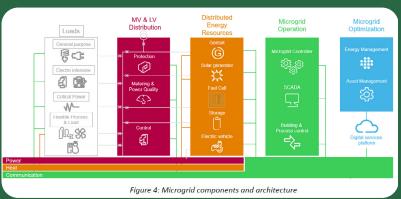
Bryce with the fifth cohort of Ambassadors.

# GRANT UPDATES RECENT WINS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

The City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) aggressively pursue funding to support resilience projects.

### Creating the City's First Microgrid

OSI and OEM recently submitted a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities opportunity to fund a microgrid between Veterans Memorial Park and Fire Station 3. The designed microgrid would provide 3 days of uninterrupted power for these two critical facilities by leaning into a series of on-site solar energy systems, battery storage systems, a shared geothermal system, vehicle to grid and grid to vehicle electric vehicle chargers, and a



backup diesel generator. The City expects to hear if they won this grant towards the end of 2024.

### Expanding regional resilience work in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County



OSI in partnership with OEM has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) program. The EJG2G grant will allow the City's resilience efforts to reach the most under-served residents in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. Efforts will include co-developing a living regional resilience network that will create facilitated communication channels to assist network partners in resource pooling, collective emergency response, and other acts of mutual aid. This project also will include investments in four local brick-and-mortar Resilience Hubs and the creation of a resilience grant program that fosters a connection among the various hubs. Contact Bryce at <a href="mailto:bfrohlich@a2gov.org">bfrohlich@a2gov.org</a> with any questions.

Bryce Frohlich, Community Resilience Specialist, OSI; Bryce supports local community-wide resilience initiatives including the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador program and Resilience Hub initiatives in Ann Arbor.

### **POLLINATOR AWARE YARD CARE**

Spring is on its way in, which means pollinators will soon be emerging. Want to help support native pollinator and plant species in your yard? Check out the Pollinator-Aware Yard Care (PAYC) program! You can visit the PAYC website at <a href="https://osi.a2gov.org/pollinators">https://osi.a2gov.org/pollinators</a> to find tips on how to make your yard more pollinator-friendly and register your home address as a participant in the program - registrants can also sign up to receive a yard sign to show off your pollinator awareness and spread information to your neighbors. And here's a quick tip for you as we enter the spring months: Trees are a great source of pollen for early-emerging pollinators! So watch the blooms on maple, willow, basswood, and more - and listen for the buzz. For more information, contact Sean Reynolds, Senior Analyst, at <a href="mailto:SReynolds@a2gov.org">SReynolds@a2gov.org</a>.

# **GRANT UPDATES**

### RECENT WINS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

The City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) aggressively pursue funding to support resilience projects.

### A big win for expanding and maintaining our community's tree canopy



OSI, along with the City's Forestry department and Natural Areas Preservation, applied for and were awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the US Forest Service to help fund a wholistic approach to expanding and maintaining tree canopies city-wide. The teams is currently refining the scope of this grant in coordination with the Forest Service and their passthrough partner, American Forests. This grant will fund tree planting on private property through the 10,000 Trees Initiative; a program to provide private property-owners with free maintenance for existing trees on their property; and the removal of invasive species in the City's natural areas. This work will be done in communities identified as environmental justice priority areas by the US Environmental Protection Agency using their EJScreen tool. OSI is excited to work with American Forests and the Forest Service to implement these grant-funded programs and provide targeted tree planting and maintenance in our community, creating a healthier and fuller canopy that can build resilience through reductions in urban heat island effect, improved air and water quality, enhanced stormwater management, and much more. To learn more, contact Sean Reynolds at SReynolds@a2gov.org.

Sean Reynolds, Senior Analyst, OSI; Sean works on various circular economy and community resilience programs and initiatives, including sustainable food programs, reuse systems, air quality monitoring, the Pollinator-Aware Yard Care program, and the 10,000 Trees Initiative - a program aimed at getting trees planted on private property.

### Creating a Living Learning Laboratory of Carbon Neutrality and Resilience



In late 2023, OSI was awarded just over \$180,000 to invest in energy-related projects. Centering our commitment to equitable decarbonization, the City decided to invest these funds into transitioning the Bryant Community Center into a carbon neutral building and a living, learning laboratory of climate resilience in action. Quotes for things such as improved insulation, a geothermal system, enhanced solar, lighting replacements, and full electrification of the building are currently being collected. Work is expected to begin in late spring.

### **AADL SEED STARTER PACKS**

Looking to start a garden? Interested in growing some of your own food or supporting native pollinator species? The Ann Arbor District Library will be giving out starter packs of seeds to promote gardening knowledge and experience. Each pack will include 5-7 varieties of seeds. Learn more at <a href="mailto:aadl.org/seedsampler">aadl.org/seedsampler</a>.

# **CONNECT WITH A<sup>2</sup>ZERO**

sustainability@a2gov.org | a2zero.org | JOIN OUR MAILING LIST | YOUTUBE

# **NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS**

**BUILDING RELATIONAL RESILIENCE** 

Tim and Ashley Vaduva moved into the Darlington neighborhood in southern Ann Arbor in 2014, right before their first child was born. Fast-forward ten years, they now have three kids who attend Pittsfield Elementary School just down the street. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the community to distance themselves physically and, in many cases, shrink their social circles. The Vaduva family's most frequent in-person interactions became more localized during the pandemic, and their relationships with nearby neighbors became more commonplace. One positive outcome of the tumultuous early period of the pandemic was Tim and Ashley's realization that they had remarkable people in their neighborhood with who they wanted to spend more time.



Tim and Ashley Vaduva, and their three sons at a local park in their neighborhood.

led Tim and Ashley to start strategizing ways to connect with more neighbors across Darlington as a start to increasing their community's resilience.

As an A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador, Tim works with the community's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) on resilience-building initiatives. When he received an email calling for volunteers to pilot the Nourishing Neighbors Program, a new neighborhood-level program focusing on bringing together neighbors to build relationships and organize preparedness for extreme weather events, it aligned with the ideas that he and Ashley had been considering for their neighborhood.

The Nourishing Neighborhoods initiative helps neighborhoods increase their interconnectedness, in part by assisting neighbors in getting to know one another. Those relationships nourish the community and strengthen collective responses to disruptions such as power outages. Nourishing Neighborhood programs are led by neighborhood connectors, loosely defined as those who live in the community and are motivated to build strong relationships and bring people together to increase resilience. Neighborhood connectors consult with OEM and OSI to develop best practices for community organizing based on needs identified by individuals and neighborhood groups.

Tim and Ashley are the first to admit that they are new to grassroots organizing. While they have experience coaching

In February 2023, a major ice storm hit southeast Michigan, with Ann Arbor experiencing severe weather impacts. High ice accumulation was met with high wind gusts, bringing down tree branches and resulting in devastating power outages affecting thousands. The Vaduva household and the Darlington neighborhood were no exception. Tim and Ashley felt that there was an opportunity for neighbors to help one another during such widespread disruption. While their relationship with nearby neighbors had become more robust since the pandemic, the lack of communication outside their direct neighbors hindered outreach in the broader neighborhood. This shock event



Neighbors answer what they love about their neighborhood and what they can do together to make their neighborhood even better.

# NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

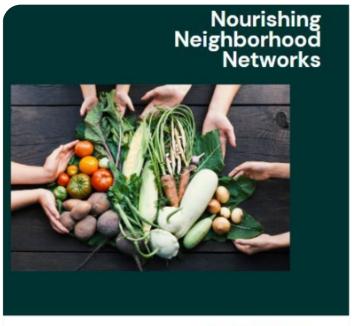
**BUILDING RELATIONAL RESILIENCE** 

individuals and small groups, bringing an entire neighborhood together felt daunting. That is why they started small with a simple invitation to gather on their front lawn for apple cider and doughnuts on a sunny fall day. Although simple in concept, inviting the entire neighborhood required real effort. The Vaduva family went to 200+ doors in the area to extend personal invitations or leave a flyer with the date, time, location, and, of course, the lure of doughnuts and a warm drink. The gathering turned out to be a huge success. Over 80 people came out to meet their neighbors - some for the first time - eager to share their experiences living in this neighborhood, whether it had been a few years, decades, or a lifetime.

Since the initial kick-off event, the reception to Tim and Ashley's organizing has been warm and grateful. Several neighbors offered to help organize more Nourishing Neighborhood events in the future. During February 2024, a second household hosted a winter preparedness discussion for neighbors including a presentation by staff from OSI and OEM on emergency preparedness planning. With the ice storms from the previous year still fresh in folks' minds, stories and resources were shared in preparation for the next round of winter outages. Some neighbors also exchanged phone numbers to discuss how they could help each other.

Although organizing at the local level takes time, when Tim and Ashley were asked what they imagine and hope Darlington will be like in 5 –to-10 years, they had a clear vision: "We'd like a neighborhood of people who know each other well enough to feel comfortable checking in on each other when significant events happen in our neighborhood. We hope there is more information sharing, helping each other care for the nature in our area, and neighbors who collaborate on ways to make our place more sustainable and resilient."

Interested in learning more about The Nourishing Neighborhood Program? Contact Bryce Frohlich at <a href="mailto:bfrohlich@a2gov.org">bfrohlich@a2gov.org</a>. Ann Arbor residents can look forward to a "how-to" guide for establishing a Nourishing Neighborhood, which will be available after the conclusion of the pilot program in late fall.



Best Practices Guide Summer 2023 The City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovation





OVERVIEW

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# Nourishing Neighborhood Networks

"The connections among local people are what awaken the power of families and neighborhoods to weave the social fabric of an abundant community."

—John McKnight

Nourishing neighborhood networks are small areas of the community, usually a block or street. working together to share the resources and skills necessary to thrive.

This Best Practices Guide will lay a foundation for building resource and skill sharing networks on a neighborhood level. Included are guiding principles, providing a framework for approaching this work. By integrating these principles in our neighborhoods, we can promote social cohesion and ensure durability in network management. Finally, a step-by-step guide will lay out the process for creating a pilot program in a local neighborhood

Neighborhood networks offer important ways to cultivate meaning :

Building Community Relationships
A collaboration of residents work
together to build relationships and trust
within their neighborhood. This helps to
combat the social epidemic of
loneliness and supports the social fabric
for transformative community change.

Becoming a Part of Something Bigger Residents can engage in a cause greater than oneself, becoming agents-ofchange within their community. Engaging in neighborhood projects can provide a common goal that transcends and welcomes differing perspectives and experiences.



Program Overview --- Introduction --- Guiding Principles --- Pilot Program --- Appendix

Ann Arbor residents can expect the release of the Nourishing Neighborhood Network guide upon completion of the pilot program to assist in organizing in their own neighborhood.

# PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

**ANN ARBOR'S NEXT RESILIENCE HUB** 



As suggested in **Resilience: The Act of Bouncing Forward**, a vital part of building resilience is supporting community-based organizations in a way that allows for the provision of critical services, even in the face of disruptions. For the Bryant Community Center – highlighted on pages 2 and 3 – that included the ability to maintain power using renewable solar energy and battery storage during outages, a key component for Resilience Hubs. However, having renewable energy and storage is not what makes a place a Resilience Hub – it's people!

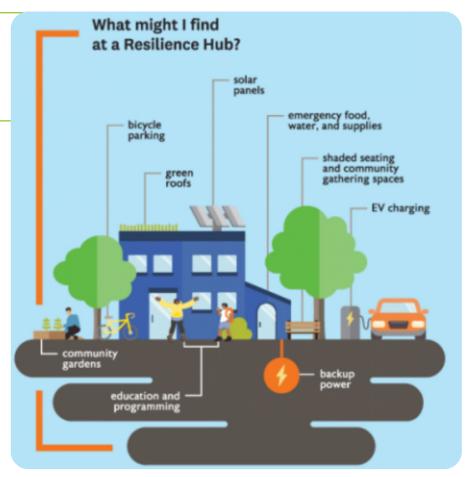
Some common components that are found at Resilience Hubs include renewable energy systems, green infrastructure, community education and programming, and much more. Graphic credit.

#### What a Resilience Hub is:

- A community-trusted location
- Driven by community needs and desires
- Able to host people and events for community building
- A location that offers community programming or services (e.g., food pantries, community gardens, exercise and skill-building classes, etc.)
- A brick and mortar facility that utilizes renewable energy systems and green infrastructure

### What a Resilience Hub is not:

- A space designed without direct creation alongside the community it serves
- An emergency operations center or shelter
- A space with no capacity for community building



## Ann Arbor City Council Approves purchase of a Solar Mobile Nanogrid

On March 18th, Ann Arbor City Council approved the purchase of a Sesame Solar Mobile Nanogrid Unit. This off-grid solution to mobile renewable power, outfitted with an 8kW solar array, can be set up in 15 minutes or less at locations of need during disruptions. Ann Arbor residents can look forward to interacting with the Sesame Solar Mobile Nanogrid in the coming months to learn about resilience efforts in the City of Ann Arbor.



Model of Sesame Solar Unit coming to Ann Arbor.

# PEACE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

**ANN ARBOR'S NEXT RESILIENCE HUB** 



Bonnie Billups Jr., Executive Director of Peace Neighborhood Center

Strategy 6 of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan calls for the City of Ann Arbor to establish one Resilience Hub in every ward. Ann Arbor has two Resilience Hubs: the Northside Community Center Resilience Hub in Ward 1 and the Bryant Community Center Resilience Hub in Ward 3.

The City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are excited to announce the next resilience hub partnership in Ann Arbor, Peace Neighborhood Center, a community pillar that has operated for over 50 years.

Throughout its life, the Peace
Neighborhood Center ("Peace") has
supported over 18,000 people in Ann Arbor
and Washtenaw County through advocacy,
emergency assistance, after-school
programs, summer day camps, college
and career preparation, individual and
family counseling, and family enrichment
programs.

### MORE ABOUT PEACE FROM PEACE

Peace Neighborhood Center is a local nonprofit agency dedicated to helping those in need in Washtenaw County, focusing on the families of Ann Arbor's west side. Founded in 1971, Peace began as a neutral meeting place for neighbors from diverse backgrounds to resolve problems and offer services to address issues throughout the community. Since then, Peace has grown into a multi-service agency with programs that assist children, adults, and families to change the trajectory of their lives and achieve success. Peace helps people discover options, enhance skills, and make choices that lead to self-sufficiency and positive community involvement.

Helping to provide access to healthy food and nutritious meals is one of the primary ways Peace assists families every day. During prolonged power outages over the last few years, Peace has been forced to discard purchased and stocked food for programs and families. Even if the food had yet to spoil, without proper refrigeration, those items often needed to be redistributed before they became unsalvageable. Despite the effort to redistribute at-risk food, the loss of power still resulted in an overall loss of hundreds of dollars in resources to the organization. In addition, power outages affecting our region have negatively impacted the families we serve. Without adequate refrigeration, these families have lost large quantities of food, creating a significant cost burden.

With the addition of renewable energy as a part of the new Peace Resilience Hub, Peace can maintain the food resources intended for program use and provide temporary refrigeration space for families to preserve medications requiring refrigeration and salvage limited critical food items. Furthermore, renewable energy sources will allow Peace to provide a space for families to stay warm or cool depending on the season, recharge electronic devices that are a necessity, and offer a hot meal. Incorporating renewable energy and storage will be a significant game changer for the families in the area during future power outages.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### PHASING OUT GAS LEAF BLOWERS

In December 2023, the City of Ann Arbor enacted new restrictions to phase-out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Transitioning out gas-powered leaf blowers will lead to cleaner air, better community health, less noise pollution, and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. The summer ban prohibits use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the city from June 1 to September 30. Electric leaf blowers may be used during this time. The Seasonal use and phase-out permits use of gas-powered leaf blowers from October 1 to May 30 through 2027. Starting January 1, 2028 use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited at all times in the city. Learn more about this transition and how the City of Ann Arbor will lend resources to this transition on our website.

### PERFORMANCE METRIC DASHBOARD

OSI is excited to announce the publication of our <u>Performance Metric Dashboard</u>. Explore the interactive dashboard to see progress on the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO plan, including greenhouse gas emissions, decarbonization, the circular economy, resilience, and engagement. The dashboard is best viewed from a computer.

### **ACTION OPPORTUNITY**

In late February, OSI along with Community Action Network applied to a Michigan Public Service Commission grant to advance efforts to decarbonize the Bryant neighborhood. This proposal, along with all other proposals submitted as part of this opportunity are now open for public comment. If you'd like to share your thoughts, please go to <a href="the Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement">the Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement</a> and Development (RE-EIED) Grant Proposals Page by April 14th.

### **ANN ARBOR SOLAR STORIES | April 3, 7PM | Virtual**

This one-hour, online event is hosted by the GLREA. Hear from Ann Arborites who have gone solar and ask them all your questions! Register in advance to receive a confirmation email containing information to join the meeting.

MEET THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD BUSINESS COALITION | April 20, 8AM – 3PM | Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, 315 Detroit St Stop by the City of Ann Arbor Farmers Market's annual Earth Day / CSA Day Celebration to meet representatives from the new Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition, Ann Arbor's network of businesses working together to advance sustainability across the food system! Learn about how food businesses are leading Ann Arbor's climate transition through innovative programs and practices! While you're there, visit the farmer booths to learn more about community supported agriculture and how you can support local farmers!

### **STATE OF MICHIGAN HOME ENERGY REBATE PROGRAM** | Dates listed below | Virtual

EGLE will host a mix of virtual and in-person engagements sessions across Michigan to diversify input, discuss localized context, and to accommodate those that could not make regional in-person meetings. The agenda will start with education around the DOE HER Programs, with most of the session focused on hearing top priorities in your community, barriers to implementation, and environmental justice considerations in formulating potential implementation projects. Register and learn more here.

- April 9, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m., Detroit
- April 11, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m., Flint
- April 16, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m., Marquette
- April 22, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m., Roscommon
- April 24, 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m., Closing Listening Session

# **SUSTAINABILITY SERIES: EQUITY IN ACTION THROUGH A<sup>2</sup>ZERO** | April 24, 6 - 7:30PM | Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown or Virtual

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Sustainability Series back for another season at the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library! Attend these public events to learn more and ask questions about exciting new programs, initiatives, and updates from our office and our amazing community collaborators. Session topics are below. <u>Please register for the virtual sessions</u> –registration is not required for in-person attendance.

SPRING 2024 FREETREE GIVEAWAY | April 28, 10AM - 3:30PM | Tappan and Claque Middle Schools

The 10,000 Trees Initiative's annual Spring FreeTree Giveaway will take place on Sunday, April 28th from 10am-3:30pm at both Tappan and Clague Middle Schools. Residents of Washtenaw County are eligible to register to receive up to four free trees to take home and plant on their property! While this event has already sold out, please go to <a href="mailto:osi.a2gov.org/spring24freetree">osi.a2gov.org/spring24freetree</a> to learn more. To volunteer at the event, please sign up here. Contact: Sean Reynolds, <a href="mailto:sreynolds@a2gov.org">sreynolds@a2gov.org</a>.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events.