

# 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 A<sup>2</sup>ZERO:



Adopted on June 1, 2020, A<sup>2</sup>ZERO is the City of Ann Arbor's plan for achieving a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. Guiding the development and implementation of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO are three overarching principles: Equity, Sustainability, and Transformation. Learn more at [www.a2zero.org](http://www.a2zero.org).



## WELCOME

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI)! This month's issue of *The Charging Station* focuses on the third annual A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week, which celebrates the third anniversary of the passing of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO plan and the progress we have made so far towards our goal of achieving an equitable, healthy, safe, and carbon neutral community. If you are interested in learning more about A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and our work, please visit [www.a2gov.org/sustainability](http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability). And 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.

# A<sup>2</sup>ZERO WEEK

## CELEBRATING THREE YEARS

June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the 3-year anniversary of the adoption of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan! To commemorate this event, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations will be holding our third annual A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week. This week-long celebration consists of a series of events highlighting the work done by OSI and our collaborators, and the great achievements we still have ahead of us. Check out highlights from the week below. We hope to see you at some of these events!

### WEEK-LONG ACTIVITIES

**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Passport.** From June 1<sup>st</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, pick up an A<sup>2</sup>ZERO passport at any [Ann Arbor District Library](#) branch and get ready to engage and have fun at events throughout the week! Get your confirmation mark, submit your form by June 9<sup>th</sup> online, and be entered to win great prizes! Drawing will be held at the Ann Arbor [Summer Festival Annex](#) on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. No purchase required to participate and individuals need not be present to win.

**Self-Guided Circular Economy Tour.** Get ready to ride! Take the self-guided circular economy tour with [TheRide](#) and [Destination Ann Arbor](#). Practice your sustainable tourism skills using complimentary bus passes (subject to limited availability) and see how local businesses are reducing carbon emissions and helping Ann Arbor go green! From June 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, stop by [Cinnaholic](#) at 121 E. Liberty between 10am and 9pm to pick up your sustainable tourism packet (while supplies last) and get started!

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>

**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO at the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run.** Get Ready to Run! A<sup>2</sup>ZERO is a sponsor of the 49<sup>th</sup> Dexter-Ann Arbor Run, Michigan's scenic Huron River course. Register as a runner at [dxa2.com](#) for the half marathon, 10K or 5K run. Or join the volunteer team using innovative strategies to ensure this event is zero waste. Go to [dxa2.com](#) and click on the volunteer button at the top of the home page to volunteer for this event.

### MONDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

**Eezy Treezy and Cocktail Classes.** The "Eezy Treezy" is back for A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week! Support tree planting efforts through the [10,000 Trees Initiative](#) with each purchase of this special edition drink, made with locally sourced cucumber-infused gin, blackberries, mint, and lime. Plus, you can channel your inner mixologist with local, sustainable ingredients at the Ann Arbor Distilling Company's A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week Cocktail Classes on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Classes at 5:00pm or 7:30pm. Registration required; register [here](#).

**Beyond Zero Film Screening.** Join us at the State Theater at 6:30pm for a screening of the film *Beyond Zero* from HaveyPro Cinema, followed by a panel discussion at 8:00pm. You can watch the trailer for the film here: <https://vimeo.com/654262821>. This event is free, but registration is required at <https://beyondzero.eventbrite.com>.

Keep reading! The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week schedule continues on the next page.

## A<sup>2</sup>ZERO WEEK!

**June 4 – 10**

<p><b>Take a circular economy tour</b> with <a href="#">TheRide &amp; Destination Ann Arbor</a></p>	<p><b>Go zero waste</b></p> <p>at the <b>DxA2 Run</b></p>	<p>Mix it up with the <a href="#">Ann Arbor Distilling Co.</a></p>
<p>Party at the <a href="#">YMCA with VegMichigan &amp; the UM Solar Car Team</a></p>	<p>Get your <b>A<sup>2</sup>ZERO PASSPORT</b> at the <a href="#">AADL</a></p>	<p>Learn to live with your <b>Wild Neighbors</b> with the <a href="#">HSHV</a></p>
<p><b>Trivia</b> at <a href="#">Conor O'Neill's with Citizens' Climate Lobby</a></p>		
<p><b>BIKE for your BEANS</b> with <a href="#">Human Electric Hybrids &amp; Mornings</a> with <a href="#">Ella</a></p>	<p>Watch <b>BEYOND ZERO</b> at the <a href="#">State Theater</a></p>	<p>See demos of <b>SOLAR SOLUTIONS</b> for large and small applications at the <a href="#">A2SF Annex</a></p> <p>Engage with sustainable screen printing &amp; <b>All Hands Active</b></p>
<p>Explore bioluminescence at the <a href="#">A2SF Kid's Zone</a> with the <a href="#">UM Museum of Natural History</a></p>		
<p>Tour the new <b>Resilience Hub</b> at the <a href="#">Bryant Community Center</a></p>		
<p>Thank you, <b>A<sup>2</sup>ZERO</b> collaborators &amp; volunteers!</p>		<p>Enjoy great music at the <b>A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Stage</b> on Main St</p>

**DATES & details**  
[a2gov.org/a2zeroweek](http://a2gov.org/a2zeroweek)

Learn more at:  
[www.a2gov.org/a2zeroweek](http://www.a2gov.org/a2zeroweek)

A<sup>2</sup>ZERO

EQUITABLE • SUSTAINABLE • TRANSFORMATIVE

## TUESDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>

**Love A Park Day.** Give365 and A<sup>2</sup>ZERO invite you to learn about pollinator habitat and care for your local community park. Meet at Esch Park, 2780 Page Ave, and get ready to dig, plant, and have fun! 10:00am-12:00pm. Registration required; register [here](#).

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>

**Climate Board Game Night at Bløm.** Join us at [Bløm Meadworks](#) from 5:00-10:00pm for their weekly Board Game Night - this time featuring climate and environment-related board games! No need to be an expert - we've got games for all levels and interests, from a few minutes of quick wit to several hours of strategy. Come with friends or by yourself!

## THURSDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>

**Love A Park Day.** Give365 and A<sup>2</sup>ZERO invite you to learn about pollinator habitat and care for your local community park. Meet at Northside Park, 809 Taylor St, and get ready to dig, plant, and have fun! Plus, get your A<sup>2</sup>ZERO passport stamped. 4:00-6:00pm. Registration required; register [here](#).

**Get to Know Your Wild Neighbors.** Join the wildlife specialists at the Humane Society of Huron Valley from 5:00-6:30pm at 3100 Cherry Hill Road in Ann Arbor. Learn ways to live in harmony with the wild animals in proximity to you while gaining an appreciation for the many roles they play in our complex ecosystems! [HSHV.org](#).

**REPAIRsday.** Learn how to fix your gadgets! Meet up at [All Hands Active](#) for REPAIRsday from 5:30-9:00pm at 255 E. Liberty St., Suite 225 during extended hours for A<sup>2</sup>ZERO week! Bring in something small that's in need of repair for assessment by the team - and get your A<sup>2</sup>ZERO passport stamped. Learn more [here](#).

**Trivia Night with CCL.** Are you a trivia champ? Then head on over to [Conor O'Neill's](#) on Main Street and strut your stuff! For A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week, [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) joins the Conor O'Neill's team to bring you challenging questions about the natural world and climate adaptations. 7:30-9:00pm. 318 S. Main St.

**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Music Stage.** Join us downtown on Main Street Ann Arbor at the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Music Stage and enjoy [Brennen Andes & Friends](#) from 7:00-9:00pm. Dance, sing, and tap along to the tunes!

## FRIDAY, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>

**Bryant Community Center Resilience Hub Open House.** Stop by and take a tour of the new resilience hub, a partnership of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and the [Community Action Network](#)! 5:00-8:00pm, 3 Eden Court. Food, Kona Ice, tours, and fun!

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>

**Project Grow Multit-Site Tour.** Join us for a tour of [Project Grow](#) sites from 9:00-11:00am. Participants will drive to each site in the day's tour to learn about the history of the organization and key facts about that specific site's gardens and gardeners, and get a chance to meet site coordinators and gardeners. This tour includes four locations: Food Gatherers, Clague Middle School, Chapel Hill Condo Association, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens Project Grow site. Contact [info@projectgrowgardens.org](mailto:info@projectgrowgardens.org) with questions. Advance registration is required for this free event: <https://forms.gle/GcPCJu82LuxbF8Gi6>.

**YMCA Block Party.** Join us downtown for a block party from 12:00-4:00pm at 400 W. Washington. Visit with [VegMichigan](#), the [UM Solar Car Team](#), the City of Ann Arbor's [EMS](#) and [A<sup>2</sup>ZERO](#) Teams, [Human Electric Hybrids](#), and much, much more. Learn fun ways to embrace a sustainable lifestyle! [annarborymca.org](#).

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival.** Join the OSI Team at a special A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week Summer Festival event! The Annex will feature fun and accessible ways to bring renewable solar energy into your life to reduce your carbon footprint while increasing your energy resiliency! Check out a sample of solar coffee from Mornings with Ella, see the latest in e-bike tech with [Human Electric Hybrids](#), chart the solar capacity of your roof, get a robot-drawn portrait with [All Hands Active](#), and bring a shirt to make your wearable sustainable screen print! At the Kid's Zone, learn about bioluminescence in the natural world, with interactive demonstrations by the team at the [University of Michigan Museum of Natural History](#)! Take home a pollinator seed bomb for your garden and have fun at the [Scrap Creative](#) station! 5:00-9:00pm (Kid's Zone closes at 8:00pm). [A2SF.org](#).

# A<sup>2</sup>ZERO YEAR THREE ANNUAL REPORT

## COMING SOON!

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Next week we'll be unveiling the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Year Three Annual Report. As a sneak peek, here are some highlights from the last year of our collective actions to equitably address the climate crisis:

- The 10,000 Trees Initiative has reached approximately 5,750 trees planted/distributed.
- Our A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors program is up to 85 graduates, and we will reach over 100 ambassadors with the next cohort!
- Aging in Place Efficiently completed energy efficiency and aging in place retrofits in the homes of 17 participants, reducing energy burdens by saving \$45,800 in utility costs - plus a reduction of 113 metric tons of carbon emissions.
- We installed two additional air quality monitors, bringing our total number of monitors up to four. We also launched a data visualization platform for air quality monitoring at [www.a2gov.org/airdata](http://www.a2gov.org/airdata).
- We held a Plant-Based Challenge to encourage the adoption of plant-forward diets, with over 200 participants!
- We held a Local Food Festival at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, which was attended by seventeen local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations, as well as by over 300 residents.
- With a working group of local business owners and City staff, we developed a draft sustainable food framework.
- We procured two electric refuse trucks for the City Fleet, partially funded with approximately \$600,000 in Federal and State grants – and we're nearing 20% electrification of our light fleet!
- We initiated pilot testing of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Home Energy Advisor Program. This will be a free service to Ann Arbor residents, and will assist individuals with evaluating their homes, creating road maps to electrification and efficiency, and connecting with contractors.
- We hosted our first Electrification Expo and are gearing up to host the second on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-9pm.
- We installed roughly 4.0 MW of solar on City facilities.
- As of May 2023, the 3-year-old Solarize program has now surpassed 4.0 MW of new solar in our region, representing over 540 installations, over \$1.8 million saved in upfront costs, and well over \$186 million saved in energy costs over the 25-year warranted life-span of solar panels.
- We were awarded \$500,000 to advance neighborhood decarbonization in Bryant, which is helping 19 households make health, safety, and quality of life improvements.
- We were awarded a planning grant from the DOE to design a district geothermal loop in the Bryant neighborhood.
- We provided \$300,000 in grants to local housing providers to implement energy efficiency improvements in the homes and dwellings of individuals with lower incomes.
- We were awarded a grant to replace all City streetlights with LEDs, starting in 2024.
- Ann Arbor was recognized as one of only 23 Gold-level "Walk Friendly" communities in the United States.
- We completed a second resilience hub in Ann Arbor, located at the Bryant Neighborhood Community Center.
- We launched a Commercial Solar program with the 2030 District to incentivize commercial solar adoption in the County.
- We initiated work on a sustainable heating franchise and are currently collecting public feedback and ideas on how to achieve a safe, sustainable, clean, and healthy heating system for the entire community.
- For the second year in a row, Ann Arbor was recognized on the CDP's A List as one of 122 cities and counties across the globe that is taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency.
- We launched a small grant program with Ann Arbor Public Schools to support sustainability-related projects in schools.
- The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Collaborator network expanded and now consists of over 120 organizations.
- We hosted Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss sustainability activities in Ann Arbor.
- And so much more!

**CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS**

**EMAIL US ([SUSTAINABILITY@A2GOV.ORG](mailto:SUSTAINABILITY@A2GOV.ORG)) | VISIT US ON THE WEB ([A2GOV.ORG/SUSTAINABILITY](http://A2GOV.ORG/SUSTAINABILITY))**

**[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#) | [CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE PLAYLIST](#)**