

THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A²ZERO AND
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



The full Office of Sustainability and Innovations team, June 2025.



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ABOUT THE EDITOR



Grace Franke (she/her) is the Communications Coordinator at OSI. She delights in preparing this newsletter for you every month, as well as communicating OSI's upcoming programs, events, and announcements to the local community.

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 highlights from Year Five of A²ZERO. If you are interested in learning more about any of the organizations featured in this issue and how you can get involved, more detail can be found on our website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A²ZERO 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.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

Every year, OSI produces an annual report, chronicling activities, initiatives, and lessons learned. This edition of the newsletter focuses on sharing some of the highlights for our 5th Annual Report, released in June. Like all years before it, the year included many highs, some lows, lots of new collaborations, the deepening of relationships, and continued innovation to chart a path to something no community in the world has achieved – carbon neutrality.

In the pages that follow, we highlight some of the work that took place this last year as well as what's on the horizon. Check out [Year 5 Annual Report at a2zero.org!](https://a2zero.org/)

1 100% RENEWABLES

Below are some highlights of actions taken this last year to advance Strategy 1 of A²ZERO - powering our electric grid with 100% renewable energy:

- Our [Solarize](#) program reached 5.4MW of solar installed through the program!
- Solar at City facilities continues to expand with [700 kW of new solar systems](#) installed on City properties this year, bringing total generating capacity on City properties above 1 MW.
- In deep collaboration with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, geothermal was integrated into the new [affordable housing site on Catherine Street](#).
- Geothermal was installed at the [Bryant Community Center](#), taking another HUGE step in making the Community Center the City's first living, learning laboratory of carbon neutrality!
- On November 5, 2024, Ann Arbor voters authorized the creation of the Ann Arbor [Sustainable Energy Utility \(SEU\)](#) with a historic 79% of the vote. The SEU will provide clean, 100% renewable, opt-in, supplemental power to residents of the City of Ann Arbor. Work immediately began to launch the SEU, expected 24 months after the November vote. Learn more at www.a2gov.org/a2seu.
- Launched an [SEU waitlist form](#) and started sending nearly biweekly updates to those on the waitlist about SEU development progress.
- Thanks to a collaboration with Constellation Energy, [over 70% of the electricity used](#) to power City of Ann Arbor facilities and operations is now generated by renewable energy sources. This achievement comes after 67 more city sites were enrolled in Michigan's Electric Customer Choice Program, which allows customers to make their own choices about how their energy is generated. The city's alternative energy supplier is Constellation Energy, the nation's largest producer of carbon-free energy.



City officials break ground on Fire Station 4, Michigan's first net-zero fire station.



Drilling for the geothermal system at the Bryant Community Center.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

2 BENEFICIAL ELECTRICITY

Below are highlights from the past year under Strategy 2 – transitioning fossil appliances and equipment to electric.

- Ann Arbor's Home Energy Rebates launched, helping Ann Arbor residents make improvements to their homes and invest in cleaner transportation options to reduce carbon emissions and lower energy usage. Residents can receive thousands of dollars to aid in weatherization and air sealing or the purchasing of appliances such as heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, inductions stoves, heat pump dryers, batteries, electrical upgrades and e-bikes. Over 650 rebates have been claimed as of May 2025.
- The A²ZERO Heat Pump Concierge launched, providing Ann Arbor residents an easy platform to obtain design and receive pricing estimates for replacing old furnaces with new heat pumps, including all applicable rebates, and contractor and installation oversight.
- OSI launched an EV charger discount program to encourage electric vehicle adoption throughout the City. The Commercial EV Charger Program provides commercial and multifamily property owners an opportunity to receive up to four free level-2 EV chargers along with a five-year software package, a five-year warranty, and, as needed, charger accessories essential to ensuring the functionality of the EV chargers.
- On Earth Day, Ann Arbor and DTE signed the first heating franchise in the country to include climate commitments and dedicated resources to help address the climate crisis. Included within the franchise is an Agreement Regarding Climate Action (ARCA), which outlines commitment to cooperate in support of A²ZERO and DTE's climate goals. A 2-year work plan also specifies actions DTE and Ann Arbor will take to advance climate action.



The 2024 Home Electrification Expo.



City Attorney Atleen Kaur, Dr. Missy Stults, Mayor Christopher Taylor, Chief of Staff for Public Services Skye Stewart, and outside legal Counsel Valerie Brader at the heating franchise signing.



The 2024 Sustainable Lawn Care Learning Session.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

3

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Below are highlights for Strategy 3 of A²ZERO in Year 5: improving the energy efficiency of our homes, businesses, houses of worship, community centers, and institutions.

- The [A²ZERO Home Energy Advisor](#) launched and has helped over 300 Ann Arbor residents obtain free home energy assessments with customized home decarbonization plans and connection to resources to help make improvements in their homes.
- The [A²ZERO Home Energy Rebate program](#) provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support homeowners, renters, property managers, and landlords make energy efficiency improvements in their homes. Applications are open on a rolling basis for those interested in learning more and saving money.
- OSI provided technical and financial support to help Avalon Housing make significant energy efficiency improvements at 23 rental units that comprise the Stimson Apartment complex.
- OSI provided funding support to the Ann Arbor Housing Development Commission to advance the affordable housing project at 121 Catherine Street. Throughout the development process, OSI has been collaborating with the AAHC to help ensure this development supports the City's sustainability goals.
- The [A²ZERO Green Business Challenge](#) welcomed Fresh Coast Climate Solutions to provide individualized work plans for businesses participating in the program. In addition, the program hired four interns to assist with programming and outreach to bring more businesses into the program.
- After years of engagement, the City brought forward the [Green Rental Housing ordinance](#) for consideration by Council. It was passed by Council in June 2025 and will establish a minimum baseline standard for health, comfort, and energy efficiency to ensure our tenants have a place to not just live, but also to thrive, as we all work towards our carbon neutrality goals.
- Implementation of [Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance](#) continued in earnest in year 5, with major efforts centered on bringing all building into compliance. Through the tireless efforts of staff and collaborators at the 2030 District, buildings over 20,000 square feet are benchmarking and learning about practices that could save them money, improve health and safety, and help address the climate crisis.
- The [Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance](#) came into stride in year five, with 700 homes receiving a completed Home Energy Score through the City. This information is helping home buyer's factor in the impact of a home's energy efficiency as part of their decision-making process.

To pair with the Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) Ordinance, OSI is also launching HERD Wraparound Services, making sure that homeowners make the most of the information they've been provided about their home to save money and live more comfortably and sustainably.

Curious about ways you can save money and energy in your home? You can request a [free Home Energy Assessment](#) for a detailed, customized list of steps you can take. The City also offers significant [rebates](#) and other incentives to make this work possible. Learn more online at our [Home Electrification page](#).



Want to learn more about how the Green Rental Housing Ordinance will work to protect the health, safety, and well-being of renters across the City? Learn the facts behind the Ordinance at osi.a2gov.org/GreenRentalHousing.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

4 VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED REDUCTION

Below are some of the highlights for Year 5 of Strategy 4 – reducing the miles we travel in our vehicles and changing our land use patterns to support more walking, biking, scooting, rolling, or transit travel.

- The primary area of emphasis OSI had regarding strategy four pertained to supporting development of the [City's draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan](#). With one of the three core tenants of the plan being sustainability, OSI has been highly involved in supporting the Planning Department with advancing the draft Comprehensive Plan. Public comment is open for those wanting to share feedback.
- The City's collaboration and funding support continued in year five with resources being dedicated to expanding more bike lanes throughout the City. This funding is granted to the City's transportation team who is working with OSI on efforts such as new crosswalks, better lighting, bike lane expansion, bike parking expansion, and other features to improve non-motorized mobility options in the City.
- In collaboration with Human Electric Hybrids and Bicycle Alliance of Washtenaw, the City launched the "Borrow a Cargo Bike A2" program. Check out the program and sign up to take a cargo bike for a spin at [this site](#).



Michael Hagan, one of the members of [the Green Energy Neighbors](#) (an A²ZERO Ambassador-created group to offer assistance to other residents on their decarbonization journey) poses with his electric water heater and heat pump – energy efficiency measures he has taken to decarbonize his own home.



OSI Energy Coordinator Connor Dailey uses the office's cargo bike to haul supplies to Bike to Wherever Day events, 2025.



Residents at the A²ZERO table for the 2024 Electrification Expo.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

5 CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Strategy 5 of A²ZERO focuses on changing the ways we use, reuse, and dispose of materials to reduce waste. Below are some of these highlights from Year 5.

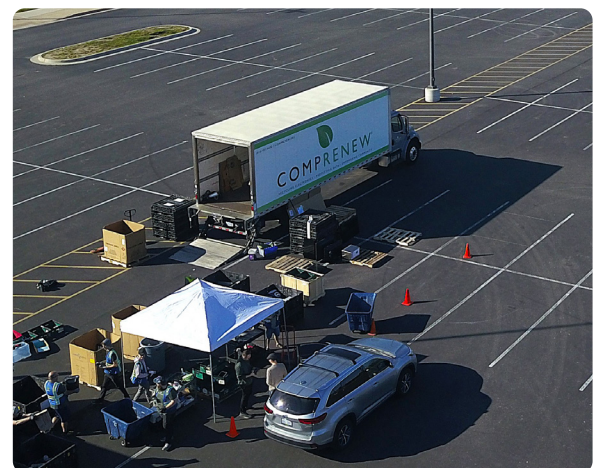
- The [A²ZERO Food Waste Challenge](#) helped over 540 Ann Arbor residents fight household food waste in June 2024. Participants learned about how simple changes to the way they shop, plan, store, and cook their food can make a dent in their household climate impact.
- This last year OSI received grant funding to support the creation of a formal circular economy action plan, to build on previous work to identify the needs, assets, and opportunities that exist within the Ann Arbor community to create a more local, circular economy.
- The [Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition](#), now with over 40 businesses participating, celebrated its first full year! Together, we explored actionable strategies to improve energy and water efficiency, prevent food waste, and transition towards more sustainable food packaging, while building connections between businesses and sharing knowledge and experiences.
- OSI received grant funding from the EPA for a small food retailer refrigerant management program, with the goal of reducing refrigeration emissions from at least 75 businesses by a total of 13,074.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. More program details coming shortly.
- This last year OSI hosted 5 [Neighborhood Swap Day](#) events and supported community led swap events, keeping over 10,000 items in reuse rather than sent to a landfill.
- As a new service offering, Comprenew and OSI hosted three Electronics Collection events this last year! At each event, over 6,000 pounds of electronics were collected to be recycled or refurbished. Given the success of the events, even more are planned for future years.
- In collaboration with Parks, Natural Areas Preservation, and Public Works, OSI is delighted to share that we were awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the American Forests to advance tree equity initiatives locally. Through this grant, Ann Arbor will update the community's tree canopy assessment to identify gaps in our urban forest, pilot private property tree planting and maintenance programs, undertake ecologically-driven stewardship work within our parks, and conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a city and/or county-owned tree nursery and agricultural demonstration site.



The 2024 Local Food Festival.



Chef Allison Anastasio doing a sustainable food cooking demonstration at the 2024 Local Food Festival.



Aerial view of an electronics recycling event.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 5 OF A²ZERO

6 RESILIENCE

Below are highlights from Strategy 6 of A²ZERO: enhancing the resilience of our people, natural systems, and institutions.

- OSI Officially trained the 100th [A²ZERO Ambassador](#) with the gradation of our 6th Cohort, brining the total number of A²ZERO Ambassadors trained to 118.
- The 7th Cohort of A²ZERO Ambassadors begun their training in early 2025, with graduation slated for June. The graduation of this cohort will bring the number of Ambassadors trained up to 148.
- OSI created and published a [StoryMap](#) to demonstrate the community impact of A²ZERO Ambassador projects.
- Over 2,250 additional trees distributed through the 10,000 Trees program, bringing us to over 11,000 total (we reached the [10,000 trees](#) mark in September 2024!).
- This last year we installed 8 additional air quality monitors, for a total of 10 in the network. This system is helping us understand the impact of various programs as well as areas for further programmatic work. See details about the monitors and live data on the [City's dashboard](#).
- Over 2,250 additional trees distributed through the 10,000 Trees program, bringing us to over 11,000 total (we reached the [10,000 trees](#) mark in September 2024!).



The June 2024 Ambassador Graduation, where the A²ZERO goal of 100 Ambassadors graduated was achieved.

7 OTHER

Below are notable highlights from Strategy 7 of A²ZERO which focuses on activities that cross multiple other strategies, such as community engagement, metrics tracking, reporting, and relationship building.

- Last year, and continuing through this summer, AmeriCorps members assisted Parks staff with stewardship activities on 53.7 acres of Natural Areas through the City's parks.
- In collaboration with the Leslie Science and Nature Center and Neutral Zone, OSI helped create Youth Now Climate Action, a small group of high school students representing various Ann Arbor Public Schools focused on highlighting environmental problems and coming up with solutions.
- Designed a district geothermal for the Bryant neighborhood and won \$10 million from the Department of Energy to begin installation. The system, in conjunction with solar and weatherization, is projected to reduce resident's energy costs by 77% and carbon emissions by 75%. (Funding is currently on hold).
- The City continued to submit testimony in multiple cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission. And, last year the City's released a memorandum on the cumulative impact of City interventions over the last four years, showing that the City has saved rate payers more than [\\$1,000,000,000 through testimony and advocacy](#).
- Last year, OSI hosted more than 200 discrete community events to engage with residents, businesses, institutions, and others on sustainability-related programs, initiatives, and actions.
- The City of Ann Arbor received an A score from CDP, formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project. This award acknowledges the City's global climate action leadership.
- Ann Arbor became one of two cities to achieve "Platinum" status for sustainability leadership in the [Michigan Green Communities program](#).
- OSI staff conducted nearly 100 media interviews about the impact of our work over the last year, including for Time Magazine and the BBC!
- Staff presented at over 50 conferences or national webinars about various programs and initiatives.

LOOKING AHEAD TO YEAR 6

PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

Year 5 of A²ZERO was a year of incredible forward progress, and Year 6 is already shaping up to be on par. Below are a few of the things OSI has lined up for the coming year:

- Launch a story-telling program to document and chronicle the local and personal impacts of A²ZERO.
- Stand up the Sustainable Energy Utility, getting significantly closer to the SEU formally providing it's first service offerings.
- Create a new [Green Rental Housing](#) program and support local property owners with making substantial improvements in rental efficiency.
- Scale the [Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge](#) to 50 local businesses.
- Install solar or have a plan to install solar at every viable city facility.
- Advance a city-wide geothermal feasibility study along with a strategy for deploying geothermal.
- Collaborate with Washtenaw County and other regional stakeholders to expand county-wide climate action, including expanding many A²ZERO programs across the County.
- Continue fundraising and making improvements to ensure the Bryant neighborhood becomes the nation's first carbon neutral existing neighborhood.
- Create a circular economy strategy that is codesigned with a wide variety of Ann Arbor residents.
- Launch a sustainable food strategy.
- Create and begin executing an electric vehicle charger deployment strategy.
- Expand and unlock greater collaboration opportunities with the [A²ZERO Community Collaborators](#) and OSI.
- Secure funding to scale the [Aging in Place Efficiently](#) program.
- In collaboration with local stakeholders, launch a "Welcome to Ann Arbor" sustainability-focused initiative.
- Implement a multi-family rebate program in coordination with renters, landlords, and property managers.
- Significantly scale our work to advance emergency preparedness at the household level.
- Deploy the Sesame Solar Unit to offer hands-on education, resources, and engagement.



Bicentennial tree planting, 2024.



Staff accepts the Climate Action Hero Award for Best in the Midwest.



Sustainability and Innovations Fellows (formerly referred to as Climate Corps members) distribute food at Green Baxter Court.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

NEW STAFF THAT HAVE JOINED OSI IN YEAR FIVE

Year 5 of A²ZERO saw some staffing changes, with some staff transitioning on to new roles throughout the country, and new staff joining the OSI team. Below we'd like to provide a brief introduction to some of the new team members that joined us in Year 5!



AIDEN BOURGEAU | Management Assistant

I started working at OSI in May 2025. Since joining the team, I have been assisting OSI with scheduling, logistical management, and improving office efficiency. In Year 6 I hope to have aided in the improvement of the office space and OSI operations, allowing our team to efficiently and effectively continue pursue our goals set out in the A²ZERO plan.



DEANDRE' CALVERT | Engagement Manager

I began working at OSI in June of 2024 during A²ZERO Week. Over the past year, I've worked with the incredible engagement team to complete OSI's engagement strategy and the related toolkit, which serves as a guide for our values, engagement philosophies, and engagement methods. Additionally, the engagement team developed strategies to drive A²ZERO's goals among youth, businesses, grassroots efforts, and neighborhood decarbonization initiatives. For year 6, I'm striving to ensure that ideals of community are a cornerstone of engagement. Given our current climate (ha, dad joke), sustainable practices may seem unattainable for the everyday resident. I want our community to know that many of us already possess the values and commitment to environmental stewardship without knowing it. I'm working to build a community outside of climate work and then find meaningful ways to integrate sustainability through mutually beneficial relationships, equitable engagement, and respecting community power, allowing their needs and vision to guide our work.



CLAIRE DEBLANC | Circular Economy Coordinator

I joined OSI in December 2024. In year 5, I worked with Guy Williams and Associates to complete phase 2 of our circular economy resident engagement, began community engagement for the new refrigerant management program for small food retailers, hosted neighborhood swap days with Zerowaste.org, hosted electronics collection events with Comprenew, and more!

In year 6, I am excited to host more regular swap events and make the neighborhood swap day program more robust, transition the electronics collection program from its pilot phase to more consistent programming, engage organizations in our City's circular economy action planning, and work with a refrigerant management technical assistance expert to launch our refrigerant management program.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

NEW STAFF THAT HAVE JOINED OSI IN YEAR FIVE



CARISSA EBLING | Energy Coordinator

I first started working at OSI in January 2023 as an Energy Fellow and became a permanent employee in August of 2024. This past year, I have been working to design and implement energy-related programs as well as manage our sustainability metrics. This includes updating OSI's metrics to ensure that the data we track is current and evolves with our work, developing a lawn care decarbonization program to reduce emissions from lawn care equipment, and implementing an EV charger program to increase public access to EV chargers.

In the next year, I hope to continue to design and implement programs at OSI, including those aimed at increasing the sustainability of new building developments in Ann Arbor and establishing a carbon offset plan that aligns with A2ZERO's goals and values. I also hope to continue to support data-informed decision-making through ensuring metrics measured remain accurate, relevant, and up to date as OSI's work progresses.



VALERIE JACKSON | City Attorney - Sustainability

I started working in the City Attorney's Office supporting OSI in April 2024. In Year 5, I did a lot of work representing the City in DTE Electric and DTE Gas cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission, got to tackle interesting legal issues that came up in OSI's work (including Green Rental Housing, HERD, rebates, the upcoming sustainability cookbook, etc.), and helped develop the Sustainable Energy Utility Ordinance.

In Year 6, I hope to get some wins in the DTE Electric rate case – in the form of fair rates, as well as more sustainable, forward-looking practices, to continue helping the amazing team that is working to stand up the Sustainable Energy Utility, and to find creative solutions when necessary so OSI can continue doing the important, groundbreaking work it does.



GENEVIEVE RATTRAY | Circular Economy Manager

I joined OSI June, 2024 and have been working on lots year 5: Circular Economy Action Planning, Textile programming - reuse and repair, a vision for a municipal scale, city-wide returnable containers program, and getting to know my dynamic team of talented circular economy professionals! In Year 6, I hope to promote regular, robust, and reliable circular economy focused public programming, including monthly clothing swap events that serve our community as a joyful and measurably impactful gathering space. I'm also looking forward to finalizing an action plan that will continue to move Ann Arbor towards a local circular economy and continuing to build meaningful partnerships and collaborations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW FISCAL YEAR, NEW REBATES! As of July 1, 2025, all Home Energy Rebate categories will be refreshed. Categories that ran out of money in the previous fiscal year are open and available to be drawn from again! Learn more and finance your home energy improvements at osi.a2gov.org/rebates.

GREEN RENTAL HOUSING ORDINANCE APPROVED Office of Sustainability and Innovations staff have been working for four years with community stakeholders to craft a new Green Rental Housing Ordinance. Approved by City Council on June 16, the Ordinance will help protect the health, safety, and well being of renters across the city. [Learn more about the Ordinance at the Green Rental Housing Ordinance webpage.](#)

SOLARIZE ANN ARBOR Have you considered solar and/or battery storage to reduce your emissions, reduce your energy bills, move toward energy independence, or to power your new e-bike or electric vehicle? Solarize Ann Arbor has groups running now! Join your fellow Ann Arbor area residents to learn about solar and for the opportunity for bulk-buy savings in Solarize. Email Connor Dailey (cdailey@a2gov.org) if you are interested in joining or hosting a group, or if you have any questions about Solar!

ELECTRIC LEAF-BLOWER COMPLIANCE The use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited within Ann Arbor city limits June 1 – September 30, 2025. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health and welfare of Ann Arbor residents as well as to promote the City's sustainability goals by reducing noise, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and other negative effects of gas leaf blowers. If you are interested in learning more about the ordinance or sustainable lawncare, take a look at our gas leaf blower phase-out website at osi.a2gov.org/leafblowers.

THE A²ZERO HEAT PUMP CONCIERGE PLATFORM: Users can input home information to generate initial heat pump system design options in a process that takes approximately five minutes. Together, this information aims to empower residents to choose the heat pump that's right for them, including any and all necessary improvements that might be needed as part of transitioning from fossil gas heat to heat pumps. The entire process is free for Ann Arbor residents. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/HeatPumpConcierge!

HOME ENERGY SCORE LOCATOR This online map will make it easier for buyers to locate [Home Energy Scores for homes for sale in Ann Arbor](#).

POLLINATOR-AWARE YARD CARE: As you get back outside this year, we encourage you to consider using pollinator-aware yard care practices. Pollinators are vital to our native plants, ecosystems, and food systems - and what we do in our yards can have a huge impact on pollinator populations. Learn more about how you can get involved and find resources to guide you in your pollinator-aware journey at osi.a2gov.org/pollinators.

JOIN THE SEU WAITLIST The city is currently registering interest in the Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility. If you are interested in enrolling or getting more information as it becomes available, please join the waitlist.

THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE 2024 CDP A LIST, the top status available from the largest global independent environmental disclosure system, recognizing global leadership in environmental transparency, climate action, and resilience planning. Only 112 cities worldwide, or 15% of the CDP's scored cities, earned the top status of an A score. And, Ann Arbor is only one of 29 US cities to receive an A!

ANN ARBOR ONE OF TWO FIRST CITIES TO RECEIVE PLATINUM STATUS FROM THE MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE: The Challenge is an annual program that serves as a guide to help communities measure their progress towards sustainability. This is the first year the Platinum certification has been offered, and recognizes only two cities, demonstrating their unique commitment and dedication to creating a sustainable community.

PLAY THE SUMMER GAME WITH A²ZERO! We'll have badges all summer long, so head over to play.aadl.org to get your clues and earn some points! Plus, there are three codes hidden in this newsletter, can you find them all?

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY CLOTHING SWAP, July 17, 4 - 7 PM | City Hall

Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations for monthly clothing swaps on the third Thursday of each month from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, starting July 17th! These will be taking place in Council Chambers in Larcom City Hall (2nd floor) and are a perfect way to give your gently used clothes a new home and find items of clothing you have been looking for, without having to buy them new. Each person can bring up to 5 items of clothing in good condition (no rips, holes, stains, or unwashed items). Accessories are also welcome. You can take clothing without bringing anything, or bring clothing without taking anything. This is a completely free event and open to the public. RSVP at lu.ma/a2zeroclothing swaps.

A²ZERO AT THE ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET July 9 & 23 | 8 AM – 2 PM

Stop by and say hi to staff from the Office of Sustainability and Innovations at your visit to the Farmer's Market. Learn about our summer programming, ask your questions, and get connected with sustainability resources.

PARK ADOPTION WORKDAY July 18, 3 – 5 PM | Bluffs Nature Area (entrance on Sunset Rd, east of the cemetery)

Join the City of Ann Arbor Parks Volunteer Program and the Office of Sustainability and Innovation (OSI) for a Love a Park Day at Bluffs Nature Area, a rugged, 39-acre natural area with dramatic slopes, trails, and high ecological value right in the heart of the city. During this event, volunteers will remove invasive herbaceous plants. Depending on site needs and group capacity, there may also be some shrub cutting. This type of restoration work helps protect native plants and wildlife habitat, and we'll be using a "sweeping" method—systematically scanning the area on foot, often off-trail. Please learn more and RSVP online at the City of Ann Arbor's Volunteer Hub.

SFBC GATHERING: FOOD SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY July 22, 2-3:30 PM | Argus Farm Stop – Packard Cafe

How can sustainability-minded food businesses balance their environmental goals with the need to protect public health? Join the Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition for an engaging, peer-led discussion on the intersection of emerging sustainability practices and food safety regulations. Featuring insights from Kristen Schweighoefer, Director of the Washtenaw County Department of Environmental Health, this gathering offers a chance to connect with fellow food business owners and collaboratively explore solutions for reducing environmental impact while maintaining high standards of food quality and safety. Come ready to learn, network, and brainstorm together! RSVP by July 20th.

PITTSFIELD RAIN GARDEN WORKDAY - DIG AND MULCH July 19, 9:30 AM – 12 PM | Pittsfield Elementary

Pittsfield Elementary is getting a pilot rain garden! As a member of A²ZERO Ambassadors, our team worked and collaborated with Pittsfield Elementary and other local volunteers to design, plan, implement, and maintain a small rain garden. We need your help to make it a reality – learn more at the Sign-up Genius page for the event.

SAVE THE DATE: ANN ARBOR LOCAL FOOD FESTIVAL August 28, 5 - 8 PM | Ann Arbor Farmers Market

Join us for a delicious evening celebrating Michigan food & farming! The Ann Arbor Local Food Festival brings together farmers, chefs, food lovers, and makers for a lively night of tastings, demos, music, and more! Meet your growers, sample seasonal fare, discover new flavors, and learn how local food builds a stronger, more sustainable community. Food trucks & vendors will be on site with locally sourced meals available for purchase. Plus, enter for a chance to win prizes from local food businesses! The Local Food Festival is free to attend. For more information, please visit a2gov.org/localfoodfest.

Note: Vendor & community exhibitor applications are now open through July 25th. Apply today to sell your product or engage your community at the Local Food Festival!

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

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