

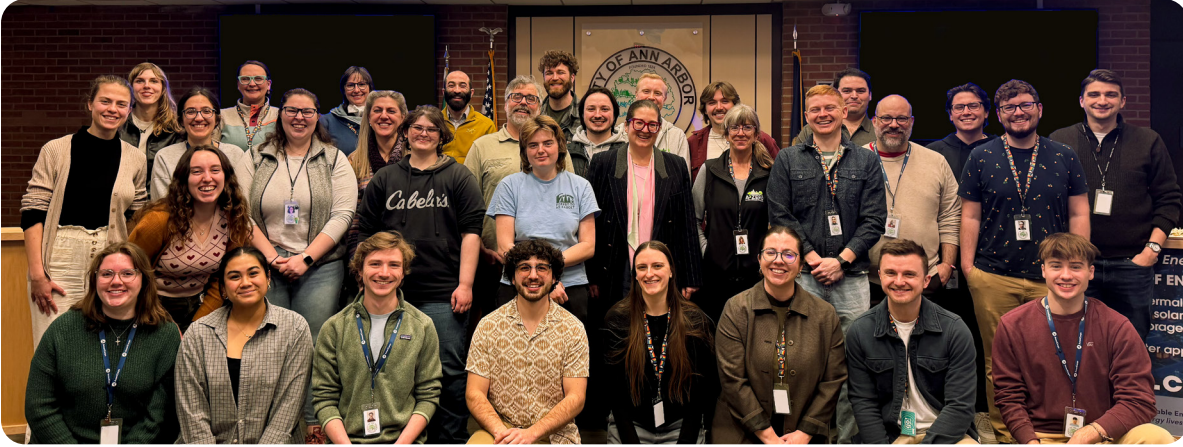


A2ZERO Annual Report Year Six

June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026



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Staff, AmeriCorps Members, Fellows, and interns in the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations, February 2026.

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INTRODUCTION

It's been another busy and meaningful year here in the Office of Sustainability and Innovations. Together, with our community collaborators, our residents, our businesses, and you, we've been able to make notable progress on all of our sustainability-related goals. But if we had to pick a word for year 6 it would be – ENERGY!

In this last year we've launched the Sustainable Energy Utility as its own entity, within its own department of the City run by the indomitable Shoshannah Lenski. Year six is also the year the Home Energy Advisor set new records for customer support. It's a year in which we launched even MORE rebates for residents – and saw continually growing interest and adoption of energy efficiency, electrification, and clean energy technologies in Ann Arbor homes and businesses. Year 6 was also the year in which we launched the Green Rental Housing Ordinance, which has already seen hundreds of landlords and property managers come into compliance. And this year saw even more interventions in utility electric and gas cases – saving Ann Arborites and other utility rate payers hundreds of millions! And let's not forget the on the ground work happening in the Bryant neighborhood, to create one of the country's first carbon neutral neighborhoods – where nearly a hundred residents are getting or are in the queue to receive improvements that will lower energy bills, improve health, enhance safety, and secure intergenerational wealth.

And we are just getting started.

In the pages that follow, you'll learn more about some of the work our Office has undertaken this last year in areas ranging from circularity to resilience, to renewable energy, to community engagement. As always, we've tried to celebrate where it's warranted while always reflecting on what we've learned and where we still need to go.

But one thing is just as clear as it was when we wrote this report last year, we are where we are because of you – our community. You are the ones that make this work possible. You are the ones who rise to this moment and help us do the terribly challenging work of equitably addressing the climate crisis.

If you've joined us at an A²ZERO event, participated in one of our programs, or given us feedback over the years, thank you! And if you'd like to join the movement, we can't wait to welcome you. You can join us at one of our upcoming events, participate in our A²ZERO Ambassador program, take one of our sustainability challenges, join us as an A²ZERO Collaborator, or share other ways you'd like to help grow our local (and global) sustainability movement. Of course, make sure to sign up for our monthly newsletter, The Charging Station, and follow us on social media to make sure you are always in the know about sustainability activities unfolding in A2.

As I often say, "if this work were easy, it would already be done." We all know challenges, perhaps many, lay ahead. However, there are no other people we'd rather go on this journey with than you, our fellow Ann Arborites. So buckle up because we have another great year ahead of us!

Onward...TOGETHER!

Sincerely,

The City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations

Missy, Simi, Steve, DeAndre', Aiden, Connor, Claire, Carissa, Grace, Bryce, Maggie, Valerie, Stephen, Sam, Joe, Jordan, Azella, Genevieve, Sean, Julie, and Jerrell

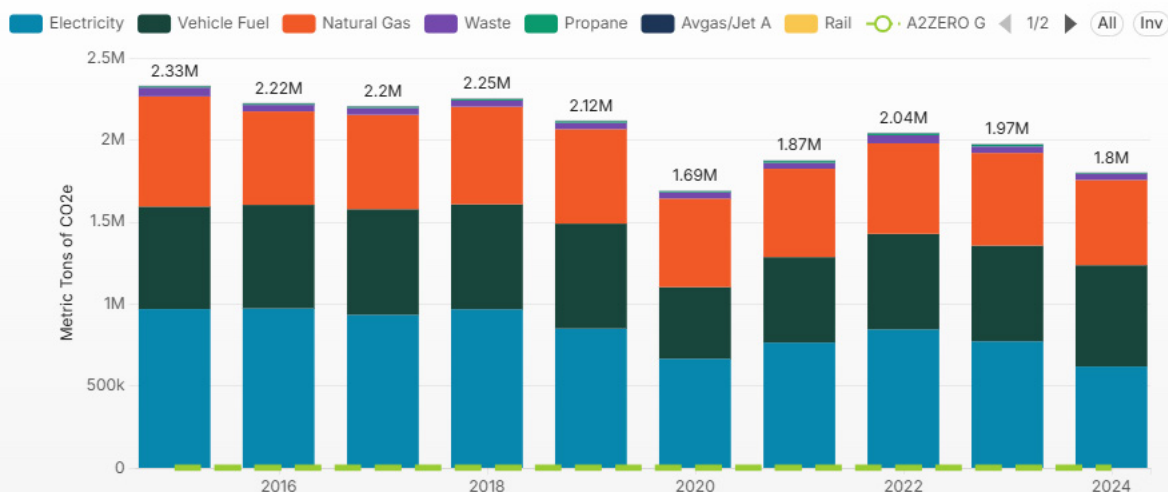
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Each year, OSI completes a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory that evaluates emissions in the Ann Arbor community as a whole. Measuring GHG emissions is essential to tracking progress towards any community's climate goals, from setting a science-based GHG emissions target, to measuring the efficacy of existing programs and initiatives and guiding the development of new programs. Because GHG inventories are so important, [GHG inventory standards](#) have been developed that allow local governments to measure their emissions in a consistent manner.

The A²ZERO goal of community-wide carbon neutrality requires reducing Ann Arbor's annual community-wide GHG emissions from over 2.1 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) pollution, based on 2018 emission levels, to zero. This is done through direct emission reductions as well as through the purchase of things like carbon offsets. Measuring progress against this goal through diligent data collection helps OSI understand where programs and initiatives are finding success as well as where modifications are needed. This is why, every year, Ann Arbor completes a [community-wide GHG inventory](#) following the ICLEI U.S. Community Protocol, the local government standard for how to measure greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to this inventory, OSI also evaluates program efficacy and A²ZERO goal progress by measuring and tracking program specific metrics on our [A²ZERO Dashboard](#).

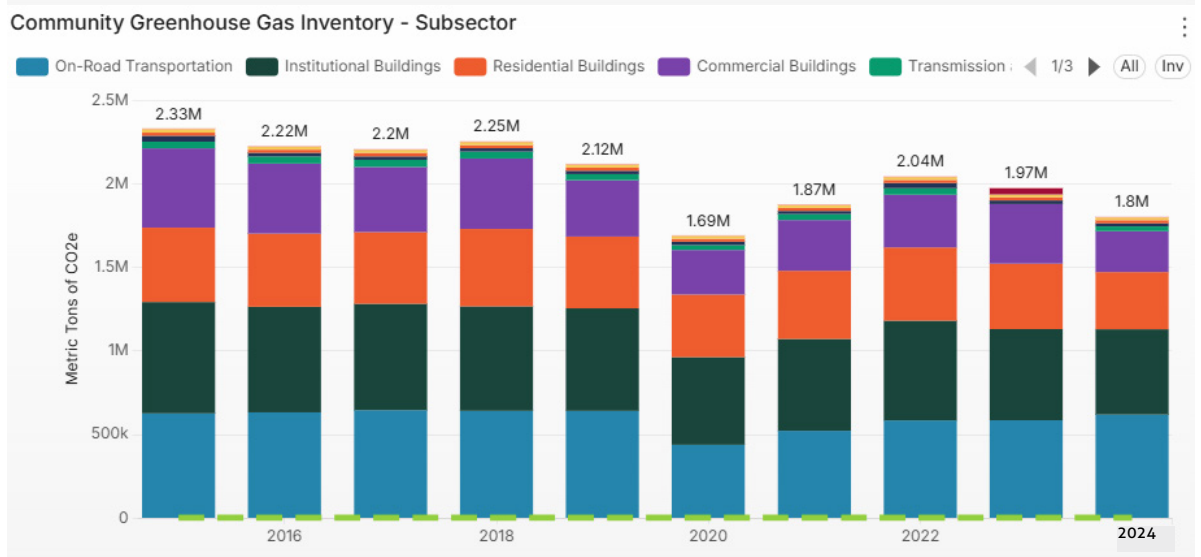
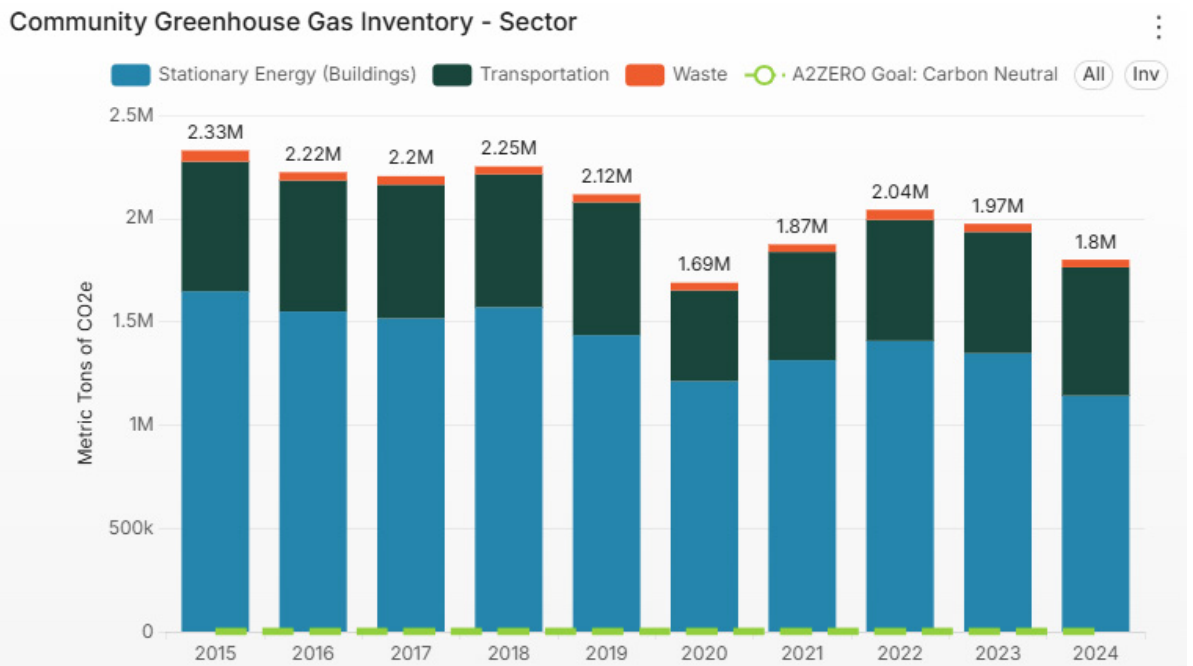
As we look to reduce existing emissions, it's important to understand where these emissions are coming from. In Ann Arbor, roughly two thirds of our emissions come from energy used in buildings and roughly one third come from fuel consumed for transportation. These emissions are driven by fossil fuel and electricity consumption. The fossil fuels used to directly power our vehicles and heat our homes and businesses are extremely carbon intense, and unfortunately many of the sources used to produce Ann Arbor's electricity are also highly carbon intense. In 2025, over two thirds of DTE's fuel used to supply electricity in Ann Arbor (and other communities) was generated using coal or fossil fuels, compared to just 10% from renewables. However, as you will see detailed in this report, there are many exciting new programs and initiatives in progress to change this dynamic and significantly reduce local and regional greenhouse gas emissions.

Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Source

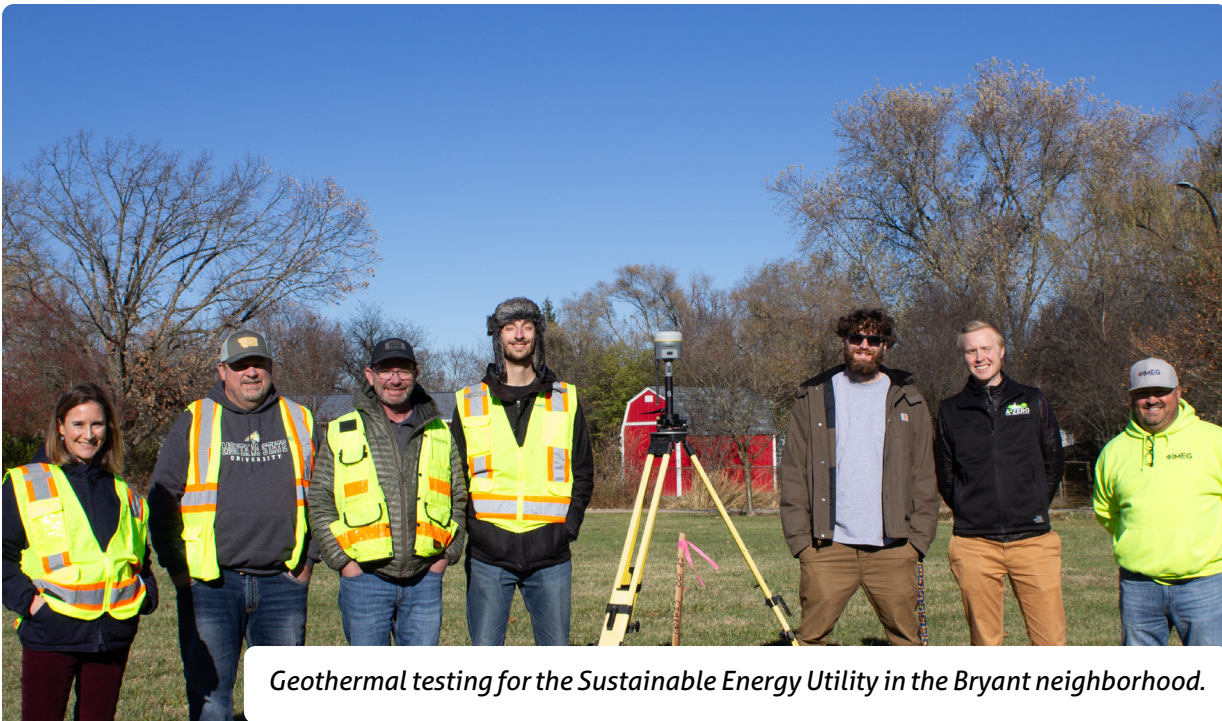


GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Below is a breakdown, by sector, of emissions in Ann Arbor throughout the years. Because our inventory follows the ICLEI U.S. Community Protocol, offsite renewable energy generation done through power purchase agreements or virtual power purchase agreements, subscriptions to the MI Green Power Program, or carbon offsets purchased by the community are not included in this emissions breakdown. Moreover, changes to data collection by our major transportation data source, Google Environmental Insights Explorer, means that 2025 numbers are not currently available for vehicle miles traveled. Additionally, new data aggregation standards set by the Michigan Public Service Commission have created some inconsistencies that the City is working to rectify. Given these changes, we are in the process of ensuring that we have as accurate of a 2025 GHG inventory as possible. For now, we share with you our 2024 inventory and encourage you to stay up to date with the various metrics we are tracking, including our inventory, by checking out the [A²ZERO Dashboard](#).



In the pages that follow, you'll learn more about the programs and initiatives underway to help reduce emissions from all sectors, systems, and scales.



Geothermal testing for the Sustainable Energy Utility in the Bryant neighborhood.

STRATEGY 1: 100% RENEWABLES

Strategy 1 of A²ZERO focuses on powering our electrical grid with 100% renewable energy. Below are highlights of accomplishments, programs, or actions taken to advance the adoption of renewable energy within Ann Arbor this last year.

- City Council voted unanimously in October to accept \$10.8 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to implement a district-scale geothermal heating and cooling system in the Bryant neighborhood.
- The City was selected to receive a \$250,000 grant from the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) to advance its newly created Sustainable Energy Utility.
- OSI introduced our new solar mobile nanogrid unit which we named The Arbor - a mobile unit that generates its own renewable energy and can operate off the grid. And, we worked in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management to determine how the Unit can best be strategically deployed during disruptions and extreme weather events.
- OSI is nearing completion of a city-wide geothermal study, with preliminary results due by end of 2026.
- Ann Arbor's Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) began its first pilot project installations of solar plus battery storage systems in the Bryant Neighborhood this spring. The team hosted a community kickoff meeting on March 3rd, and by May 1st, more than fifty households in the neighborhood had expressed interest in signing up for the SEU, and the first eleven homes have been assigned to contractors, with construction underway in May.
 - o OSI hosted a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) Geothermal & HVAC Open House for contractors at Cobblestone Farm.
 - o At the Thermal Energy Networks Symposium in February 2026, OSI presented on the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) and the geothermal work in the Bryant neighborhood to over 100 members of the geothermal industry.

1: 100% RENEWABLES

- Over 75 City sites were enrolled in a program that provides 100% of their electricity needs via wind and solar energy. Between this and the on-site solar systems at the City, over 75% of the electricity powering City facilities is now renewable.
- Solarize Ann Arbor has helped 778 residents throughout Washtenaw County install solar through Solarize, 58 in 2025. Over 5.8 MW have been installed through the program, nearly 0.5 MW in 2025.
- Over 32% of the community's electricity is now from renewable energy, thanks to a series of strategies. See more and track progress on [the A²ZERO Dashboard](#).
- OSI and the Attorney's Office continue to intervene in cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission. Combined, these interventions have:
 - o Contributed to saving ratepayers over \$1.3 billion (since 2022 between DTE Electric and DTE Gas rate cases)
 - o Minimized DTE Electric's most recent residential rate increase to 4.1% (compared to the 11.1% DTE requested)
 - o Pushed for better maintenance and prudent investments that have resulted in significantly improved electric reliability in Ann Arbor and throughout the DTE service territory
 - o Achieved an order requiring DTE Electric to track the costs of tree-related outages by circuit, so we have data in the future to support imposing financial consequences on shareholders for falling behind a 5-year tree trimming cycle
 - o Prevented DTE Electric from clawing back outage credits it had paid to customers for outages DTE claimed were "outside its control" (which included things like weather and animal interference)
 - o Opposed a fossil gas generator pilot, which led to the discovery that DTE Electric had terminated the program. This prevented over half a million dollars from being passed on to ratepayers for a program that was no longer happening
 - o Highlighted the importance of proactively planning for the transition away from fossil gas
 - o Advocated for changes that would protect current DTE Gas customers from subsidizing the expansion of the gas system



A portion of the City's current largest solar array at Steere Farm.



Four of the City's electric fleet vehicles charging at City Hall.

STRATEGY 2: BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

Strategy 2 of A²ZERO centers around programs and initiatives to help transition fossil appliances and equipment to electric. Below are highlights of accomplishments, programs, or actions taken to advance work in this area over the last year in Ann Arbor.

- The Bryant Community Center's geothermal system was installed in July 2025 and is now providing 100% of the building's heating and cooling, while also serving as a living lab for Bryant residents of what it looks like to decarbonize heating.
- In March 2026, a geothermal test well was drilled in the Bryant neighborhood to confirm the ground conditions in order to finalize and optimize the bore field design.
- Phase 2 began on the District Geothermal Pilot in the Bryant Neighborhood under the Department of Energy's Community Geothermal Grant. This is the second phase of the two-phase grant, and during this year, the team worked to finalize the design of the system and the financial modeling to prepare for construction beginning later in 2026.
- New public L2 EV chargers were installed at Bicentennial Park and Ann Arbor Election Center.
- The City installed over 100 public EV charge ports across City sites. These include 80 L2 ports across DDA garages around the City (Forest, Ann Ashley, Library Lane, Liberty Square, 4th & Washington, Maynard, and 4th and William), and over a dozen dual port L2 chargers at City parks facilities, including Veteran's Memorial Park, Fuller Park, Ann Arbor Senior Center, Leslie Park Golf Course, and Huron Hills Golf Course.
- Four public EV chargers were installed through OSI's pilot Commercial EV Charger Program.
- Within the City's light fleet (cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, vans, etc), over 40% of the vehicles are now electric. This includes 4 EV (electric vehicle) refuse trucks, all partially subsidized by grant funding.
- We expanded our electric yard care trade-in rebate program to offer rebates year-round for a wide variety of yard care equipment for residents and businesses.

2: BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

- OSI issued almost \$40,000 in residential and business rebates for electric leaf blowers and snow blowers in our [lawn care rebate pilot program](#).
- The City's first fully electric patrol vehicle went into service fall 2025. This Chevy Blazer is fully equipped for AAPD daily use.
- An electric forklift was received and put into commission in spring 2025 at the Water Resource Recovery Facility.
- In the past few years, the City has received over \$700,000 in payments from the IRS for EVs and was awarded grants worth over \$1.4 Million for the electric refuse trucks and EV forklift described above.
- OSI Staff completed [Request for Proposal \(RFP\) #26-15](#), EV Charging Station Design and Construction Management Support Services, for the Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant, which will help bring dozens of additional EV chargers to the community.
- Our [Heat Pump Concierge Platform](#) assisted dozens of Ann Arbor residents in switching from fossil gas furnaces to clean heat pumps. Over 15% of new HVAC installations in Ann Arbor are now heat pumps.
- OSI tabled at Colonial Square Cooperative's Spring Fair, and talked with over 30 community members about [Home Energy Rebates](#), [Pollinator Aware Yard Care](#), and the [2026 A2 Climate Teach-In](#).
- OSI contracted with Midwest Geothermal to conduct a test bore to assess the feasibility of geothermal heating and cooling at Colonial Square Cooperative.
- OSI Staff presented at the Zero Emission Passive Home (ZEPH) Workshop, presenting on the City's Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance and efforts to encourage more sustainable new buildings in the city.
- OSI staff assisted Washtenaw County's Resiliency Office in creating a [Zero Emissions Building Handbook 2025](#), first available at the ZEPH workshop.
- OSI worked with three local restaurants, the Washtenaw 2030 District, and local decarbonization contractors to pilot Commercial Decarbonization Rebates to electrify commercial kitchens.
- OSI began designing a Commercial Decarbonization Rebate Program, hosting preliminary feedback events with businesses, commercial building managers, and decarbonization experts from around Ann Arbor.
- OSI collaborated with U of M's Electric Vehicle Center to analyze fleet data for the City, and lay the groundwork for future fleet electrification opportunities. This research can allow other communities to benefit from the fleet electrification work the City has undertaken, and could unlock funding opportunities for further fleet electrification.
- The City advanced a contract that gave \$1 million to the Ann Arbor Housing Commission for sustainability improvements at a new Housing Commission site.



The City's electric forklift.



OSI Staff and other community partners at a discussion session about Green Rental Housing.

STRATEGY 3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Strategy 3 of A²ZERO emphasizes efforts to improve the energy efficiency of our homes, businesses, houses of worship, community centers, and institutions. Some of the notable efforts taken to advance energy efficiency this last year are noted below.

- The [Green Rental Housing Ordinance](#) was passed by the City Council in June 2025 with compliance starting in January 2026. The Ordinance helps ensure that all rental units in Ann Arbor meet a minimum baseline of health, comfort, and efficiency as Ann Arbor works to achieve its A²ZERO carbon neutrality goals while reducing energy costs.
- OSI and Rental Housing Services hosted a series of educational webinars and in-person events to help landlords and property managers understand the [Green Rental Housing Ordinance](#) and learn more about how to save money, stay compliant, and simplify planning.
- OSI communicated with over 1100 (and counting) individual landlords around Green Rental Housing (via email and phone).
- OSI trained five new energy efficiency contractors to become certified [Home Energy Rating Score \(HERS\)](#) assessors and assist with the implementation of the Green Rental Housing Ordinance.
- The City published the [Landlord Resource Toolkit](#) for the Green Rental Housing Ordinance. This guide contained detailed information on every item in the [Green Rental Housing Checklist](#), including next steps and resources for completing each item.
- The [A²ZERO Home Energy Advisor](#) has now helped over 600 Ann Arbor residents obtain "Path to Zero" decarbonization plans, understand their home energy use, evaluate bids and estimates, and plan projects.

3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Over 1,000 [A²ZERO Home Energy Rebates](#) have been claimed with nearly \$2 million committed to residents since the program launched in 2024.
- In accordance with the [Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance](#), we have completed nearly 1,000 [Home Energy Assessments](#) to help new homeowners improve the efficiency of their home.
- In April 2026, our office debuted a new online portal for Ann Arborites needing a free Home Energy Score Assessment. This new system is designed to reduce reschedules and also deliver faster customer communications.
- OSI launched Insulate Ann Arbor, a pilot between the City of Ann Office of Sustainability and Innovations and DTE Energy offering up to \$1 million in combined rebates, to qualified multifamily rental properties installing energy efficiency upgrades. The pilot program, offers rebates for insulation and air sealing upgrades that improve comfort, reduce energy costs, and make multifamily rental buildings healthier, more affordable, and more sustainable.
- In September 2025, contractors began construction on home upgrades in the Bryant neighborhood funded by a \$3.1 million grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission's Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement and Development Grant program. These upgrades include weatherization, window replacements, roof replacements, drainage remediation, crawlspace encapsulation, electrical upgrades, appliance electrification, and more. By May 1st, 2026, more than twenty homes had received upgrades to make their homes more energy efficient, comfortable, and safer, and more than fifty homes had signed up for the program.

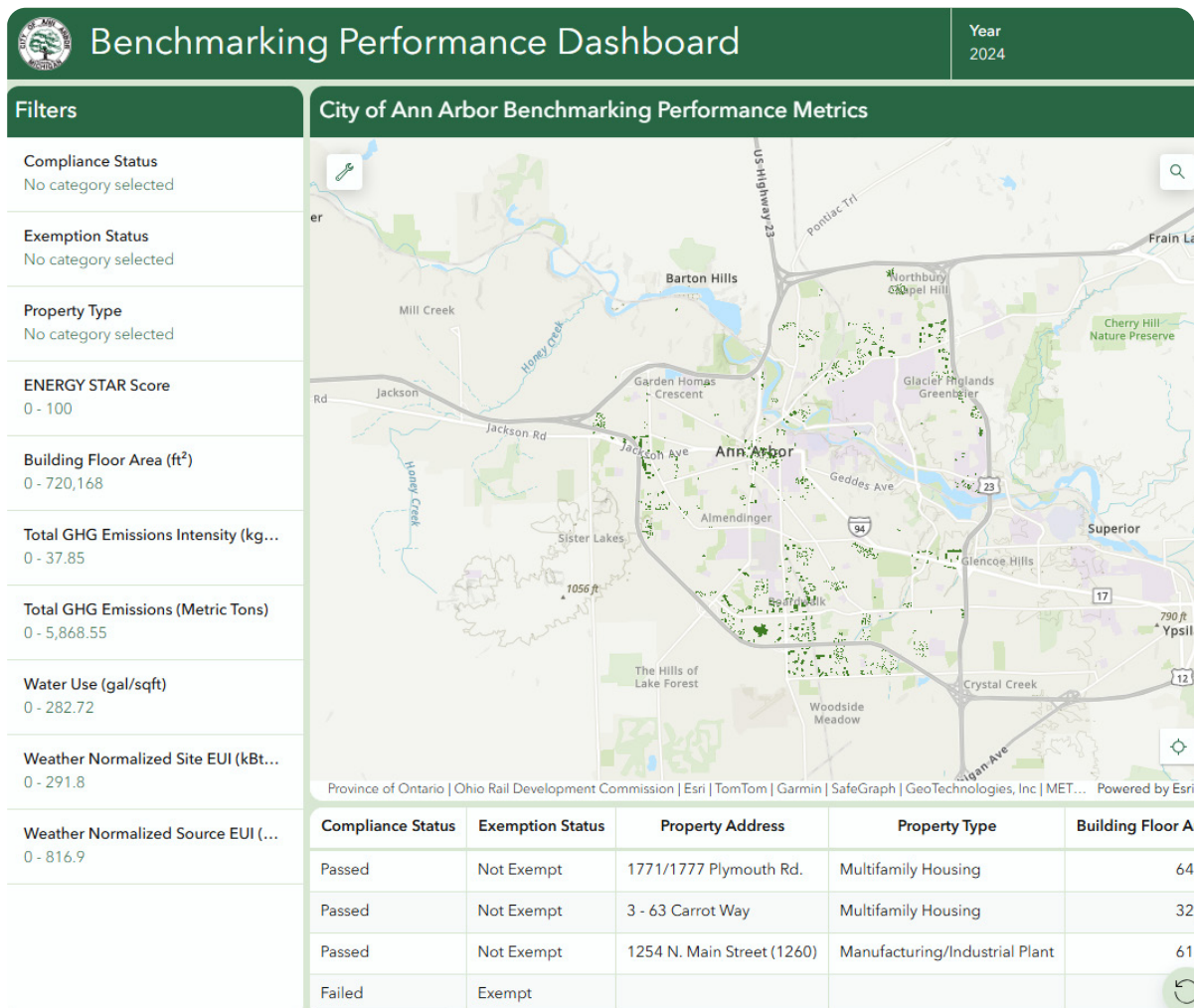


Members of the community at an engagement session about Green Rental Housing.



3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- OSI collaborated with DTE to fund over \$1.2 million in comprehensive weatherization work at nearly every unit in Colonial Square Cooperative.
- OSI collaborated with the leadership of Pittsfield Village to pursue a DTE multi-family weatherization assistance program that could provide impactful air sealing and insulation upgrades to all 400+ units in the community. In April, an income survey was released to the community to determine Pittsfield Village’s eligibility for the program.
- The City launched [an interactive map](#) showing annual results of the City’s Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance. Anyone can now see how properties reporting under the ordinance perform year-to-year and compared to other properties.
- As of January 2026, compliance with the City’s [Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance](#) surpassed 80%, and 90% of Covered Properties in the City are working towards compliance.
- A²ZERO kits at the Ann Arbor District Library continue to be popular! OSI has 8 A²ZERO kits at AADL that include a variety of tools for measuring energy usage and health in a home. The kits were taken out over 400 times since becoming available in 2021/22.



Interactive Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance Map.

3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- OSI launched the Commercial Sustainability Accelerator in February 2026 with the hiring of the Commercial Sustainability Analyst to facilitate the decarbonization of the City's commercial buildings through a rebate program and celebrate our community's sustainable efforts by re-imagining the Green Business Challenge.
- OSI celebrated the current iteration of the Green Business Challenge by welcoming C'Mon Betty as a Platinum member of the Green Business Community and Smith Group Architects at the Certified level.
- The City's [streetlight conversion project](#) is almost complete, with 96% of streetlights now converted to high-efficiency LEDs – 1,739 58W fixtures.
- The City enrolled in DTE's Onsite Energy Manager Program, to identify and implement energy efficiency opportunities in City buildings.
- The City contracted with EnergyCAP, a software service that will help the City monitor and manage its energy use at City Facilities.
- OSI collaborated with the Washtenaw 2030 District to conduct an energy assessment and blower door test of the Energy House at the Leslie Science and Nature Center, identifying energy efficiency opportunities to complement their new heat pump and long-operating solar – one of the oldest solar systems in Ann Arbor.



OSI staff engaging with members of Colonial Square Housing Co-op at their Spring Fair on energy efficiency.



OSI Staff with Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant recipient A2 Joy Ride, who used the funds to purchase a barrier-free bike.

STRATEGY 4: VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED REDUCTION

Strategy 4 of A²ZERO focuses on the way we move about the community. This strategy has two primary and intersecting pillars, reducing the miles we travel in our vehicles and changing our land use patterns to support more walking, biking, scooting, rolling, or transit travel. Major work undertaken this last year to advance this strategy are noted below.

- OSI helped to fund more bike lanes, crosswalks, and pedestrian lighting to continue support of multi-modal transportation options. Ann Arbor now has:
 - o 90.2 lane-miles of on-street bike lanes
 - o 35.3 miles of shared-use paths
 - o 8.7 lane-miles of marked shared lanes
 - o 1.8 protected bike lane-miles
 - o 11.4 buffered bike lane-miles
 - o 1,000 bike parking spaces downtown including seasonal on-street bike racks and bike lockers
- OSI supported efforts to fully integrate sustainability into the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This included continually reviewing drafts, meeting with key stakeholders, and helping correct misinformation about the plan and the planning process.
- OSI funded a project to bring a barrier-free bike to the "cycling without ages" program.
- The Conquer the Cold program, in conjunction with The Ride, ran from January 12 through February 12, 2026. During this time, participants recorded 13,336 trips, traveling a total of 47,148 miles without driving alone. By opting for alternative transportation, participants avoided using an estimated 3,681 gallons of gas, helping save money while reducing CO2 emissions.
- OSI helped advertise and scale-up the "borrow a cargo bike" program.
- The State Street Resurfacing Project added two raised crosswalks, enhanced bus stops, protected bike lanes, and the city's first bus only lane, providing priority and protection to bus riders, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- Shared micromobility trips: SPIN scooters and ebikes around the city continue to provide green trips for users across the city.
 - o 122,359 total trip miles
 - o Average trip distance grew to 0.98 miles
 - o 1,588 trips made by ebike
 - o 123,151 trips made by scooter.



Cars line up to drop off electronics at an Electronics Collection event, June 2025.

STRATEGY 5: CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Strategy 5 of A²ZERO is about changing our relationship with things. It's about recognizing that there is no "away" and moving towards a society in which we question consumption patterns, leaning more into reuse, repair, repurpose, and reinvest before we dispose, recycle, or compost. Below are some of the highlights of circular economy-related work undertaken this last year.

- OSI hosted 5 [Electronic Collections](#) events to collect no longer used or broken electronic devices from the Ann Arbor community. For these events, we partnered with Comprenew, an e-stewards certified non-profit electronics refurbisher and recycler that follows the waste hierarchy--prioritizing reuse before recycling. Around 31,500 pounds of electronics were collected over these events. This resulted in an estimated greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 350,000 pounds, equivalent to about 22 homes' worth of energy use for a year.
- OSI hosted 26 [A²ZERO Swap Days](#) for the community to exchange used clothes and goods. Our swaps recirculated more than 1,500 pounds of clothing, keeping textile pollution out of landfills and local waterways. Around 2000 items were donated, and 1,100 items were taken from these swaps. In this reporting period over 700 individuals attended these events.
 - o In partnership with the Jim Toy Community Center and ZeroWaste.Org, OSI hosted a clothing swap at Ann Arbor Pride (2025). We will be hosting for a second year in August 2026!
 - o In partnership with UM Climate Week, OSI hosted a clothing swap during the Kickoff Event. During this event, we engaged students and other Climate Week attendees in swapping and mending, which was run by the University of Michigan Trash Club.
 - o In partnership with Main Street Association, OSI hosted a clothing swap at Midnight Madness! During this swap, winter clothing was exchanged and donations that were left at the end of the event were donated to House by the Side of the Road.
- OSI completed and published the [A²ZERO Community Cookbook](#), a practical guide to sustainable eating in the Ann Arbor area, featuring 70+ recipes and 20 inspiring stories from local farmers, chefs, and community leaders working to make our food system more sustainable and equitable.

5: CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- We hosted the 4th annual [Ann Arbor Local Food Festival](#) in August, bringing together over 50 local vendors and exhibitors and hundreds of Ann Arbor residents in a vibrant celebration of local food, featuring live chef demonstrations, local produce sampling, a storytelling circle, live music, food trucks, and other games & activities.
- Through the [30-Day Plant-Based Pledge Program](#), offered in collaboration with VegMichigan, nearly 500 Ann Arbor residents tried plant-based eating for the first time. Since the start of their contract with OSI in August 2023, VegMichigan has engaged with over 8,100 people about the connections between food choice and climate and supported 47 unique businesses in Ann Arbor.
- In collaboration with VegMichigan, we continue to host monthly climate-friendly meal clubs, with 109 total attendees in this fiscal year.
- On April 11th, OSI and our contractor, VegMichigan, tabled at the Sierra Club's University of Michigan chapter's annual Planet Party event, sharing opportunities for students to get involved in local climate action and sustainable food initiatives.
- OSI staff facilitated the [Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition](#), a network of local food businesses and organizations that continue to gather quarterly to discuss strategies, barriers, and opportunities to integrate sustainable practices into operations, with an average attendance of 19 people representing 12 unique businesses. In this past year, the SFBC has tackled the topics of local sourcing, sustainable procurement, and food safety & sustainability.
- OSI became an inaugural member of the [MI 2030 Food Waste Coalition](#), a statewide network of practitioners working to reduce the amount of food wasted across Michigan.
- In collaboration with the City of Ann Arbor Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Division, OSI launched a [new online resource hub](#) featuring tips, tools, and resources to support Ann Arborites in preventing food from going to waste in their home kitchens.



Chef demonstration at the 2026 Local Food Festival.

5: CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- The City of Ann Arbor Department of Public Works – Solid Waste Division, led a successful community engagement process as part of the development of new [Food Scrap Drop Off Bins](#) which will expand access to City composting services to Ann Arbor residents living in multifamily housing once launched in Summer 2026.
- OSI staff is continuing to develop guides, tools, and resources to improve City of Ann Arbor food purchasing practices through the Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Purchasing Program, which aims to align the City’s food procurement with community sustainability and food system goals.
- OSI launched a refrigerant management initiative with an EPA Section 608 Certified technician. Technical assistance site visits are underway with local food retail businesses in Ann Arbor including Bløm Mead + Cider, Zingerman’s Deli, Bombay Grocers, Hamel’s Euro Market, and Arbor Farms Market.



A refrigerant leak test at Bløm Meadworks.



A²ZERO Ambassadors at the graduation of the 7th Cohort.

STRATEGY 6: RESILIENCE

Strategy 6 of A²ZERO is all about enhancing the resilience of our people, natural systems, and institutions. Major work around resilience was advanced this last year, with notable highlights outlined below.

- In 2025, our [A²ZERO Ambassador Program](#) graduated its 7th Cohort of Ambassadors, bringing the total number of Ambassadors to 149.
- The 3rd Annual A²ZERO Ambassador Summit was hosted in partnership with the University of Michigan’s School of Language, Science, and Arts in October 2025 to convene Ambassadors for community building, goal setting, and updates on new initiatives.
- The 8th Ambassador Cohort was welcomed into the Ambassador program (March 2026) with 15 new members and an expected graduation of June 2026.
- The [A²ZERO Ambassador Impact Map](#) was launched to illustrate the achievements, dedication, and reach of the A²ZERO Ambassadors.
- OSI collaborated with the Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD) to provide \$3,000 worth of discounts on native plants and trees to over 50 residents of Ann Arbor.
- The winning name of Ann Arbor’s mobile resilience unit, The ARBOR, was announced after receiving over 70 name submissions from the community. The ARBOR made its 2026 debut at the Spring FreeTree Giveaway and 4th Annual Climate Teach-in in support of volunteers and community guests.
- One of OSI’s Resilience Hub Partners, Peace Neighborhood Center, completed a \$98,000 LED lighting retrofit of their current lighting system, which will save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the system’s lifespan to put back into critical programs and community services.
- The 10,000 Trees program continues to thrive with our spring 2026 event seeing:
 - o 1,000 trees distributed to 266 households
 - o 7 different species (serviceberry, pawpaw, choke cherry, sycamore, paper birch, northern red oak, American linden) distributed in the community

6: RESILIENCE

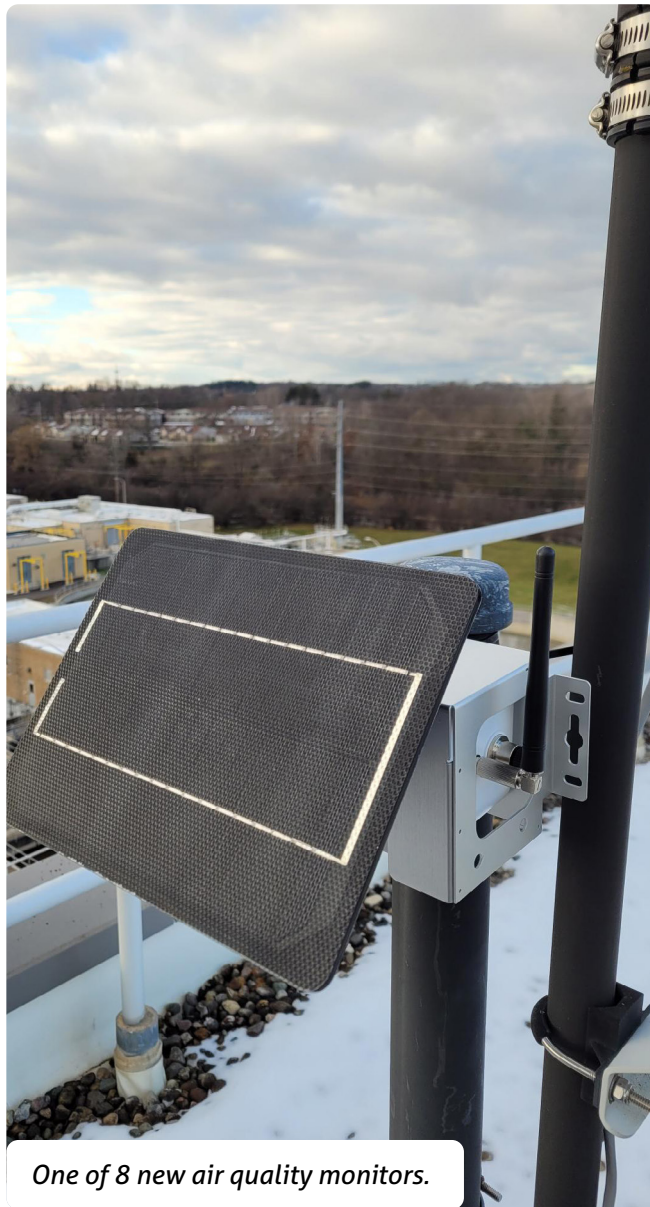
- To-date, the [10,000 Trees Initiative](#), a program focused on growing tree canopy cover on private property, helped advance tree equity, including:
 - o 12,151 trees have been distributed through the program, with 63% planted in the City of Ann Arbor and the rest planted in Washtenaw County.
 - o OSI conducted a tree survival study by sending out surveys to everyone that received a tree through the program to-date. Over 603 responses were received, and data on 2,023 trees revealed that 47% of those trees were still alive – a rate on par with similar tree distributions in other communities.
 - o The Office published, and will annually update, [an interactive map](#) displaying tree species, conditions of the distributed trees, and species’ survival rates.
 - o OSI announced a new series of [self-guided tree walks](#) in 13 different neighborhoods throughout the city.
 - o 47 trees in the Arrowwood Hills community received critical pruning for tree health and public safety, through a collaboration with Greenstreet Tree Care. Funding for this work is provided by the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program, in partnership with American Forests.
- Our [Pollinator-Aware Yard Care](#) program now has 547 participants.



One of the 1,000 trees that was given away at the April 2026 FreeTree Giveaway.

6: RESILIENCE

- The Office shared a series of resilience resources and practices with the citizens of Ann Arbor for National Preparedness Month in September.
 - o In partnership with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), OSI distributed 40 [emergency kits](#) to community members who participated in household preparedness seminars.
 - o Currently collaborating with AAPS to look for more ways to institutionalize preparedness and resilience into local curriculum.
- After an EF-1 tornado hit Ann Arbor on the west side, teams across the City mobilized rapidly. Later in the week, [nearly 50% of OSI staff joined 30 other individuals to aid in in-person damage assessments and resident engagement](#).
- Our office installed 8 additional [air quality monitors](#), for a total of 10 in the community network.
 - o We launched a new map displaying the current air quality index (AQI) at each of 10 monitoring locations. The new map can be found at www.a2gov.org/airquality and features a way to sign up for email alerts when AQI reaches an “unhealthy” level.



One of 8 new air quality monitors.



The ARBOR, Ann Arbor's mobile resilience unit!



The 2025 Green Fair.

STRATEGY 7: OTHER

Strategy 7 of A²ZERO focuses on activities that cross multiple other strategies, such as community engagement, metrics tracking, reporting, and relationship building. Below are some notable highlights that took place in these areas during year six of A²ZERO.

- In collaboration with the Leslie Science and Nature Center and Neutral Zone, OSI helped create Youth Now Climate Action.
- OSI organized and hosted the annual [A²ZERO Green Fair](#) on September 19th, a celebration featuring 100 exhibitors advancing sustainable living and community resilience. An estimated 5000+ people attended, filling Ann Arbor’s Main Street with pedestrians and cyclists enjoying a lively atmosphere and safe car-free streets.
- OSI participated with the University of Michigan in its annual University of Michigan Climate Week in September 2025.
- In collaboration with Marquee Arts, OSI hosted the second annual [Cinema and Sustainability](#) series, which screened monthly sustainability-themed films free of charge at the Michigan and State Theaters, September through December. In total, the series was attended by more than 600 community members.
- OSI hosted the 10th annual [Sustainability Forums](#) series in partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library, featuring five monthly panel discussions with City staff, experts, and community change makers. The Forum topics this year included: [New Initiatives for a New Year](#), [Municipal Operations](#), [Climate Action for Renters](#), the [A²ZERO Community Cookbook](#), and [Building Social Resilience](#). Through the first four forums, 195 total community members attended in person and virtually.
- Our [GreenLight YouTube series](#) continued to expand with 8 new episodes highlighting the residents who are envisioning, creating, and establishing a sustainable and equitable future for our community, gathering 650+ views.
- OSI launched a weekly video series, “Keep it Reel”, looking back on some of the highlights of activities undertaken the week before. These videos appeared regularly throughout the year on our social media channels and have made over 10,000 impressions.

7: OTHER

- Our [A²Zero Facebook page](#) received 475.9k views and 1.3k interactions in the past year and grew to 339 followers. This is four times as many views as the page received last year.
- Our [@a2zero2030 Instagram page](#) received 472.4k views, 4.7k interactions, and gained 330 followers. This is four times as many views and interactions as the page received last year.
- OSI launched a [LinkedIn page](#) on September 3, 2025, and has since received 31,291 views, 1,429 impressions, and 518 followers.
- OSI published more than 30 press releases, and staff conducted over 40 media interviews.
- OSI organized the [4th Annual A2 Climate Teach-In](#). This free event provided residents the opportunity to learn not only from local sustainability leaders but other community members as they create and innovate climate solutions
- Our teams participated in [The Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival](#), coordinated by the Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival Planning Committee, a coalition of local environmental nonprofits and agencies.
- We continued to expand and develop our local network of [A²ZERO Community Collaborators](#); there are over 150 member organizations and counting.
- 10 AmeriCorps members joined the Ann Arbor Climate Corps, serving in OSI to help advance neighborhood decarbonization and resilience initiatives. Members are embedded in teams across the office and help with many of A²ZERO's programs.
- Beginning January 2026, OSI started recognizing and celebrating [Climate Action Heroes](#) in our community monthly.
 - o January: Annie Broderick
 - o February: Ken Winter
 - o March: The Vaduva Family
 - o April: Jeff Jackson
 - o May: Kris Olsson
 - o June: Zippy Memon and Sophia Taylor



A²ZERO at Earth Day 2026.



The 2025 - 2026 cohort of A²ZERO Ann Arbor Climate Corps members.

7: OTHER

- Over the last year, the City's [Sustaining Ann Arbor Together \(SA²T\)](#) program awarded more than \$80k in small grants supporting community, sustainability, and climate action in Ann Arbor.
- Sustaining Ann Arbor Together awards this year supported the following projects: [Community Action Network's](#) resilience hub activation at the Green Baxter Court Community Center, [Marupo ACTS'](#) Asian Night Market events, [Drive Forward Foundation's](#) efforts to make driver's training more accessible, the [Neutral Zone's](#) Youth Now Climate Action leadership group, [Ann Arbor Joy Rides'](#) Cycling without Age initiative, [SunBundle's](#) athletic gear upcycling program, the University of Michigan's [BlueLAB Woven Wind](#) educational wind turbine project, [Forestbrooke Athletic Club's](#) rain garden installation, and [HouseN2Home's](#) move-out waste diversion and stocking drive.
- Dr. Missy Stults and other staff appeared on The A2 Vertical View with Scott Vertical on Ann Arbor's 107one radio station weekly throughout the year, reaching residents in the Ann Arbor area on their morning commutes every Wednesday.
- 1,429 subscribers were added to our newsletter [The Charging Station](#) with overall open rates averaging 46%.
- The City of Ann Arbor was awarded the 2025 Sustainable Business of the Year: Public Sector Award from the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum on November 13 at their Triple Bottom Line Bash.
- Alongside Ann Arbor Public Schools, OSI launched new messaging through the Superintendent's note on sustainability in the community.
- The City of Ann Arbor [received an "A" score](#) from the [Carbon Disclosure Project \(CDP\)](#), a global non-profit that helps companies, cities, and states monitor and publish their environmental impacts for public view.



Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant winner SunBundle, a non-profit that prepares "bundles" of used athletic gear for deserving schools.

7: OTHER

- OSI was a sponsor for the [2026 National Farm Stop Conference](#), hosted by Argus Farm Stop. This national convening uplifts a [new, innovative food retail model](#) that promotes the growth of local agricultural economies.
- OSI welcomed Samuel Kachuck to the team as the inaugural Commercial Sustainability Analyst! In this role, Sam will be working with commercial organizations in the community to support and advance sustainability in their buildings and business practices.
- OSI hosted delegations from Hungary and Tubingen, Germany to share ideas and innovations around achieving carbon neutrality in Ann Arbor and these peer cities.
- Valerie Wilke joined the Energy Team as an Energy Fellow! Val will be helping the Team administer all its ordinances – Home Energy Rating Disclosure, Green Rental Housing, and Energy and Water Benchmarking.
- The Office met with [Dr. Katharine Hayhoe](#), atmospheric scientist and Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy, to discuss her work in the climate field, and ways to maintain hope, strength, and community amidst the climate crisis.



Staff, AmeriCorps Members, Fellows, and interns in the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations pictured with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe (center, with A²ZERO tote bag).

7: OTHER

- OSI sponsored our first Adopt-A-Park Workday of the year at Fuller Park Pool in April 2026, in collaboration with Ann Arbor Parks Volunteer Program! We removed invasive shrubs.
- Members of OSI participated in a workshop with the Wayne County Sustainability & Innovation Department, sharing lessons learned around residential decarbonization in Ann Arbor, as Wayne County's office builds its own roadmap to carbon neutrality.
- Multiple OSI staff, alongside the Office's AmeriCorps members, attended the [2026 MI Healthy Climate Conference](#) in Detroit, MI. Sustainability professionals, leaders, and community members from across the country gathered to discuss Michigan's progress in advancing renewable energy and energy justice, and fostered hope towards future progress and collaborations.
- On Earth Day 2026, OSI launched the "I Am A²ZERO" storytelling campaign, with videos showing just some of the variety of actions the Ann Arbor community is taking to become more sustainable. Celebrating things both big and small, this campaign highlights the impact of climate action in the Ann Arbor community straight from the members of the community themselves. Hear their stories and submit your own at a2zero.org/IAM.



OSI engaging residents at the 2025 Midnight Madness on Main Street.



Still from the inaugural I Am A²ZERO video, Earth Day 2026.



OSI staff engaging community members of all ages in a hands-on activity about local ecosystems.

YEAR 7 PRIORITIES

Year Six was a whirlwind of a year. But we expect year seven to be the same – with the scaling of existing initiatives, the launch of new ones, and so much more. Below are some of the priorities OSI has for our seventh year of advancing A²ZERO:

- Launch a commercial and business decarbonization rebate program.
- Scale community adoption of residential and multi-family rebates.
- Expand the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant program to provide a track for nonprofit building decarbonization.
- Test electric vehicle rebates to understand impact and efficacy.
- Scale the I am A²ZERO video campaign with at least monthly video releases.
- Retrofit at least two City buildings with sustainable heating options.
- Reach the milestone of 50% of the City's vehicle fleet being electric.
- Install another 1.5 - 2MW of solar on City facilities.
- Successfully launch two more resilience hubs – ideally at Peace Neighborhood Center and at Green Baxter Court.
- Achieve carbon neutrality at two city facilities with no on-site gas combustion.
- Launch wrap around services for the Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance and the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance.
- Launch a program to help decarbonize commercial kitchens.
- Advance a sustainable food policy for city facilities.
- Create a community-wide definition of sustainable food and pilot a sustainable food labeling system with local restaurants.
- Seek and secure seed capital for a washing station for a city-wide returnable container program.
- Launch a city-wide circular economy strategy and begin implementing.
- Continue fundraising for and implementing solutions to make the Bryant neighborhood one of the nation's first carbon neutral neighborhoods.
- Install 20-30 more electric vehicle charges.
- Continue expanding bike lanes, closing sidewalk gaps, and providing LED lighting to ensure people can walk, bike, scoot, or ride to their destinations.
- Finalize an offset strategy with the public and begin implementing.
- Host ongoing, meaningful, and inclusive public engagement initiatives to ensure Ann Arborites are centered in all efforts to equitably address the climate crisis.



CLOSING

A²ZERO is our community's plan to become carbon neutral in a just and equitable way by the year 2030. Achieving this audacious, aggressive, and scientifically necessary goal requires all of us. Learn more about how to join this movement at www.a2zero.org.