

THE CHARGING STATION

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



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ABOUT THE EDITOR

This newsletter was edited by Dr. Missy Stults, Sustainability and Innovations Director for the City of Ann Arbor. Missy worked with all OSI to curate the content in this newsletter and is excited to work with all of you over the next year to bring the City one step closer to carbon neutrality.

Keep an eye out for this symbol for things you can do right now to advance sustainability!



Members of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) pictured during the A²ZERO Week Circularity party, put on in partnership with BYOC Co.

WELCOME

Welcome from the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this issue of the Charging Station, OSI shares a sneak peek into projects, initiatives, and programs we seek to grow, expand, or bring to light in fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). If you are interested in learning more about any of the initiatives featured in this issue, or interested in learning how you can get involved, more details can be found on our website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. As always, thank you for your interest in efforts to make Ann Arbor more sustainable.

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.

A LOOK BACK AT A²ZERO WEEK 2026

Thank you to the more than 5,000 residents who engaged with us during A²ZERO week 2026. This annual event featured 35 events celebrating our community's work on issues ranging from resilience and renewable energy to circular economy and sustainable mobility. OSI is incredibly grateful for all of our collaborators who stepped up to make this event special. Below are some pictures highlighting activities undertaken during this weeklong celebration. Thank you to everyone who joined us. And save the date for A²ZERO Week 2027, taking place May 30 – June 5, 2027.



Dance break on Main Street during Taste of Ann Arbor.



BeadBar creations at The Getup Vintage.



Bikeway Tour in downtown Ann Arbor.



Mindfulness Hike at County Farm Park.



Climate Board Game Night at Blom Meadworks.



2026 A²ZERO Awardees.

A LOOK BACK AT A²ZERO WEEK 2026



Argus Farm Stop presenting for the Sustainable Food Business Tour.



Climate, Coffee, & Conversation at York Food & Drink.



Electronics Collection with Comprenew.



AFC Ann Arbor game.

INTRODUCTION

Year Six of A²ZERO was a whirlwind of activity and action. If you haven't yet, we strongly encourage you to review our annual report to learn more about what the team was up to over the last 12 months. We are so proud of our community for the incredible work we've been able to advance in the first few years of A²ZERO. But, we are equally as excited for what lies ahead.

In the remainder of this newsletter, we shed light on some of the priority initiatives, programs, or projects we hope to advance in year 7 of A²ZERO (aka, July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). For each item, we've asked the OSI team lead to provide a little sneak peek into our priorities and expected work. If any of these ideas or initiatives are things you'd like to be involved with, please send us a note at sustainability@a2gov.org.

And now, without further ado and in no particular order, we give you some of OSI's priorities for the next year!

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Launch a Commercial and Business Decarbonization Rebate Program

This next fiscal year, OSI is launching a commercial decarbonization rebate program to support investments in equipment and building upgrades that improve the environmental and economic sustainability of our business community. Commercial buildings account for roughly one-sixth of our community's greenhouse gas emissions, with uses ranging from fossil gas and grid electricity used to condition spaces, heat water, cook food, power electronics, and make products.

Funded by the Climate Action Millage, businesses will have access to up to \$50,000 in rebates every 5 years for electrifying their appliances and reducing electricity consumption. Businesses will be able to choose from a list of standardized measures, such as weatherizing, retrofitting with heat pumps for HVAC and water heating, and installing energy-efficiency controls. If a business relies on specialized equipment that they want to electrify, they can work with local decarbonization experts and OSI to go beyond the list to enhance their sustainability.

For the last year, OSI has been working with many local businesses to design this program – ensuring it responds to the sustainability challenges and opportunities in Ann Arbor. OSI has even initiated pilots to decarbonize commercial kitchens to test the rebate program with a handful of early adopters. We're excited to bring this program to full fruition in the next year and thank all the businesses that have helped us craft this important initiative.

Expand Adoption of Residential and Multi-Family Rebates

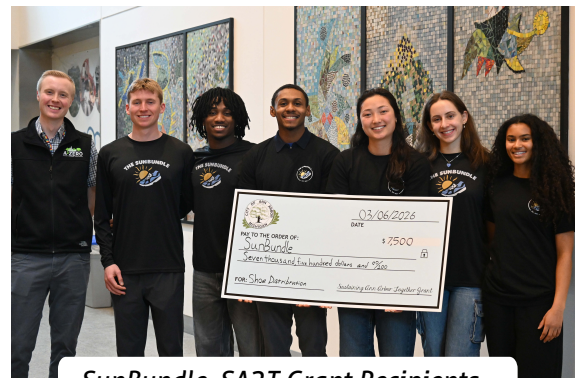
OSI already offers over \$2,000,000 a year in rebates for home and yard electrification initiatives. However, not all of these rebates are being reserved meaning Ann Arborites are leaving money on the table. To help make sure these resources are getting into the hands of folk making sustainability improvements, OSI is expanding our outreach and our rebate programming.

Our first area of expansion relates to the Insulate Ann Arbor initiative, where we will conduct targeted outreach to provide rebates to more multifamily rental properties, helping building owners get into compliance with the Green Rental Housing ordinance, while improving the efficiency of rental housing in the city. Currently, over \$1,000,000 in funding is available to help insulate and air seal rental properties in the city thanks to a collaboration between OSI and DTE's energy efficiency team. Our goal is to spend all of this funding by end of the year so we can demonstrate community interest and impact, thereby making a case for turning Insulate Ann Arbor into an annual program offering.

OSI is also working to increase awareness of the home energy rebates so that we see higher adoption rates. The team plans to do this by: pairing outreach with our Home Energy Rating Disclosure program for new home buyers looking to improve their new homes; working with contractors, distributors and manufacturers to do outreach and education on the program at point of sale; and increasing overall awareness by conducting marketing and branding of appliances and households that utilize rebates. As part of this work, OSI will continue to promote the Home Energy Advisor as well as the A²ZERO Heat Pump Concierge to help residents determine which rebates they can benefit from.

Track in the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Grant Program for Nonprofit Building Decarbonization

Starting in the next fiscal year, OSI is excited to launch an expansion to the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together (SA2T) community grant program, creating a new pathway that allows nonprofit organizations to apply for grants to cover some of the costs of sustainability improvements. Likely eligible expenses will include building upgrades around electrification, decarbonization, and weatherization. As nonprofits are not eligible for the City's energy rebates, this new SA2T grant track will help fill a resource gap with annual funding of up to \$250,000 for decarbonization efforts for nonprofits in our community. OSI anticipates launching this initiative in the fall of 2026.



SunBundle, SA2T Grant Recipients.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Study Impact of Electric Vehicle Rebates

In June, OSI launched a limited time electric vehicle rebate, which leveraged one-time savings achieved by the Office. These rebates were fully subscribed within 48-hours, demonstrating a clear community interest in vehicle electrification. As of right now, OSI has no plans to launch a standing electric vehicle rebate program, but the team does plan to study the impact the rebates are having on the marketplace. In particular, over the next year, the team plans to work directly with all the individuals that received an electric vehicle rebate to capture information on their driving patterns, including if or how having an EV has impacted their mobility patterns. Once collected, this information will be aggregated and shared with the public. Information gleaned from this analysis will also help OSI decide if it should offer more rebates for electric vehicles.

Scale the "I Am A²ZERO" Video Campaign with At Least Monthly Video Releases

Launched in early 2026, the I am A²ZERO campaign highlights Ann Arbor residents and businesses taking action to advance sustainability in their daily lives. These meaningful stories help show that the sustainability movement is for everyone. In the next year, OSI aims to continue the I am A²ZERO campaign, releasing at least monthly videos. You can learn more about the campaign and submit your video on the City's website.



Take a look at the I Am A²ZERO campaign on our socials!

Instagram: @a2zero2030

Facebook: A2Zero

LinkedIn: City of Ann Arbor
Office of Sustainability and
Innovations



Retrofit at Least Two City Buildings with Sustainable Heating Solutions

While we are largely known for our community work, OSI is also working to improve the sustainability of City owned buildings. This includes increasing energy efficiency, implementing onsite renewable energy generation, and electrifying appliances where possible. In year 7, OSI is looking to retrofit multiple buildings with sustainable heating options like high efficiency rooftop units, heat pumps, and geothermal systems. High priority locations under consideration include the Ann Arbor Senior Center and Ann Arbor Justice Center.

Achieve 50% of Electrification Rate of City Vehicle Fleet

By the end of year 6, almost 100 fully electric vehicles are included in the City's fleet, representing over 40% of the City's light fleet and close to 10% of the City's heavy fleet being electric. Recent fleet electrification highlights include AAPDs first electric patrol vehicle, and 4 EV refuse trucks in operation in the City fleet. In year 7, the City plans to continue electrification, where possible, and expects to exceed 50% electrification of the fleet.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Install 1.5 MW - 2MW of Additional Solar on City Facilities



Solar Powered EV Charging Station at Fuller Park.



Solar Panels at Buhr Park.

As of today, the City has over 1 MW of solar systems operating at over a dozen City facilities, with much more in the works! In addition to the 1 MW operating, around 900 more kilowatts are about to come online in the near future at 5 more facilities. Beyond these, the City has another ~1.5 MW planned for City sites including the Wheeler Service Center and the Water Resource Recovery Facility. In year 7, OSI will do the work to finalize these systems, get them built, and bring them online! You can track OSI's progress in building renewable energy systems on the City's public dashboard.

Successfully Launch Two More Resilience Hubs in Ann Arbor

In year 7, OSI will expand the current Resilience Hub Network in Ann Arbor by adding two additional Resilience Hubs by the end of the fiscal year. This expansion will be in partnership with the Green Baxter Court (GBC) Community Center and the Peace Neighborhood Center, both of which are trusted pillars of our community. These two community centers will be equipped with solar energy systems and battery storage, ensuring that critical programs and services can continue to operate effectively, even in the face of extreme weather and other disruptions. The installation of renewable energy builds on the energy efficiency and electrification work currently underway to ensure that GBC and Peace continue to operate in healthy, safe, and sustainable buildings. Work at these two sites is supported by Community Climate Action Millage Funds following the termination of an awarded grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As the Resilience Hub network in Ann Arbor continues to expand, OSI will convene the various Hub service providers to learn how they can best support one another and further define what it means to be a Resilience Hub. Also unfolding in year 7 is work by OSI to identify a Resilience Hub location for Ward 4 to achieve the goal of a Resilience Hub in every ward of Ann Arbor by 2030.

Have Two City Facilities be Carbon Neutral With no Onsite Gas Combustion

Between energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy projects, multiple city facilities have drastically reduced their greenhouse gas footprints. In year 7, the City aims to disconnect the gas services at multiple locations. The Ann Arbor Senior Center and the Bryant Community Center are the top two current contenders but the City is looking across its building portfolio to embed sustainability improvements into capital decision making.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Launch Wrap Around Services for the Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance and the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance

OSI is excited to move our Energy and Water Benchmarking ordinance to its next phase. This ordinance, which requires building owners and managers of buildings greater than 20,000 square feet to track their building's energy and water usage, has now been in place for almost 5 years, and we are ready to support property owners with not just disclosing their energy and water usage, but in taking steps to lower it. That is why in year 7, OSI will be working to create and launch wrap-around services for those buildings required to disclose their energy and water usage through the benchmarking ordinance.

Additionally, OSI is excited to expand support services for our Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) ordinance. Since the HERD Ordinance went into full effect in September of 2024, OSI's HERD Team has provided information on energy use for over 1,300 homes. Home buyers now make more informed decisions by having a better understanding of the full cost of home ownership. In order to deliver the full benefit of this information, the HERD Team will be rolling out an outreach program specifically for new homebuyers/residents of Ann Arbor. Through these wrap-around services, new homeowners will receive a flyer with tailored home improvement recommendations based on information gathered at their HERD assessment. The flyer will provide information on energy saving opportunities as well as details on relevant rebates, grants, and other programs to support them in reducing their home's energy usage and improving occupant health and safety.

Launch a Program to Help Commercial Kitchens Decarbonize

In year 7, OSI will launch a commercial decarbonization rebate program to help local commercial kitchens replace equipment with decarbonized alternatives. Energy-use data provided by benchmarking properties puts restaurants as one of the top five energy intensive users in Ann Arbor. Upgrading appliances, such as stoves, ovens, and water heaters, from fossil gas to high-efficiency electric options and improving the efficiency of ventilation and conditioning reduces carbon emissions and improves the health and safety of our food-service sector. While OSI has been piloting what this program could look like, the goal is to formally launch a city-wide initiative in year 7 that provides resources for the more than 650 restaurants in Ann Arbor.

Advance a Sustainable Food Policy for City Facilities and Events

This next year, OSI will draft and propose a Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy for City facilities & events and launch the Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Purchasing Program, a program that provides guidance and technical assistance to staff purchasing food using public funds to integrate sustainability considerations into their purchasing decisions. If adopted, the administrative policy will require City of Ann Arbor staff to consider the sustainability of food products when making purchases for City events and/or facilities and choose more sustainable food products when practical. The Sustainable Food Purchasing Program will provide support, resources, and assistance to staff to ensure a successful transition towards more sustainable procurement practices.

Establish a Shared, Community-Wide Definition of Sustainable Food and Pilot a Sustainable Food Labeling System with Local Food Businesses

Over the next year, OSI will develop and publish a definition of sustainable food to support our community in developing a shared understanding of the environmental and community impacts of our food system and the primary considerations to look for when seeking to choose foods that support a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food system. Additionally, OSI will continue working with our Sustainable Food Business Coalition to develop and pilot a sustainable food label program to clearly identify more sustainable food options available in businesses across the city.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Make Significant Strides Toward a City-Wide Returnable Foodware System

Ann Arbor is exploring a renewed approach to reducing waste: a city-wide returnable food and beverage container system that makes reuse a convenient option for residents, businesses, and institutions. Through community partnerships and investment in physical infrastructure, the City is exploring how to create a system that keeps materials in circulation, reduces waste, and supports a more circular local economy.

A key step in making this vision possible is securing seed funding for the infrastructure needed to operate the system, including a centralized washing station where containers can be collected, sanitized, and prepared for reuse. This shared resource would help prevent single-use packaging from being created in the first place while making it easier for businesses and community stakeholders to participate in a returnable container network.

A city-scale returnable foodware system like this has not yet been established in the United States, giving Ann Arbor an opportunity to help shape what large-scale reuse can look like. By working together with local partners, the City hopes to create a model that can be shared with communities across Michigan and beyond while helping reduce waste and build a more circular future. The goal for year 7 is for OSI to identify a property that could serve as the location for a washing station and start the process to secure capital for building construction.

Launch a City-Wide Circular Economy Strategy

Ann Arbor is taking steps to rethink how we use resources and reduce waste through the development of the Circular Economy Action Plan, a key strategy within A²ZERO. A circular economy moves beyond the traditional “take, make, waste” approach by keeping materials in use longer through reuse, repair, and waste reduction. The Action Plan will build on Ann Arbor’s existing reuse efforts and help create a more regenerative local economy that benefits both the community and the environment.

The Circular Economy Action Plan is slated to be released in year 7 and will provide a roadmap for expanding Ann Arbor’s existing reuse networks into a thriving local circular economy. Community input has been central to shaping the Action Plan. In 2024 and 2025, a 15-member Resident Advisory Council worked alongside OSI and Guy O. Williams & Associates, L.L.C. to share ideas, provide feedback, and gather perspectives from residents across Ann Arbor. The project has moved into the next phases of work: engaging businesses and institutions and developing recommendations for the final Circular Economy Action Plan. As the plan takes shape, residents, organizations, and community partners will continue to play an important role in building a future where resources are valued, waste is reduced, and Ann Arbor’s economy supports a healthier climate.

Continue Fundraising For and Implementing Solutions to Make the Bryant Neighborhood One of the Nation’s First Carbon Neutral Neighborhoods

OSI is excited to continue building the momentum in the Bryant neighborhood, with 2027 marking the fifth year of the collaboration between OSI, Community Action Network, and residents to make Bryant one of the first carbon neutral neighborhoods in the county. By the end of the summer of 2026, OSI will wrap up its work to provide more than 3-million dollars of home repairs and home energy upgrades through the Michigan Public Service Commission’s Renewable Energy and Electrified Infrastructure Enhancement and Development grant. Additionally, by mid-fall, the neighborhood will have as many as 100 solar plus battery installations through the Sustainable Energy Utility, and by year’s-end work will begin on Bryant’s district geothermal project. But we know more work is critically needed. That is why our team will continue fundraising and seeking resources to help continue sustainability improvements in Bryant. And at the same time, we will continue our work to support other Ann Arbor neighborhoods with making their own sustainability improvements. Year 7 will be an instrumental year in the Bryant project, helping set the stage for scaling this neighborhood decarbonization initiative citywide.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS



EV Charger at the Ann Arbor Senior Center.

Install 20-30 More Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

In year 7, OSI will deploy, across the community, at least 20-30 more electric vehicle charging stations. The goal is to provide affordable, accessible, convenient, and reliable public charging at community pillars like parks, schools, and libraries, as well as at multifamily apartments and retail shopping areas. The team has been working for the last year to identify candidate sites and will advance planning, engineering, and installations in year 7.

Continue Expanding Bike Lanes, Closing Sidewalk Gaps, and Providing LED Lighting

A key piece of A²ZERO is ensuring that people can safely move about the community in decarbonized modes of transportation. To support this work, OSI helps to fund bike lanes, sidewalk gap closures, lighting, and signage that makes it safer and easier to walk, bike, scoot, or roll to key destinations. In year 7, OSI will continue these investments, with a focus on achieving our goal of all streetlights being LED and expanding protected bike lanes.



Bikeway Tour from A²ZERO Week.

Launch a Public Engagement Process on Offsets

Offsets are a confusing and often emotional topic. They are also an important component of meeting the City's 2030 carbon neutrality goal – and always were (see the A²ZERO plan for details). To help shape the City's decision-making around offsets, in year 7 OSI will launch an offset engagement strategy. This strategy is likely to launch in the fall of 2026 and will include public surveys, forums, and listening sessions. More details about engagement opportunities will be announced on the City's sustainability socials, via press release, and more. Insights gleaned from these engagements will shape how the City moves forward with acquiring offsets.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Expand Natural Features Programming



Guided Tree Walk at Buhr Park.

In year 7, the 10,000 Trees Initiative will be developing and launching a new TREEducation series focused on engaging community members with our urban tree canopy. This series will include workshops focused on topics such as tree identification, the history of trees in Ann Arbor, and threats to our tree canopy. In addition, guided versions of our recently launched Neighborhood Tree Walks will be offered through the new series. Additionally, OSI staff are investigating ways to expand the Pollinator-Aware Yard Care program and make sustainable lawncare actions more accessible for those interested in participating. Potential changes include technical assistance programs, rebates, and/or plantings in the City-owned right-of-way.

Continue Implementation of Green Rental Housing Ordinance and Expand Support Services

Initiated in January 2026, the Green Rental Housing Ordinance requires properties to undertake a series of activities that protect tenants and ensure everyone has access to safe, healthy, and sustainable living. Since its inception, hundreds of properties have come into compliance with the Ordinance, with many more in the process of achieving compliance. In the upcoming year, OSI will continue to help properties understand the ordinance and come into compliance while also working with properties to identify improvements and connect them to resources to make those improvements. During year 7, OSI will bring on an additional support streams to help landlords walk through the ordinance, identify what they need to do to comply, and support them in determining what types of improvements would be beneficial for them and their tenants. With this added capacity, properties will get enhanced assistance while allowing staff to work on supporting landlords and property managers with making tangible improvements that improve the rental stock in the city.

Expand the Sustainable Energy Utility City-Wide

Year 7 of A²ZERO is going to be huge for the Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU). While year six saw the first SEU solar and storage installations, Year 7 is when the program is going to start scaling. First, the SEU will expand its services in the Bryant neighborhood, providing solar and storage to 100-150 households. Then, in early 2027, the SEU plans to start enrolling residents from across the City, with the goal of adding up to 1,000 new subscribers throughout 2027. It's an exciting time for the SEU and for our City. You can stay up to date with SEU advancements at www.a2gov.org/a2seu.



Solar Panel Installation in Bryant Neighborhood.

YEAR SEVEN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Continue Advocating for Rate Payers in Proceedings Before the Michigan Public Service Commission

OSI currently represents the interests of Ann Arbor and our residents as an intervenor in both the DTE Electric and DTE Gas rate cases. In addition to scrutinizing the utilities' spending to minimize rate increases and urging DTE Electric to perform proper maintenance to support reliability and resilience, OSI and the Legal Team will continue advocating for policies and practices that align with decarbonization, such as planning for accelerated electrification and transitioning away from fossil gas for heating.



Refrigeration check at Blom Meadworks.

Launch our Sustainable Refrigerant Grant Program

OSI recently created a Sustainable Refrigerant Grant that is funded by an EPA Pollution Prevention grant. Through our Refrigerant Management Technical Assistance program, OSI has been working with small food businesses to help identify leaky and high polluting refrigerant systems that are eligible for this grant program. Over the next few months, OSI will formally create the grant program and distribute \$100,000, in total, to businesses to help them transition from high global warming potential refrigerant systems to low global warming potential refrigerant systems.

Launch a Swap Impact Calculator

OSI, ZeroWaste.org, and Resource Recycling Systems have been working to create a swap impact calculator. This impact calculator was created through a lifecycle analysis of items that come through our A²ZERO Clothing Swaps. The goal is to launch this calculator in Year 7 so that swap participants can see how much water, carbon, and resources they are saving by participating in swapping as opposed to purchasing new materials.



Launch of the Swap Impact Calculator at the City Hall Clothing Swap

A²ZERO CLIMATE ACTION HERO

BROOKS CURTIS IS JUNE 2026'S HERO

Beginning January 2026, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations started recognizing and celebrating Climate Action Heroes operating right here, in our community. These Heroes are individuals who are taking steps to help the community achieve its A²ZERO goal of making a just and equitable transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030. The ideal Climate Action Hero is someone who inspires others to make positive change.

Each month, a Hero will be selected by the Office of Sustainability and Innovations from all nominated applicants. Selected Climate Action Heroes will be celebrated with a column in the Ann Arbor Observer, as well as in this newsletter and on OSI's social media. In 2026, all Climate Action Heroes will also be recognized at an awards ceremony.

Individuals are encouraged to celebrate the Climate Action Heroes in their lives by nominating them at OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO. Anyone can submit a nomination, but the Hero themselves must live or work in Ann Arbor.



Brooks is the consummate volunteer for nature areas in Ann Arbor, having volunteered over 6,000 hours to Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation Program (NAP). He has been awarded NAP's prestigious "golden cookie" award for stewarding 4 nature areas: Sunset Brooks in 2013, Bird Hills in 2015, Bluffs in 2025 and Kuebler Langford in 2025 and for building a community amongst the park stewards. Sunset Brooks (where Brooks started stewarding) has had about 50% of the woody invasives removed, allowing native plants and animals to thrive while also absorbing most of the rain water from 4 surrounding streets.

Brooks spends most of his volunteer time at Bird Hills removing invasive plants. Brooks also volunteers in the Washtenaw County Parks nature areas, volunteers with the Washtenaw County Conservation District, is a member of Ann Arbor's Sustainability Commission and the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee. Brooks is a founding member of WREN (Washtenaw Restoration Ecology Network) which trains homeowners on different eradication techniques for woody invasive plants. The three words that best describe Brooks are: Dedicated, Team Builder, Persistent.

BROOKS CURTIS

STEWARD AND FOUNDER

Thank you Brooks for being a Climate Action Hero in our community!
Submit your Hero at OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ann Arbor Wild Ones Talk and Tree Tour | July 8, 6:30-8 PM | Wuster Park Join the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability & Innovations (OSI) and Ann Arbor Area Wild Ones for a guided tree walk of Wurster Park! Learn about the tree species in the park, how to identify them, and the many benefits they provide for resilience, sustainability, and more. This guided tree walk will follow a portion of OSI's Old West Side Neighborhood Tree Walk, a self-guided walk that is easy to follow on a smart phone or tablet and will lead you through the neighborhood, helping you identify trees while providing some fun and interesting facts about those trees and the history of the neighborhood. The Old West Side walk - and twelve others in neighborhoods across the city - can be found at www.a2gov.org/10ktrees. Learn more at lu.ma/a2zeroclothingswaps.

Bicentennial Park Grand Opening | July 11, 11 AM - 2PM | Bicentennial Park The community is invited to the Bicentennial Park Splash Pad Celebration featuring brief welcoming remarks from Mayor Christopher Taylor and local Olympians and Paralympians who will help recognize Ann Arbor's local history of Olympic and Paralympic achievement which has been integrated within the Bicentennial Park project, including through interpretive signage installations.

Join Parks and Recreation from 11 a.m. - 2 p. m. for:

- Olympian- and Paralympian-themed activities
- Family games and activities
- Water-themed activities
- Live DJ and music
- Food trucks and Kona Ice (for purchase)
- Ann Arbor Fire Truck on display
- Open play at the new splash pad, at the playground and enjoyment of Bicentennial park itself

Bicentennial Park Solar-Powered Movie Night | Saturday, July 11, 9:15 PM - 10:30 PM | Bicentennial park Grand Opening As the sun sets on the splash pad celebration, families are invited to stick around or return to Bicentennial Park in the evening of July 11 for the A²ZERO Solar-powered Movie Night hosted by the Office of Sustainability and Innovations. Showtime is 9:15 p.m. and the featured film is FernGully: The Last Rainforest (1992), Rated: G.

- Movie starts: 9:15 p.m. Arrive earlier to get settled in your spot.
- Location: South ball diamond, right outfield
- Bring: Your own blankets, lawn chairs, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages
- Provided: Free popcorn and ice cream
- Movie ends: 10:30 p.m.
- Questions? Contact sustainability@a2gov.org

Paint the Town Art Fair Kick-Off | July 15, 5 - 9 PM | 300 block of Liberty street Join OSI along with dozens of other community organizations to celebrate the start of the 2026 Ann Arbor Art Fair. This event will feature live music, activities, tabling, and much more.

A²ZERO Clothing Swap | July 16 4 - 7 PM | Ann Arbor 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! This swap, taking place in Council Chambers in Larcom City Hall (2nd floor), is 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.

OSI Park Workday | July 17, 8:15 - 10 AM | To Be Determined Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations on the third Friday of each month from 3 - 5 PM to take care of one of Ann Arbor's many parks! Activities during these workdays may include cutting invasives, picking up trash, and other physical handy work. Please come wearing closed-toed shoes and clothes suitable for outdoor work.

SAVE THE DATE: Local Food Festival | August 27, 5 - 8 PM | Ann Arbor Farmers Market We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Ann Arbor Local Food Festival, Ann Arbor's annual celebration of Michigan food and farming! This free public festival showcases farms, food makers, and local organizations focused on growing a strong and sustainable local food system. Festival goers will learn about the benefits of local and sustainably grown food, eat delicious local food, participate in fun and educational activities, enjoy live music, and have a blast.

SAVE THE DATE: Green Fair 2026 | September August 27, 5 - 8 PM | Join us for Ann Arbor's annual street fair celebrating sustainability, community, and climate action. This year's event will feature dozens of exhibitors, music, family friendly events, and much more. Stay tuned for more details!