

THE CHARGING STATION

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



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Simi Barr (left) and Stephen Janoyan (right) worked to put together this edition of the Charging Station. Stephen joined OSI in 2025 as an EV coordinator, working on all things related to EVs and EV charging. Simi has worked with OSI since 2019 and leads the municipal operations team in initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of City operations. Interested in learning more? Reach out to Stephen at SJanoyan@a2gov.org and Simi at SBarr@a2gov.org.



Simi Barr and Stephen Janoyan in front of one of Ann Arbor's four all-electric refuse trucks.

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 ways to get involved with climate action in 2026. 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.

CITY FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

ELECTRIC VEHICLES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

The Municipal Operations team at the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) works to reduce the environmental impact of City activities, in accordance with the goals of A²ZERO. "City operations" refer to the services and activities performed by Ann Arbor's local City government, and can include things like: solid waste collection, emergency services, public services like street and water infrastructure maintenance, City clerk and election services, and much more! The majority (>80%) of the greenhouse gas footprint from City operations is associated with the electricity use of our buildings. This is much higher than the general community, where emissions from transportation and electricity are much closer to even. Large building users and relatively short vehicle ranges are the main reasons behind this difference between the City and Community's emissions profile. The primary ways the City works to reduce emissions from buildings is through energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. This work continues to progress, and OSI is excited to bring updates back to the community and our collaborators about our work to decarbonize City operations.

Though emissions from the City's vehicle fleet are not the majority of emissions that result from municipal operations, they are still a critical portion to address to reach the net-zero goals of our community. City vehicles perform a wide range of tasks throughout our community and are highly visible. Electrifying these vehicles not only directly reduces emissions and air pollution, but helps to show the viability and practicality of using EVs to the wider community. Below we highlight a few exciting EVs that were brought into the fleet in 2025:

EV REFUSE TRUCKS – The City has purchased 4 EV refuse trucks that perform solid waste collection in Ann Arbor. Though the vehicles were ordered over the past few years, all four arrived and went into service in 2025. The trucks have been well received by drivers and the public works team, mainly for their smooth and quiet operation. Staff will be reviewing their performance throughout the winter in order to understand any changes in performance and battery life related to the cold. Keep an eye out for these vehicles as they are operating on the streets almost every day!



One of Ann Arbor's EV refuse trucks operating in downtown Ann Arbor.

CITY FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

ELECTRIC VEHICLES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



EV POLICE VEHICLE – The City's first fully electric patrol vehicle went into service fall 2025. This Chevy Blazer is fully equipped for AAPD daily use, including overhead lights, laptop, radio, and security cage. The vehicle is part of a pilot project to evaluate the efficacy of using electric vehicles in the patrol fleet. Thus far, officer reception of the vehicle has been positive, and battery state of charge has not impacted use of the vehicle. If the data and feedback remain positive, the City will look to further electrify the Police patrol fleet.

AAPD's Chevy Bolt Patrol Car getting a fast charge at City Hall



EV FORKLIFT – In the summer of 2024, City Council approved the purchase of an electric forklift to replace a diesel forklift at the Water Resource Recovery Facility, which was received in spring 2025. This forklift has an 8000 lb. lift capacity and is used to move materials around the plant. Staff reception to the vehicle has been very positive, as the vehicle operates consistently and doesn't emit smelly fumes or leak oil. This purchase was partially grant funded and a strong proof of concept. As such, the City continues to look for opportunities to electrify even more non-road vehicles such as forklifts.

CAT electric forklift at the WRRF.

FUTURE PLANNING

The City plans for vehicle electrification when assets reach their end of life by modifying vehicle depreciation schedules to ensure the City has saved enough to replace outgoing internal combustion engine vehicles with electric alternatives. The City has also used competitive grants and clean energy tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act to further fund the fleet transition. 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.

Thanks to the work of many City departments, significant progress has been made toward fleet electrification, and more is to come! Our future work will focus on the toughest to electrify segments, including more police vehicles, and heavy trucks including Fire trucks and snow plowing vehicles. Keep an eye and an ear out next time you see a City vehicle, it very well may be electric!

EVs AND PUBLIC CHARGING

EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Vehicle adoption is growing quickly but, there are not enough chargers to ensure a convenient and reliable public charging network to meet future demand. For that reason, the City is working to place EV chargers at high-impact and high-visibility locations across Ann Arbor. The goal is for people in the area to easily be able to top up their EVs while they're out and about in the community!

As the City continues to expand its EV charging network, we also want to make sure people are aware of what's already available throughout the community. There are currently hundreds of public EV charging ports across the community, and websites like PlugShare or the DOE's Alternative Fuels Data Center are great resources for people looking for public EV charging.



In 2025, the City installed 6 dual port EV chargers under a solar carport at Veteran's Memorial Park.

CITY-OWNED EV CHARGERS – The City has 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. The City also installed 4 public fast chargers behind City Hall and installed the region's first curbside utility pole mounted EV chargers on Kinsley and Ingalls Streets in the Old Fourth Ward. In 2026, public chargers will be installed at Bicentennial Park and the Ann Arbor Election Center, and more sites will be evaluated for public charging. The easiest way to find and utilize these chargers is with the ChargePoint app.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CHARGERS – UofM has over 200 parking spaces equipped with EV chargers across dozens of parking facilities in Ann Arbor and have plans to expand further in coming years. UofM parking facilities are mostly permitted areas, where use is limited to faculty, staff, and students. However, outside of the "enforcement hours", chargers are available for use by the general public. Find out more about the locations of these chargers on [UofM's Logistics, Transportation, and Parking – EV Charging Webpage](#).

OTHER CHARGERS – There are dozens more public chargers in Ann Arbor beyond those at City and UofM facilities. Locations of public chargers can be found on websites like [PlugShare](#) or [the DOE's Alternative Fuels Data Center](#).

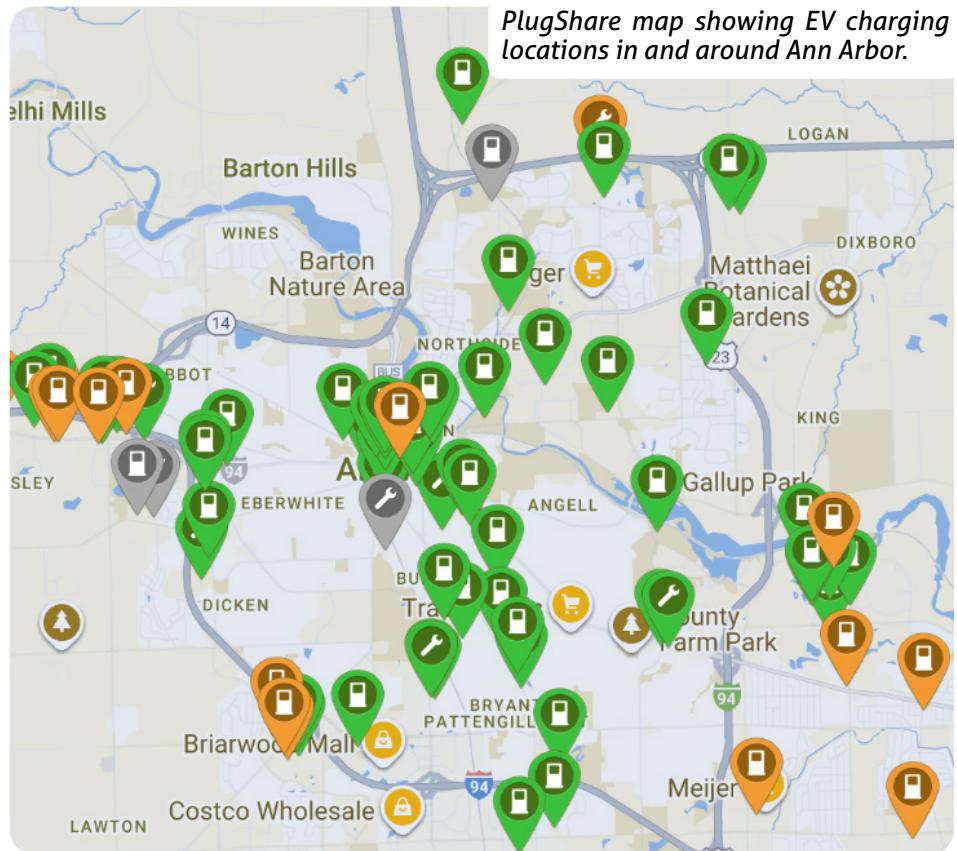
EVs AND PUBLIC CHARGING

EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE



4 Public DC Fast Chargers at Ann Arbor City Hall.

One of the aims of the City in expanding charging is for the network to be affordable to users. 80% of EV charging happens at home, but around half of Ann Arborites live in multi-unit dwellings like apartments and condos, where implementing EV charging can be more difficult. The City intends that its network of reliable affordable chargers can be used by those living in Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) who would be without other ways of charging. The City doesn't want to disincentivize people from transitioning to EVs by making public charging unduly expensive, so pricing is set to only cover the operations and maintenance of the charger with a small buffer. In many scenarios, owning an EV can be a more affordable choice than internal combustion engine vehicles, and the last thing holding people back is the availability of charging.



Owning an EV can be more affordable because:

- EVs are more efficient than ICE vehicles and gain even more efficiency thanks to regenerative braking. Your car charges every time you stop, which makes it a great option for City driving.
- Studies have consistently shown that EV owners can expect to save hundreds or even thousands on fuel savings alone!
- According to the Department of Energy, less moving parts means fewer trips to the repair shop when a part breaks down, which translates to thousands of dollars in potential savings over the lifetime of the vehicle.

Keep an eye as you're around town for EVs and EV charging infrastructure. You'll see them every day being driven by your friends, neighbors, and by your local government staff!

A²ZERO CLIMATE ACTION HERO

KEN WINTER IS FEBRUARY 2026'S HERO

Beginning last month, 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.



KEN WINTER

NEIGHBOR AND LEADER

Ken lives and works in the Sunward CoHousing community. Through the SunZero Initiative, their mission is to mitigate human-caused global climate disruption by initiating, funding, and managing projects that enable Sunward Cohousing and its residents to achieve zero carbon emissions as rapidly as possible. Sunward Cohousing is a community of forty private homes clustered in the center of Sunward's 20 acres. Their mission is to co-create a vibrant multigenerational cohousing community – culturally, economically, and racially diverse – which seeks to form regenerative relationships with one another and with nature.

In addition to Sunward Cohousing, Ken works with the neighboring cohousing communities of Great Oak and Touchstone to move them toward zero carbon, including group buys of solar, deep energy-efficiency work, and electrification.

"Inspirational. Community-building. Persistent," writes the resident who nominated Ken. "Ken is phenomenal as a community-builder and climate action workhorse. He has been intentional, patient, persistent, and inspirational."

The Office of Sustainability and Innovations is delighted to celebrate Ken as our next A²ZERO Climate Action Hero for the drive and creativity he brings to engagement and environmental stewardship. Ken is instrumental in finding unique opportunities to solve climate programs through his shared community!

For residents looking to learn more about cohousing in our community, visit [Sunward's website](#). Information on building community and tackling climate change with your neighbors can be found on the [Office of Sustainability and Innovations website](#).

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

COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: WRRF

WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY & SERVICES

The teams that do the critical but often overlooked jobs of wastewater treatment and solid waste collection are a fundamental pillar of our local government, helping keep our community clean and safe. These teams continue to provide excellent service while also working toward the goals set forth in A²ZERO. The municipal operations team decided to feature these departments in this edition of the Charging Station to highlight the great work they continue to perform.



Keith Sanders, Plant Manager

Simi Barr spoke with Keith Sanders, Water Resource Recovery Services Manager to learn more about what's going on at the Water Resource Recovery Facility, formerly known as the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

What is the WRRF and what are the intended goals of that facility?

Ann Arbor's Water Resource Recovery Facility treats wastewater that is input from the City's sanitary sewer system. The plant employs exemplary wastewater treatment professionals to help manage the sanitary and industrial sewage for the purposes of: returning water that meets or exceeds regulations, ensuring proper disposal of non-recyclable residuals, and to meet the service expectations of our customers with regards to quality, reliability, and cost.

How have you been working towards these goals recently?

The WRRF continues to meet these high standards while also incorporating new technologies into our process. Examples include sourcing renewable electricity to power the plant and installing more efficient equipment such as our new UV disinfection system.

Any projects you're excited to share with the community?

Yes! We've been working with OSI on a project to add a rooftop solar array onto our retention and equalization tank building. The array will be over 600 kW DC, making it one of the City's largest. It will also be paired with battery storage that we can use to reduce our peak electrical demand at the plant, which could save us a lot of money. We just finished a roof repair project on that building to pave the way for the solar, we're excited to see it go up this year!

How does your work at the WRRF contribute to A²ZERO goals?

The WRRF uses a lot of energy to keep our water clean and safe for people and the environment. We also make sure we have backup systems at the plant that allow us to function even in times when the power is out. This ability to continue providing critical City services is an important component of community resilience. We're also about the largest single user within the City, so we're really looking closely at all the ways we can save energy here at the plant. That also means the changes we make can cause big improvements to the City's environmental impact.

Ann Arbor's Waste Resource Recovery Facility



How does sustainability factor into your work?

We're always looking at ways we can improve our process. When it comes to sustainability, we are specifically looking for ways to reduce our energy use while continuing to make sure water is safe for recreational uses and to recharge into the environment. We continue to effectively treat our wastewater flows and prevent sanitary sewer overflows or elicit discharges of partially treated wastewater, while finding ways to save energy at the plant.

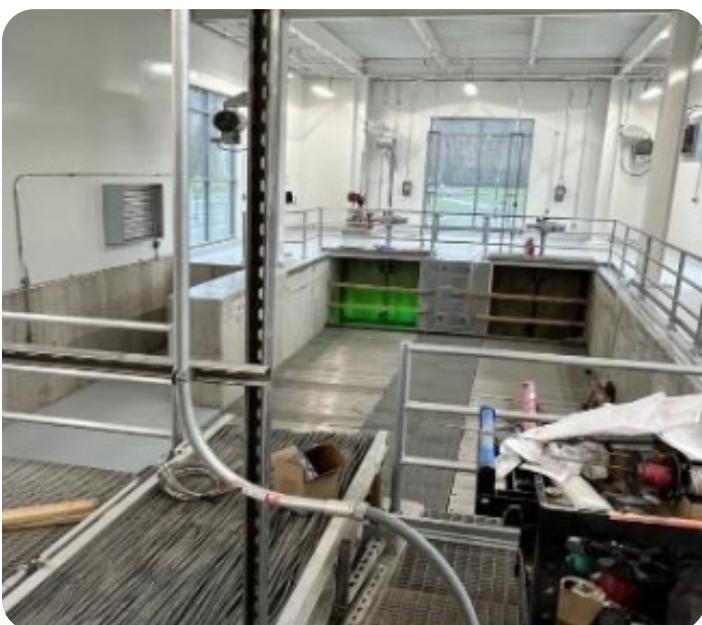
COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: WRRF

WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY & SERVICES



What are some of those ways you've been able to save energy?

We've been making our lighting more efficient at the plant. Recently we've worked to remove metal halide, sodium vapor, and fluorescent lighting and transition all to LEDs. Also, in 2025, we replaced a UV disinfection system that we'd been using at the plant since 2000. The new system is more energy efficient and is much easier for our staff to maintain. The old system was under a metal canopy exposed to the elements, which could make maintenance quite difficult. We now have an enclosure, along with automated controls and sensors that makes it easier and more efficient to operate. It's estimated that we'll save 800,000 kWh annually from the change. Because of the project's energy savings, Ronney Neeley and Adam Smith (WRRF staff) were able to obtain an \$87,000 rebate from DTE for the City.



Do you use any electric vehicles at the plant?

Yes, we use an electric forklift to move equipment and materials around the plant, and staff use an electric Polaris or golf cart to move around the plant.

What are you looking forward to as your work progresses?

We're excited to find more ways to reduce energy consumption and re-use materials from the wastewater treatment process.

Anything else you'd like to share?

We're working to educate the public about what's acceptable to flush and what isn't. Flushing certain items can negatively impact the sewer system.

Thanks, Keith! How can others learn more about Ann Arbor's WRRF?

Check out our website - <https://www.a2gov.org/water-resource-recovery-facility/> We also host an annual open house where you can tour the plant, the last one was in September!



Top: The old UV disinfection system...

Middle: ...compared to the new system.

Bottom: The WRRF also has multiple rain gardens to help manage stormwater at the site.

COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: SOLID WASTE

A SOLID TEAM!

We spoke with Alison Heatley and Sarah Mason, two members of the City's solid waste team, to learn more about what's going on in their world, and how it relates to sustainability and A²ZERO. A special congrats to Alison for retirement after many successful years at the City!



What does the Solid Waste team do, and what are the goals of the organization?

The City's Solid Waste team, comprised of our operations and programs staff, work together to provide safe, reliable, and efficient solid waste services defined as trash, recycle and compost collection, to all customers within the City of Ann Arbor. As a part of that work, we strive to identify, promote and grow opportunities for waste reduction and landfill diversion to protect public health and the environment.

How does sustainability factor into your work?

Our program staff work closely with the Circularity Team in OSI, the University of Michigan and other community partners to find ways to improve our recycling and compost programs, including educating customers on proper sorting, how to reuse items and ways to reduce waste at the source including by borrowing instead of buying new. By increasing diversion and operating efficiently, we help conserve natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure the solid waste system remains resilient and cost-effective over the long-term.

What are some current or future projects you're excited to share?

Our biggest upcoming project is the creation and deployment of food scrap drop-off locations for multi-family residents, more info at engage.a2gov.org/foodscraps. Another exciting update is that the Solid Waste team brought 4 EV refuse trucks into service in 2025. These were 2 rear load Peterbilt trucks, and 2 automatic side load Mack trucks. It's been great to get feedback from the drivers who operate these every day. We're also very interested in seeing how these trucks perform throughout the winter.



Driver Brian DePalma in the cab of an EV side-load truck.

COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: SOLID WASTE

A SOLID TEAM!



One of the City's drivers, Steven Trinkle, collecting recycling downtown.

Wow! Which routes are these EV trucks normally on?

The rear loads are utilized in the downtown, in the DDA. One usually collects recycling in the alleys, while the other collects waste from the pedestrian trash cans. The side load EV trucks are used in residential trash routes, so they're usually out in the neighborhoods.

Do the vehicles ever support with compost collection?

Yep! The automated side load EVs have been used for compost collection too.

How much do our refuse trucks get used on a daily basis?

It's a lot of work to collect the City's solid waste. The recycle collection usually lasts around 7 hours, where the truck will cover around 30 miles. The rear load trash trucks usually load 4-7 hours per day and can drive 30-50 miles a day. The side load EVs work a full 7-8 hour day and can average 30-40 miles depending on the route.

How have the drivers liked using the EVs?

No new technology is perfect. There have been some kinks to work through when it comes to things like charging, but the trucks and drivers are doing their jobs, and the main feedback has been how much quieter the vehicles are to operate.

Thank you both! Where can people learn more and get involved?

For all things solid waste including info on how to reduce waste generated, when to set out your carts, and what you can recycle folks can check out our website at a2gov.org/trash-recycle-and-compost.

We also held a Public Works Open House at the Wheeler Service Center in October, and plan to continue that annually. Keep an eye out for that event, as it's a great chance to learn more about our vehicles, operations, and solid waste in general.

FROM THE A²ZERO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

VIEW THIS RECIPE AND 70+ MORE AT OSI.A2GOV.ORG/COOKBOOK



ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES

From the Kitchen of: JJ McKillop, Community Member

Preparation Time: 30 minutes | Cook Time: 30-40 minutes | Yield: 3-5 small plates

Common Allergens: Milk (Optional)

"There is nothing as delicious or easy as salty caramelized roasted root vegetables. This recipe is a family favorite in the wintertime, especially when we have root vegetables left from our fall garden harvest," says JJ. This dish can be made with a variety of root vegetables, making it a fun and flexible way to use produce available from the farmers market in the winter.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-3 potatoes, cut into 1/2 to 1-inch cubes
- 1-2 carrots, cut into 1/2 to 1-inch slices
- 1 large onion, peeled and cut into eight pieces
- 1-4 garlic cloves, peeled
- Other root vegetables as desired, such as beets, turnips, parsnips, sweet potatoes, or radishes, cut into 1/2 to 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- 1 Tablespoon salt or garlic salt, to taste
- 1 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- Half a head of cabbage, sliced into 1/2 inch wedges (or other brassicas, such as cauliflower, broccoli, or brussels sprouts)
- 2-3 cups (about 8 ounces) whole mushrooms
- Creamy sauce, such as sour cream mixed with a little horseradish and salt (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 400° F.
- Put the potatoes, carrots, garlic cloves, onions, and other root vegetables (except the brassicas or mushrooms) in a large bowl. Coat in 2-3 Tablespoons of olive oil, then toss the vegetables until they are evenly coated.
- Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste, then toss again.
- Spread the vegetables on a large baking sheet, in a single even layer. Use a second baking sheet, if needed.
- Bake the vegetables for 15-20 minutes, until they look mostly done but are not yet browned. Do not stir.
- While the root vegetables bake, toss the cabbage and mushrooms in the same large bowl with the remaining olive oil, salt, and pepper, until they are evenly coated.
- Once the root vegetables have begun to brown (after about 15-20 minutes), spread the cabbage and mushrooms on a second large baking sheet, then put them in the oven to bake with the other vegetables.
- Bake everything together for around 10 minutes, until the vegetables are caramelized, and the cabbage is cooked through.
- Serve the vegetables together in a bowl and top with a creamy sauce, such as sour cream mixed with a little horseradish and salt, mayonnaise, or ranch dressing. They are also delicious on their own!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A²ZERO AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

The A²ZERO Ambassador Program is a 12-session training program that hosts community members to explore pathways for advancing local sustainability initiatives, resilience, and carbon neutrality in Ann Arbor. No previous experience is required, and all interested in sustainability are encouraged to apply at osi.a2gov.org/ambassadors.

SUBMIT YOUR CLIMATE ACTION HERO! Every month, A²ZERO Climate Action Heroes recognizes a community member who inspires others to make positive change and help the community achieve its A²ZERO goals. These heroes are recognized in the monthly sustainability newsletter (The Charging Station), in the Ann Arbor Observer, on OSI social media accounts, and at a yearly celebration with all of the year's other Heroes! Nominate an individual as an A²ZERO Climate Action Hero, at osi.a2gov.org/hero. Congratulations to Ken Winter for being February 2026's Climate Action Hero.

10,000 TREES SURVIVAL STUDY

Since 2021, the 10,000 Trees Initiative has distributed over 11,000 trees to residents of Washtenaw County, to be planted on their private property. But even when young tree seedlings are planted properly and given all of the care they need, they don't always survive to become the canopy trees that provide us with critical shade, carbon storage, and other benefits. In fact, studies have shown that survival rates for young seedlings of this type can range from 20% to 40% or even 75%, based on species.

To understand the impacts of the 10,000 Trees Initiative so far, City staff created and sent out individualized surveys to everyone who has received any trees through the program, asking them to let us know how their trees are doing. We received responses from 603 people, giving us data on 2,023 trees - and of those trees, 47% are still alive! You can view an interactive map showing all of the trees distributed so far, all of the trees we know are either dead or alive, and species data for living trees - plus graphs displaying survival rates by species and heights of living trees - by visiting osi.a2gov.org/10ktreesmap. This map will be updated annually as more trees are distributed and surveys responses are collected. Questions? Email Sean Reynolds, Senior Analyst, at sreynolds@a2gov.org.

SNOW BLOWER REBATES EXTENDED. The application deadline for snow shovels and electric snow blower rebates has been extended to February 28. Ann Arbor residents can receive up to \$200 in rebate funds for a new electric snow blower or shovel. If you want to learn more or apply for rebates, go to osi.a2gov.org/lawncarerebates.

KEEP IT "REEL" WITH OSI. We are delighted to share that OSI launched a weekly video series looking back on some of the highlights of activities undertaking the week before. These videos will appear regularly throughout the year on our socials!

\$100,000 WORTH OF A²ZERO HOME ENERGY REBATES HAVE BEEN PROCESSED IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JANUARY! That's \$100,000 that's going back out into the community, funded by the 2022 Community Climate Action Millage, for projects that help improve the comfort, safety, and energy efficiency of homes in Ann Arbor. If you're an Ann Arbor resident interested in taking advantage of this community investment, visit osi.a2gov.org/rebates.

ANN ARBOR EARNS 'A' RATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP. The City of Ann Arbor has been recognized by CDP, the global environmental non-profit, for its leadership in transparency and action, securing a place on CDP's respected annual "A" List. Achieving an A rating places Ann Arbor among the leaders demonstrating comprehensive disclosure, mature environmental governance and meaningful progress toward environmental resilience.

ANN ARBOR'S ENERGY AND WATER BENCHMARKING ORDINANCE REACHES COMPLIANCE MILESTONE, LAUNCHES PUBLIC MAP: Ann Arbor's Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance has achieved compliance surpassing 80% and is launching a new public map with the data. Learn more and see the map at a2gov.org/benchmarking.

GREEN RENTAL HOUSING WENT INTO EFFECT JAN 6. The Green Rental Housing Ordinance requires every rental unit in Ann Arbor to meet a minimum baseline of safety, comfort, and energy efficiency at the time of its rental inspection. And many are already in compliance! Learn more about the Ordinance and how to comply at osi.a2gov.org/greenrentalhousing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE FOOD BUSINESS COALITION (SFBC)

Q1 GATHERING: BUILDING SUCCESSFUL LOCAL

SOURCING RELATIONSHIPS | Feb 2, 1 - 2:30PM

Echelon Kitchen & Bar

Producers, distributors, chefs, buyers, and food service operators are invited to join for our upcoming SFBC gathering on creating mutually beneficial sourcing relationships between food businesses and local farms!

Hear from the experts at Argus Farm Stop, Echelon Kitchen & Bar, and the Hungry Locavore, who have navigated the opportunities and challenges of sourcing from local or regional farms, and take part in a collaborative discussion to identify practical pathways for growing local procurement in our region. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/sfbcFEB2026.

A²ZERO AMBASSADOR OPEN HOUSE | Feb 2 & Feb 10,

1 - 2:30 PM | *Ann Arbor District Library - Westgate*

Join a community of nearly 150 community members who are passionate about a just transition to carbon neutrality. Applications are open until February 11th. Come say hi and learn more about the program! Interviews are happening on site for those interested. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/ambassadors.

MiSBF SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOODWARE WEBINAR SERIES: INTRODUCTION TO REUSABLE FOODWARE

PRODUCTS | Feb 10, 10 - 11 AM | *Virtual*

Join MiSBF and University of Illinois Chicago for the first session in the Safe & Sustainable Foodware webinar series to explore the growing field of reusable foodware systems for both dine-in and takeout operations. Learn about product types, service models, and logistics for implementing reusables in restaurants, cafeterias, and institutions. Presenters will share examples from pilot programs and discuss how reusables can reduce costs, cut waste, and meet customer expectations for sustainability. [Learn more at the Zoom registration link](#).

MONTHLY CLOTHING SWAP | Feb 19, 4 - 7 PM | *City Hall*

Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations for monthly clothing swaps on the third Thursday of each month! These are a perfect way to give your gently used clothes a new home. And you might just find an item of clothing you have been looking for, without having to buy it new. How it works: Each person can bring up to 10 items of clothing in good condition (no rips, holes, stains, or unwashed items please!). Accessories are also welcome. You can take clothing without bringing anything, or bring clothing without taking anything. Completely free event.

VEGMICHIGAN DINNER MEETUP | Feb 19, 5:30 - 7 PM |

Plant-Based Coneys, 42 E Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI

Join A²ZERO and the VegMichigan team for a plant-based meetup event at Plant-Based Coneys in Ypsilanti! Taste the new winter menu and meet fellow Ann Arborites interested in climate-friendly food choices. Registration is required. [See VegMichigan's website for more details](#).

HERd 2026: CLOSING THE EQUITY GAP | Feb 20, 5 PM |

Garden Theater, Detroit

Director of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations Missy Stults to speak on being a woman in leadership at HERd 2026, an event committed to elevating the conversation around women's financial health and their future in the workplace. Learn more at sheisherd.com.

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM: | Feb 24, 6 PM | *Ann Arbor*

District Library - Downtown

Join Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations for the second session of the 2026 Sustainability Forums to explore how the City weaves sustainability into its municipal operations. From solid waste collection to emergency services, water infrastructure, and beyond, come to learn and ask questions about the efforts that keep our city running smoothly and sustainably!

GLREA SOLAR STORIES | Feb 29, 7 - 8 PM | *Virtual*

[Each Thursday evening GLREA hosts an Energy Event on Zoom](#). There are 4 types: Solar Stories, Clean Energy Seminars, Energy Q & A and GLREA Membership meeting. Join us for these one hour events and learn about renewable energy! This month, Ann Arbor's own Shoshannah Lenski, Executive Director of the Sustainable Energy Utility, will join to talk about the SEU.

CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS

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