

# THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A<sup>2</sup>ZERO AND  
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



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## ABOUT THE EDITOR



Azella Markgraf (she/her) supports sustainable food initiatives, including the Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition! Azella’s work focuses on programs and initiatives that advance a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable community food system in Ann Arbor. Interested in learning more? Reach out to Azella at [amarkgraf@a2gov.org](mailto:amarkgraf@a2gov.org).



*Argus Farm Stop’s produce deck features the freshest of the season, every day. Argus’ produce is grown locally by farmers you know. Image used with permission from Argus Farm Stop.*

## 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 more about the connection between climate change and the food we eat, highlighting the important role each of us plays in promoting a transition to more sustainable food systems by making conscientious everyday food choices. If you are interested in learning more, check out [a2gov.org/sustainablefood](https://a2gov.org/sustainablefood). As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we’d like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

# THE TASTE OF SUSTAINABILITY

## ANN ARBOR'S PATH TOWARDS A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEM

In Ann Arbor, efforts to combat climate change are taking center stage through the ambitious A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan. While the plan addresses various facets of emissions reduction, one crucial aspect lies in the transformation of the food system. Let's delve into how the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan is steering Ann Arbor toward a carbon-neutral future by tackling the environmental impact of food. Part 1 of a 2-part series – Part 2 coming in an autumn edition of the Charging Station!

### The Carbon Footprint of Agriculture

Agriculture, particularly industrial farming, stands as one of the greatest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. The largest source of agricultural emissions are industrial practices that degrade land and soils, rely on fossil-fuel based chemicals, and concentrate animals into facilities known as confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Not all food contributes to climate change equally: variations in land use, growing practices, chemical applications, and other factors influence the degree to which food production releases greenhouse gases.

Livestock production, and conventionally raised beef in particular, contributes significantly to emissions. During the livestock digestion and manure decomposition processes, a large amount of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is released into the environment. Additionally, the deforestation of vast swaths of land, primarily for cattle grazing and feed crops like soybeans, further exacerbates carbon emissions by reducing the Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide.

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan supports the adoption of plant-rich diets as a tool for achieving community-wide carbon neutrality. Plant-based foods generally have a lower carbon footprint compared to animal products. Incorporating more whole and minimally processed fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and whole grains into our diets is a critical step towards reducing our food system's environmental impact. Encouraging residents to embrace plant forward eating through education, and increasing access to affordable and

nutritious plant-based options can play a pivotal role in mitigating the impact of our food choices and promoting a healthier, more sustainable community.

### Wasted Food and the Circular Economy

Food waste represents a significant source of emissions in the food system, accounting for a substantial portion of municipal landfill emissions. Addressing food waste within the framework of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan involves shifting away from a linear supply chain and embracing a move towards a more circular economy, where resources are used efficiently and waste is minimized through food recycling, reuse, and regeneration.

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan's initiatives to combat food waste encompass various strategies aligned with circular economy principles. By expanding composting programs, we can divert waste from landfills and use it to enrich soil for local agriculture. Additionally, promoting food recovery efforts enables surplus food to be redistributed to those in need. Through these strategies, the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan aims to minimize the environmental impact of food waste and maximize resource utilization while fostering community well-being.

### A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: VEGMICHIGAN

VegMichigan is celebrating 25 years promoting the health, environmental, and ethical benefits of a plant-forward diet by offering a wide range of activities for learning and socializing. VegMichigan's friendly, non-judgmental, and inclusive approach recognizes that the food we eat is shaped by many factors including tradition, health, access, affordability, and sustainability. VegMichigan hosts nearly 100 events each year, most of which are free to the public, including [VegFest](#), the largest plant-based event in Michigan.

As an A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Collaborator, VegMichigan spreads awareness about the connection between food and carbon emissions and how eating more plant-forward meals can reduce one's carbon footprint. You can learn more and get involved by visiting [VegMichigan.org](#). While you're there, visit the [Ann Arbor Plant-Based Resource Guide](#) to find local eateries, grocery stores, and farms with plant-based offerings.



*Kim Korona, VegMichigan Program Manager, presenting at the first annual Climate Teach-In at Genesis Ann Arbor.*



# THE TASTE OF SUSTAINABILITY

## ANN ARBOR'S PATH TOWARDS A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FOOD SYSTEM

### Building a Strong, Resilient Local Food System

Supporting local food producers is paramount in the fight against climate change and in ensuring the resilience of our communities. By purchasing from local farms, consumers reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting goods over long distances. Additionally, local producers often employ sustainable farming practices that promote soil health, biodiversity, and water conservation, mitigating the environmental impact of agriculture. Supporting local agriculture not only benefits the environment but also strengthens local economies and enhances food security, making it an indispensable component of the fight against climate change.

Initiatives like [the Ann Arbor Greenbelt program](#) play a crucial role in preserving farmland and promoting sustainable agriculture, thereby safeguarding natural habitats, sequestering carbon, and ensuring the continued viability of our local food system. Moreover, venues like the [Ann Arbor Farmers Market](#) provide a platform for farmers to directly connect with consumers and offer programs that expand the affordability and accessibility of fresh foods, fostering community resilience and promoting a culture of sustainability and equity.

A<sup>2</sup>ZERO seeks to celebrate and build upon these existing initiatives that uplift local agriculture and support a strong and resilient food system. **We are excited to feature the transformational local food systems work taking place in Ann Arbor in a future issue of the Charging Station.**

*Shoppers select fresh produce from a farm display at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market.*

### Shifting Toward a Sustainable Food Future in Ann Arbor

Addressing the climate impact of our food system requires a multifaceted approach that involves consumers, producers, government, and businesses alike. Ann Arbor, with its vibrant food scene, thriving agricultural community, and robust network of emergency food providers, is already a regional leader in sustainable food practices. The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan acknowledges the need for decisive action to mitigate climate change while supporting local farmers and ensuring food security and equity for all residents. By making informed choices about the foods we consume, supporting sustainable agricultural practices, and advocating for policies that prioritize environmental stewardship, individuals can contribute to positive change. At the same time, food businesses can contribute by adopting sustainable sourcing practices, reducing food waste, and investing in renewable energy, leading the transition towards a more sustainable food system.

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan and the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations seek to integrate sustainable food practices into the fabric of the community, not only reducing emissions, but also fostering a healthier, more vibrant future for generations to come. Learn more and join us at [a2gov.org/sustainablefood](http://a2gov.org/sustainablefood).



**Did you know?** Since 2021, City of Ann Arbor staff have been working to evaluate changes to the City's food procurement policies in order to shift City purchasing power in support of a more sustainable food system. By prioritizing options that have low greenhouse gas emissions, provide plant-based options, minimize wasteful packaging, and support the local food system, the City hopes to lead by example in purchasing food that supports Ann Arbor's ambitious sustainability and equity goals.

### Regenerative Agriculture Another Way Forward

For those who choose to include animal products in their diets, the source of those products matters greatly. Despite the known environmental hazards associated with the industrial production of livestock, farmers across the world (including here in the Ann Arbor area!) are employing more sustainable and humane animal husbandry practices. Farmers who raise livestock on pasture can utilize a suite of regenerative agricultural practices to steward dynamic ecosystems, rebuild topsoil, and increase soil health and fertility. Studies point to the potential of regenerative agriculture to contribute to carbon sequestration, the process of capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in improved soils. [Read more about the climate-change mitigation potential of regenerative agriculture.](#) Trying to eat sustainably is no easy task, but choosing products from local farmers whose growing practices you trust is a good place to start.

# EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF FOOD WASTE

## A CONVERSATION WITH A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COLLABORATOR, ZEROWASTE.ORG

This month, we are proud to feature [ZeroWaste.org](https://zerowaste.org), a nonprofit organization and A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Collaborator dedicated to promoting waste reduction and sustainability. We spoke with Samuel McMullen, Executive Director of ZeroWaste.org, to learn about the importance of reducing food waste and how ZeroWaste.org is helping Ann Arbor residents find their place in bringing about a zero-waste future.

### What is ZeroWaste.org and what are its goals?

ZeroWaste.org is an organization dedicated to reducing waste and fostering a circular economy. Waste, and manufacturing the things that become waste, is responsible for about half our climate warming emissions. Not to mention the immense human health and environmental toll that producing “stuff” requires. That context keeps us motivated and laser focused on reducing the material we extract from the planet. The mission we’re on in Ann Arbor is to reduce our community’s yearly waste by 10% within the decade.

### How does ZeroWaste.org work toward meeting those goals?

We’ll need a broad coalition of waste reduction champions in Ann Arbor to meet that goal. This isn’t, and can’t be, accomplished by just a few organizations working independently. This has to be a community wide effort. We’ve been inspired by the businesses and residents that have taken up the cause and figured out how to take concrete action wherever they are.

Our piece of the work is to be a catalyst for action and help folks find what will make the biggest difference in their specific situation.

### What are some projects you’re excited to share with the community?

Right now, we’re particularly excited to be collaborating with OSI on designing home food waste audits for Ann Arbor residents. We see food waste reduction as one of the primary pillars of zero waste. Partially because it has such an outsized climate impact, but also because food waste is one of the primary actions that individuals (like you, dear reader!) can take to reduce climate warming emissions. Food waste audits are a tool that residents can use to shed non-judgmental light on what’s ending up in their household’s trash and uncover the most effective action they can take to reduce waste within their own homes. You can sign up here to start your food waste reduction journey: [zerowaste.org/food-waste-audit](https://zerowaste.org/food-waste-audit).

Additionally, the years-long work to design a city-wide reusable takeout container system through the City’s A2R3 program is an exciting opportunity to tackle two problems: food packaging waste and the food that is in that packaging. By enabling local residents to take home leftovers from meals eaten at restaurants without using disposable packaging, we ensure that they can enjoy every last bite of a delicious, chef-prepared meal without having to transport it in a single use container that is destined for the landfill.

ZeroWaste.Org and OSI also facilitate community swap days to keep clothing and other usable items out of the landfill. And, you may have participated in one of our week-long Zero Waste challenges, which encourage residents and businesses to try zero waste practices on for size and keep what works! Our next challenge will be in early June for this year’s A<sup>2</sup>ZERO week celebration!



*ZeroWaste.org co-founders, Samuel McMullen and Lydia McMullen-Laird, hosting a Zero Waste event at the University of Michigan.*

# EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF FOOD WASTE

## A CONVERSATION WITH A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COLLABORATOR, ZEROWASTE.ORG

### Can you tell us a little more about the environmental impact of wasted food and how you are incorporating food into your zero-waste work?

There are two main ways that food waste contributes to our environmental crisis: unnecessary production and landfill methane. On the production side, the primary issue is that nearly a third of food produced in the United States goes to waste! When a third of our food goes to waste, that also means that a third of the land use, fertilizer, tractor emissions, refrigeration, transportation, and so on, was in vain.

On the back end, it might seem like there's no difference between whether food ends up in trash or compost. It's just going to biodegrade, right? Unfortunately, that is not the case. Because landfills are so tightly packed, our food actually decomposes very differently there than in compost. The difference is in how much methane is produced. Methane is 80 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> over the first 20 years after it gets released. Methane is responsible for about a third of the warming that we're currently experiencing, so it's important that we do what we can to keep our food out of the landfill.

### What can Ann Arbor residents do to reduce their household's food waste?

Love this question: reducing household food waste, along with adopting a plant rich diet, are [Project Drawdown's](#) top two actions (by far!) that individuals can take to reduce their climate emissions. The best solution for any kind of waste is to reduce, reduce, reduce. As the musician WILL.I.AM once said, "Waste isn't waste until we waste it!"

There are three areas to keep in mind when looking for ways to reduce household waste: what you buy, how you store, and where you throw. Mindful shopping to reduce excess purchases addresses the problem at the root. Making sure you are "right-sizing" your grocery trip will both save you money and significantly reduce your waste. Storage is also critical. Finding ways to keep your food fresh longer is key. For example, freezing proactively if you're not going to get to something before it spoils, or arranging your fridge so you see what needs to be eaten.

Where we can't reduce waste, getting food to someone who will eat it is the best option. That might look like sharing with family or neighbors before you travel, for instance ([Ann Arbor's Buy Nothing Group](#) and the [Olio app](#) are great resources for this), or donating surplus food to food rescue organizations like [Food Gatherers](#), who redistribute food to people in need.

After we've eaten and redistributed all we can, it is likely that we will still have a little bit of spoiled food and some inedible scraps remaining. What to do with those? Compost. As we discussed, composting releases significantly less methane than landfills and produces a nutrient rich product that helps our soil.

### Anything else you want to touch on that we didn't ask?

I'd just like to emphasize the importance of community and optimism in this work. It's important that we get connected with our friends and neighbors, share more stuff, talk about these issues. If we want to make significant changes to the systems that create waste by default, I think it's critical that we enjoy ourselves and build each other up so that we are creating a vision together of something beautiful, rather than spending all our energy on the negatives. It's a dynamic that I struggle with daily, but there is so much to gain from making this a joyful endeavor and helping people get curious rather than making them feel ashamed.

Do you have tips, tricks, or recipes that you use in the kitchen to reduce food waste or incorporate more sustainable foods into your diet? Contribute to the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook!

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook is designed to be your toolkit for future-forward eating in the Ann Arbor area. Through this cookbook, we hope to draw from the collective knowledge and experiences of Ann Arbor community members to uplift tried-and-true strategies for eating more sustainably at home. The cookbook will also highlight the stories of local farmers, producers, chefs, and others working towards a more abundant, sustainable, and regenerative food future.

Join us at the table – Be a part of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook by emailing your tips, tricks, recipes, stories, and ideas to Azella Markgraf, Sustainability Coordinator, at [amarkgraf@a2gov.org](mailto:amarkgraf@a2gov.org).

### FOOD WASTE TIP

Keep food out of the landfill! Did you know that Ann Arbor has year-round residential composting services? Visit [the City's compost page](#) to learn more!



# UNITING FOOD BUSINESSES FOR A GREEN FUTURE

## DRIVING CHANGE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD BUSINESS COALITION



Food businesses play a vital role in shaping our communities. From farms and food artisans to grocers and restaurants, these businesses are deeply embedded in our lives. They provide us nourishment, serve as gathering spaces, and contribute to our local economies. Nearly everything we eat has been handled by food businesses at some point in its journey from seed to plate.

Given their central location in our lives and the substantial environmental impact of the food industry, food businesses are well-positioned to be leaders in Ann Arbor's climate transition. In fact, many Ann Arbor area food business owners have already taken steps to make their businesses more sustainable and communicate to their customers the importance of these efforts.

To further support these initiatives, the City of Ann Arbor has teamed up with local food leaders to launch the new **Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition (SFBC)**, Ann Arbor's network of businesses and community organizations working together to advance sustainability throughout the food system.

Facilitated by OSI staff, the SFBC is made up of a diverse assortment of restaurants, chefs, food artisans, farmers, grocers, and others dedicated to promoting sustainability and equity in the food system. Members include familiar names like Zingerman's Deli, Argus Farm Stop, RoosRoast, and Bløm Meadworks, among others. Our member list is swiftly growing! [Visit our webpage for updates.](#)

"There are so many business owners in Ann Arbor who are passionate about sustainability, but thus far there hasn't been a formal organization that can bring together these entrepreneurs and direct their energy towards a common goal. Through the SFBC, we intend to build a community that draws from collective experience and directs collective action towards programs that will help Ann Arbor's local food system proactively adapt to the climate challenges to come," says Yusef Houamed, manager and co-founder of El Harissa, a SFBC Founding Member Business.

The SFBC's powerful and diverse membership allows the group to leverage their collective strengths, resources, and experiences to have a greater impact than any one organization could have on their own. This is crucial, as achieving our ambitious sustainability and equity goals will require broad, community-wide collaboration. Together, members tackle issues such as reducing food and packaging waste, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting local farms.

Participating in the SFBC empowers business owners with the support needed to implement sustainability initiatives in their own business and collaborate on effective solutions. The group offers tailored guidance and recognition for food businesses aligning with Ann Arbor's sustainability goals outlined in strategy 5 of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan.

Members meet quarterly to discuss sustainable food initiatives at the City and business levels. During

these gatherings, members share ideas, feedback, resources, and best practices for business sustainability. Meetings also provide opportunities to learn about upcoming city programs and policies and to network with other like-minded business owners.

By working together through the Sustainable Food Business Coalition, Ann Arbor's food businesses are not only shaping a more sustainable future, but also fostering a stronger, more resilient local food community.

For more information or to register your business as a member of the Coalition, visit [osi.a2gov.org/SFBC](https://osi.a2gov.org/SFBC).



*A meal from El Harissa Market & Cafe, presented in reusable takeout containers. El Harissa, a family-owned restaurant and market specializing in foods from the Mediterranean region, is a founding member of the Sustainable Food Business Coalition and a business participating in the A2R3 returnable container program pilot.*



*Meg Goldwyn, Store Manager, at the Argus Farm Stop Café on Packard Rd. Argus emphasizes sustainability and community. Photo credit: Argus Farm Stop*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREEN LIGHT: A NEW SERIES FROM CTN ANN ARBOR

Green Light, a new series from CTN Ann Arbor, digs into sustainability in Ann Arbor with the residents who are envisioning, creating, and establishing a sustainable and equitable future for our community. Check out the first two episodes at [osi.a2gov.org/GreenLight](https://osi.a2gov.org/GreenLight).

## JOIN THE COMMUTER CHALLENGE

Sign up has started for the 2024 Commuter Challenge! This fun challenge rewards people for commuting to work by bus, walking, biking, rolling, and carpooling this spring. Create or join a team with your workplace and discover the environmental impact of commuting to work by taking alternative transportation. Plus, you might win exciting prizes! Sign up and learn more at [www.CommuteAndWin.org](http://www.CommuteAndWin.org).

## GAS LEAF BLOWER PHASE-OUT

In December 2023, Ann Arbor City Council passed new restrictions on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within Ann Arbor city limits. Beginning this year, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited in Ann Arbor from June 1st to September 30th. Beginning January 1st, 2028, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited all year in Ann Arbor. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the peace, health, safety, and welfare of persons in Ann Arbor as well as to promote the City's sustainability goals by reducing noise, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and other negative effects of gas leaf blowers. If you are interested in learning more about the ordinance, alternatives to gas leaf blowers, how to sustainably dispose of gas leaf blowers, or sustainable lawn care, we recommend taking a look at our [gas leaf blower phase-out](#) and [pollinator aware lawn care](#) webpages. You can reach out to Carissa Ebling at [cebbling@a2gov.org](mailto:cebbling@a2gov.org) if you have any questions.

## PLANTED A TREE RECENTLY?

One of the most important things you can do to care for your tree is to protect the trunk from physical damage. Injuries from lawn mowers, weed whips, and other sources are a leading cause of death in newly planted trees - so adding a tree trunk protector is an important step in the planting process! Learn more by watching [this video](#) put together by [PocketForests.Org](http://PocketForests.Org).

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

A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week is just around the corner! Please join us to celebrate the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan with activities throughout the city from June 9 – 15. To hold the dates and get all the details, please go to [a2gov.org/a2zeroweek](https://a2gov.org/a2zeroweek). Updates and new events posted regularly.

## ANN ARBOR GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations and Ann Arbor SPARK are delighted to announce a new Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge! Join us for an exciting morning as we kick off the launch of the Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge (A2 GBC)! Designed to bring together local businesses and stakeholders, this event aims to inspire, inform, and connect individuals interested in sustainable business practices. Come learn more about our newly launched A2 GBC, sign-up, and get inspired! Zingerman's pastries and freshly brewed coffee will be served. [Registration required.](#)

## COMING SOON: THE A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HOME ENERGY ADVISOR

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Home Energy Advisor service will be launching in the days to come. This free service will help residents obtain free home energy assessments, plan projects, connect to contractors and rebates, and get customized "Path to Zero" decarbonization plans. The service will be open to all homeowners and renters in Ann Arbor.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit [www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events](https://www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events).

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **ANN ARBOR SOLAR STORIES** | *May 3, 7PM | Virtual*

This one-hour, online event is hosted by the GLREA. Hear from Ann Arborites who have gone solar and ask them all your questions! [Register in advance](#) to receive a confirmation email containing information to join the meeting.

## **BIKE TO WHEREVER DAY** | *May 15 | Ann Arbor*

The City of Ann Arbor and its partners will be holding a Bike to Wherever Day on May 15, 2024 from 7-9:30am. If you would like to host a station, partner with other organizations or lend support to the event, please complete this interest survey. In 2023, Bike to Work Day hosted more than 275 participants across 16 commuter stations. [Stay tuned for additional details about Bike to Wherever Day stations and activities.](#)

## **COMMUNITY SOLAR WORKSHOP** | *May 15, 7:30 - 8:30PM | Virtual*

Hosted by Temple Beth Emeth's Dayenu Circle: all you ever wanted to know about community solar but were afraid to ask, featuring guest speakers Julie Roth from the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations and John Freeman from the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association. Discuss questions like, "what is community solar?" and "what are the legal challenges in Michigan for everyone to have access to community solar?" Attendance is free, [online registration required](#).

## **HURON RIVER DAY** | *May 19, 12PM - 4PM | Island Park, 1420 Island Drive*

OSI will be at Huron River Day! Enjoy the beautiful Huron River with free, family-friendly river activities during the Huron River Day festival. Learn, explore and have fun celebrating Ann Arbor's wonderful freshwater with children's activities, river exhibits, music, food trucks/carts and more. Park at Fuller Park and take a short walk through the park or ride your bike to Island park for Bike tune-ups and education by Common Cycle and complementary bike valet provided by the Cycle Alliance of Washtenaw. [Learn more online.](#)

## **OSI BANDEMER PARK WORKDAY** | *May 21, 8:30AM - 10AM | Bandemer Park, 1352 Lake Shore Dr*

On the third Tuesday of each month (March - November) from 8:30-10am, OSI staff have a work day in Bandemer Park with GIVE365. Join us to help remove invasive plants, clean up trash, and more! If you are interested in joining us for a work day, please email Sean Reynolds at [sreynolds@a2gov.org](mailto:sreynolds@a2gov.org).

## **BICENTENNIAL BIKEPALOOZA** | *May 25, 12PM - 2PM | 350 S. Fifth Ave*

[Bikeapalooza](#) is an annual free, family friendly educational event celebrating downtown Ann Arbor's protected bikeway network. This year the event will be hosted on the City's birthday, May 25th! There will be cargo bike demos, giveaways, face painting, fun activities and more. The event will be located on the surface parking lot at the corner of William & Fifth (across from the library).

## **SUSTAINABILITY SERIES: REBATES AND HOME ENERGY ADVISOR** | *May 29, 6 - 7:30PM | Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown or Virtual*

The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Sustainability Series back for another season at the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library! Attend these public events to learn more and ask questions about exciting new programs, initiatives, and updates from our office and our amazing community collaborators. Session topics are below. [Please register for the virtual sessions](#) – registration is not required for in-person attendance.

## **SCRAP CREATIVE REUSE FUNDRAISER** | *June 9, 4PM - 6PM | Fowling Warehouse, 3050 Washtenaw Ave*

SCRAP Creative Reuse (formerly the Scrap Box) has been serving our community since 1983 in one form or another by re-purposing everything from manufacturing byproducts to donated crafting supplies. In addition to offering a source of materials supporting the circular economy, SCRAP sparks creativity with workshops at their store as well as activities for all ages at large public events. You can help SCRAP continue to thrive by attending their annual fundraiser on June 9! [Click here to purchase your tickets.](#)

## **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO IN THE FIELD**

The Office of Sustainability and Innovations is working with the Michigan League of Conservation Voters to ensure residents are aware of the federal funding incentives available to support residential decarbonization. This involves a community-wide door knocking campaign by members of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. If they haven't already been in your neighborhood, someone from the League will likely be coming by in the next several days, leaving a door hanger with more information. These individuals will be credentialed with identification badges. They will appear in blue "Energy Savings Now" vests and carry material that directs you to [michiganlcv.org/energy-savings](http://michiganlcv.org/energy-savings).