

# Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District February Newsletter

This Month's Theme: **Sustainable Food Systems**



*Food loss and waste is estimated to be roughly one third of the food intended for human consumption in the United States. When food is discarded, all inputs used in producing, processing, transporting, preparing, and storing discarded food are also wasted. Food loss and waste also exacerbates the climate change crisis with its significant greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint. Production, transportation, and handling of food generate significant Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and when food ends up in landfills, it generates methane, an even more potent greenhouse gas.*

The connection between food loss and waste and climate change is increasingly recognized as important and so is the link between climate change and agriculture and supply chain resiliency. We are increasingly seeing how extreme weather events are disruptive to both agriculture and supply chain resiliency. [read more](#)



**ANNOUNCING:** Ann Arbor/Washtenaw 2030 District and RESTART are launching a collaboration in 2024 to provide energy and water efficiency assessments for commercial food service establishments in Washtenaw County. The assessments will identify efficiency

measures, promote electrification and renewables deployment, and most importantly connect food service businesses with implementation resources. Additional collaborators include a University of Michigan SEAS Masters Project Team and Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovation's Sustainable Food Business Coalition. The RESTART and Ann Arbor/Washtenaw 2030 District collaboration has the potential to expand to small businesses and non-profits.



## Carbon Footprint

The way you eat can impact your personal carbon footprint.

[Use these calculators to see your footprint](#)



### Local Food

Know where your food comes from, how it is grown and who grows it.

Community Supported Agriculture ([list from 2023 AADL's CSA Fair](#)),

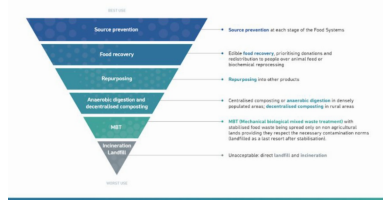
[Community Farm of Ann Arbor](#)

[Washtenaw Local Farmers Markets](#)

[Destination Ann Arbor list of Farms and Farmers Markets](#)

[Find local food online guide & map](#)

### Food Waste Hierarchy



[Reducing food waste at the local level: guidance for municipalities to reduce food waste within local food systems](#) (Slow Food / Zero Waste Europe)



[Waste MAP](#) (Waste Methane Assessment Platform) was created by RMI and Clean Air Task Force, with funding from the Global Methane Hub, to improve waste methane emissions transparency, highlight mitigation opportunities and best practices to reduce solid waste methane emissions. Includes a Decision Support Tool for users to run diversion scenarios.



["Common Ground" film trailer:](#) Regenerative farming practices improving soil health and sequestering carbon.



[Resources and Tips](#) for reducing food waste at home: from planning, to shopping and storing - plus recipes!

## Events



[Lunch and Learn: Implementing the A2 Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan Session 2:](#) All Electric Food Service Planning & Design for Sustainability - Case Study: UM New Central Campus Residential Development Food Service

Register

12 - 1 PM

[EIBC PUBLIC CONVENING | State Implementation - Home Energy Rebate Program:](#) Lunch, networking,

Tickets



and a public convening on state implementation of the Home Energy Rebate Program- including EGLE presentation and panel discussion.

12 - 2 PM



**SUSTAINABILITY SERIES:** OSI is bringing the Sustainability Series back for another season at the downtown branch of AADL! Join in person, or online, the last Wednesday of every month. You can register [here](#) for the virtual meetings, registration is not required to attend in person.

Register

6 - 7:30 PM

AADL in person/virtual options

- Feb. 28 – Home Energy Rating Disclosure
- March 27 – Circular Economy and e-Waste
- April 24 – A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Equity in Action
- May 29 – Rebates & Home Energy Advisor Services



**Multi-Family Quarterly Group Meeting:** Improve the efficiency of your apartment building at turnover. Develop your checklist to improve the energy and water efficiency of your apartment building with your maintenance staff. Kevin McNeely will address:

Register

12 - 1 PM

- Air Sealing
- Water Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency
- Tips to share with you tenants

A customizable checklist will be distributed to attendees following the session.



**The Future of Distributed Energy Systems - BOMA Conference - Washington DC** - Key Note Speakers: Heather Clark, Director for Building Emissions, White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, and U.S. Representative Sean Casten, Moderator: Dr. Nora Efram, Senior Director of Research at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

INFO



**Second Annual Climate Teach-In: Build Your Climate Action Toolkit**  
Keynote Speaker: United States Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, "Our Hopes for the Future" representatives of AAPS Freeman Environmental Youth Council, breakout sessions, "Community Solar and Other Initiatives" Missy Stults PhD, Director, Office of Sustainability and Innovations City of Ann Arbor, followed by networking.

INFO

1:30 - 5:15

Genesis of Ann Arbor

**2024 Hot Water Forum & Hot Air Forum** (reg registration ends 2/14)

INFO



Keynote: Honorable Stacey Abrams  
"Ensuring Equity in Household  
Weatherization and Electrification"

## News Corner



Conquer the Cold - Remember to track until February 15, 2024! Earn points and prizes for using the bus, walking, biking, or carpooling this winter. [Register and Learn more](#)



[Schedule of MPSC Meeting Dates](#)



### [A2 ZERO AMBASSADOR APPLICATION NOW OPEN!](#)

The A 2ZERO Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for interested individuals to dive deeply into pathways for advancing local sustainability initiatives, resilience, and carbon neutrality. To learn more about the program and apply to join the 6th Ambassador cohort, please visit [A2 ZERO Ambassadors](#).

*Applications open until February 14th at 5pm.*



[DTE EnergySmarts | Winter 2024 Article "Stay Cool With Refrigeration Rebates"](#) DTE is offering bigger incentives on some energy saving updates. [Read here](#)

## New Member Shoutouts

[Join the 2030 District and start your Zero Net Energy journey!](#)

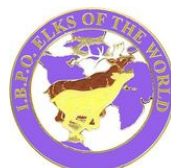
Property Owner/Manager



[University Towers](#)



[Samaritas](#)

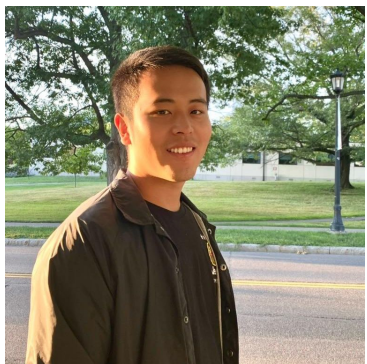


[Ann Arbor Elks James L. Crawford Lodge](#)

The team will work to identify opportunities and actions to assist in reducing emissions associated with Ann Arbor's bars and restaurants. They will work in collaboration with the Sustainable Food Businesses Coalition and RESTART, as well as the Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District Bar and Restaurant Group.



**Annie Smuts:** Annie Smuts is a first-year masters candidate at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability in the Sustainability and Development and Sustainable Systems specializations. She grew up in Troy, MI and graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Economics and International Studies in April 2023. She has a passion for sustainable agriculture and empowering the local food system. She has worked in food service since she was 15 years old, and during the summer of 2021, she worked at Blue Spring Farm through the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program and was particularly inspired by the process of growing and harvesting organic food. She is very excited to work with the Ann Arbor 2030 District and make an impact on the bars and restaurants she has loved to visit over the years!



**Yaorong (Leon) Liu:** Yaorong (Leon) Liu is a first-year Master of Science graduate student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, specializing in



**Zenghongli (Aslan) Zhou:** Zenghongli (Aslan) Zhou is a first-year Master of Science graduate student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) with a specialization in Sustainability and Development. He grew up in Chengdu, Szechuan, China, and came to the United States in 2018 to Rutgers University in New Jersey to pursue his bachelor degree of Mathematics in undergraduate experience. To make himself an interdisciplinary student, Aslan became interested in Mathematics, also Music History, Japanese, Economics, and minor in some of them. Additionally, by his hobbies and interests, he spent time in cooking school in China to learn cooking skills and wants to own a restaurant in the future. Also, Aslan takes a part time job in preowned car sales to help students in Ann Arbor to get more choices in car purchases. He is excited to be part of SEAS students at the University of Michigan and wants to learn more in the project working with Ann Arbor 2030 District to reduce the emission in Restaurants and Bars.



**Miriam Megdal:** Miriam is a first year masters student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability with a specialization in Sustainability and Development. She was born and raised in Athens, Georgia, and graduated from Furman University with a B.S. in Sustainability Science in 2022. She is deeply passionate about community-based sustainability, corporate responsibility, and climate adaptation. Before pursuing her masters, Miriam interned with Harper General Contractors, a construction and GC firm based in Greenville, SC, and assisted with benchmarking ESG practices and setting sustainability goals for the firm. Her New Year's Resolution is to try every restaurant in a square block radius in her neighborhood in Ann Arbor, so she's particularly excited to be a part of the Ann Arbor 2030 District team.



**Maithilee Kanthi:** Maithilee Kanthi is a first-year Masters of Science graduate student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, specializing in Sustainable Systems and Behavior,

Sustainable Systems. He grew up in Nanchang, Jiangxi, China, and is blessed with the opportunity to come to the United States to complete his B.A. in Environmental Studies at Boston College. With a passion for history and the environment, he completed his independent undergraduate thesis on the ecological history of the Three Gorges Dam—the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. He also served as one of the Boston College delegates to the UNFCCC COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt. He is fortunate to have become a graduate student at the University of Michigan and is excited to help Ann Arbor's local restaurants and bars reduce carbon emissions.

**Sarah Bibb:** Sarah Bibb is a first-year Master of Science graduate and fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. She has a specialization in Sustainable Systems and a major in the Environment. She grew up in Connecticut and has loved her time here in Ann Arbor. Sarah is highly passionate about sustainability and sustainable business and development. She has spent time with Sustainable Westport, a non-profit organization in Connecticut that is working to help the town of Westport meet its 2050 net zero emissions goal as well as educate the larger community on sustainability efforts. She looks forward to working with the Ann Arbor 2030 District team and learning more about restaurant sustainability and emission reduction.

Education, and Communication. She grew up in Cupertino, CA and got her B.A in Political Science and Global Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2020. Before coming to Ann Arbor, Maithilee lived in Madison, WI for a few years where she worked as the Climate Justice Organizer for Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy nonprofit. With over 5 years of experience in community organizing, stakeholder engagement, and science communication, Maithilee is thrilled to use her skills to help the restaurants and bars she's come to love in Ann Arbor become more sustainable.

## Member Resources



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

EGLE announces 2024 energy grants open for applications:

- \$250,000 available to small manufacturers to [implement process energy efficiency measures](#). Applications close March 3, 2024.
- \$150,000 available to local governments, tribal governments, and other public-service entities for [energy-related projects](#). Applications close March 30, 2024.
- \$100,000 available to small manufacturing related businesses for [implementing energy efficiency upgrade recommendations](#) following an environmental assessment. Applications close March 3, 2024.

ANN ARBOR/WASHTENAW



### Energy Management Grants

Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District 2024 Energy Management Grant Program. Member buildings are eligible for grant funding for Energy Audits, Retro Commissioning and Electrification Plans. We support you wherever you are on your carbon neutrality journey. Contact: [iculbertson@2030Districts.org](mailto:iculbertson@2030Districts.org) if you are interested in learning more.



### City of Ann Arbor Benchmarking Ordinance 2024

All commercial and multifamily parcels with buildings totaling 20,000 SF or more are required to benchmark by June 1, 2024. More information can be found [here](#), such as how to file for an extension and the covered buildings list. The A2 2030 District is here to help you through the process. Contact: [a2benchmarking@2030districts.org](mailto:a2benchmarking@2030districts.org)

Eliminate your Scope 2 emissions today by enrolling in [DTE's MIGreen Power Plan](#). It is now priced less than your regular power! Available for residential and business accounts. Contact [jculbertson@2030Districts.org](mailto:jculbertson@2030Districts.org) if you are a building owner/manager with multiple properties and the 2030 district can connect you with a MIGreen Power representative.



You can now follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!



Have feedback on website or newsletter?  
Please contact [karenthurman@2030districts.org](mailto:karenthurman@2030districts.org)

ANN ARBOR/WASHTENAW



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