

# MAY NEWSLETTER



2026 Michigan Healthy Climate Conference: "Advancing Climate Action Together" Photo credit: EGLE

## RESOURCES FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

*There is reason to hope and cause to act... As we find ourselves imminently closing in on 2030, cross-organizational and interdisciplinary collaboration – is crucial. Just as uniting the efforts of architects, landscape architects, planners, and engineers is essential in complex projects, it is now imperative for climate action. This newsletter is dedicated to resources for YOU to take action.*

### Washtenaw 2030 District 2025 Impact Report

Our report has just been release - be the first to read it [here](#).



### Architecture 2030: Beyond the Numbers



### Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan

The architecture profession is in the last mile of the path to zero operating emissions. Drawing on interviews with 39 practitioners across 31 firms and analysis of over 30,000 design projects, this report charts an Acceleration Pathway for closing the remaining distance.

This report centers on what firms can do now to move closer to zero operating emissions:

- Institutionalize cultural accountability
- Measure progress toward zero operating emissions in addition to energy efficiency
- Implement the path to zero operating emissions on every project

Two decades of engagement with the 2030 Challenge have systematized energy efficiency across the profession. The last mile extends that same systematic approach to electrification and renewable energy — the levers that complete the path to zero operating emissions.

### [AIA 2030 By the Numbers 2024](#)

The 2025 report is coming later this year.

### **Decarbonizing the Built Environment Through Heritage Toolkit**

The [Heritage Now! campaign](#) calls for policy transformation to accelerate heritage solutions in built environment climate action. Heritage Now! is part of the [Decarbonizing the Built Environment through Heritage](#) project led by Built Buildings Lab for the [Climate Heritage Network](#). Learn more about the project and the Climate Heritage Network's [Imagining Futures initiative](#) to get involved.

### **ICYMI**

On Thursday, March 26th, the University of Michigan welcomed **Paul Polman** to campus for the **24th Annual Wege Lecture on Sustainability!**

CSS Co-Director, Shelie Miller, shares her thoughts following the lecture: "It was an honor to introduce Paul Polman at this year's Wege lecture. Paul is an inspiration within the business community, demonstrating how to lead with purpose and vision. His talk showcased that sustainability values do not need to be sacrificed to run a successful enterprise."

### **Events**

### **(2026-2030)**

The ASLA Landscape Architecture Industry Report 2024 is a detailed assessment of the profession's financial health, workforce dynamics, and emerging trends. Get the Report "Our new plan represents a major shift. We know that the problems and solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises are intertwined.

[Read More](#)

### **MEP 2040 Whole Life Carbon Pilot**

In February 2025, [MEP 2040 launched its MEP Whole Life Carbon Pilot](#) program to address the lack of detailed, project-specific MEP quantity takeoffs and embodied carbon measurements. Leveraging the [Beginner's Guide v2 to MEP Embodied Carbon](#), the initiative aims to fill this gap and advance industry practices.

### **SE 2050**



### **CARE Tool 2.0**

The [CARE Tool](#) allows users to compare the total carbon impacts of renovating an existing building vs. replacing it with a new one. The new version to be released soon.

24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PETER M. WEGE LECTURE ON SUSTAINABILITY FEATURING





12-1 PM  
[Register here](#)

## Implementing the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan

### 2026 Session V: 2026 A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan Update

*Speakers: Missy Stults, PhD – Sustainability and Innovation Director, City of Ann Arbor; Sam Kachuck, PhD – Commercial Energy Analyst, City of Ann Arbor*

The City of Ann Arbor has set the goal of achieving community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. According to the City of Ann Arbor’s 2024 GHG Inventory buildings (including U-M) account for 67% of community emissions. In its 6th year of implementing the A2ZERO Plan, the Office of Sustainability will detail its progress and show how its climate action millage funds are being used to advance priorities for 2026-2027.

The City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability will share progress on plan strategies and goals as well as specific actions being undertaken to accelerate decarbonization in the built environment. The presentation will look at historic actions as well as those planned to be implemented over the next year, with a special focus on how architects, engineers and contractors are critical program collaborators.



### The Commuter Challenge

The Commuter Challenge encourages community members to choose sustainable transportation (such as walking, biking, carpooling, vanpooling, and using public transit) for travel to and from work.

*Have fun, build community, win prizes!*

Join the challenge [here](#).

### 2026 Michigan Energy Summit Efficiency Powering Progress

The full-day conference will highlight the *Michigan Battle of the Buildings 2025 'Biggest Losers'* for their outstanding energy conservation efforts.

Attendees will experience a comprehensive program, including a keynote speaker, main-room sessions, breakout sessions, a full exhibitor hall, and concluded with a happy hour sponsored by the Detroit Lions!

**Keynote: Vincent Martinez, Hon. AIA, EIT, CEO Architecture 2030**



**May 14 2026**

**8:30-4:30**

[Register Here](#)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual A<sup>2</sup>ZERO WEEK - May 31 - June 6

A week-long celebration of climate solutions and community in Ann Arbor. Activities for the whole family. Check out all the events [here](#).

### SAVE THE DATE - A WORKSHOP FOR MUNICIPALITIES

**Charged Up for Action! Electrification & Energy Transition Across Washtenaw County**

**June 4 2:00 - 4:30**

## SEU "Expression of Interest"

The City's new Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) is now accepting "Expressions of Interest" from *businesses and residents who would like to learn more* and potentially receive clean energy service from the SEU.

This form will register you for occasional news updates and will help the SEU to prepare deployment plans to bring solar, batteries, geothermal, and other energy services to our community. Please fill out the form [here!](#)



## New Members



[Aspen Ridge](#)



[Clarendale of Ann Arbor](#)



[Dexter Township](#)



[Blue Heron of Ann Arbor](#)



[Earhart Village Homes Association](#)



[Alpha Chi Omega](#)



[Nature Cove Condominium Association](#)



[Sloan Plaza](#)



[Riverside Park Place Condominium Association](#)



[Turnberry Village](#)



[Pattengill Condominium Association](#)



[Georgetown of Ann Arbor](#)



[Independence Condominiums](#)



[National Storage of Ann Arbor-  
Plymouth Rd](#)

## News



### Tribal Youth Step Up to Fight Wildfires in the American West

The Lomakatasi Restoration Project works to restore forest health and fight wildfires in the American West. In turn, it's providing jobs to tribal youth.

Native Tribes traditionally used “[cultural fire](#)” as a landscape stewardship tool — setting controlled burns to keep the forest floor clear of thick undergrowth to aid in hunting and encourage the growth of useful plants. For millennia, these regular, low-intensity fires kept forest growth balanced. [Recent research](#) finds that Indigenous- and community-managed lands experience far less forest loss than other areas, proving their role as some of the most effective land stewards.

[Read More](#)



### The Race to Resilience Culture (RTRC): Advancing Heritage-Informed, Community-Centered Climate Resilience | ICLEI USA

ICLEI USA and ICLEI Africa are marking a new milestone in the Race to Resilience Culture (RTRC) initiative with the release of a report that highlights how culture is already shaping climate resilience in practice.

From deconstruction policies in San Antonio to youth-led urban greening in Dar es Salaam and community networks in Cape Coast, local efforts are showing how culture supports climate action in ways that are durable, community-rooted, and ready to implement.

[Read More](#)



### San Francisco helps home child care centers wean off gas

[Low Income Investment Fund](#), a national community-development financial organization that is helping the Environment Department implement the program, has recently become acutely aware of how ubiquitous



### From Degraded Land to Thriving Farms: A Regeneration Story in Ghana's Cocoa Belt

Ghana has lost more than 13% of its tree cover to illegal cocoa farming alone. But some farmers are finding



### Shenzhen, China Pioneers 'Near-Zero Carbon Communities'

Shenzhen is implementing 113 near-zero carbon demonstration projects, an ambitious plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions,

these dangers are. “Most of these child care programs, they’re running their stoves more than half of the day, because they cook for the children”...

[Read More](#)

a better way - planting trees alongside cocoa to restore the land, enhance crop yields and grow their incomes.

[Read More](#)

reduce energy costs and expand parks and walkways. In the process, it's creating a blueprint for a modern green city.

[Read More](#)

## Resources

### Attention Municipalities: Community Energy Management Grant

1. Application: ***Opened 4/22/26 - Until funds committed***
2. Eligible applicants: local govt, tribes, or public service entity (not schools)
3. Grant award: \$5K (min) and \$50K (max, but no matching)
4. Reimbursement grant: need to spend \$ and submit invoices for reimbursement
5. Eligible projects include:
  - a. Energy efficiency upgrades to:
    - i. LED lighting in a building
    - ii. LED street lights or traffic lights
    - iii. HVAC replacement / upgrades / repair
    - iv. Window/insulation upgrade replacement / upgrades / repair
  - b. Purchase of plug-in hybrid or EV vehicle
  - c. Install rooftop solar (less than 60kW DC) on a govt. building

*Note:* Eligible expenditures include contractual services, supplies/materials, and equipment items. EGGLE WILL NOT FUND ANY EXPENDITURES THAT HAVE OCCURRED BEFORE A GRANT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN EXECUTED. [Learn more here](#)



### Tax Credits For Tax Exempt Entities

Elective Pay allows tax-exempt entities to take advantage of federal clean energy tax credits and receive payment for a portion of their clean energy projects that meet the program requirements.

#### Examples of eligible projects and purchases include:

Solar power  
Geothermal & Wind  
Energy storage/batteries  
EV purchases  
EV chargers

#### Eligible Entities:

Local and Tribal governments  
Non-profits  
Rural electric co-ops  
Houses of worship  
Public School Districts  
Community Colleges & Public Universities

#### [Do you think you have an eligible project?](#)

Contact Kim Heumann [heumannk@2030districts.org](mailto:heumannk@2030districts.org) Washtenaw 2030 District's Elective Pay Ambassador for Livingston, Jackson, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe for details and to find out if your **current** or **future** project qualifies.

### Attention Multifamily - Rebates for Multifamily Properties


The Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations, in partnership with DTE Energy, has launched [Insulate Ann Arbor](#); a rebate program designed to help multifamily rental properties reduce energy use and lower operating costs. [Insulate Ann Arbor](#) offers rebates for insulation and air sealing at multifamily rental properties in Ann Arbor— two of the most cost-effective ways multifamily properties can

reduce energy costs and comply with the City's [Green Rental Housing Ordinance](#). Up to \$75,000 or 50% of total project costs is available per property, with up to \$250,000 or 90% of total project costs available per income-qualified property. Funds are limited and rebate payments are dependent on fund availability. [Learn more here.](#)

### MI 2030 Districts Case Study Hub

Attention engineers and architects - You are invited to contribute your high performing/renewable energy projects. Please use the template (Submit a Case Study) to add yours.

<https://migbc.org/green-building-case-studies/>



**CLF** Carbon Leadership Forum

New Resource: [Existing and Emerging Strategies to Decarbonize Construction Materials](#)



#### 2026 Business Program

##### *Small Business platform*

- Major changes are the expansion of the Small Business catalog to include New Construction measures. These measures are designated by a wrench icon on the fact sheets.
- For the Midstream Lighting Program the major 2026 change is the removal of the Downlight Retrofit Kit from the program. These are no longer available due to the 2026 MEMD removing energy savings.

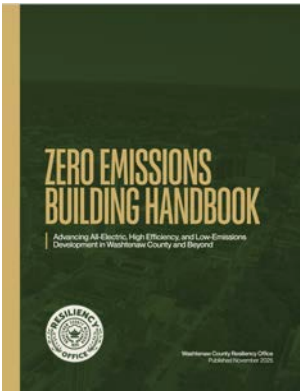
*Large Business platform* – the bonuses are stackable

##### **2026 contractor bonuses**

- 15% bonus on electric projects (April 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026)
- 10% bonus on electric projects (June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026)

##### **2026 customer bonuses**

- 10% bonus on long life measures (ends Nov 30, 2026)



### Washtenaw County Resiliency Office

#### Zero Emissions Handbook

In this handbook, you will find:

- Information on principles, features, and processes related to high-efficiency sustainable development projects;
- Guidance on addressing common challenges and barriers, from building codes and zoning restrictions to unlocking financing tools; and
- Case studies highlighting examples of high-efficiency buildings already built in the County.

### Energy Management Grants

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: [jculbertson@2030Districts.org](mailto:jculbertson@2030Districts.org) if you are interested in learning more.



The Washtenaw 2030 District is funded by our members, DTE, the City of Ann Arbor and EGLE. We are accelerating our work locally because climate change is a serious and immediate threat. Science, our community, and the global market place will not be deterred in accomplishing the energy transformation that is required for our planet's and nation's resilience.

Membership/  
Support Info

### Thank you to our Michigan 2030 Statewide Supporters

Gold Supporters



Silver Supporters



Supporters



Stay up to date with A<sup>2</sup>ZERO's newsletter and events [HERE](#)



BEACON Newsletter - Architecture 2030

Spotlighting the leaders who are designing built environments that support healthy, vibrant and equitable living, highlighting pockets of the future alive and thriving in the present. [Check it out here!](#)



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