

# MAY NEWSLETTER



## *Accelerating to Zero - Faster Together*



### **ACEEE 2024 City Clean Energy Scorecard**

The 2024 City Clean Energy Scorecard analyzes efforts by 75 of the most populous U.S. cities to advance clean energy goals by improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Scorecard found cities are embracing equity goals in their climate policies, but more progress is needed to turn those ambitions into reality.

[Read More](#)



### **Two Communities Find Electric Vehicle Options That Meet Local Goals Through Clean Energy to Communities**

When the Board of Commissioners for Washtenaw County, Michigan, approved a climate action plan in 2022, the county was uncertain what implementation steps it needed to take-and how to pay for all of it.



### **Timber construction begins at College of Pharmacy project | The University Record**

“Mass timber poses considerable environmental upside — both during the construction process and throughout a building’s life cycle,” said Shana Weber, associate vice president for campus sustainability.



The [2024 Commuter Challenge](#) runs May 1-31 and is meant to encourage participants to commute to work in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas by bike, bus, walking, and carpool instead of driving alone. Participants can log trips to become eligible for individual prizes and random drawings for gift cards to local businesses. [Sign up today!](#) It is easy to participate... sign up, invite your friends and co-workers, create or join a team, track your trips - even when you are working from home or working a compressed work week.. and have fun!

## Ann Arbor Ordinances



### Benchmarking Due Date

June 1, 2024: Buildings and campuses of buildings greater than 20,000 square feet are required to submit a benchmarking report to the City of Ann Arbor. For more information visit the [Energy and Water Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance Webpage](#).

Need assistance? We can help! Learn more about our support at [Join the District](#) - Free for Community Stakeholders - Property Owners, Managers and Developers.



### Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) Ordinance (eff. 3/12/24)

This policy will provide consumer protections for home buyers by helping them understand the energy efficiency of the homes on the market in Ann Arbor. Read the ordinance [here](#). Visit the City of Ann Arbor [website](#) to learn how to comply with the ordinance. [Schedule a free Home Energy Score](#).



### 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, please review the City of Ann Arbor's [gas leaf blower phase-out](#) and [pollinator aware lawn care](#) webpages.

### Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge (A2 GBC)

Launching in May 2024, the Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge (A2 GBC) presents a new



framework to recognize, support, and celebrate local businesses working to advance sustainability in the community.

Co-created by the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations and Ann Arbor SPARK, this new program will help local businesses:

- lower operating costs
- create a stronger brand
- build a more sustainable culture
- enhance employee and customer satisfaction
- reduce their environmental impact.

Join the launch Tuesday May 7 8:30am [Learn more](#)

The **Sustainable Food Business Coalition (SFBC)** has formed as a part of implementing the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO plan. Don't own or manage a food business? No problem... encourage your favorite establishments to collaborate and transform the food system together. For questions contact Azella Markgraf [AMarkgraf@a2gov.org](mailto:AMarkgraf@a2gov.org).

Our own [Bar and Restaurant Best Practice Group](#) invites restaurant owners to meet and address climate change through lowered energy and water use. This group will offer assistance with benchmarking and will connect business owners to resources for energy conserving measures. For more information contact Lissa Spitz [lissaspitz@2030districts.org](mailto:lissaspitz@2030districts.org).



## Events



**HoW and Non-Profits Green Team Meeting:** *on hiatus this month, next meeting at Annual Event*  
**\*\*Please see message from Murray below and consider attending the USGBC - West Michigan 2024 Energy Summit and the Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District 2nd Annual Event**

Our Green Team will be taking a hiatus from our bimonthly Zoom meetings. Our next meeting, originally scheduled for May 8th, conflicts with the [USGBC 2024 Energy Summit](#), which will be held in Grand Rapids. One of our congregations has been nominated in the Water savings category for the Battle of the Buildings Award. Genesis of Ann Arbor instituted water-use reduction measures, which resulting in a 60% reduction in water use. Please attend this one-day conference to learn about energy savings and to congratulate the winners.

The Green Team would like to make you aware of the following resources, to help you plan energy efficiency improvements to your buildings:

- [Washtenaw Houses of Worship and Nonprofits](#)
- [House of Worship Resources - Detroit](#)
- [Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)
- [GLREA - Support Renewable Energy](#)
- [Solar Faithful](#)
- ["It only makes sense": Houses of worship adding solar arrays | Interlochen Public Radio](#)
- [Houses of worship go solar](#)

The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) has also organized a sustainability group for Ann Arbor Houses of Worship. Please contact [Murray Rosenthal](#) for more

information on the Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District House of Worship and Non-Profit Green Team or ICPJ organizations. Anyone who has suggestions for future activities and learning opportunities, please contact Murray. If your congregation would like to share your story - possibly at the Annual Event - please contact Murray or [Karen](#).



**Implementing the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan Session 5: City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Progress.** Speakers: Missy Stults, PhD., Sustainability and Innovations Director, City of Ann Arbor and Andrew DeLeeuw Director of Strategic Planning and Interim Deputy County Administrator, Washtenaw County [Register here](#)



**Bicentennial Bikeapalooza** Hosted by Ann Arbor DDA and Bicycle Alliance of Washtenaw there will be cargo bike demos, giveaways, face painting, fun activities and more!! [Learn more](#)



**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Sustainability Forum: 6:00 - 7:30pm**  
Launching New Services: Rebates and Home Energy Advisor. You can register [here](#) for the virtual meetings, but registration is not required to attend in person. AADL downtown branch.



**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week -**  
Fun events for the whole family.  
Check the [website](#) for details and updates.



**Save the DATE - 2nd Annual Event 4:30 - 7:30pm**  
Workshops, Networking, Food and Awards  
WISD Teaching and Learning Center  
Contact [Karen](#) or [Jan](#) if interested in sponsoring.  
Workshop and registration information coming soon.



Are you a building owner who needs to comply with a mandatory benchmarking requirement? Do you have little or no experience using EPA's Portfolio Manager tool?

[Sign up for the 2024 series to attend live or find recordings and details.](#)

# MI HEALTHY CLIMATE CONFERENCE

MAY 16-17, 2024  
LANSING, MI

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is hosting this two-day conference to continue the mobilization of engaged stakeholders implementing the MI Healthy Climate Plan. Join us on May 16 and 17 to connect with thought leaders and professionals, discover solutions and opportunities, and accelerate action for healthier sustainable communities.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 8



For information and registration information, visit:  
[Michigan.gov/EGLEvents](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEvents)

JOIN US ONLINE--  
REGISTER AT  
[POCKETFORESTS.ORG](https://POCKETFORESTS.ORG)

OR SCAN HERE

**JUNE 18,  
7-8:30 PM  
EST**

## SMALL FORESTS, BIG BENEFITS

A free online forum exploring the planting of dense pockets of native trees and shrubs to address biodiversity loss, tree inequity, and climate change.

**KEYNOTE: DOUGLAS TALLAMY**  
PROFESSOR, AUTHOR, AND FOUNDER OF  
[HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK](#)

**PANELISTS:**  
GIULIANA CASIMIRRI, [GREEN VENTURE](#)  
CHRISTINE DANNHAUSEN-BRUN,  
[NORSDON GREEN EARTH FOUNDATION](#)  
MAYA DUTTA, [BIODIVERSITY FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE](#)  
NEELAM PATIL, [GREEN POCKET FORESTS](#)

michigan **EIBC** EGLE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

presents a  
**PUBLIC CONVENING**  
**MICROGRIDS TO IMPROVE  
RELIABILITY, RESILIENCY,  
AND EXPAND DISTRIBUTED  
ENERGY RESOURCES**

Join Michigan EIBC and Michigan EGLE for a public convening focused on opportunities for microgrids to improve reliability, resiliency, and expand distributed energy resources as well as on the barriers and opportunities associated with microgrid deployment in Michigan. This event will feature a panel discussion with Michigan EIBC members and a presentation from Michigan State University Professor Dr. Joydeep Mitra as well as lunch and networking opportunities.

May 2024  
Grand Rapids, MI

**22**

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**REGISTER**

## New Members

[The Ivanhoe Apartments](#)

Jayesh Properties

Pratt Building

WRW Properties



[A.F. Jonna](#)



[Applied Dynamics International](#)



[Hillside Investments](#)

## News



### Huron River Watershed Report Card

*How healthy is the Huron River watershed?* Find out from the first-ever Huron River Watershed Report Card released April 16, 2024 by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) and the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC).

It describes the ecosystem status and is intended to increase public awareness of the current situation, as well as to inform relevant decision makers. The Huron River Watershed includes Honey and Mill Creek, as well as the entire length of the river from the Upper Huron source waters to where the Lower Huron empties into Lake Erie. The Huron River Watershed received a C+, a "Moderate" health rating. You can look into the details [here](#).



### Congratulations SEAS Team on your graduation and thank you for your work on Resilient Washtenaw!

Please check out the new [Municipalities Group website](#) - there one can view the [team's final presentation](#), [download the toolkit](#) and access additional resources.

## Member Resources

DTE has energy saving programs for many property types.

Current bonuses for contractor projects (could be self-install):

- 20% refrigeration
- 40% exterior lighting
- 60% interior lighting

(Click on linked documents for contacts and more info.)

**Stay cool and save with a free A/C tune-up**

Book your **FREE CoolSaver A/C Tune-Up** today

Brought to you by DTE Energy



## DTE Multifamily Program Offerings

Make affordable energy efficient upgrades to increase your property value and reduce energy costs.

### No-cost energy assessment

#### Not sure where to start?

An energy advisor will complete a walk-through of your building to assess what energy efficient enhancements will work best for your property.

The energy advisor will inspect and evaluate:

- HVAC
- Plumbing equipment and fixtures
- Building envelope
- Insulation levels
- Windows and doors
- Lighting and electrical
- Major appliances

### Earn rebates

#### Prescriptive/Custom rebates

The DTE Energy Multifamily Program offers money back on upgrades to existing equipment located in individual units and common areas, including HVAC, interior and exterior lighting, and water heating products. To learn more about next steps and available products, visit [dteenergy.com/multifamily](https://dteenergy.com/multifamily)

#### Income-qualified rebates

The DTE Multifamily Program offers increased rebates for properties that meet income-qualified guidelines. For a detailed list of income-qualified and program rebates, visit [dteenergy.com/multifamily](https://dteenergy.com/multifamily)

Start saving today with the **DTE Multifamily Program!**

Call **866.796.0512**  
Email [dtemultifamily@michiganeficiency.com](mailto:dtemultifamily@michiganeficiency.com)  
Visit [dteenergy.com/multifamily](https://dteenergy.com/multifamily)



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

ANN ARBOR/WASHTENAW



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.

### Thank you to our 2030 Statewide Supporters

Supporters



Silver Supporters



ANN ARBOR/WASHTENAW



Ann Arbor / Washtenaw 2030 District | 115 E Liberty St | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 US

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