

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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Image: Bryant Neighborhood Source: City of Ann Arbor

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### THE GRID

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#### Clean Energy 101: Virtual Power Plants | RMI

Virtual power plants may be our most important and most overlooked domestic energy resource. Homes and businesses can make the grid more reliable, and get paid to do so, by forming virtual power plants.

[Read More](#)



#### Stored Potential | RMI

Data suggests utility-scale battery energy storage systems are becoming increasingly important for a safe, affordable, and reliable power system in the United States. Evidence-based assessment of the reliability, affordability, safety and community impacts of utility-scale battery energy storage systems.

[Read More](#)

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### Real World Examples of VPPs Helping the Grid

- **California's Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS):** During severe heat waves and high evening demand periods, this statewide program successfully discharged 535 megawatts of electricity back to the grid from aggregated home batteries—matching the output of a large fossil-fuel power plant without requiring new infrastructure investments.
- **Rocky Mountain Power Program:** Operating in Utah and neighboring areas, this utility-backed program lets customers with solar panels and battery storage feed

their stored energy into the greater grid during peak demand hours, lowering regional strain while rewarding participants with bill credits.

- **Arizona Public Service Co. (APS) Storage Rewards:** This program compensates residential battery owners who allow the utility to draw from their stored solar energy during hot summer afternoons when air conditioning loads peak across the desert Southwest.
- **Massachusetts Battery Discharges:** Homeowners enrolled in local VPP programs (utilizing devices like the Tesla Powerwall or Enphase IQ) discharge stored power during high summer stress events, earning hundreds to over a thousand dollars annually while preventing local brownouts.



## Building the Great American Grid | RMI

Reliable, affordable, and abundant electricity is increasingly foundational to the nation's economic growth, national security, and technological leadership, making grid expansion and modernization a national priority.

Five themes to accelerate interconnection, expand and optimize transmission, and plan for next-generation technologies - laying the groundwork for building the Great American Grid.

[Read More](#)



## The Terawatt-Hour Opportunity: Energy Storage on the U.S. Power Grid & the Pathway to an Affordable Energy Future | Energy Storage Coalition Report

Analysis finds energy storage offers the speed to power, reliability and flexibility to confront America's energy demand challenge while fortifying energy security, if policy and regulatory frameworks enable the industry to scale at the pace the U.S. power system demands.

[Read More](#)



[Read More](#)

## JPMorgan Is Talking About US Grid Risks 'Every Chance' It Gets

JPMorgan Chase & Co. will use New York climate week as a venue for establishing itself as the go-to bank for upgrading the US grid.

The US “faces a pivotal moment for grid modernization,” said Jon Creyts, chief executive of RMI. “The Great American Grid coalition will help identify practical, high-impact solutions to accelerate interconnection, expand and optimize transmission, and plan for next-generation technologies. These upgrades can change the game for energy security and US competitiveness.”

## SEU Update

*Bryant neighborhood pilot updates*

We currently have **85 Bryant customers officially signed up and 44 systems installed**, on track to meet our goal of 100 customers by the end of 2026!

*Our solar resources are growing!*

This month we received the delivery of **9 truckloads full of solar panels** (more than 6,000 panels with a total energy capacity of 3 MW) to be used in city-wide installations.

*Preparing for 2027*

We know you're waiting! We're working very hard behind the scenes to get ready to serve the whole community in 2027. **October's newsletter will be ALL ABOUT 2027: what we're doing to get ready, and what you can do to be ready for us to serve you, too!**

Subscribe to the SEU Newsletter for updates [HERE](#)

## Events



**12-1 PM**

[Register here](#)

### Implementing the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan 2026

**Session VIII:** Veridian: A New Benchmark for Sustainability

*Speakers: Matthew Grocoff, Esq. LEED-GA, LFA;*

*Geoff Ferrell, Senior Vice President of VPP and C&I Projects Business at sonnen Inc.*

Veridian at County Farm in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is a pioneering mixed-income, net-zero energy neighborhood designed using the framework of the International Living Future Institute's Living Community Challenge. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has just approved the neighborhood as a virtual power plant, an historic first in Michigan. The batteries work with the solar pv systems providing 24/7 access to stored clean energy to power the homes - day, night and critical loads during power outages.



**2-3:30 PM**

[RSVP here](#)

University of Michigan  
Campus Farm  
1800, N Dixboro Rd

### SFBC Q4 Gathering - Closing the Loop: Guided Farm Tour & Local Foods Discussion at UM Campus Farm!

The team at the University of Michigan Campus Farm has invited SFBC Members for a tour and local foods discussion! Jeremy and Haley will lead us on a tour of the Campus Farm, where we'll learn about how the Campus Farm and Michigan Dining are working together to supply farm-fresh food to the UM community while building healthy soil and reducing waste in landfills. Then, we'll gather at the Farm Structure for an open discussion about real-world strategies for building successful relationships between farms and food businesses.

This event is a follow-up to our February conversation at Echelon about local sourcing. We'll dive into the nitty gritty of collaborative menu and crop planning, food waste management, and scaling local food partnerships. There will be plenty of time to mix and mingle with like-minded peers interested in building a stronger, more sustainable local food system. We hope to see you there!



**6-7 PM**

### Community Carbon Offsets Meeting

Join us for an interactive discussion about community carbon offsets and the role they play in meeting our carbon neutrality goals. This interactive session will provide an opportunity for the public to share their thoughts and learn more about the City's climate goals and associated actions.

AADL Downtown - 4th Floor Meeting Room



It is not too late!  
Check out U of M Climate Week Events  
See the schedule [HERE](#)



**DTE** You're Invited  
Washtenaw County  
Customer Resource Fair and Open House

Monday, Oct. 5 | 3-6 p.m.  
Washtenaw Community College - Morris Lawrence Building  
4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor 48105

- Receive in-person support from DTE team members
- Access energy assistance and affordability resources
- Learn about DTE's reliability improvements across Washtenaw County
- Meet trusted, local organizations offering housing, food, financial, health and other community resources

Participating partners include the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, SOS Community Services, Food Gatherers, A Brighter Way and dozens of additional community organizations offering direct assistance onsite.

Complimentary food will be available.

For more information, please contact  
[DTEoutreach@dteenergy.com](mailto:DTEoutreach@dteenergy.com)



## New Members



[Ashley Mews](#)



[Chi Omega Sorority](#)



[CSL Management](#)

## News

**ANNOUNCEMENT: The Michigan Green Building Collaborative (MiGBC) is now accepting nominations for their 2026 Leadership Awards!**

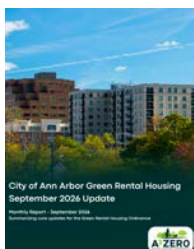


These awards recognize the people, projects, and organizations advancing sustainable, healthy, and high-performing buildings across Michigan.

NEW this year they will be accepting nominations for 6 different awards! These include:

- Energy Award
- Water Award
- Transportation Award
- Regenerative Design Award
- Changemaker Award
- Leadership Award

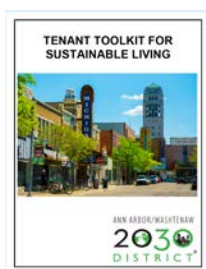
## Green Rental Housing September 2026 Update | A<sup>2</sup>ZERO



### Tenant Toolkit for Sustainable Living

Welcome your new tenant to Ann Arbor with this handy guide to sustainable living. Please feel free to add your logo to the lower left corner and substitute your property photo to the cover of the guide.

(<https://simplepdf.com/editor> if you need a free pdf editor)



### Recycling Raccoons

Brandable recycling resources from EGLE  
[Learn more](#)



[Read More](#)

## Energy Communities Bonus Credit

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 allows for increased credit amounts if certain requirements pertaining to energy communities are satisfied.

Types of energy communities that may qualify for a 10% bonus: Brownfield site, Statistical Area, and Coal Closure.

- **June 9, 2026 - June (tbd), 2027:** Washtenaw County is listed as eligible ([n-26-39-appendix-1.xlsx](#)). So for any of the projects that are completed in this time period qualify for the EC bonus and get an extra 10%!
- **For Future notices:** See this link [Energy Communities | U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)



## Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is offering \$10 million in grants to establish renewable energy and energy storage infrastructure on contaminated properties. The grants can be used for brownfield activities, site preparation, and energy infrastructure costs at properties with known contamination.

[Read More](#)

## The Global Benefits of Reducing Food Loss and Waste, and How to Do It | WRI

About 40% of all food produced globally by weight is wasted between farm and fork. That 40% could feed every food-insecure person three full meals a day, every day, for a year - with leftovers. If current trends persist, this waste will double by 2050. But imagine what we could achieve by getting more out of the food we already produce.

## Resources

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/>



### 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

#### Eligible Entities:

Local and Tribal governments  
Non-profits  
Rural electric co-ops  
Houses of worship  
Schools, Colleges & 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.



Carbon  
Leadership  
Forum

#### New Resource:

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



### Michigan Grants & Funding Opportunities: MI Funding Hub

Explore grants and funding opportunities on MI Funding Hub. Access technical assistance, grant details, and tools to empower your community.

[Read More](#)

### 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](#)



Stay up to date with A²ZERO'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!](#)



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

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