

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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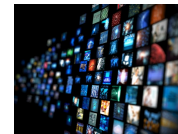
## NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO MEET CLIMATE CHANGE



### Vacuum Insulating Glass: Frequently Asked Questions

Learn more about the technology behind Enthermal™--the innovative new vacuum insulating glass option coming to Kolbe from LuxWall.

[Read More](#)



### RMI Welcomes Startups to Climate Tech Accelerator Third Derivative

Third Derivative, RMI's global climate tech accelerator, welcomed 18 new startups from six countries across four continents this week - including the accelerator's first-ever startup from New Zealand. "From scalable bamboo building systems to modular green hydrogen, recyclable wind turbines to zero-emission cooling, these startups represent the cutting edge of global climate tech innovation"

[Read More](#)



**Wood Insulation Guide -**



**Heat2O Commercial  
Water Heating |**



**World's largest sand battery**

## Pros, Cons, and Cost

Wood insulation has the same benefits that wood - one of the most traditional building materials - has always had: it is safe, natural, high performing, and renewable.

[Read More](#)

## Mitsubishi Electric HVAC US

An all-electric zero-emissions heat pump water heater designed to produce high volume domestic hot water. Highly energy-efficient and environmentally friendly

[Read More](#)

Finland has inaugurated an industrial-scale sand battery this week in the southern town of Pornainen, where it'll take over heating duties from an old woodchip power plant for the municipality. It's set to reduce carbon emissions from the local heating network by as much as 70%, and is the largest...

[Read More](#)

## ICYMI - Our 2024 Progress Report



*"Reflecting on 2024, it was truly a year of substantial progress on multiple climate fronts. Federal policy in 2025 has changed dramatically, but state, county, and local governments continue implementing climate policy to meet climate goals. Our district funding remains in place, enabling us to continue our work, thanks to **YOU**, our members, professional stakeholders, State-wide sponsors, EGLE, DTE and the City of Ann Arbor." - Jan*

Get the report [HERE](#)

## Act NOW - Clean Energy Tax Credits

*If you are planning to install a solar system, take action **NOW** to take advantage of the current tax credits or direct pay provisions that are being phased out.*

Important tax credit dates:

- *Clean-vehicle credits for vehicles **purchases completed by September 30, 2025.***
- *Residential solar tax credit for systems **placed in service before midnight on December 31, 2025.***
- *Commercial and utility-scale projects, projects must either begin construction within 12 months of the bill's passage, or be placed in service by the end of 2027 to qualify for the full credit.*

If you have a *commercial, municipal or non-profit building*, apply for a free technical assistance from the 2030 District at this link: <https://2030districts.org/annarbor/a2-area-commercial-solarize-landing/>.

If you are a *home owner*, the City of Ann Arbor has two solarize meetings scheduled—*anyone in Washtenaw County* is eligible to be included: refer to this [link](#) or contact Connor Dailey for more details [cdailey@a2gov.org](mailto:cdailey@a2gov.org).

Resources from Rewiring America: [Support / Guidance / Electric Tax Credits](#)

## Events



12-1 PM

[Register here](#)

## Implementing the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan 2025 Session VII: High Performance Glazing Technologies and Vacuum Insulated Glass *Speakers:* Scott Thompson, Co-founder & CEO LuxWall, Inc. **R-18 and R-23 glazing is now available AND it is manufactured in MICHIGAN!**

Evolving energy standards and architectural trends put greater emphasis on glazing performance than ever before. This course reflects on traditional glazing systems, limitations, and opportunities to dramatically improve the thermal efficiency of the building envelope through emerging technologies. Attendees will gain insight into how glazing systems affect overall wall performance and a core understanding of high-performance glazing components & assemblies including vacuum insulated glass. Architects will learn how to evaluate and specify these products to meet specific project requirements, enhance building performance, and increase occupant comfort.



**SEPT 20th 12-2 PM**  
350 South Fifth Avenue  
(William and 5th)

[FREE - RSVP](#)

Annual family-friendly event celebrating downtown's protected bikeway network! There will be live music, giveaways, face painting, fun activities, and more!



**SUN Day - A Multifaith Day of**





# Green Fair

**September 19, 2025**  
5 - 8 PM, Main Street Ann Arbor

**Highlights include:**

- Meet 'n Greet with A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Staff and Collaborators
- Electric Avenue: all-electric appliances & lawn equipment demonstrations
- Electric car & bicycle ride and drive
- Clothing swap: trade in materials & receive new-to-you ones
- Bike parade for the planet
- Learn how to get involved and sign-up for a multitude of sustainability activities
- And more!

[osi.a2gov.org/greenfair](https://osi.a2gov.org/greenfair)


Join us for this annual event celebrating & featuring 100 exhibitors advancing sustainability in Ann Arbor!

## Climate Hope and Inspiration

As part of the [national SUN DAY climate initiative](#), representatives from many local faith communities will share their inspiration and actions to address climate change.

*Location: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor*

Program: 2-3:30, optional tour to follow  
*Keynote Speaker: Shoshannah Lenski, Executive Director, City of Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility.* [More INFO](#)  
[Registration Required](#)



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
**CLIMATE WEEK 2025**


**TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW**  
 SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 5  
[climateweek.umich.edu](https://climateweek.umich.edu)

23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL PETER H. WEGE LECTURE  
 ON SUSTAINABILITY FEATURING

**JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

FORMER U.S. ENERGY SECRETARY, FORMER GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN

**POWERING TOMORROW,  
 TOGETHER: UNITING FOR  
 A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE**



**Wege Lecture**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 30 5:30 PM**  
**Free - [Tickets Required](#)**

## New Members



[WD Schorsch](#)



[Sylvan Township](#)

[202 E. Washington](#)



[Forge Property Management](#)



*Hillside Terrace*  
SENIOR LIVING



[Mid-America Group](#)

[Hillside Terrace](#)



[Mapleridge Apartments](#)



[Mullberry Row Apartments](#)



#### **IKYMI - OPPORTUNITY**

*I'm looking to partner with few Ann Arbor food service businesses interested in getting hands-on support in implementing sustainable initiatives on-site.*

[MORE INFO](#)

Katya Deckelbaum- I'm a senior at the University of Michigan pursuing a double degree in Environmental Science and International Studies. With the support of the UM PitE department, the 2030 District, the Green Business Challenge, and A<sup>2</sup>ZERO, I will be providing FREE support to local food service businesses to further sustainability initiatives based recommendations from the [Food Service Sustainability Roadmap](#), developed last year. This work will culminate in a senior honors thesis that will compile our progress, impact, and further recommendations in a report.

## **News**



### **Green Upgrade Calculator 2.0 - RMI**

This user-friendly calculator helps energy professionals assess the economic and environmental impacts of green home and transportation upgrades.

Upgrades in 2.0 include calculations for



### **Kaiser Borsari Hall Redefines STEM Building Design with Mass Timber - ULI**

A first-of-its-kind, net zero energy and carbon STEM building, Kaiser Borsari Hall

geothermal heat pumps, more precise outputs and refinement options.

[Read More](#)



### Grand Rapids, MI Creates Cities First Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan can be reviewed on the site. Also available is a video containing the CAAP Overview Presentation by Chief Sustainability Officer Annabelle Wilkinson.

[Read More](#)

(Western Washington University) uses mass timber to set new standards for sustainable lab design while exemplifying inclusive student environments, industry collaboration, and financial innovation.

[Read More](#)



### Introducing 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.

[Read More](#)

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## Member Resources



### DTE 2025 Programs

[Electric Customer Bonus](#)  
[Gas Customer Bonus](#)

**We have a **free resource** that will help your business with:**

**A2 Green Business Challenge (A2GBC)**

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.

[Learn more](#)

### Rebates Renewed and Updated

As of July 1, 2025, all Home Energy Rebate categories have been refreshed. Categories that ran out of money in the previous fiscal year are open and available to be drawn from again. Households can get tens of thousands of dollars in rebates! Learn more and finance your home energy improvements



### Commercial EV Charger Program

Applications for the City of Ann Arbor's Commercial EV Charger Program are now live! With the goal of increasing the availability of publicly accessible EV chargers, the Commercial EV Charger Program provides an opportunity for commercial and multifamily property owners in Ann Arbor to receive up to four FREE level 2 EV chargers. To learn more about the program and view the application, visit [osi.a2gov.org/evchargerprogram](https://osi.a2gov.org/evchargerprogram).

### Electric Lawn Care Equipment Discount Program Electric Leaf Blower Rebate Program

You can learn about the "Gas Leaf Blower Phase Out" and see programs that are available to help make the transition. Be sure to watch the [Green Light](#) Episodes about "Electric Lawn Care" and "Pollinator Aware Yard Care"

**Electric Leaf-blower compliance:** The use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited within Ann Arbor city limits June 1 – September 30, 2025. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health and welfare of Ann Arbor residents 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. You can report violations of the ordinance to the Ann Arbor Police Department Community Standards at (734)-794-6942. If you are interested in learning more about the ordinance, alternatives to gas leaf blowers, or sustainable lawn care, we recommend taking a look at our gas leaf blower phase-out website at [osi.a2gov.org/leafblowers](https://osi.a2gov.org/leafblowers).



### A²ZERO Heat Pump Concierge

OSI is delighted to announce our new A²ZERO Heat Pump Concierge, where users can input home information to generate initial heat pump system design options in a process that takes approximately five minutes. Together, this information aims to empower residents to choose the heat pump that's right for them, including any and all necessary improvements that might be needed as part of transitioning from fossil gas heat to heat pumps. The entire process is free for Ann Arbor residents. Learn more at [osi.a2gov.org/HeatPumpConcierge](https://osi.a2gov.org/HeatPumpConcierge)!

### Commercial Benchmarking

The June 1, 2025 reporting deadline for the City's Benchmarking Ordinance has now passed, **and the City is starting enforcement for out-of-compliance properties**. If you have not started benchmarking, the Ann Arbor/Washtenaw 2030 District offers free support through every step of the process. If you have started benchmarking with the 2030 District but do not know if you are fully compliant, reach out to the 2030 District staff member you are working with to check your property's status. If you have any questions for the City, you can reach them at



734.794.6000 x 43743, [benchmarking@a2gov.org](mailto:benchmarking@a2gov.org), or by [grabbing a meeting with the City on Teams/Zoom/Phone](#).

More information about the ordinance, including data disclosure timelines and links to more technical assistance resources, are available on the City of Ann Arbor's [website](#).

We are here to help too (its free) !

Start benchmarking with an [appointment with the A2 / W 2030 Benchmarking](#) team.

## 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



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 A2ZERO's newsletter and events [HERE](#)



ANN ARBOR/WASHTENAW



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