

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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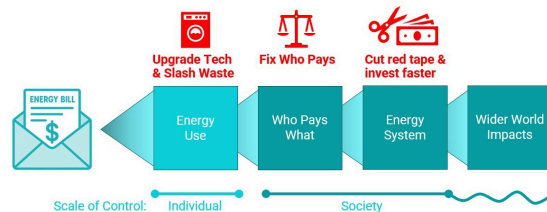
HOUSING MATTERS



5-Year Affordable Housing Millage Report | City of Ann Arbor

Partners for Affordable Housing proposed a millage to fund construction, preservation, and acquisition of affordable housing, along with support services for low-income individuals and families at 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or less. The proposal set forth a clear goal - add 1500 affordable homes in the City of Ann Arbor in 20 years.

[Read More](#)



Affordability 101: Can We Cut American Energy Bills in Half? | RMI

As people throughout the United States worry about the cost of energy, it's time to solve the problem. Energy affordability is now a national concern, and many energy experts are saying we'd be lucky to stabilize costs, that cutting bills isn't even possible. That's wrong. We can actually cut energy bills a lot.

[Read More](#)



August 2026 GRH Report.pdf

As part of our commitment to transparency around the Green Rental Housing Ordinance (GRHO), the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) is committed to providing monthly updates to the Renters Commission and Sustainability Commission, with a larger annual report at the conclusion of the first year. At that time, OSI will evaluate whether it is more appropriate to move to quarterly reports or maintain monthly reports to the commission. Regardless of the decision, annual reports will continue each year with the year commencing on January 6.

[Read More](#)

Multifamily / Green Rental Housing Resources

[EGLE: Michigan Home Energy Rebates \(MiHER\) Program](#)

(income qualification 150% median)

[DTE Multi-family Program](#)

(buildings with 3 units or more)

[Ann Arbor DTE Insulate Ann Arbor Program](#)

(buildings with 3 units or more)

[DTE Home Energy Rebates](#)

(condos/duplexes/single family)

[City of Ann Arbor Home Rebates](#)

(condos/duplexes/single family)

Multifamily 2025 Building Performance

How are 2030 District member multifamily buildings performing?

There is a wide range of performance—generally, if your building's energy use intensity **(EUI) is above 60 kbtu/SF** you have **potential for energy savings** projects!
Titles (and images) link to a short snapshot of each building type's EUI and WUI (Water).

Contact Ben Rose bros@2030districts.org to schedule a building or portfolio review.

[Highrise \(10+ stories\)](#)



[Midrise \(5-9 stories\)](#)



[Lowrise campus \(1-4 stories\)](#)

[Lowrise individual \(1-4 stories\)](#)



Low embodied carbon housing resources for architects

Housing Factsheets:

- [Embodied carbon 101 for housing](#)
- [Environment Product Declaration 101 for Housing](#)
- [Building Life Cycle Assessment 101 for Housing](#)
- [Housing guide for drawings and specifications](#)
- [Low Embodied Carbon specification section templates](#)

Events



12-1 PM
[Register here](#)

Implementing the A²ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan 2026 **Session VII: How Geothermal Systems are transforming building design**

Speaker: Troy Foster, PE, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Strategic Energy Solutions

Join Troy Foster, Geothermal Subject Matter Expert with Strategic Energy Solutions (SES), to explore the growing role of geothermal energy in today's built environment. This presentation will provide an overview of geothermal heating and cooling systems, impacts to mechanical equipment layout, phases of construction unique to geothermal projects, real-world project examples, and key early design decisions. We will also discuss how these systems can support sustainability and long-term operational savings.

Attendees will gain insight into current tax credits, rebates, and other financial incentives that can help make geothermal solutions more accessible and cost-effective. Learn how geothermal can help deliver high-performance, low-carbon buildings while improving long-term value for clients. Ideal for owners, architects, designers, and building professionals interested in sustainable design.

A²ZERO Green Fair **September 18th 5-8 pm**

Attend Ann Arbor's annual street fair celebrating sustainability, community, and climate action! Visit our five theme areas to explore how you can be part of a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. Free and open to all! [Learn more](#)



Zero Waste Fall Festival at Kiwanis | SUNDAY 9/27 | 12 - 3 pm

Join for an afternoon of live music by Laz from Gemini, donuts, cider, screen printing, games, goats and more family-friendly fun! Kiwanis Thrift Sale will be open for shopping and behind-the-scenes tours of their operations that saves thousands of items from the landfill each year. Attendees will also have an opportunity to learn more about Ann Arbor's circular economy through activities like free clothing repair, food waste trivia and reusable grocery bag making workshops by engaging with local businesses and organizations including the Hands-On Museum, Maker Works and All Hands Active. More information at TrashTalkTour.Org and register [here](#) for a chance to win prizes and gift cards.

GROUNDING RESISTANCE



2026 Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit

September 28-29, 2026

Two inspiring days with four sessions focused on how we can engage the world from a place of deep grounding, collective support and sustained resistance.

Free Registration: aes-summit.org

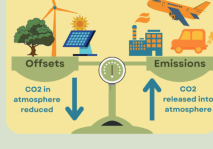


Bill McKibben,
Our Keynote Speaker

**GIVE US YOUR
THOUGHTS ON CARBON
OFFSETS**

We just kicked off public engagement on carbon offsets and want your feedback! Check out our Engage A2 page for details about upcoming events and ways to share your thoughts!

Carbon offsets balance carbon emissions to fight climate change.



Engage on this important topic by scanning the QR Code and taking our short survey.



Survey closes on Sept 4th, 2026

<https://engage.a2gov.org/carbon-offset-program>



Carbon Offsets Survey

The City is ready to talk carbon offsets!

Visit osi.a2gov.org/offsets to learn more about carbon offsets OR visit engage.a2gov.org/carbon-offset-program to share your thoughts on this key piece of our community's climate action work!

New Members



[Steiner School of Ann Arbor](#)

News

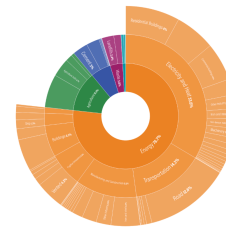


Clearing the Air on Reclaimed Refrigerant - Evidence of performance parity with virgin refrigerant

Refrigerants are essential to the operation of air conditioning, refrigeration, and heat pump systems that support modern life. As cooling demand grows and electrification of heating accelerates, the total stock of refrigerant-containing equipment is expected to increase, both in the United States and worldwide. At the same time, a large and long-lived base of existing equipment will continue to require ongoing servicing.

Yet many commonly used refrigerants are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which have a global warming potential (GWP) hundreds to thousands of times higher than carbon dioxide. As a result, they contribute disproportionately to greenhouse gas emissions.¹

[Read More](#)



Where Do Emissions Come From? These Charts Explain Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector | WRI

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are rapidly warming the planet. But where do they come from? WRI experts explain which sectors emit the most GHGs.

[Read More](#)



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](#)

Resources

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/>



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 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.



New Resource:

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

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 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 Sponsors



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!](#)



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