

THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A²ZERO AND
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



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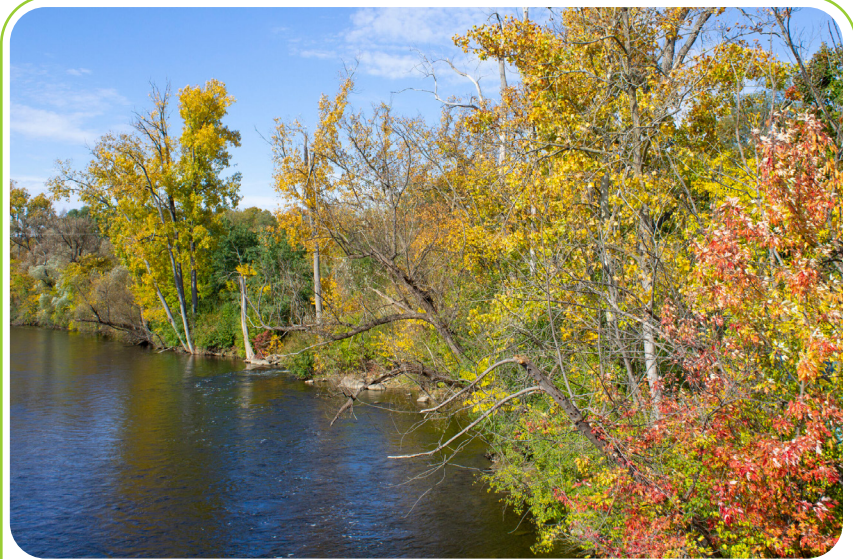
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ABOUT THE EDITOR



Grace Franke (she/her) is the Communications Coordinator for OSI and delights in putting together these newsletters to share with you. When not working on the newsletter, she can be found running the A²ZERO social media accounts and supporting communications throughout the office. Happy Pride!



The Huron River as seen from Broadway Street in Ann Arbor.

WELCOME

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor’s Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this issue of the Charging Station, OSI is delighted to share details about the Year Four A²ZERO Annual Report. If you are interested in learning more about any of the organizations featured in this issue and how you can get involved, more detail can be found on our website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor, and we hope to see you at one of our many [A²ZERO Week](#) events!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A²ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we’d like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO

Four years ago this month, Ann Arbor's climate action plan, known as A²ZERO, was adopted. This plan sets the foundation for how, as an entire community, Ann Arbor will achieve a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030. Below, we provide highlights from the Annual Report, which covers the work accomplished over the last year, drawing attention to the new initiatives, strengthened collaborations, and demonstrative progress made on our shared climate journey. To learn more, check out the [Annual Report here](#).

Strategy 1: Powering Our Electrical Grid with 100% Renewable Energy

- Installation of over 250 kW of rooftop and ground mounted solar at: Leslie Park Golf Course, Huron Hills Golf Course, Cobblestone Farm, Buhr Park, Ann Arbor Senior Center, Gallup Canoe Livery and Fuller Park. See all the City sites with solar at [A²ZERO Dashboard](#).
- Actively working to design over 4MW of additional solar on city facilities and secured a \$2.5 million dollar federal grant to support solar expansion.
- Supported the installation of 231 solar systems (over 1.8 MW) across Ann Arbor in calendar year 2023 through the Ann Arbor Solarize program, the highest number of installations in a single calendar year.
- Published an [Advancing Sustainability with Your MUD or HOA](#) that includes tips for expanding access to solar and electric vehicle charging in multi-unit developments (MUD) and buildings within a home owners association (HOA).
- Awarded \$70,000 grant to design a microgrid at Veterans Memorial Park and Fire Station 3.
- Conducted technical study and rate analysis for a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU).
- Supported the State of Michigan's clean energy bill package which is putting the state on a path to 100% clean electricity by 2040.
- Launched a [call for public comment](#) on the scope for a Phase II Municipalization Study authorized by Council in May 2024 to conduct a detailed valuation of DTE's electric assets in Ann Arbor.
- Secured funding and began actively working to transition the Bryant Community Center into the City's first fully carbon neutral building as well as a living, learning laboratory of decarbonization in action.
- Initiated work on a city-wide networked geothermal study to understand the potential for geothermal systems to support the decarbonization of heating and cooling systems in the city.

Strategy 2: Switch our Appliances and Vehicles from Gasoline, Diesel, Propane, Coal, and Natural Gas to Electric

- Achieved 25% electrification of City's light duty fleet vehicles – aiming for 50% by end of calendar year 2024.
- Purchased the State of Michigan's first all-electric refuse trucks!
- Installed and began operation of **the State of Michigan's first curbside public L2 chargers in Ann Arbor** and working on strategy to design and install more.
- Began designing a district geothermal system in the Bryant neighborhood through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. This system is being designed to cover at least 75% of the heating and cooling load for 262 households, the County Mental Health facility, Bryant Elementary School, the Bryant Community Center, and the City's public works facility.
- Supported the [gas leaf blower phase-out ordinance](#) by launching a new website, a series of educational materials, and personalized outreach. Preparing to launch a bulk buy program for electric yard equipment in late 2024.
- Initiated a 3-year contract with Elevate to design and launch a Home Energy Rebate program to increase the affordability of building electrification, building efficiency, and e-bikes. Local rebate program to launch in summer of 2024.
- Designed an EV charger discount program for multi-family and commercial property owners. The program is slated to launch in summer of 2024.
- Initiated work on a new heating franchise, focusing on finding pathways to equitably, affordably and reliably decarbonize heating and cooling in Ann Arbor.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO

Another Strategy 1 Accomplishment:

Launched community education and engagement initiative regarding the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU), an optional, supplemental, and community-owned utility authorized to deploy renewable energy in Ann Arbor. **Voters will have the opportunity to vote on whether the City should create an SEU on November 5th.**

Below is the specific ballot language voters will see in November.

The City of Ann Arbor proposes to create within its boundaries an opt-in, publicly owned Sustainable Energy Utility ("SEU") to (i) supply, generate, transmit, distribute, and store electricity, heat, cooling, light, and power (solely from renewable sources); and (ii) provide energy-related services. The SEU could, for example, provide individual or networked rooftop solar panels, heat pumps, geothermal systems, or batteries to customers to supplement existing utility services. The SEU will be fee-based. This proposal does not authorize new taxes.

Shall the Charter be amended to authorize the City to establish, construct, own, and operate an opt-in Sustainable Energy Utility?

More information about the SEU can be found at www.a2gov.org/a2seu. In addition, we will dedicate a portion of a future edition of the Charging Station to the SEU so stay tuned for more.

Strategy 3: Significantly Improve the Energy Efficiency in our Homes, Businesses, Schools, Places of Worship, Recreational Sites, and Government Facilities

- Launched the A²ZERO Home Energy Advisor service to help residents determine their next best step on the path to decarbonization. This free service is available to anyone in the City of Ann Arbor.
- Secured grant funding and actively working to transition all streetlights in the City to LED.
- Launched **the Home Energy Rating Disclosure** and hired two assessors to help complete Home Energy Scores.
- Authorized over \$4,000,000 in funds to be used for residential rebates in the coming 2.5 years.
- Expanded weatherization services through grant to Washtenaw County's Office of Community and Economic Development with a goal of designing new support programs to help income-qualified residents fully decarbonize their homes.
- In partnership with Community Action Network, **secured over \$1,300,000 for Bryant neighborhood decarbonization project** to help residents reduce their energy usage while also continuing public engagement and fundraising
- Launched **the Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge** in partnership with SPARK. The Green Business Challenge promotes, recognizes, and supports local businesses with improving the sustainability of their operations and businesses. This program is open to anyone in the City.

TODAY: INDIVIDUAL SOLAR

Current Scenario, No Outages

● DTE ● Solar



Current Scenario with DTE Outages



POTENTIAL: SHARED SOLAR

SEU Scenario, No Outages

● DTE ● SEU



SEU Scenario with DTE Outages



ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO

Strategy 4: Reduce the Miles we Travel in our Vehicles by at least 50%

- Funded or supported the installation of 12.1 miles of bike facilities and 21 bike intersection improvements.
- **Supported the reintroduction of the shared micromobility program** (including adding in e-bikes). There are 450 scooters and 100 e-bikes in the system, logging over 214,000 shared micromobility trips in 2023 (a 21% increase from the previous year).
- Supported the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority (TheRide) with undertaking a zero-emissions propulsion study and applying for a grant to purchase their first zero emission buses.
- Undertaking a detailed update to the City's comprehensive land use plan. The three core tenants of the plan are affordability, equity, and sustainability.
- Filled 1.39 miles of sidewalk gaps and installed 13 new crosswalks, and 2 new Audible pedestrian signals.
- Promoted ridership on bikeways, with the downtown bikeways attracting over 100,000 users between September and January.
- **Ann Arbor was recognized as a Gold-level "walk friendly" community** by the Walk Friendly Communities program – one of only 23 in the country.
- **Ann Arbor received Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community designation** from the League of American Bicyclists.



Ann Arbor Climate Corps and Natural Area Preservation team members working together in November 2023.

Strategy 5: Change the Way We Use, Reuse, and Dispose of Materials

- **Launched the [Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition \(SFBC\)](#)** to coordinate with the private sector in advancing sustainability across the entirety of Ann Arbor's food system.
- Launched [circular economy planning initiative](#) in coordination with local resident advisory commission with the goal of creating a circular economy development strategy within the next 12-18 months.
- Applied for a grant for a refrigerant recycling and replacement program, focusing on supporting small, local businesses with reducing refrigerant emissions.
- Continued hosting [Neighborhood Swap Days](#), collaborating with Community Action Network, Church of the Good Shepherd, Ann Arbor Public Schools, and ZeroWaste.org to reuse more than 6,800 items through this program.
- **Held the second annual [Local Food Festival](#)** to celebrate the thriving local food ecosystem.
- Updated the [circular economy GIS map](#) to highlight businesses and organizations in Ann Arbor working to advance the circular economy.
- Supported move-in/move-out days at the University of Michigan to re-purpose and donate materials and supplies from transitioning students (as opposed to seeing that material thrown away).
- Launched the "[More Life, Less Stuff](#)" social based marketing campaign that compiles stories from community partners and residents about reducing waste and engaging more with the world around them.



Community tree planting event in the Bryant Neighborhood, October 2023.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO

Strategy 6: Enhance the Resilience of Our People and Our Place

- Reached 8,903 trees planted/distributed through the 10,000 Trees Initiative. 2,862 people have received a tree through the initiative.
- Won a \$1,000,000 grant in conjunction with Forestry and Natural Areas Preservation (NAP) from the USFS for a comprehensive tree canopy analysis, tree planting and maintenance in under-served neighborhoods, and critical stewardship work in our Natural Areas.
- Won a \$1,000,000 U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Government-to-Government grant to start a Model Regional Resilience Network and expand Resilience Hubs in the City and throughout Washtenaw County.
- Peace Neighborhood Center and Ann Arbor Housing Commission's Green Baxter Court community center determined as the next two Resilience Hub sites in Ann Arbor with initial engagement and planning underway.
- Purchased a mobile nanogrid to provide sustainability-related education while also serving as a source of back-up power for critical city facilities.
- Continued promotion of the Pollinator-Aware Yard Care program; registered 396 addresses as participants and distributed yard signs to 332 participants.
- Conducted two pilot battery back-up Solarize bulk buys, leading to 37 battery back-up systems installed while saving residents \$101,650 on upfront installation costs.
- Launched 6th A²ZERO Ambassadors cohort – marking our 100th Ambassador trained!
- Launched the Green Energy Neighbors initiative in collaboration with the A²ZERO Ambassadors. Green Energy Neighbors hosted (and continue to host) Ann Arbor Solar Stories and local Climate Reality Project meetings.
- Increased capacity of solar and battery storage systems at Bryant Community Center to ensure this resilience hub can provide 3-days of power with no grid connection.
- Added battery storage system for backup power at Ann Arbor Senior Center.

Strategy 7: Other Strategies (notable accomplishments or efforts)

- Launched the A²ZERO Dashboard showing progress on implementing the A²ZERO plan.
- Launched the Ann Arbor Climate Corps program, a national AmeriCorps program that specifically supports education and behavior change related to creating a more sustainable future.
- Ann Arbor recognized by the CDP as one of 119 global cities named climate action leaders on the CDP 2023 A List.
- Expanded the A²ZERO Community Collaborators network to over 130 organizations!
- Formalized the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant program and granted \$80,000 through the program.
- Worked with regional stakeholders to explore the feasibility of a regional climate collaborative to foster greater coordination and collaboration to equitably decarbonize the region.
- OSI launched its own social media channels on Instagram and Facebook!
- Began airing Green Light, a recurring show on CTN, which features residents who are envisioning, creating, and establishing a sustainable and equitable future for the community.
- Staff presented at over 30 conferences or national webinars about various programs and initiatives.



Dr Missy Stults speaking at the Climate Teach-in, March 2024.

YEAR FIVE PRIORITIES

LOOKING AHEAD TO WHAT A²ZERO CAN ACCOMPLISH NEXT

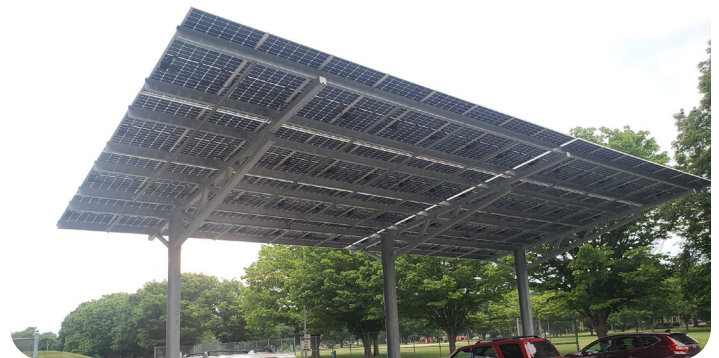
As illustrated above, year four was a busy year. But year five is slated to keep pace with the following priorities identified:

- Support the education, engagement, and potential launch of a local Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility.
- Create a new Green Rental Housing program and support local property owners with making substantial improvements in rental efficiency.
- Scale the Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge to 50 local businesses.
- Install solar or have a plan to install solar at every viable city facility.
- Launch sustainable food strategy.
- Create and begin executing an electric vehicle charger deployment strategy.
- Launch a youth A²ZERO Ambassador program.
- Deepen and sustain community engagement with a focus on working directly with underrepresented communities.
- Deploy 60 more EV chargers, including our next tranche of curbside chargers.
- Achieve the 10,000 trees, emergency kit, A²ZERO Ambassador, air quality monitoring, and LED street lighting goals as outlined in A²ZERO.
- Create a weatherization expansion program that provides resources to help income-qualified households implement more decarbonization solutions.
- Launch the City's first microgrid and advance tangible steps related to a biodigester at the City's water recovery facility.
- Achieve 70% fleet electrification.
- Launch an electric vehicle bulk buy program.

AND MORE!



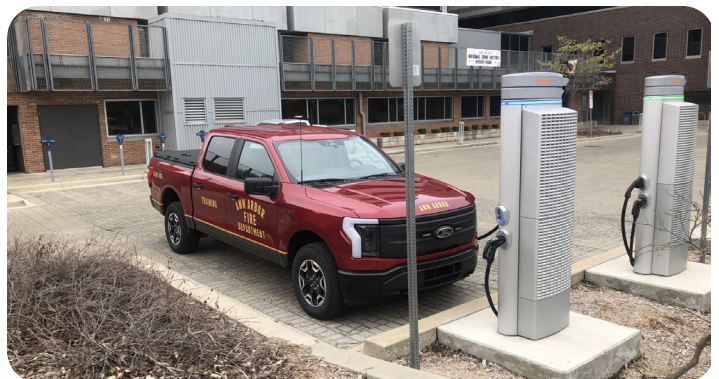
Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor speaking at the February 2024 Ambassador graduation.



Solar array installed at Burns Park near the Ann Arbor Senior Center.



Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor connecting the State of Michigan's first curbside pole-mounted charger to the EV of Ann Arbor residents.



Ann Arbor Fire Department's electric vehicle charging outside City Hall – this truck makes up part of the 25% of the City's light fleet that has recently been electrified.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO

We interviewed the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) staff that joined the team in the past year to learn what Year Four of A²ZERO looked like through the eyes of the residents who are helping to imagine and establish a sustainable future for our community.



STEVE CHRISTENSEN, ENERGY ASSESSOR

I joined OSI in September, 2023 and immediately began work preparing for the implementation of the Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) Ordinance. Since joining the team, I've added capacity to how residents request and receive Home Energy Scores in compliance with the HERD Ordinance. Like Jerrell, I serve the City as an Energy Assessor. In the next year, I'm looking forward to helping residents learn about their energy consumption and make the best choices for themselves and their homes through the HERD ordinance.



CONNOR DAILEY, ENERGY COORDINATOR

I joined OSI in January 2024 after six years with the City's Parks and Recreation Services. I led the City's work on the Energy and Water Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance. This ordinance aims to provide building owners, managers and their current or potential tenants with consistent and relevant information on the relative costs of renting a space in a building including the cost of utilities. I am also taking on Ann Arbor Solarize, Ann Arbor's community bulk-buy solar program. My addition to OSI's Energy Team increases capacity across our whole team to explore and implement new programs while envisioning the future of our existing programs. In this next year, I'm looking forward to the future of Ann Arbor Solarize and incorporating benchmarking into a broader strategy for decarbonizing Ann Arbor's commercial and multifamily spaces.



GRACE FRANKE, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

I started for OSI in September 2023, and immediately began work on developing branding guidelines and the Strategic Communications Plan for the Office. My two current projects are Green Light, a new series in from CTN Ann Arbor, and launching A²ZERO'S own social media pages. With the added capacity I've provided to the team, I've been able to increase cohesion across our communications through a visual brand identity and increase effective communications to residents to ensure they have the information they need. In the next year, I'm looking forward to continuing to grow and improve Green Light and our social media channels, as well as developing long-term projects that will improve A²ZERO's visibility and the effectiveness of our programs and initiatives.



WILL GARCIA, CIRCULAR ECONOMY COORDINATOR

After joining the OSI team in September 2023, I was excited to get to work on developing the Office's projects and programming pertaining to "Strategy 5: Change the Way We Use, Reuse, and Dispose of Materials" of the City's A²ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan. The most public-facing work I've been able to take on so far is coordinating our Neighborhood Swap Day program, in which community members can bring and take items (generally household items and clothing) in good condition free of charge. So far, our Neighborhood Swap Days have kept over 6,000 items out of the landfill, and I'm looking forward to continuing to grow and develop this program (including our upcoming event on June 29th at Pioneer High School – you can RSVP at <https://zerowaste.org/a2swap/>). Some of my other program areas include coordinating our efforts to expand the Ann Arbor Reduce, Reuse, Return (A²R³) program from its pilot phase to a City-wide program and developing our programming for the management of electronic wastes and high-GWP refrigerants. This year, I am very excited to get to work on the second phase of our Resident Advisory Committee, which will provide critical insights from members of our community to inform our upcoming Circular Economy Strategy.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR FOUR OF A²ZERO



MAGGIE HALPERN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

I joined the team in August of last year as an Engagement Coordinator. In my role, I manage the Ann Arbor Climate Corps, OSI's AmeriCorps program. The AmeriCorps members help implement the A²ZERO plan through community outreach and education, supporting neighborhood-focused decarbonization and resilience-building initiatives. In the next year, I am looking forward to applying my background in environmental psychology to develop an engagement plan for the Climate Corps to help Ann Arborites take important steps to help us reach our 2030 carbon neutrality goal. I'm also excited about the upcoming opportunities for the Ann Arbor Climate Corps as the White House launches the American Climate Corps.



JORDAN LARSON, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INNOVATOR

I joined OSI in August of last year. Since joining the team, my priority project has been to support our office's collaborative work with Community Action Network and the residents of the Bryant neighborhood to help Bryant become Ann Arbor's first fully decarbonized neighborhood. I also coordinate our Sustainability Forum Series hosted by the Ann Arbor District Library as well as our new Cinema and Sustainability Series hosted by the Michigan Theater. In addition to distinct projects, I assist our AmeriCorps Climate Corps team and support engagement activities and engagement strategy across our office's range of programming. There are many things I am looking forward to, but I am particularly excited to see the Bryant district geothermal design project take shape as well as continue building and strengthening relationships with organizations, neighborhoods, and stakeholders across the city.



AZELLA MARKGRAF, SUSTAINABLE FOOD COORDINATOR

After joining the team in December 2023, I immediately dove into my work which focuses on programs and initiatives that advance a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable community food system in Ann Arbor. My current projects and programs include the development of a Sustainable Food Purchasing Program for the City of Ann Arbor, as well as engagement with the food business sector through the recently launched Ann Arbor Area Sustainable Food Business Coalition. Additionally, I've added capacity for resident-facing engagement around the topic of sustainable food choices, while supporting the development of a program to target source-reduction of household food waste here in Ann Arbor and facilitating the planning of Ann Arbor's 3rd annual Local Food Festival. In the next year, I hope to see continued growth in these current initiatives, and look forward to furthering strategic conversations about how the City can best support sustainable and equitable local food system development in Ann Arbor.



JERRELL WYLIE, ENERGY ASSESSOR

I was hired late September, 2023 to work on the Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance and the Green Business Challenge. As a Home Energy Score assessor I contribute to A²ZERO goals by promoting energy efficiency, engaging the community, providing valuable data and fostering a collaborative environment focused on sustainability. In the next year I look forward to increasing home energy transparency by ensuring more homes in Ann Arbor are evaluated and receive energy scores with the HERD ordinance. I'm eager to collaborate with local businesses to boost participation in the Green Business Challenge and show the benefits of sustainable practices. I hope to inspire more business to join and commit to reducing their environmental footprint.

A²ZERO WEEK EVENTS: JUNE 9 - 15

In June 2020, the City's plan to achieve a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality, known as A²ZERO, was unanimously adopted by City Council. Each year, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations organizes A²ZERO Week to commemorate the passing of the plan and to celebrate the work done by the City and our many collaborators in the sustainability space. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/a2zeroweek.

WEEK-LONG ACTIVITIES

- A²ZERO Passport to Fun!
- A²ZERO Food Waste Challenge with ZeroWaste.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

- A²ZERO Bikeway Tours with Human Electric Hybrids, 10 – 11AM, 320 Miller Ave.
- Common Cycle Public Hours, 11AM – 3PM, 416 W. Huron St., Suite 11
- Log Yard Open House, 12 – 2PM, 4150 Platt Road
- Green Energy Neighbors Net Zero Home Tour, 1 – 4PM
- Ward 3 Party at Bicentennial Park, 4 – 5PM, 2901 E. Ellsworth Road
- Wasted: The Story of Food Waste, 7PM, Michigan Theater

MONDAY, JUNE 10

- A²ZERO Sewing Repair Clinic, 12:30 – 2:30PM, 4567 Washtenaw Ave
- Celebrate City Solar Installations, 2PM, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave.
- Ward 2 Party at Sugarbush Park, 5 – 6PM, 3349 Yellowstone Drive
- Ann Arbor Distilling Company A²ZERO Cocktail Classes, 5:30PM or 8PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

- Common Cycle Bike Team Work Session, 9 – 11AM, 416 W. Huron St., Suite 11
- Love a Park Day at Northside Park, 10AM – 12PM, 809 Taylor St.
- A²ZERO Bikeway Tours with Human Electric Hybrids, 10 – 11AM, 320 Miller Ave.
- Ward 1 Party at Leslie Science and Nature Center, 5:30 – 6:30PM, 1831 Traver Road
- Common Cycle Public Hours, 6 – 8PM, 416 W. Huron St., Suite 11
- Scrappy Snake Chat at Zingerman's Greyline, 6:15 – 8PM, 100 N. Ashley St.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

- A²ZERO at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, 8AM – 2PM, 315 Detroit St.
- Get to Know Your WILD Neighbors with HSHV, 10:30 – 11:30AM, 5245 Jackson Rd.
- Ward 4 Party at Allmendinger Park, 5 – 6PM, 655 Pauline Blvd.
- A²ZERO Climate Board Game Night at Bløm, 5 – 10PM, 100 S. Fourth Ave.
- Ward 5 Party at Veterans Memorial Park, 6 – 7PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

- Common Cycle Bike Team Work Session, 9 – 11AM, 416 W. Huron St., Suite 11
- A²ZERO Bikeway Tours with Human Electric Hybrids, 10 – 11AM, 320 Miller Ave.
- Love a Park Day at Arbor Oaks Park, 5 – 7PM, 3 W. Eden Ct.
- All Hands Active REPAIRSday, 5 – 9PM, 255 E. Liberty, lower level Ste. 225
- A²ZERO Climate Trivia Night, hosted by Citizens' Climate Lobby at Venue, 7 – 9PM, 1919 S. Industrial Hwy

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

- YMCA Block Party, 12 – 4PM, 400 W. Washington St.
- Sustainable Fun and Your Bright Future with A²ZERO at the A2SF KidZone N. Ingalls Mall
- Envisioning Our Sustainable Future with A²ZERO at the A2SF Annex, 5 – 9PM, N. Ingalls Mall

CONNECT WITH A²ZERO

INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

sustainability@a2gov.org

a2zero.org

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

YOUTUBE



A²ZERO

EQUITABLE • SUSTAINABLE • TRANSFORMATIVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

A²ZERO IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM (@A2ZERO2030) AND FACEBOOK (A2ZERO)!

THE LATEST EPISODE OF GREEN LIGHT, A²ZERO'S SHOW ON CTN, IS NOW LIVE!

SHARE INPUT FOR ANN ARBOR PHASE II MUNICIPALIZATION STUDY

A study will take place by the City of Ann Arbor ("Phase II Study") to understand the detailed costs associated with acquiring DTE's electric infrastructure and replacing DTE as the electric utility for Ann Arbor. This process, known as municipalization, is complex and will require a significant amount of technical, economic, political and social information. To help shape the Phase II Study, community members are invited to share their thoughts and concerns about what they hope the study includes. Anyone interested in submitting a comment may do so by completing a [brief form](#) by June 28, 2024. The city will review all comments submitted during this time frame as it prepares a technical request for proposals for the Phase II Study. Please note that the Phase II Study will NOT include a reliability, resilience, undergrounding or improvement assessment or a detailed study of costs to operate the utility as these are separate studies not budgeted for at this time. The Phase II Study will solely focus on the costs to acquire DTE's electric assets and the right to serve all electric customers within Ann Arbor (e.g., stranded costs, value of the right to serve customers, and new equipment needed to operate the utility).

ANN ARBOR'S NEW GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations and Ann Arbor SPARK are delighted to announce a new Ann Arbor Green Business Challenge! Local businesses are encouraged to learn more and register for the Challenge at <https://url.a2gov.org/A2GBC>

GAS LEAF BLOWER PHASE-OUT IS IN EFFECT!

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. Violations of the ordinance can be reported 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, how to sustainably dispose of gas leaf blowers, or sustainable lawn care, we recommend taking a look at our [gas leaf blower phase-out](#) and [pollinator aware lawn care](#) webpages. You can out to Carissa Ebling at cebbling@a2gov.org if you have any questions.

NEIGHBORHOOD SWAP DAY | June 29, 11AM – 2PM | Pioneer High School, 601 W Stadium Blvd

Give your unwanted items a new home instead of sending them to the landfill – or find that item you've been looking for, without having to buy it! RSVP at zerowaste.org/a2swap and learn more at osi.a2gov.org/swapdays.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY UTILITY WEBINAR | July 16th, 6 – 7PM | Virtual

Join us for a special webinar to learn more about Ann Arbor's proposed Sustainable Energy Utility, an optional, supplemental community-owned energy utility that would provide 100% renewable energy from local solar and battery storage systems and networked geothermal at participating homes and business in the City. This virtual event presents an opportunity to learn more about the proposed SEU, discover what benefits the SEU could provide, ask questions, and find out what voters will be asked to consider on November 5, 2024. This event is free but [registration is required](#).

THIRD ANNUAL HOME ELECTRIFICATION EXPO | August 2, 4 – 8PM | Ann Arbor Farmers Market

Mark your calendars for the third annual Home Electrification Expo! Join us to learn all about electrification and energy efficiency, and how you can make upgrades in your home. More details coming soon. With questions, please contact Julie Roth at jroth@a2gov.org.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events.