

THE CHARGING STATION

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



IN THIS ISSUE:

WELCOME.....	1
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	1
IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE.....	2
COOKBOOK EXCERPT.....	4
A ² ZERO AMBASSADORS.....	5
NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT.....	8
CLIMATE ACTION HERO.....	11
HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING.....	12
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	15
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	16

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Bryce Frohlich (he/him) and Sean Reynolds (he/him) manage some of the resilience efforts in the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). Between their workstream, Bryce and Sean oversee OSI's work on natural features and community resilience programs. These include the A²ZERO Ambassador Program, support for Ann Arbor's Resilience Hub partners, the 10,000 Tree Program, Pollinator Aware Yard Care, and Household Preparedness programming.

Keep an eye out for this symbol for things you can do right now to advance sustainability!



TAKE ACTION!



The view from Larcom City Hall during the week of July 13th, 2026.

WELCOME

Welcome to the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this edition of the Charging Station, OSI discusses the recent climate impacts experienced by our community and strategies for navigating climate emotions that may arise during these extreme events. If you are interested in learning more about OSI's resilience initiatives featured in this issue and how you can get involved, more details can be found on our website: www.a2gov.org/sustainability. As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

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.

IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY

So far this summer, wildfires across Canada have burned more than 3.9 million hectares of land, with additional fires burning in U.S. states such as Minnesota – and these fires were, according to a recent analysis, made twice as likely to occur due to climate change. While these fires were burning far from southeast Michigan, wind patterns brought smoke produced by the fires into our region during the week of July 13th. This smoke contained fine particles released by the burning of wood and other materials including a pollutant known as fine particulate matter (“PM2.5”). PM2.5, so abbreviated because the particles are less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, is a pollutant that, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “causes a number of serious health problems, including coughing, wheezing, reduced lung function, asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes.”

The EPA reports air pollution levels using the Air Quality Index (AQI), a tool that is divided into six different categories: good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy, very unhealthy, and hazardous. During the wildfire smoke events in early July, air quality monitors across southeast Michigan were reporting PM2.5 pollution resulting in hazardous AQI levels. In fact, IQAir’s list of the most polluted cities in the world reported during periods of the week of July 13th that Detroit was the most polluted city worldwide due to the effects of wildfire smoke. And Ann Arbor wasn’t spared. The City of Ann Arbor’s network of air quality monitors reported high localized levels of PM2.5 pollution throughout parts of the week as well – the graph below shows average daily AQI levels from June 1st, 2026 through August 10th, 2026. The spike to the right shows the average daily AQI reaching very unhealthy and hazardous levels on July 16th and 17th, 2026. The highest recorded daily average AQIs prior to July 16th reached the unhealthy for sensitive groups level.

Individual Pollutant Scaled Values



The Ann Arbor Air Quality Dashboard recorded PM2.5 levels peaking at an index of 346, which is classified as hazardous to anyone exposed.

HOW DOES POOR OR HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY COMPOUND WITH EXTREME HEAT?

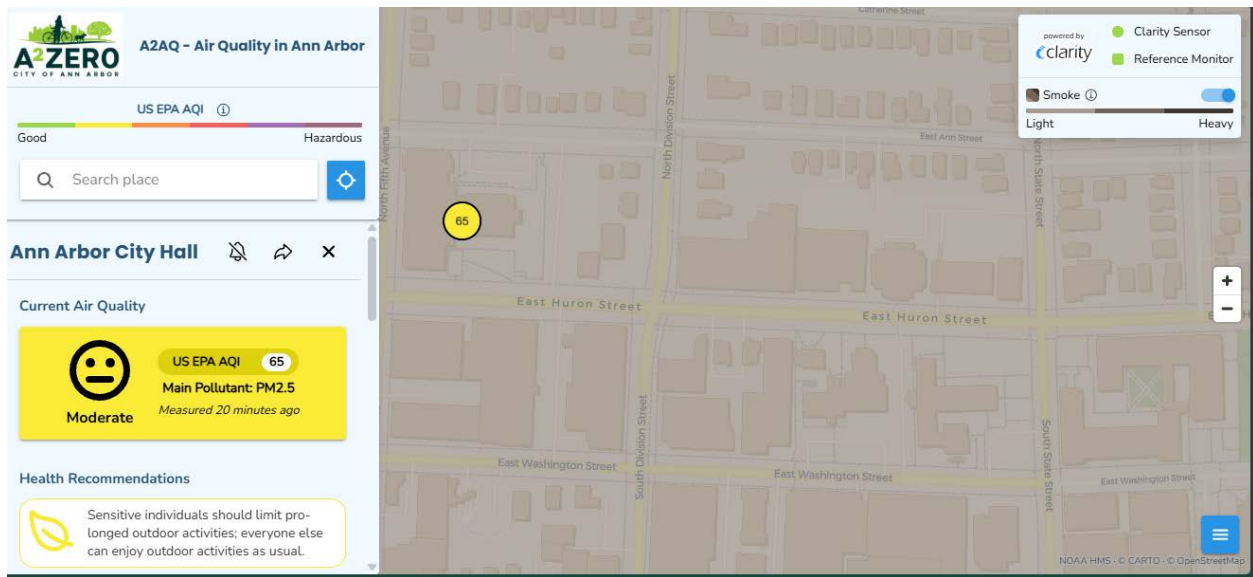
The combination of extreme heat and diminished air quality is a much greater health risk than either hazard alone. An article published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine found that there is a sizeable increase in risk to human lives and safety when periods of both extreme heat and poor air quality overlap.

IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

HAZARDOUS AIR QUALITY

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE MORE PREPARED?

As human-caused climate change increases the likelihood of extreme wildfire and smoke events, monitoring our air quality is an important step in building community preparedness. By being aware of poor air quality and the potential health impacts that can be associated with it, the City of Ann Arbor and its residents can make informed decisions around limiting outdoor activity levels, wearing proper protective gear, and otherwise protecting ourselves from these harmful pollutants. To learn more about air quality monitoring in Ann Arbor, view live AQI data, and sign up for alerts when AQI reaches the unhealthy level or above, please visit www.a2gov.org/airquality.



Ann Arbor's Air Quality Monitoring dashboard displays live, hyperlocal AQI data

Taking action to enhance preparedness is one effective way to channel strong climate emotions, including anger, positivity, fear, and sadness.

Resources to help Ann Arbor residents become more prepared during extreme heat and poor air quality events, include:

- Hot Weather Safety Tips from the Washtenaw County Health Department website
- Air Quality Safety Tips from the Washtenaw County Health Department website
- Safety guidance distributed via press release form the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy during the week of July 13th
- How to identify symptoms of heat related illness and how to make an extreme heat preparedness plan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Air Quality Index		
AQI Category and Color	Index Value	Description of Air Quality
Good Green	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate Yellow	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Orange	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Unhealthy Red	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy Purple	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous Maroon	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

FROM THE A²ZERO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

VIEW THIS RECIPE AND 70+ MORE AT OSI.A2GOV.ORG/COOKBOOK

BREAKFAST PIZZA

From the Kitchen of: Jennie Rokakis, Community Member

Preparation Time: 15-20 minutes | **Cook Time:** 15-20 minutes | **Yield:** 4 servings

Common Allergens: Wheat (Optional), Milk

INSTRUCTIONS:



- Preheat the oven to 420° F.
- Line a medium-to-large sheet tray with parchment paper.
- Add the olive oil to the parchment paper and spread it thinly and evenly over the parchment.
- Stretch out the pizza dough on the lined sheet tray. Bake the crust for about 7 minutes. It should start to brown, but not yet be completely cooked.
- While the crust is baking, mix together the sugar and water in a small saucepot. Bring the mixture to a simmer over low heat, then add the rosemary sprig. Turn off the heat and stir. Let the rosemary infuse into a “simple syrup” while you finish the pizza.*
- After about 7 minutes, take the partially baked crust out of the oven and sprinkle the goat cheese over the top.
- Add the diced peaches and blueberries evenly on top of the goat cheese.
- Put the pizza back into the oven and allow it resume baking until the crust is fully baked per package instructions, or until the crust is firm and golden-brown.
- Remove the pizza from the oven and drizzle some of the rosemary simple syrup over the pizza to taste. Store any remaining syrup in the fridge.
- Slice, serve, and enjoy! This is great with some walnuts on the side.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 (12–16 ounce) prepared, ready-to-bake pizza dough, store-bought or homemade, or sub gluten-free dough.
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 (4 ounce) package of plain goat cheese, such as Zingerman’s City Goat cheese
- 2 ripe peaches, diced
- 1/2 cup blueberries

SWITCH IT UP:

This recipe can be made with any local, in-season fruit! Try one of these variations by replacing the fruit and rosemary syrup with:

- Strawberries, basil, and balsamic vinaigrette
- Blueberries, cinnamon, and sugar
- Sweet cherries and blueberries



A²ZERO AMBASSADORS

ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION

The A²ZERO Ambassador program has well exceeded its goal of training 100 neighborhood ambassadors. With the graduation of our eighth cohort this June, a total of 163 community members from the Ann Arbor area have completed A²ZERO Ambassador training.

As part of their commitment to the program, A²ZERO Ambassadors agree to contribute 20 hours of volunteer service on sustainability-related projects alongside the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) staff or community collaborators. These service projects vary widely and illustrate how ambassadors actively promote climate action.

Past ambassador projects have included establishing a peer-led network to help neighbors make their homes more energy-efficient and sustainable, collaborating with local organizations and schools to implement green infrastructure to address stormwater issues, and working with OSI staff to deploy mobile air quality monitors to assess air quality along popular walking and biking routes in Ann Arbor, among many other initiatives. Here's a look into some of what A²ZERO Ambassadors are currently working on:

LOCAL FOOD FEST DATA COLLECTION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Ann Arbor Local Food Fest (LFF) is an annual event that celebrates local food and Michigan farming. The LFF provides an opportunity for community members to experience local food through cooking demonstrations, local growers, food trucks, and more. Hosting such a large festival requires significant effort and planning. This year, on Thursday, August 27th, A²ZERO Ambassadors Jo Keeling, Jill Vitick, and Eli Hiton added capacity to the event by collecting real-time data and feedback from festival attendees. They strove to understand how connected festival attendees feel to the local food system, the impact attending the LFF has on that connection, and what residents would like to see in future LFFs. Whether attendees were local food “novices” or “experts”, or just local food “curious”, Ambassadors were there to understand how the community experiences this community driven event, with every person leaving with a recipe from the A²ZERO Community Cookbook. Ambassador will work with OSI staff to analyze the data collected so it can be incorporated into future LFF planning.



A²ZERO Ambassadors at the 2026 Local Food Festival collected attendee feedback with their "Fresh Takes" activity.

A²ZERO AMBASSADORS

ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION

NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT 1.0



Initial pilot neighborhood meet-up of the Nourishing Neighborhood Guide that informed the creation of the current toolkit.

A²ZERO Ambassadors serve as neighborhood nodes and extensions of A²ZERO in the community, connecting neighbors, friends, and their communities to sustainability programs and services. A²ZERO Ambassadors Cameron Wells, Elli Gurfinkel, and Riley Pohlman have committed to piloting a toolkit designed to support Ambassadors in enhancing this role. The toolkit consists of a focused deck of cards that helps A²ZERO Ambassadors act across various sustainability focus areas such as sustainable food practices, household preparedness, and caring for or expanding natural features in their neighborhood. Ambassadors will pilot this toolkit, report back on what works and what doesn't, and help refine the tool so it can become a tool to help Ambassadors practice Ambassadorship.

SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Social and Engagement Team (SET) was formed by A²ZERO Ambassador Annie Ye after joining the program as a way to build community in Ann Arbor after she moved her with her family during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. SET hosts monthly meet-ups, facilitates volunteer opportunities, and brings Ambassadors together at events like A²ZERO Week and OSI's Sustainable Film Series. Ambassadors Steven Richard, Josh Kofflin, and James Pauer from our most recent cohort are supporting the SET team this fall by hosting their monthly meetup and program activities.

A²ZERO Ambassadors at August's monthly meet-up to discuss sustainability and be in community.



A²ZERO AMBASSADORS

ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION

TESTING THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SWAP GUIDE

A²ZERO Swaps have been a staple program in OSI's Circular Economy work. The original Swap Guide was created by an A²ZERO Ambassador and now, Ambassadors Lexi Crilley, Sarah Beth Hartman, and Ivy Miller are putting an updated version to the test by hosting their very own neighborhood swap.



A²ZERO Ambassadors hosted one of the inaugural Neighborhood Swaps as part of their A²ZERO Ambassador Service Commitment in the Kerrytown Neighborhood.



Clothing Swaps have become a staple community A²ZERO Program, hosted monthly at Larcom City Hall and open to the entire community.

SUSTAINABLE END-OF-LIFE PRACTICES

A²ZERO Ambassador Paula Bartholome is conducting an independent information finding project to objectively evaluate the opportunities, barriers, and considerations associated with the potential adoption of Human Remains Composting and sustainable burials in Michigan. Paula will compile her findings into a two-page report to share with OSI.

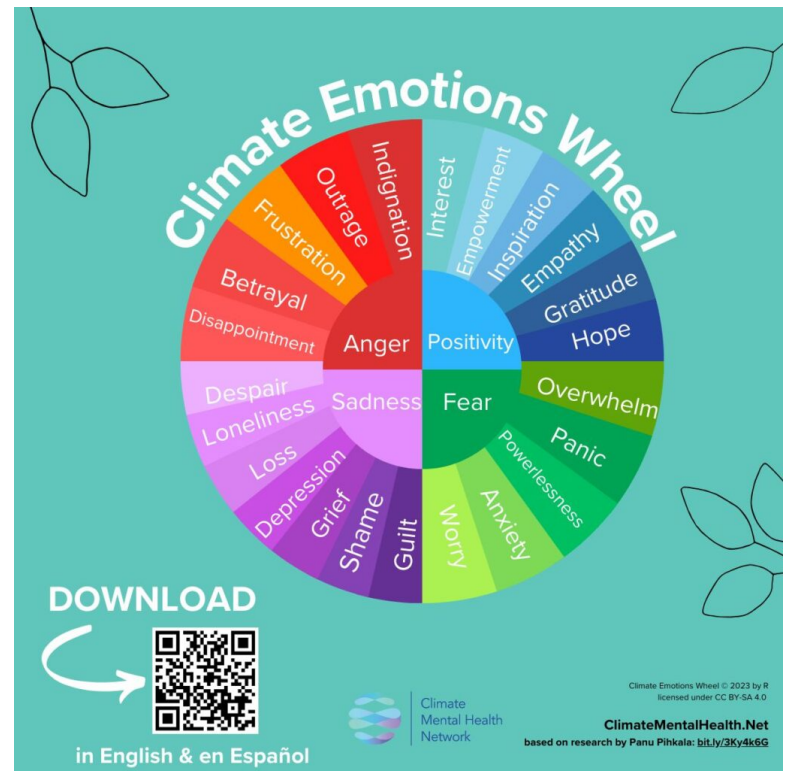
Additional A²ZERO Ambassador Projects can be found at the A²ZERO Ambassador Impact Map.

UPDATE ON THE NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT

SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

In climate scientist and climate communicator Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, Dr. Hayhoe points out that if all that were needed to address human-caused climate change were information, the world would have solved the problem a long time ago.

It has been known for decades that human-caused, or anthropogenic, climate change is contributing to the increase in global temperatures. Yet responding to climate change is about more than understanding the science. Climate change can evoke many emotions: powerlessness, grief, guilt, even hope and gratitude. This spectrum of emotions represents normal and valid responses to a complex problem.



The Climate Emotions Wheel is a visual tool that helps people name and understand complex feelings about climate change. Based on research by Panu Pihkala and developed by the Climate Mental Health Network.

The important question to ask is not, "How do we get rid of climate emotions?" but rather, "How can we create conditions where people can work with these emotions and still take meaningful action to craft a better future?"

People should not feel alone in their emotions. The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication found that Americans who think global warming is happening outnumber those who think it is not by a ratio of more than four to one, and 60% of Americans understand that global warming is mostly human-caused. However, only 17% of Americans report that they hear people they know talk about global warming at least once a month. With that statistic alone, it is no wonder that people may feel alone in caring about climate change when that is not the case.

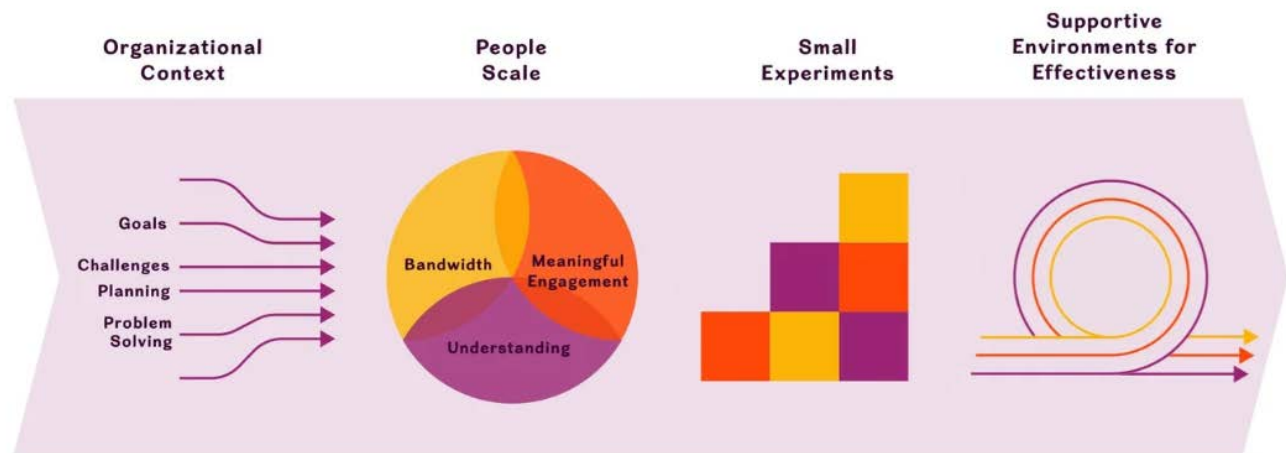
This is why it is important to remember that climate action happens in social and emotional environments, not just informational ones.

As part of their service commitments, a group of A²ZERO Ambassadors are piloting an addition to the Nourishing Neighborhood program, a community resilience program that is nestled within the A²ZERO Ambassador Program. A²ZERO Ambassadors will be piloting a toolkit created with the intention of providing behavior-friendly actions that ambassadors can take in their communities to channel climate emotions into action, get to know their neighbors, and take sustainability actions together.

The toolkit was designed using the Supportive Environment for Effectiveness (SEE) Model, which provides a framework based on a simple premise: people are more able to engage effectively when they feel supported, connected, and capable of taking action.

UPDATE ON THE NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT

SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION



The Supportive Environments for Effectiveness (SEE) framework is an environmental psychology model created to encourage action by designing for manageable bandwidth and achieving meaningful engagement.

The toolkit is broken down into three parts:

- 1. The Nourishing Neighborhood Toolkit Guidebook** – This guidebook helps A²ZERO Ambassadors understand how to use the toolkit and feel competent using it.
- 2. A Deck of Thematic Action Cards** – The action cards help A²ZERO Ambassadors understand why and how to take action on issues they care about, such as how to connect with their neighbor or increase the amount of natural features in their neighborhood. The cards provide accessible, behavior-friendly opportunities for ambassadors to engage their neighbors in sustainability-related activities while building connection and driving community climate goals.
- 3. A Resource Guide** – The resource guide connects A²ZERO Ambassadors with additional materials, programs, and community resources that can support their efforts and help turn individual interest into meaningful community action.



GETTING STARTED | G1

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

WHY TAKE ACTION?

Strong neighborhoods start with simple connections. Knowing your neighbors builds trust, facilitates resource sharing, and helps foster a connected community. A quick introduction today can lead to meaningful relationships.

LEVEL:	TAGS:	SEASON:
1 Low Effort	Family-Friendly	
2 Medium Effort	Low Cost	
3 High Effort		

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GETTING STARTED

GETTING STARTED | G1

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A²ZERO

GETTING STARTED

The first step is often the hardest, but it can also be the simplest: start by saying hello.

Use these action cards to help you break the ice, spark new connections, and build or strengthen the trust that fosters a strong and connected neighborhood.

A²ZERO

The action cards in the Nourishing Neighborhood Toolkit provide thematic guidance for A²ZERO Ambassadors as they take action.

UPDATE ON THE NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT

SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

Together, these three components put the SEE Model into practice by helping ambassadors create environments where people can feel supported and competent, connected to others, and capable of making a difference. Rather than asking people to overcome difficult emotions before taking action, the toolkit creates opportunities for people to acknowledge those emotions, build relationships, and find meaningful ways to act.

Climate emotions are not a distraction from climate action; they are part of how people experience climate change. Supportive environments can help people move through difficult emotions without getting stuck in them.

If you know an A²ZERO Ambassador, reach out and learn more about their work and how you can get involved. Or, consider becoming an A²ZERO Ambassador and helping build a more connected, resilient, and sustainable community. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/ambassadors.



The Office of Sustainability and Innovations, the Ann Arbor Parks Volunteer Program, and local community members painting the Bicentennial Park amenities.

A²ZERO CLIMATE ACTION HERO

COERT AMBROSINO SEPTEMBER 2026'S HERO

Beginning January 2026, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations started recognizing and celebrating Climate Action Heroes operating right here, in our community. These Heroes are individuals who are taking steps to help the community achieve its A²ZERO goal of making a just and equitable transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030. The ideal Climate Action Hero is someone who inspires others to make positive change.

Each month, a Hero will be selected by the Office of Sustainability and Innovations from all nominated applicants. Selected Climate Action Heroes will be celebrated with a column in the Ann Arbor Observer, as well as in this newsletter and on OSI's social media. In 2026, all Climate Action Heroes will also be recognized at an awards ceremony.

Individuals are encouraged to celebrate the Climate Action Heroes in their lives by nominating them at OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO. Anyone can submit a nomination, but the Hero themselves must live or work in Ann Arbor.



COERT AMBROSINO

EDUCATOR AND LEADER

We know "Back to School" is on everyone's minds this month, so it is fitting that September's Climate Hero is Coert Ambrosino, the lead teacher for Ann Arbor Public School's Environmental Education Program! Each year, with Coert's leadership, 10,000 students across 500 classes receive programming through classroom lessons, visits to the Freeman Environmental Education Center, and fieldtrips to local natural areas. As the adult liaison for the Freeman Environmental Youth Council, Coert supports high school students exploring diverse topics in the sustainability field and learning about advocacy in their community. Coert's personal enthusiasm and professional expertise show in his dedication to continuing the legacy of environmental education in Ann Arbor as well as the energy he brings to

innovative programming, helping the district meet its goal of providing equitable access to environmental field trips for AAPS students. Coert has a deep understanding of climate-related issues. He has worked tirelessly to build the AAPS Environmental Education Program. Coerts' relationships with teachers, the kids and volunteers is fun, respectful and motivating. This one hero is creating new climate action heroes on a daily basis.

Thank you Coert for being a Climate Action Hero in our community!
Submit your Hero at OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ABOUT
UNDERSTANDING RISK AND PREPARING A COMMUNITY

CAN YOU REMIND READERS WHAT THE OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IS AND WHAT YOU DO?

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed under the Ann Arbor Fire Department, helps the City of Ann Arbor be prepared for all hazards, including weather-related, technological, and human-caused events. OEM focuses on the four phases of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Our work includes creating and strengthening partnerships across the community to develop and enhance emergency operations plans, procedures, and coordination. We operate the City's Emergency Operations Center, which has activated multiple times this year for several events and incidents, including the U-M Basketball National Championship game and parade, the April 15 tornado, and the Ann Arbor Art Fair. We work closely with both internal and external critical infrastructure owners and operators, including the City's Water Services. We engage with the community in collaboration with OSI and City Communications to educate folks on the importance of registering for our emergency alert systems, developing a household or family emergency plan, and a kit. OEM also leads the city's hazard mitigation plan!



Sydney Parmenter, City of Ann Arbor Emergency Manager.

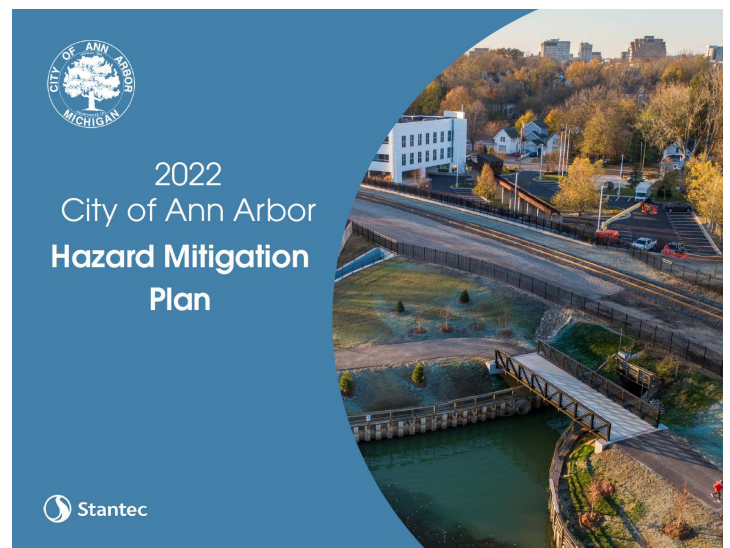


Michaelaelyn Osmonson, Emergency Management Specialist.

WHAT IS A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) identifies the hazards and vulnerabilities facing a community and establishes actions to reduce the impacts of those hazards before they occur.

The City of Ann Arbor's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan, Ann Arbor must renew it's Hazard Mitigation Plan every 5 years.



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ABOUT UNDERSTANDING RISK AND PREPARING A COMMUNITY

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO ONE?

An HMP provides a framework and action plan for reducing community risk from known hazards, including climate hazards. Throughout the 12-month planning process, partners across Ann Arbor collaborate to identify priorities and projects that help the city become more prepared and resilient to climate-related disasters. Once the plan is complete, we focus on implementing it. We update the plan every 5 years, and we will begin our 2027 plan update this fall.

Our FEMA-approved HMP supports the City's Community Rating System, which allows residents to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program at a discounted rate. Additionally, a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan makes the City eligible for certain federal mitigation funding.

WHAT COMMUNITY BENEFIT IS THERE TO HAVING A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

An HMP helps a community identify its risks and vulnerabilities, prioritize risk-reduction projects, and pursue funding to implement those projects. It promotes resilience by incorporating mitigation into community planning and decision-making. It can also provide financial benefits to residents, such as lower flood insurance costs through the community's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS).

Our HMP creates a framework to reduce the impact of hazards on our community. This work can directly improve the quality of life for folks here in A2. A great real-world example to highlight is our work on the Allen Creek Berm.

WHAT DOES THE HAZARD MITIGATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

The process involves forming a data-driven, collaborative risk and vulnerability assessment for the City of Ann Arbor based on our community profile. From there, we develop and prioritize mitigation strategies, implement those strategies, and regularly evaluate and update the plan. This is a collaborative process – three planning teams, a steering committee, a technical advisory committee, and an engagement work group work together to contribute to the HMP. These teams are comprised of city staff across multiple departments and community partners, including but not limited to the University of Michigan, AAATA/TheRide, Ann Arbor Public Schools, the Ann Arbor District Library, The Huron River Watershed Council, and Washtenaw County.

The HMP includes an action plan that identifies mitigation projects, responsible parties, priorities, and timeline. The current plan includes 34 mitigation projects addressing a range of hazards and vulnerabilities. Funding opportunities, including FEMA hazard mitigation program grants, such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), are considered when prioritizing mitigation projects.

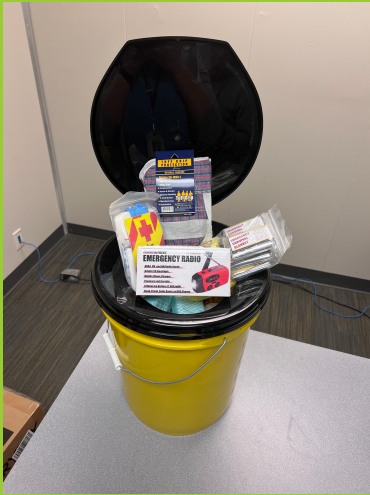
The City reviews progress on these mitigation projects biannually, providing an opportunity to assess project status, discuss funding opportunities, and adjust priorities. This helps the City keep the plan focused on practical steps to reduce community risk. Our current 2022 HMP can be found on the OEM website.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ABOUT UNDERSTANDING RISK AND PREPARING A COMMUNITY

HOW DOES A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INFORM THE WORK THAT YOUR OFFICE DOES?

The HMP is a foundational document for OEM - we utilize the HMP to help prioritize our emergency operations and planning efforts as well as our exercise, training, and preparedness initiatives. However, hazard mitigation cannot be done alone by a single department; it is a shared responsibility across the community, and therefore we all play a role. HMP's data-driven hazard and risk assessment serves as a guiding resource for decision-making and prioritization across the city, and the action plan often defines projects that require cross-collaboration.



Washtenaw Community College students creating Emergency Preparedness Kits.

HOW IS CLIMATE INCORPORATED INTO HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING?

Climate is incorporated by considering how changing conditions may affect the frequency, severity, and duration of hazards. Rather than relying solely on historical events, mitigation planning considers projected conditions and how they may affect community vulnerabilities. Through each planning update, we partner with OSI and Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) to utilize the latest climate data and projections. The City's HMP also has a climate specialist to help ensure we are incorporating the most relevant and current data. This can inform mitigation strategies related to hazards such as extreme heat, flooding, severe storms, and other climate-related risks.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE NEXT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TO BE COMPLETE, AND HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO PLANNING?

Ann Arbor's Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated and approved every 5 years. Currently, we are in the process of selecting a consultant to assist us in the 2027 update. Work will begin in October 2026 so City Council can adopt the plan and FEMA can approve it by November 2027.

Community engagement is part of the HMP update process. There will be multiple opportunities for community members to participate, help identify areas of concern, and provide feedback. More information about when these opportunities will take place will be shared with the community soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OSI LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON OFFSETS. OSI just launched a multi-month engagement process around carbon offsets – a key component of meeting the community’s 2030 carbon neutrality goals. A new Engage Ann Arbor page, a public website, public input survey, and a series of public meetings were announced as part of the launch of this multi-month engagement effort. Details about this work, including links to all surveys and public forums, can be found at osi.a2gov.org/offsets.

I AM A²ZERO. Share your sustainability story! On Earth Day, we launched the “I Am A²ZERO” storytelling campaign, with videos showing just some of the video variety of actions the Ann Arbor community is taking to become more sustainable. Celebrating things both big and small, this campaign highlights the impact of climate action in the Ann Arbor community straight from the members of the community themselves. Hear their stories and submit your own at a2zero.org/IAM.

INSULATE ANN ARBOR. This new pilot between the City of Ann Office of Sustainability and Innovations and DTE Energy offering up to \$1 million in combined rebates, to qualified multifamily rental properties installing energy efficiency upgrades. The pilot program, Insulate Ann Arbor, offers rebates for insulation and air sealing upgrades that improve comfort, reduce energy costs, and make multifamily rental buildings healthier, more affordable, and more sustainable. Learn more at osi.a2gov.org/insulatea2.

SOLAR KEEPS EXPANDING AT CITY FACILITIES. Did you know that a solar system recently was installed at Bicentennial Park, along with electric vehicle chargers? And work is underway to finalize solar systems at City Hall/ Justice Center, Fire Station 1, and Fire Station 3! These systems are part of OSI’s work to help make City facilities more sustainable.

GREEN FAIR IS SEPTEMBER 18TH

Join us for Ann Arbor's annual street fair celebrating sustainability, community, and climate action! Visit our five themed areas to explore how you can be part of a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County.

Learn more about the family-friendly events, resources, and more at
osi.a2gov.org/greenfair



Green Fair 2025.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EXPLORING COMMUNITY CARBON OFFSETS: AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS

September 1, 6 - 7 PM | Downtown Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library

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.

OSI PARK WORKDAY

September 11, 3 - 5 PM | Ward Park

Show some love to a city park! Join the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations and the Ann Arbor Parks Volunteer Program for a volunteer workday focused on caring for Ward Park's playground area. To keep the play area safe, we'll be spreading a fresh layer of play-safe woodchips under and around the equipment using wheelbarrows, pitchforks, and rakes. This task makes a big difference in safety and helps the playground look well cared for. No prior experience is necessary- staff will provide all tools, supplies, training, and guidance throughout the event.

COMMUNITY CLOTHING SWAP

September 17, 4 - 7 PM | City Hall

Join our monthly A²ZERO clothing swaps on the third Thursday of each month! You can take clothing without bringing anything, or bring clothing without taking anything. Bring items with rips or holes and get them mended with All Hands Active! We especially need Halloween costumes, plus-sized clothing, and men's clothing.

GREEN FAIR 2026

September 18, 5 - 8 PM | Main Street

Join us for Ann Arbor's annual street fair celebrating sustainability, community, and climate action. This year's event will feature dozens of exhibitors, live music, family friendly events, and much more. Stay tuned for more details!

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY SCIENCE CAFE

September 23, 5:30 - 7:30 PM | Connor O'Neil's Irish Pub

Get a head start to U-M's Climate Week with this solar-powered event! Take a behind-the-scenes peek at the latest research in thermal radiation in solar-heat and solar-fuel technologies, and learn about the policy and implementation behind local, renewable energy solutions.

A²ZERO TREEducation SERIES: HISTORY OF TREES IN ANN ARBOR

September 25, 6 - 7:30 PM | Leslie Science and Nature Center

Join OSI and the Leslie Science & Nature Center for our new A²ZERO TREEducation Series, fourth Fridays from August to November! This month, we will be focused on the history of trees in the Ann Arbor area - join us for a workshop where you'll learn about what forests in Southeast Michigan have looked like over the years, followed by a (weather permitting) guided walk showcasing some of the evidence of previous forests. Workshop begins at 6pm at the Leslie Science & Nature Center's Energy House.

ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL

September 27, 12 - 3:30 PM | Kiwanis

Fall Festival is a place for local, Ann Arbor vendors to host fun, zero-waste activities to promote waste reduction in our community. The Office of Sustainability and Innovations will be there with information and fun activities about textile sustainability! This event is a part of Washtenaw Zero Waste Coalition's Trash Talk Tour. <https://trashtalktour.org/programs/trash-talk-tour>

CLIMATE WEEK A²ZERO CLOTHING SWAP AND MENDING KITS

September 28, 12 PM | The Diag

Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations and the University of Michigan Trash Club for an A²ZERO Clothing Swap and mending kit creation during the University of Michigan Climate Week.

**CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS**
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