Sustain Dane is the sustainability organization of Dane County. Our programs, partnerships, and initiatives advance the greater Madison region into a thriving place with environmental health, social wellbeing, and a just economy.

Holistic sustainability can successfully guide us through the challenges and opportunities ahead as we building a more resilient and inclusive community. Through our network and beyond, we see that change happens when inspired people take action.

Mission & Vision

**Mission** to inspire, connect, and support people to accelerate sustainable actions for community wellbeing.

**Vision** for a thriving and connected community with a sustainable economy and environment that we are proud to pass on to future generations.
MEET OUR TEAM

Staff
Claire Oleksiak, Executive Director
Karen Crossley, Interim Executive Director
Jessie Lerner, Development Director
Lorenza Zebell, Sustainability Project Manager
Jenna Mrotek, Development Associate
Kai Brito, Multimedia Producer
Tyler Logan, Operations Manager
Tenzing Tamdin, Intern

Board
President: Robin Lisowski, Slipstream
Vice President: Steve Whayland, DC Engineering
Treasurer & Secretary: Jim Bradley, Home Savings Bank
Dave Benforado, MGE
Mark Richardson, GigBlender
Tom Thompson, UW-Health
Missy F. Tracy, Ho-Chunk Gaming
Ben Reynolds, Reynolds Transfer and Storage
Richard Heinemann, Boardman Clark LLP
Yvette Jones, designCraft Advertising
Amanda Goetsch, UW Sustainable Management
Melissa Flores, Nordic Consulting
As part of the Social Impact Initiative, teams received complimentary space at StartingBlock for six months to collaborate and innovate with each other, as well as customized support from Greenbush Strategy Partners and American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact to advance organizational planning, program designs, and key performance indicators. At the completion of the program, Sustain Dane decided to relocate our office to StartingBlock Madison and continue on as part of the community.
Connecting in the Community

In addition to inspiring education and customized support, Sustain Dane offers powerful connections through networking and bringing together sustainability minded individuals. Each year we include a number of fun, relaxed events to strengthen the personal and professional connections of our community.

- **January 31** Community Brunch for Sustainability at Short Stack Eatery
- **February 28** ‘The Big Share’ Sustainability Happy Hour at Gib’s Bar
- **March 5** Pizza Power Hour for Sustainability and ‘The Big Share’ at Ian’s Pizza on State Street
- **March 28** Social Impact Initiative Open House and Happy Hour at The Spark Building
- **May 23** Business for Good: Accelerating Sustainable Actions with Jessie Lerner at The American Family Insurance Dreambank
- **June 6** Welcome Sustain Dane’s New Executive Director at The Spark Building Madison
- **June 26** StartingBlock Birthday Bash & Mad Minute Pitch Showcase at Starting Block Madison
- **August 9** Live on King Street Viewing Party at Bendyworks Madison
Sustainable Business Network meetings highlight current sustainability topics through expert speakers, case studies, and skill-building opportunities. Breakfast meetings are attended by regional business and organizational leaders and individuals who care about integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into their professional and personal actions.

**JANUARY 18**

**MPower Public Showcase at Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center**

Celebrating the final cohort of MPower Champions (Artisan Dental, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Dean Healthcare, and Therma-Stor LLC) with breakfast and speaker Tom Thompson on new frontiers in sustainability and health, kicking off a new chapter in MPower and SBN’s future.

**MAY 2**

**Sustainability & You = Social Impact at Startingblock Madison**

Community leaders Lauren Yang from StartingBlock Madison and Jay A. Patel from AmFam Institute for Corporate and Social Impact presented their work with social impact. Tours of the building's sustainable features followed the presentation led by project architect Molly Dunlap of Eppstein Uhen Architects.
Environmental Justice: Values Based Decision Making in Action at the Wisconsin Energy Institute

 Speakers shared case studies of clean energy, transit, and/or food access, and how organizations approached these topics to create an environmentally just community. Featured speakers included Mary Blanchard, Associate Director for the Wisconsin Energy Institute, Cassie Steiner, Campaign Coordinator for the Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter, and Damond W. Boatwright, FACHE & Regional President of SSM Health Care of Wisconsin.

The Ecosystem of Food Waste Solutions at Zendesk Madison

Todd Lienart, Director Social Impact at Zendesk’s San Francisco office and DeShawn Witter, Program Associate, Social Impact at Zendesk’s Madison office, Jessica Niekrasz, president at Clean Fuel Partners, Ben Austin, sustainability lead at Findorff, and Charlie Romines, superintendent at City of Madison’s Streets Division shared their experience with public and private strategies and projects that mitigate the environmental impact of food waste including the City of Madison’s food scraps pilot program.
Reimagining Our Programs

Sustain Dane was one of eight social impact entrepreneur groups selected by StartingBlock Madison to participate in their Social Impact Initiative cohort. The new programs that came out of this work fit together as a curriculum. This presented the perfect opportunity to update our website to better illustrate our new suite of programs.

The Accelerate Sustainability Workshop builds on the success of the 10-year old MPower program. It is a half-day professional development workshop for those starting sustainability or reingiroing efforts. Grounded in current sustainability plans and research, this workshop presents best practices, local case studies, and changemaking strategies to leave attendees with a clear action plan to implement projects for organizational change.

Our Green Team Roundtables bring together members from our robust network to participate in peer-to-peer learning, sharing of their successes and challenges, and elevating their sustainability projects through collaboration and problem-solving. Established or emerging green teams, sustainability committees, and community actors gain lasting connections and sense of community.
The **Sustainability Stories** platform amplifies the voices of people from different backgrounds, races, ages, genders and geographies that are working on and want to inspire others to build a more sustainable and inclusive community. Through multimedia projects and in-person workshops, Sustain Dane centers the diversity of our experiences and perspectives as a fundamental strength for addressing sustainability needs.

Our **Sustain Dane Membership** offers complementary access to Sustain Dane’s inspiring education programs, powerful connections through networking and customized support to further accelerate sustainable actions for community wellbeing. It also increases our member’s stories as organizations with profit and purpose, showing that they are leaders in their field as a sustainability innovator. Also includes one-on-one support from the Sustain Dane staff team to provide resources, evaluations, calculations, and assistance to be successful at meeting sustainability goals.

The **Sustainable Breakfast Series**, formerly our Sustainable Business Network meetings, renamed to be more open and welcoming to business leaders, as well as members of all types of organizations and individuals who are passionate about sustainability.

“**Sustain Dane reimagines and builds pathways that have the power to begin a journey in how we all come together as diverse individuals who are activists for people and environmentalists for nature.**”

—Annette Miller

**EQT by Design**
The Sustain Dane Summit 2019 theme was Regenerate for Wellbeing. It was held on November 19th at the Promega Biotechnology company in Fitchburg. The Summit was co-created and co-produced by the Edgewood Social Innovation and Sustainable Leadership Program to illustrate how regeneration advances holistic sustainability through wellbeing at the individual and community level, with participants working together to identify ways for co-creating a regenerative culture. The Summit taught new skills, shared diverse perspectives, and strengthened connections.

"The Summit was a great opportunity to learn about county initiatives from our local representatives while finding inspiration to be more thoughtful and inclusive in our sustainability mission."

—Jeff Jones
Basil Data
Inspiring presentations & stories from:

Dayna Cunningham
Executive Director of Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) at MIT University.

Gyasi Ross
Author and storyteller from the Blackfeet Nation.

Elected Official Panel
Mayor of Madison Satya Rhodes-Conway, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Mayor of Fitchburg Aaron Richardson, and the Legislative and Policy Director from the Office of Lieutenant Governor Barnes, Wenona Wolf

Stephanie Janeth Salgado Altamirano
Student & Youth Leader

Stephan Gilchrist & Carrie Sanders
Edgewood Social Innovation and Sustainable Leadership Program

Master of Ceremonies Sarah Jacobs
Professional and Personal Growth Coach at SKJ Coaching, and Wisconsin Public Radio

The **Live Forward Awards** recognize local leaders who are accelerating sustainability and advancing community wellbeing, elevating the innovation and impact happening in our own neighborhoods.

Thank you for your support!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$40,000+</td>
<td>City of Madison, Madison Gas and Electric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000+</td>
<td>Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of the Capital Times, Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation, UW Health, UnityPoint - Meriter &amp; Quartz, Zendesk Neighbor Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000+</td>
<td>Alliant Energy Foundation, National Guardian Life Insurance, Aprilaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000+</td>
<td>Boardman and Clark, Compass Properties, Community Shares of Wisconsin, CUNA Mutual Group, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change, DuPont Environmental Stewardship Committee, Organic Valley, Reynolds Transfer and Storage, StartingBlock Madison, UW Credit Union, UW Sustainable Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500+</td>
<td>Affiliated Engineers, Clean Fuel Partners, EQT by Design, Dane Buy Local, designCraft Advertising, Ian’s Pizza Madison, Uniek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audited financials and 990s are available upon request.
Join our membership network, programs, and events for inspiration and connection.

Implement a sustainability project that you are passionate about--Sustain Dane can help.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to take action for sustainability and get involved in the Sustain Dane community.

Share your stories and vision for change with us, so we can elevate your story and better meet your needs.

Donate to our sustainability movement. Any gift, big or small, helps us achieve comprehensive and collaborative sustainability in Dane County.