



## Contact Us

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Reach out with questions about sustainability, requests for resources, or just to talk through your project ideas.

You can also join us for these programs that Lorenza facilitates:

- Accelerate Sustainability Workshops
- Master Recycler
- Water Steward

## Tips for a successful sustainability project

Ask yourself a few questions to get started picking a project.

- What project area from this list are you most energized to work on?
- Which category do you think has the most opportunities at your organization?

If you're early in your sustainability journey, try to pick a project that's attainable in a short period of time and easy to get others behind. Think about your sphere of influence at your organization.

- Who can you get on your team?
- Who will you need to get approval or support?

After you find your people, organize a project that feels like an easy win, track the impact, and make sure to celebrate your success! We've found that starting small builds the team's confidence and momentum, and prepares you for the longer term projects of the future.

Take action in your organization with these

# Sustainability Project Ideas

At Sustain Dane, we believe sustainable actions support a healthy environment, equity & social well-being, and a just economy. Below are some of the top actions we've seen through our work to support sustainability at local organizations. Many strong programs begin with (1) gathering employees that are interested in working on sustainability into a committee, (2) assessing current operations, and then (3) creating a plan with goals to make those operations more sustainable. Remember that sustainability is a process, not an endpoint. There's always an area to improve upon, or another action to take.

## Top 6 project areas

### Energy Efficiency

#### Energy Assessment

MGE business customers can request a free on-site consultation which includes a review of your energy usage, education on MGE rates, an in-person energy assessment of your business and a follow-up report identifying energy-saving opportunities. FOCUS ON ENERGY®, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency program, also offers a simple online energy assessment.

### Renewable Energy

#### MGE Renewables Programs

MGE has renewable energy programs that are easy wins for organizations to show their support for renewable energy without installing their own solar panels. Using MGE's Green Power Tomorrow program, an average small business can offset all of its emissions from electricity use for around \$13.50 more each month, and the Shared Solar program allows you to support local solar power without having to install panels on your home or business.

### Transportation

#### Start a Commute Solutions Program

A commute solutions program makes it easier for employees to prioritize transportation alternative by encouraging public transit use, carpooling, walking, and biking to work. You can start by engaging your team on how to commute without their car and connecting them to resources from Roundtrip Greater Madison on ridesharing, carpooling, and planning bus, bike, and walking routes.

### Sustainable Food

#### Reduce Food Waste at the Source

Where does your organization use food? If you have an office kitchen or plan events with food, consider measuring what is wasted to inform more efficient purchasing. Prioritize plant-based foods and locally source them when possible to reduce the emissions impact. You can also donate unused foods to food banks where appropriate, and finally compost the scraps that would otherwise go to the landfill.

### Material Waste

#### Employee Recycling & Waste Education

Plan an event where you teach employees about how to reduce waste before recycling, what is or isn't recyclable in your area, and how to prepare waste to be recycled. You can also try adding more recycle bins with item-specific signage and moving trash bins from desks to one central location.

### Water

#### Add native plantings to your property

Strategically adding native plantings to your property is a great way to soak up rain water that would otherwise overwhelm our sewer system and carry pollutants to our lakes. Native plants are a beautiful way for an organization to visibly show their support for sustainability. Organizing a planting day can also be a fun volunteer opportunity to bring employees together.