

2022

SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our programs are designed to help start sustainability initiatives at Dane County organizations. This document covers stories from organizations that participated in our Accelerate Sustainability, Master Recycler, Water Steward, and Climate Action programs.

The Accelerate Sustainability Workshop is grounded in current sustainability plans and research and presents best practices, local case studies, and change-making strategies. Participants leave with an action plan for projects to make change at their organizations.

The Master Recycler and Water Steward programs give participants the tools they need to teach coworkers how to improve recycling, protect water resources, and impact community sustainability.

Also in 2022, over 140 Sustain Dane community members took a Climate Action in the categories of transportation, food, investments, energy, and the ripple effect.

For the third year in a row **100%** of participants would recommend the workshop to a colleague

*Thank you to our
program supporters*



your community energy company



ASW PARTICIPANTS

22 Organizations, 34 Participants

City of Sun Prairie
Dane County Extension
DC Engineering
Edward Jones
Everlight Solar
Extension Dane County
EZ Office Products
Fleetworthy Solutions

Green Life Trading Co.
Indigo Wings, Inc
INNOVA EV
KL Engineering Inc
Miron Construction Co., Inc.
Short Stack Eatery
Sierra Club
Simple Eco Solutions
TDS Telecommunications LLC
Therma-Stor
Third Coast Advisors
UW Credit Union
Village of McFarland
Virent

Participant Spotlight

FLEET FEET MADISON & SUN PRAIRIE

In 2022 local running gear franchise Fleet Feet created a sustainability committee to help plan for the future. They have over 250 franchise locations across the country and hundreds of vendors, so coordinating a sustainability committee will have a far-reaching impact.

Their first sustainability projects cover material waste and recycling, because as a retail business that is at the forefront of their minds.

Fleet Feet's main project was coordinating a recycling resource that will work for all 250 franchise locations. Because there is no national recycling standard this was a challenge. They developed a checklist to make it easier for everyone to get involved.



MADISON & SUN PRAIRIE WI

They also began saving up and recycling their #4 LDPE plastic bags and films. Their vendors package product in these bags which are not conventionally recyclable so they have to make a special effort to get these recycled properly.

Finally, they replaced the garbage, recycling, and composting bins for their retail stores. These bins are a part of their plan to introduce customer-facing composting to their two locations in Madison and Sun Prairie.

Participant Spotlight

CONVERSION TO ELECTRIC

Sustain Dane community member Matthew Duffy phased out all of his gasoline powered equipment and replaced them with 40V rechargeable battery equipment from GreenWorks. He uses an electric lawn mower, snow blower, and chain saw. Matthew also purchases renewable energy-powered electricity, so they are powered by clean energy. He loves that the equipment is quieter and he doesn't have to get gas all over his hands trying to mix it with oil!



Participant Spotlight

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Sustain Dane community member Cristina Carvajal from Wisconsin EcoLatinos has been driving an electric car for the past two years and she loves it. She committed to reducing her energy consumption this past winter, and set the goal of lowering the thermostat temperature from 74F to 70F. Even through the very cold days, she says it wasn't difficult to adapt.

She got used to cozying up with a handmade "Ruana" from Colombia, and reduced her energy bill and her carbon footprint.



Participant Spotlight

EXACT SCIENCES

Exact Sciences Farm Coordinators Sam Worden and Logan Morrow noticed that although they have a company Sustainability Committee that does great work on wellness and sustainability within their labs, there was a need for a group that works on sustainability projects in their offices. They teamed up to get this effort started.

For their first initiative, they worked together to develop a presentation and facilitate a discussion with their entire culinary team at Exact Sciences. This involves a team of about 50 people. They talked about the specific wastes that their culinary operations create, and the proper way to avoid or dispose of them.

This includes how to use their two biodigesters that all the kitchen food scraps are disposed in, the do's and don'ts of recycling at Exact, and a discussion on what wastes the culinary team notices.

They aim to open up their food scrap collection to employee food scraps, and are working with Green Box to start a composting program as well. Once that program is established, they plan to bring compost to the front of house. This program will also be able to accept all their compostable EcoProducts containers that the culinary team uses.

EXACT SCIENCES



CHANGE HAPPENS

when inspired people

TAKE ACTION

Participant Spotlight

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DANE COUNTY

Aubrey Schwonek worked with Abbey Fluke created a water sustainability lesson plan for the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County.



They took water samples from a river, a stream, a pool, the rain, the marsh, and tap water. They challenged their students with guessing where each sample came from. The students also used pH test strips to test the water quality of the different water sources.



The goal of their lesson was to emphasize the concept of "one water," that all water is connected, and it connects all of us. The water from our taps is a part of the same whole as the water in a local marsh, which is why it's important to protect it.



RIPPLE EFFECT

This year we saw several projects focusing on employee engagement and education. Fleetworthy Solutions focused on increasing engagement in their Green Team and putting together a sustainability newsletter for their office. Miron Construction brought sustainability into their employee continuing education options. Others were focused on getting folks reengaged with sustainability after the pandemic stalled their efforts. The 22 organizations that participated have a combined over 8,000 employees. This network of employees engaged in sustainability has a ripple effect of impact far beyond the original participants themselves. Sustain Dane has the unique position to reach these networks with MGE's customer education programming.

