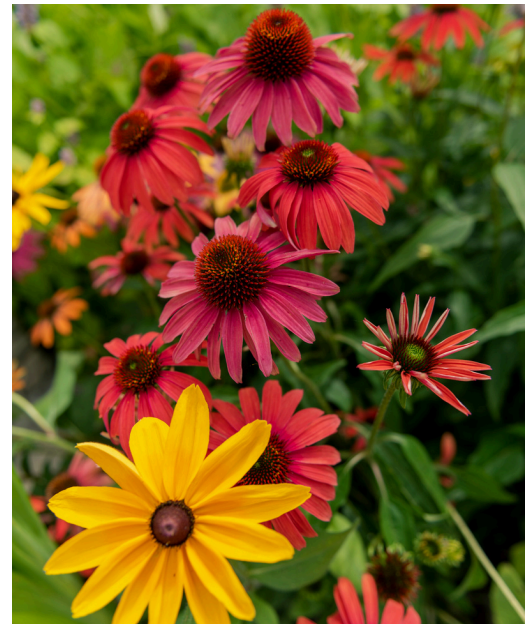




Annual Report

2023



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sustaindane.org

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The Sustain Dane Team

About us

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, equity and social well-being, and a just economy.

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

Mission and Vision

Sustain Dane's vision is a thriving and inclusive community with a sustainable environment and economy we are proud to pass on to future generations. Our mission is to inspire, connect, and support people to accelerate equity and sustainable actions for community well-being.



Meet the Team

Staff



Claire Oleksiak
Executive Director



Lorenza Zebell
Program Manager



Valora Gutierrez
Efficiency Navigator &
NOAH Outreach
Specialist



Maggie Radl
Communications
Specialist



Samantha Worden
Program Coordinator



Spencer Bierman
Development &
Partnerships Manager



Jay Davis
Audio Producer
Consultant



Dyamond Overstreet
PTL Program Manager

Interns



Chlo Baumbach
Compost Intern



Olivia Wuethrich
Compost Intern



Jeanne Welch
Compost Intern



Jennifer Sandor
Compost Intern



Anna Jurena
Compost Intern



Sophie Hammond
Compost Intern



Siri Wagner Grund
Compost Intern



Powerful Teen Leaders

Board Members



Mark Richardson
President
Unfinished Business



Sandy Xiong
Vice President
City of Sun Prairie



Jim Bradley
Treasurer
Home Savings Bank



Sujata Gautam
Secretary
Dept. of Waste & Renewables



Steve Whayland
At-Large
DC Engineering



Yvette Jones
designCraft
Advertising



Angeline Mboutngam
Wisconsin
Foundation and
Alumni Association



Tom Thompson
UW Health



Amanda Goetsch
University of
Wisconsin Sustainable
Management



Robin Lisowski
Slipstream



Dave Benforado
MG&E



Ben Reynolds
Reynolds Transfer
and Storage



Melissa Flores
Nordic Consulting



Abigail Corso
Elevate Energy



Christopher Peguero
DEI Consultant



Richard Heinemann
Boardman Clark LLP

Letter From Our Executive Director

Sustain Dane and community members like you deeply value a healthy environment for future generations. Sustain Dane's programs foster learning, connection, and action to enhance community well-being.

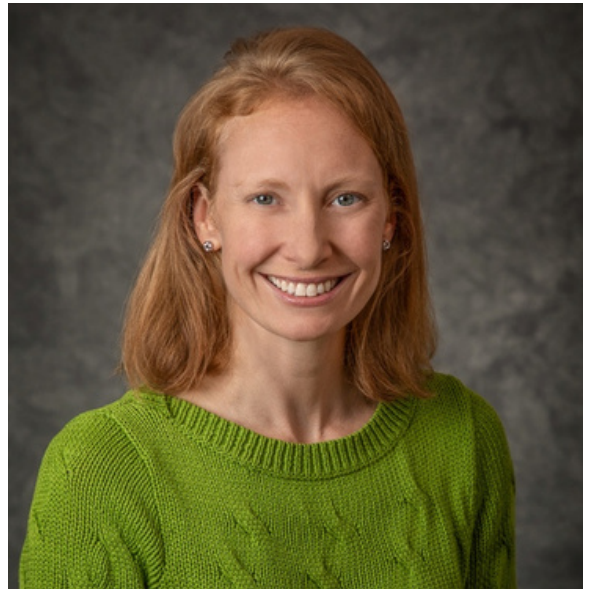
"The programs organized by Sustain Dane are truly some of the most informative, impactful, and inspiring. Topics are well thought out and are meticulously addressed. Every time I leave inspired to do more for our environment."

-Gaurav Pranami, at the Sustainable Breakfast Series on air quality.

The Canadian wildfires were a pivotal moment for our community and Sustain Dane had a program in place addressing the issue. The Bilingual Leadership program arranged for a team of eight bilingual leaders to attend workshop sessions and install seven air quality monitors. This program was a highlight of 2023 for me. It embodied our mission and values by expanding environmental education, implementing projects, fostering inclusive leadership, and working in partnership with our community. The participants now confidently lead conversations about air quality and are a resource for their friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

In addition to the Sustainable Breakfast Series and Bilingual Leaders program, your support in 2023 also enabled us to:

- Reach 25,000+ people through ripple effect impacts, specifically engaging



Claire Schaefer Oleksiak Executive Director, Sustain Dane

with 1,600+ people through our educational programming.

- Collect 18,000+ pounds of food scraps at the South Madison and Eastside farmer's markets to regenerate soil at the Neighborhood Food Solutions farm in Fitchburg.
- Reduce energy bills for 64 units of affordable apartments, as well as improving energy efficiency, comfort, health and resilience in Madison and Middleton.
- Lead over 4,500 students in lunch-time recycling and waste audits at 11 schools
- Launch the Powerful Teen Leaders summer youth employment program for seven Northside teens focused on green economy careers, job readiness, and leadership.

Working together, we can amplify sustainable actions in the workplace, at home, in schools, and throughout our community.

Sincerely,

Claire Schaefer Oleksiak Executive Director, Sustain Dane

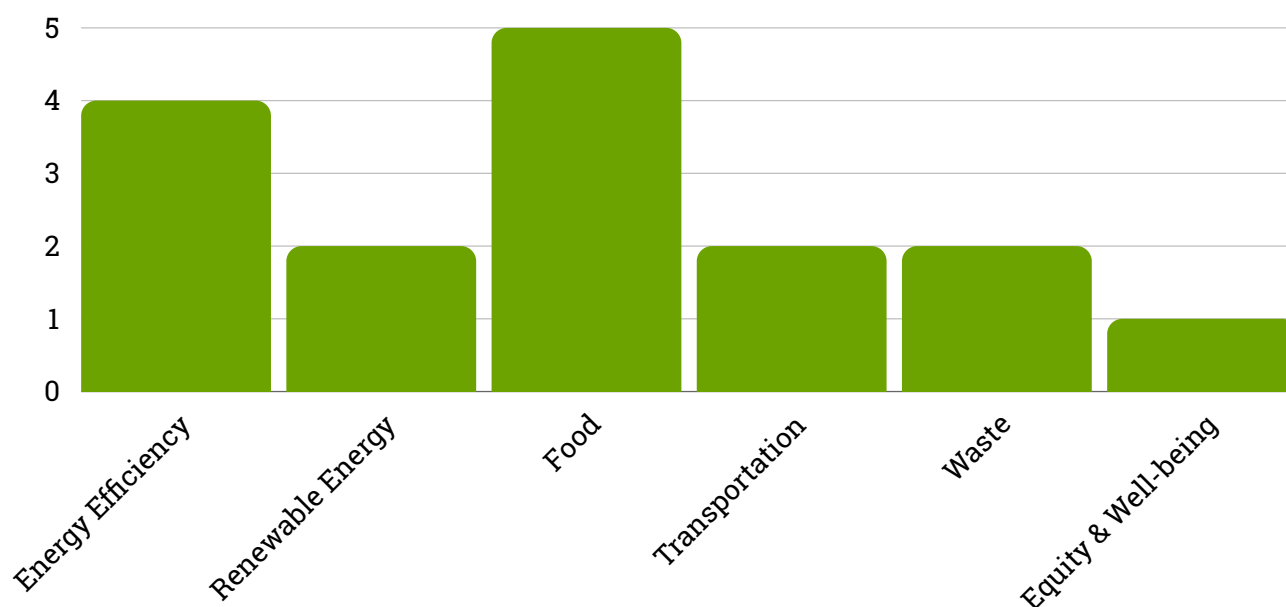
Accelerate Sustainability Workshop

Our Accelerate Sustainability Workshop is a professional development opportunity designed to help achieve sustainability initiatives at local businesses and organizations.

The workshop includes:

- Change-making and sustainability leadership strategies
- A panel presentation of local business case studies featuring successfully implemented sustainability initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency, renewables, food management, and alternative transportation
- Information on how to harness incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act, and more

Project Areas



Accelerate Sustainability Workshop continued

Participants

- 350 Madison
- Attic Angel Prairie Point
- Boardman & Clark
- Canopy
- City of Stoughton Sustainability Committee
- City of Sun Prairie
- Dane Buy Local
- DC Engineering
- Edward Jones
- Emmi Roth
- ERBN Member
- Exact Sciences
- EZ Office Products
- Green Box Compost
- Green Life Trading Co.
- Hodge Podge
- JenProSolutions
- Kahler Slater
- Linden CoHousing
- Local Motion Real Estate
- lucky8ball
- Madison Children's Museum
- Madison365
- MemorialCare
- Movin' Out
- Mundo Esperanza
- PBS Wisconsin
- Placon
- Project Home Inc
- Promega
- REAP Food Group
- RENEW Wisconsin
- Reynolds Transfer & Storage
- RISE Wisconsin Inc
- Sierra Club
- Sketchworks Architecture LLC
- Slipstream
- Summit Credit Union
- Sun Prairie
- T.L. Luke Art
- TDS Telecommunications LLC
- UW Credit Union
- Village of McFarland
- Village of Shorewood Hills Green Team
- Willy Street Co-op
- Zoe's Pizzeria
- #SmartCohort



"Working on our sustainability projects as a team brought our community closer together. We are so proud of the greener space we've created."

—Cynthia Moore, Sustainable Living Committee, Linden Cohousing

“This is not a wastewater treatment plant problem. It’s not a water utility problem. This is society’s problem – we all have a role to play... Individual actions can have a big impact.”

—Martye Griffin, Director of Ecosystem Services,
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage district at our February
Sustainable Breakfast Series on PFAS & their Impacts



Sustainable Breakfast Series

The Sustainable Breakfast Series highlights current sustainability topics through expert speakers and skill-building opportunities. Breakfast meetings are attended by regional business leaders and individuals who care about integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into their professional and personal actions.

PFAS Community Impacts & Management

For our February Sustainable Breakfast Series, we featured a conversation on PFAS, or Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, and their impact. The panelists covered where PFAS come from, their impact on our environment and health, the ways our community is working to reduce their prevalence, and how you can get involved.

Participants gained an understanding of the history of different chemicals used and removed from daily use, heard about actions the local government and other agencies are taking to address the known pollution sources, along with learning what actions they could take to reduce their contact with PFAS.

Christina Remucal, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison moderated the conversation.

Featured Speakers

- Martye Griffin, Director of Ecosystem Services, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Joseph Grande, Water Quality Manager, Madison Water Utility
- John Hausbeck, Environmental Health Services Supervisor, Public Health Madison & Dane County

Electric Vehicles & Madison's Fleet

Our April Sustainable Breakfast Series focused on electric vehicles and the City of Madison's fleet.

The program featured a presentation by Mahanth Joishy with the City of Madison. The City of Madison fleet is a leader in the field. It houses the largest EV fleet and fleet EV charging station network in Wisconsin and well beyond, and the first-ever EV fire truck to be placed into service in all North America.

Mahanth leads the City of Madison Fleet's innovative programs to purchase biodiesel, electric vehicles, hybrid police cars, anti-idling technology, soybean tires, telematics, and more. Participants also got their electric vehicle questions answered.

Featured Speaker

- Mahanth S. Joishy, Fleet Superintendent, City of Madison

"We can be setting an example, not just for this community, but for the rest of the world."

— Mahanth S. Joishy, Fleet Superintendent, City of Madison at our April Sustainable Breakfast Series on Electric Vehicles



Mahanth Joishy presenting at our April Sustainable Breakfast Series on Electric Vehicles and the City of Madison's Fleet.



Claudio Gratton presenting at our July Sustainable Breakfast Series on Pollinators

The Role of Pollinators in Our Ecosystem

At our July Sustainable Breakfast Series, we discussed pollinators' role in our ecosystem and their conservation in a human-dominated world.

Pollination is incredibly important to world food production. One of three bites of food we eat is from insect-pollinated foods. Globally, \$188 billion per year of agricultural production comes from insect-pollinated crops. That's 10 percent of the value of crops used for human food.

Bee and pollinator declines are headline news, prompting questions among scientists, farmers, policy-makers and the public at large about what is causing these declines, what it means for us, and what we can do about it. Dr. Gratton talked about the state of the science and ways to move forward in conserving pollinators in our landscapes, including what we can do in our own backyards.

Featured Speaker

- Claudio Gratton, Professor of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"The bee decline is a complex problem but the increase in dialogue over these issues shows that there is an appetite for change, and improvement."

— Claudio Gratton, Professor of Entomology, UW-Madison at our July Sustainable Breakfast Series on Pollinators



A Breathable Future: A Panel on Air Quality

Our September Sustainable Breakfast Series featured a panel conversation on air quality that dove into the latest insight from the Canadian Wildfires, history of the clean air act, the connection between air quality and public health, and relations to workplace well-being.

This summer, our community experienced first-hand the impacts of wildfire on air quality. It has led to elevated levels of pollutants gaining national attention and inspiring action. More people are now showing an increased interest in understanding air quality. Participants gained knowledge of air quality fundamentals and how that shapes the air we breathe.

Cristina Carvajal Founder & Executive Director of Wisconsin EcoLatinos, moderated the conversation.

Featured Speakers

- Brad Pierce, Director, UW Madison Space Science and Engineering Center
- Brianna Denk, Air Quality Planning and Standards Section Chief, WI DNR
- Ivo Rozendaal, Partner, Workplace Studio Leader, SmithGroup



Left to right: speakers Brianna, Ivo, Brad, and Cristina at our September Sustainable Breakfast Series on A Breathable Future: a Panel on Air Quality

All Around Dane County

Sustainability is happening all around Dane County! The All Around Dane County program is a community-driven initiative dedicated to fostering local engagement and promoting sustainability. This program is designed to provide opportunities for locals to connect with one another, learn about ongoing sustainability efforts, and discover ways to actively contribute to a more environmentally conscious and resilient community. The program creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond the individual sessions, building a more sustainable future for our county.

April: Mount Horeb

For our April All Around Dane County program we gathered in Mt. Horeb at the Grump Troll to discuss the motivations and aspirations the citizens of Mt. Horeb have for fostering sustainability, connection, and positive change within their communities. We got to hear from local leaders, artisans, and residents whose stories intertwine to give a greener outlook for this community.

Featured Speakers

- Children's Community School & Glow Solar
- Friends of Stewart County Park
- Food Security Project
- Mt. Horeb Community Garden
- Mound View Garden Club
- Residential Geothermal
- Residential Solar



Attendees at the All Around Dane County in Mt. Horeb listening to the presentations

All Around Dane County continued

June: Sun Prairie

For our June All Around Dane County we gathered in Sun Prairie at the Loft at 132. We heard from local residents about what they do and how their respective organizations are helping Sun Prairie and Dane County be a more sustainable community.

Featured Speakers

- Green Box Composting
- City of Sun Prairie
- Sun Prairie Schools
- Sun Prairie Markets
- Parks Friends



Attendees at the All Around Dane County in Sun Prairie listening to the presentations



Attendees at the All Around Dane County in Deerfield networking with local residents

August: Deerfield

For our August All Around Dane County we gathered in Deerfield underneath the solar pergola at Couillard Solar Foundation. There we touched on the topics of clean energy, school sustainability, and regenerative landscapes through local residents and organizations.

Featured Speakers

- Village of Deerfield
- Couillard Solar Foundation
- Deerfield School District
- Deerfield Community Center
- Local residents



Attendees at the All Around Dane County in McFarland listening to the presentations

October: McFarland

Our last All Around Dane County program took place in October as we gathered in McFarland at the McFarland House Cafe. We heard sustainability stories on solar farms, native planting, the new net-zero public safety building, and more.

Featured Speakers

- Village of McFarland
- Good Oak Ecological Services
- JP Cullen
- McFarland United Church of Christ
- Lake Waubesa Conservancy

Volunteer & Community Building Events

In 2023, Sustain Dane hosted three volunteer and community-building events:

- Earth Month Cleanup with Ian's Pizza at Garver Feedmill
- A Summer Social at the Biergarten at Olbrich Park



The Sustain Dane community getting together at our volunteer and community-building programs

School Cafeteria Recycling, Composting, & Food Waste Audits

This past year, we continued our work within the Madison Metropolitan School District by expanding a mealtime recycling program and beginning a food waste program. We currently have seven elementary and three middle schools carton recycling.

This year, we wrapped up our Food Waste Warriors grant by completing 34 waste audits at nine schools. Through participation in a research study on food waste inventions, we continue to work with three schools to conduct lunchtime waste audits to reduce food waste. We are also composting at four elementary schools with over 7,000 pounds composted.



Sustain Dane staff and student scraping their food waste into the compost bin.

Restaurant Sustainability Network

Sustain Dane's Restaurant Sustainability Network aims to bring awareness and action to food waste in local restaurants. The participating restaurants work with us to identify how and when food waste is created and set goals to reduce, repurpose, and divert wasted food. We are also compiling the food waste reduction practices they already employ into a best practices reference document for local restaurants. New this year, one participant, Coopers Tavern, completed a composting trial for the back-of-house food waste at their restaurant.

Other participating restaurants include: Short Stack Eatery, Ian's Pizza, The Mason Lounge, Michaelangelo's Coffeehouse, Madison Children's Museum Little John's Lunchbox Cafe, Attic Angel Community Cafeteria, Food Fight Restaurant Group which includes Everly, The Coopers Tavern, and Miko Poke, and the Dane County Food Collective, which includes Morris Ramen, Heritage Tavern, and Little Johns Kitchens.



Green Box compost taking the food scraps from participant Coopers Tavern



Chad Laibly (Focus on Energy), Mike Foss (Dun-rite Insulation) , Mayor of Madison Satya Rhodes-Conway, participating owner Melvin Boone, Claire Oleksiak (Sustain Dane)

Efficiency Navigator

The Efficiency Navigator program, in partnership with Elevate, helps small to medium-sized multifamily housing become more efficient, affordable, and resilient while reducing operating costs for owners and energy cost burden for residents. The program provides complimentary efficiency assessments and step-by-step navigation of implementation for renter-occupied buildings with rents affordable to residents at or below 80% Area Median Income. Upgrades to properties will focus on energy efficiency improvements, and some properties may be a good fit for deeper upgrades including electrification and solar installation.

Program impact since implementations began:

- Total of 262 owners and residents engaged throughout the project
 - 159 owners and residents received improvements across 30 buildings
 - 117 measures implemented across all buildings including:
 - 92 measures improved energy efficiency such as air sealing; attic, wall, & rim joist insulation; heat pump water heater, efficient boiler upgrade, and dual fuel air source heat pump.
 - 25 measures decreased environmental toxins such as removal of vermiculite, ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens, removal of gas stoves and installation of electric stoves, improved chimney liner to properly vent combustion gases.
- After air sealing work, combustion safety testing is completed on all properties that have naturally venting natural gas equipment in the property.

This program saves an estimated 67,624 kg CO₂e annually, which equates to 295,036 vehicles miles traveled avoided.



Participants in the first session discussing their water-related outreach projects

Water Steward

Fresh water is Earth's most precious resource. We all use it every day and can all have an impact on the ability to provide reliable supplies of clean water now and for future generations. The program aided participants to become a steward of our local waters. Water Stewards was developed in partnership with Sustain Dane, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership, the Madison Water Utility, and the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department. We had 122 participants and 100% of the XYZ participants said they were inspired to take action on something they learned at the meeting.

Some of their actions include: water softener replacement at home, installing a rain barrel at home, creating an infographic that outlines easy ways that people can save water when renting/in an apartment setting, a Lunch & Learn for a local office, and outreach in a neighborhood newsletter.

Powerful Teen Leaders

The Powerful Teen Leaders program was led by a coalition of Sustain Dane, Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC), and Northport & Packers Community Learning Center to provide a summer youth employment program for teens in Madison, WI.

The program provided a paid summer employment program focused on serving Northside teens. Participants engaged with a curriculum that includes employment skills, leadership training, community-building activities, S.T.E.M., climate change and sustainability, green jobs, financial literacy, and professional workshops from local businesses. This program aimed to prepare them for employment, particularly in the emerging green economy, and connect them to a network of businesses and support for them to be successful.

It's helpful to see young people getting education and working, it helped me feel more motivated about the future.

—Lia Jabber, PTL Participant



EPA Environmental Justice Program

The Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD)'s Bilingual Leadership Academy collaborated with Sustain Dane to expand our Recycle Better program. This version is presented in Spanish and English and is culturally relevant to the Latinx community. In 2023 we had 11 participants.

In addition, these students learned about the importance of air quality and what individuals can do to protect our health from air pollution. A study conducted by the EPA found minority communities, regardless of where they live or how much money they make, are exposed to air pollutants at a much higher rate than white people. Through the program, participants installed Seven PurpleAir air quality monitors.

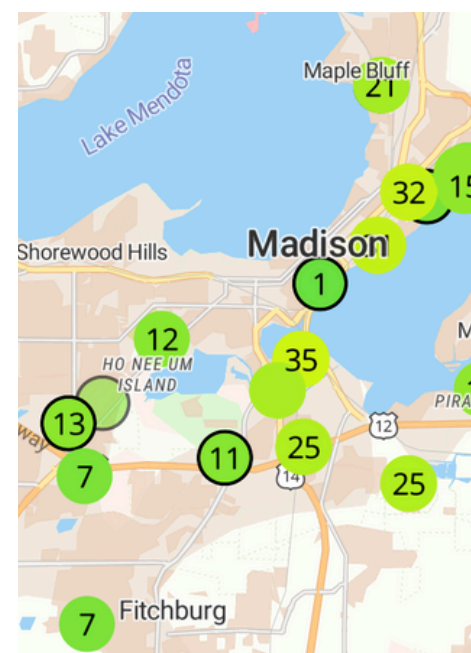
This program is supported by the Carton Council's Recycling Communication Grant and an EPA Environmental Justice grant.

"How do we change our mindset to be able to do something to benefit all of us? I was so excited to go each Thursday see all my classmates and to learn a little bit more about [the environment]."

— Yyare Parra, Program Participant



Some of the EPA Environmental Justice Program participants posing at graduation



Locations of the PurpleAir monitors in the Madison Region

Farmers' Market Food Scrap Collection

Sustain Dane continued two food scrap drop off sites at the Eastside and South Madison farmers' markets for the 2023 season. In partnership with the City of Madison and Dane County Department of Waste and Renewables, we collected about 18,877 pounds of food scraps over the span of 29 market dates.

Sustain Dane transported the food scraps to a local urban farm operated by the social justice and workforce development nonprofit Neighborhood Food Solutions. There, the food waste was composted and used to grow organic food sold locally. The program was estimated to have involved over 2,000 people and was free for participants.



Family-friendly event with the Dane County interactive Trash Lab near the start of the South Madison Farmers' Market



Interns staffing the South Madison Farmers' Market



Interns dressed for Halloween at the East Side Farmers' Market

Sustain Dane Summit

The Sustain Dane Summit was a conference for sustainability enthusiasts to learn, connect, share, reflect, and build new personal and professional skills. This year's program featured 320 attendees, 16 speakers, 14 exhibitors, 25 award nominees, and much more.



Keynote Diamond Spratling speaking at the Summit

Inspiring, friendly, high-vibe affair. Leaving reacquainted with old friends and colleagues, having new connections and energy to keep innovating in climate.

— Sharon Barbour, Green Thunder Collab. & Sharon Barbour Coaching, LLC



Live Forward Awardees Ben Austin, Cristina Carvajal, and Ruthanna Hutton-Okpalaeke



Summit Attendees network at the morning coffee and breakfast

Sustain Dane Summit Program Highlights

- Participants network, connect, & engage with facilitated conversations
- Keynote with Diamond Spratling, award-winning environmental justice activist
- Transformative Local Projects: the Lake Monona Waterfront Redesign & the Dane County Office of Waste & Renewables Sustainability Campus
- Local leaders share stories of successful sustainability projects
- Live Forward awards honor regional change-makers



Attendee adding to the interactive art piece at the Summit

"Sustain Dane excellently organizes a community of like-minded yet diverse people from all walks of life who are passionate about being better stewards of the Earth."

—Leah Purdy, Summit Survey Respondent



Attendees take a selfie together

Thank you for your support

Thank you to the community of Sustain Dane supporting partners & members:

\$30,000+

- City of Madison
- Elevate

\$20,000+

- Madison Gas & Electric
- Virent

\$10,000+

- Carton Council of North America Inc.
- Evjue Foundation
- Illumina
- Latino Academy of Workforce Development
- UW Health

\$5,000+

- Community Shares of Wisconsin
- Dane County Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership
- Everlight Solar
- Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison
- Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Madison Water Utility

\$2,000+

- Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables
- Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
- Steve Stricker American Family Insurance

\$1,000+

- TruStage
- Olbrich Biergarten
- University of Wisconsin Sustainable Management

\$500+

- Festival Foods

Audited financials and 990s are available upon request.

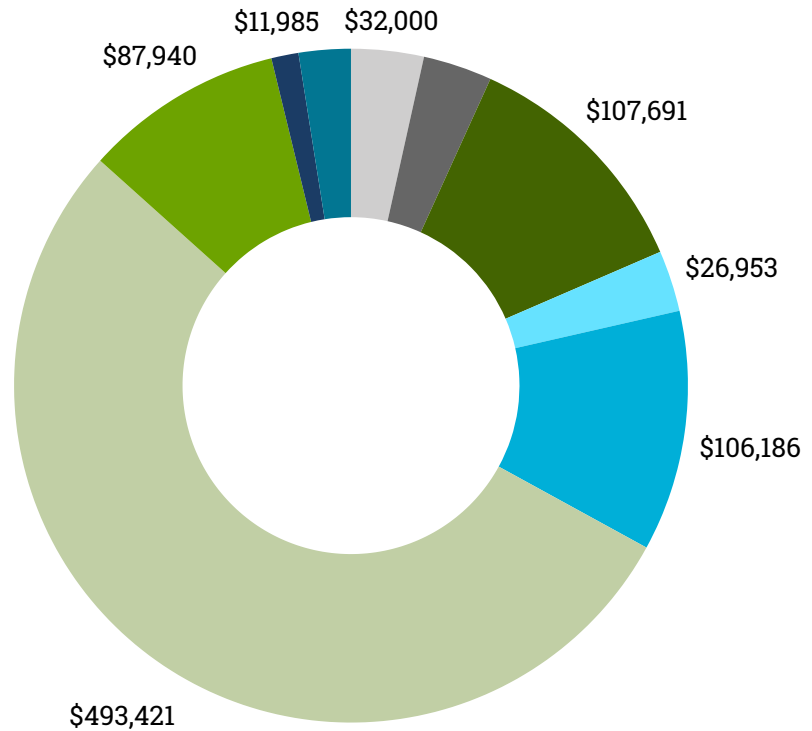
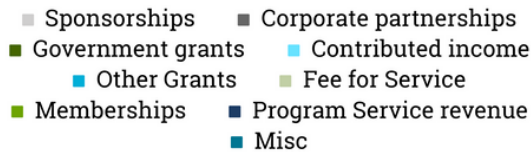


Financial Statement

Audited Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

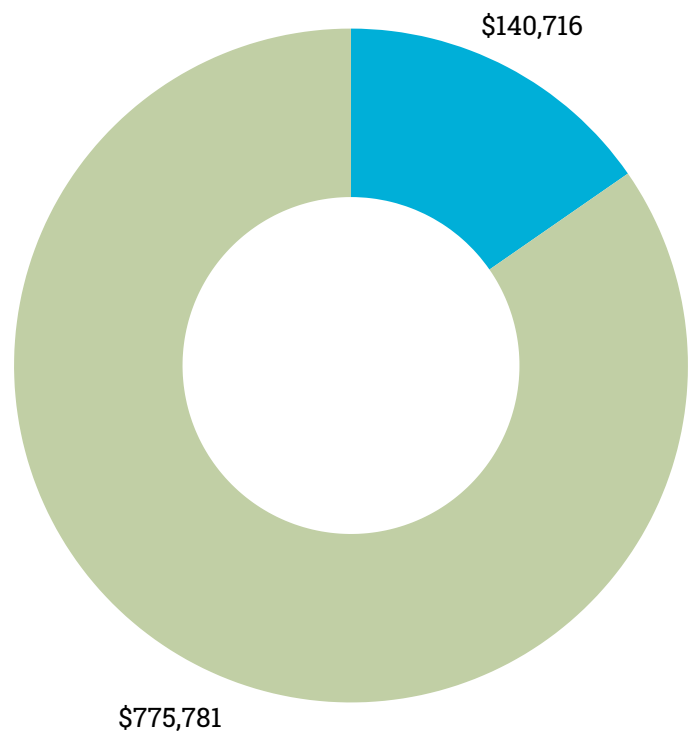
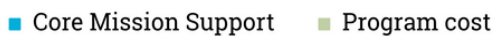
Revenue:

Sponsorships: \$32,000
 Corporate partnerships: \$30,454
 Government grants: \$107,691
 Contributed income: \$26,953
 Other Grants: \$106,186
 Fee for Service: \$493,421
 Memberships: \$87,940
 Program Service revenue: \$11,985
 Misc: \$22,955



Expense:

Core Mission Support: \$140,716
 Program cost: \$775,781



Support Sustainable Actions for Community Well-being

Join the Sustain Dane membership network, programs, and events for inspiration and connection.

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

