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February 2025 Newsletter

[Sustain Dane](#) is the sustainability organization of Dane County. [Join us](#) and get involved in accelerating community well-being.



Our Leap Forward in Transit Recap

On Tuesday we held our first Sustainable Breakfast Series of 2025 with an engaging discussion on sustainable transit in Dane County. It was a lively program filled with learning, connection, and thoughtful conversation:

- Launch of BRT in September has been overall well received increased bus ridership for BRT routes by 18% and overall by 10%.
- Metro's Bus Rapid Transit routes are expanding to [Monona](#) and [Verona](#).
- [Pay by credit card](#) on buses starts this spring.
- Population growth is expected to add 800,000 more trips to Madison's streets by 2050.
- As we add more people and jobs in Dane County, our total number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is increasing, but the good news is our household VMT is decreasing.

- 38% of vehicle trips in the U.S. are three miles or less and 28% are two miles or less. These short trips can take ~20 minutes on a bus or bike and collectively make a positive impact on reducing GHG when alternative transportation is used.

Attendees talked about friction points to alternative transit and approaches to overcome them. One strategy is to use the upcoming change in seasons to launch a new habit for taking the bus, biking, carpooling or walking. Consider joining the April 1 – 30 Spring Roll challenge that encourages car-free and car-light trips throughout April and Sign up for [RoundTrip](#) for more alternative transit resources.

Join RoundTrip



Recycle Your Whole Pizza Box - Even the Greasy Parts

“How do I recycle a pizza box?” is a common question we get asked . Thanks to recycling updates, it just got easier in [Madison](#) and areas served by [Pelliteri](#).

1. Remove any leftover food, like pieces of crust or slices of pizza. Remove dipping sauce cups and other things that are not cardboard, like pizza savers.
2. It's ok for grease to be on visible on the cardboard box
3. Flatten your box, like you should do with all cardboard boxes.
4. Put it into the green recycling cart.

[Read more in the Press Release](#)



Next week is The Big Share – a local day of giving that supports nearly 70 [Community Shares of Wisconsin](#) organizations. These nonprofits missions range from housing advocacy, to voting right to environmental protections and more. This is an opportunity for nonprofits in Wisconsin to advance their missions together while reaching a broader audience of community members and donors.

Help us celebrate on Tuesday, March 4 from 5 – 7 pm at [Greater Heights Climbing Gym](#) in Fitchburg. Learn the basics of climbing and/or enjoy light refreshments and snacks while helping us accelerating sustainable actions for community well-being. All ages and ability levels are welcome! If it is your first time visiting Greater Heights Climbing Gym, please arrive between 5 – 6 pm for a short orientation to the best enjoy your experience.

From now until March 3, every day-pass purchased at Greater Heights with mention of Sustain Dane will contribute to a \$2 donation to our campaign. On March 4, every Greater Heights day-pass purchased with mention of Sustain Dane will mean an \$11 donation to our Big Share campaign.

Unable to join us in-person or looking to support The Big Share in other ways? [Donate to Sustain Dane's Big Share Campaign](#) now through March 4! The first \$1,000 of donations will be matched and doubled thanks to generous contributions from our current and former Board of Directors.

Feel free to reach out to Spencer at spencer@sustaindane.org with any questions

Donate to our Fundraiser

RSVP for the Celebration on Big Share Day

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Renewed Member Recognition



Everlight Solar

+2 individual members

SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP

Sustain Dane recognizes the businesses, organizations, and individuals who value sustainability and are a part of our membership.

Our membership offers inspiring education and professional development, powerful connections through networking and volunteering, and customized support to help you accelerate sustainability actions for community well-being. Renewals include:

- IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
- Everlight Solar
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Klein's Floral and Greenhouse
- +2 individuals

[Membership](#) is rolling throughout the year and we welcome all to join.



Lunchtime Recycling Programs

Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) schools are continuing to make a sustainable impact. This past semester we continued our partnership with SPASD to expand carton recycling to their remaining six elementary schools.

The program was met with enthusiasm by both teachers and students. As a result of this initiative, over 2,385 students will be recycling cartons in their cafeteria. Instead of occupying space in our landfill, these cartons will be recycled at a Wisconsin facility and transformed into paper products and building materials.

Thank you to the [Carton Council](#) for their continued support that makes these programs possible.

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Walking All Around Dane County Recap

The 2025 All Around Dane County program kicked off with a refreshing new outdoor walking component, inspired by last year's Connection to Nature session at the Summit. On Friday, February 21, attendees gathered at the UW Madison Arboretum to hear from its new director, Patrick Bohlen. He shared insights on the Arboretum's history and efforts to preserve natural habitats. Following his talk, we enjoyed a walk on the scenic trails, taking in the beautiful weather and connecting as a community. We're excited to continue exploring sustainability across Dane County—stay tuned for our next program.

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Job Opportunity: Powerful Teen Leaders Program Manager

Powerful Teen Leaders (PTL) is a summer youth employment program focused on supporting Northside teens to thrive during the summer. This will be the third year of PTL. Participants will engage with a curriculum containing sustainability and green jobs, employment skills, financial literacy, leadership training, community building, and environmental resources. Through this program, participants will learn, earn, connect, and develop pathways to quality employment opportunities. The program manager will be responsible for creating a supportive, interactive, and engaging summer youth experience for

approximately six high school participants. Position is Limited Term Employment (LTE) with up to 20 hours per week. Submit resume and cover letter to Spencer@sustaindane.org. Application review will begin March 17 until the position is filled. Anticipated start date of April 15.

Learn more and apply

**Last Chance:
Job Opportunity
Compost Interns**

Working with Sustain Dane is a meaningful opportunity to grow professionally and support holistic sustainability. We are hiring multiple part-time Limited Term Employment Compost Intern positions. The positions are 5–12 hours/week from April to October, but people available for 6 weeks within the job period are also encouraged to apply. Join our dynamic team!

Compost Interns will assist with operations related to collecting, weighing, tracking, and sorting food scraps from community members at a free farmers' market food scrap drop-off stand. In addition, we are hiring a Driving Compost Intern, who will drive a cargo van with set-up materials for the market stand and with the boxes of collected food scraps to the farm.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled, with an anticipated start date of April 29.

Learn more and apply



Accelerate Sustainability at your Organization

Our Accelerate Sustainability Workshop will help you achieve sustainability initiatives at your business and organization. The workshop includes how to demonstrate potential cost savings and environmental impact, case studies from local businesses, and how to continue to work on sustainability while facing uncertainty under this administration. Join us **Friday, April 11 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM** to learn, connect, and commit to action.

Topics covered include:

- Local business case studies featuring successfully implemented sustainability initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency, renewables, food waste, and alternative transportation.
- Inspiration & guidance to help you build an internal team and commit to taking action at your business
- An introduction to **MGE's My Meter tool** to measure energy use and set performance targets to reduce usage and demand costs.
- Information on the **Building Energy Savings Program** from Speaker Gregg May, Sustainability Program Coordinator at City of Madison.
- Suggestions for integrating sustainability initiatives in your organization's recruitment and marketing strategies
- Current sustainability plans and research including the **City of Madison Sustainability Plan** and the **Dane County Climate Action Plan**

Register

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5th Annual Earth Day Cleanup

Mark your calendar for the fifth year of our urban cleanup on Saturday, April 26. We are happy to partner with Ian's Pizza to celebrate Earth Month 2025 with the Sustain Dane Community. Ian's is generously offering a free pizza slice for your hard work.

When trash washes into lakes, rivers, and streams it not only harms fish and other aquatic wildlife, but it makes it difficult to boat, fish, or swim. Help us pick up our neighborhood to prevent this pollution from reaching our waterways. Last year we collected over 700 lbs. of trash.

Meet outside the south entrance of Garver Feed Mill at 10:00 AM. We will provide gloves, trash bags, and hand sanitizer. Please RSVP here to join us so we can get an accurate headcount.

RSVP



CITY OF
MADISON



We invite you to submit an application to the **Efficiency Navigator Program** for your property in Madison, WI.

Your building may be a candidate to receive funds for energy efficiency improvements **at no cost to you**. This program helps small to medium-sized apartments become more energy efficient, affordable, and comfortable. Work implemented at 177 units to date.

**Learn
more &
apply**



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sustaindane.org/madison-efficiency-navigator-information



Save Energy



Live Comfortably



Save Money

Efficiency Navigator - Accepting Applications

Are you a rental property owner interested in maintaining long-term housing affordability for your residents? We invite building owners to submit an application to the Efficiency Navigator Program for properties in Madison, WI. The above mailing is going out to Madison buildings that may be a candidate to receive funds for energy efficiency improvements at no cost to the owner. This program helps small to medium-sized apartments become more energy efficient, affordable, and comfortable. Work implemented at 177 units to date.

Learn more & apply



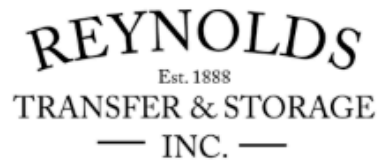
In the community

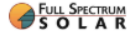
Photo by Spencer Bierman

March 1 [Buzzing Gardens and Landscapes: Bumblebee Conservation in Wisconsin](#)
[UW Arboretum Visitor Center](#)
March 2 [Dig into Rain Gardens](#) Lyman F. Anderson
[Agriculture & Conservation Center](#)
March 4 [Demystifying Plants](#) Olbrich Gardens
March 4 [Margaret Renkl The Comfort of Crows Book Discussion](#)
March 12 [A Hundred Views of the Driftless Area](#)
March 13 [Sustainable Success - Renewable Energy Policy: Challenges, Controversies, and the Path Forward](#)
March 14 [Full Moon Night Creature Search](#) McCarthy
[Youth & Conservation Park, Cottage Grove](#)
March 20 [AI and Computing for Local Food Systems](#)
March 20 [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) Barrymore
[Theatre](#)
March 31 [The Problem with Birds and Windows: Studying and Reducing Bird-Window Collisions](#)
[UW Arboretum Visitor Center](#)
April 1 [Recycling Garden Debris](#) Olbrich Gardens

Sustain Dane Forest & Tree Members and Partners.
Join the Sustain Dane Membership at the Forest, Tree, or Leaf level.

Support organizations that value sustainability:





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