



## March 2025 Newsletter

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



**Accelerate Sustainability at your Organization**

### 4/11 Accelerate Sustainability Workshop

Our Accelerate Sustainability Workshop is a leadership opportunity designed to help achieve sustainability initiatives at your business and organization. The workshop will include ideas for action, how to demonstrate potential cost savings of projects, case studies from local businesses, and how to continue to work on sustainability while facing uncertainty with changes in the federal government. Join us Friday, April 11 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM to learn, connect, and commit to action.

In addition to the workshop and discussion time, guest speakers include:

- Austin Daugherty, Senior Workplace Sustainability Specialist at American Family Insurance will share an overview of AmFam's experience with the Building Energy Savings Program.
- Caroline Failon from Fairshare CSA Coalition will share her story about planning a low waste event with nearly 1,000 attendees, and tips on how your organization can lower waste at events.

- Gregg May, Sustainability Program Coordinator at City of Madison about the Building Energy Savings Program, which supports energy benchmarking and periodic tune-ups for commercial buildings.

Join us April 11



**Louis Liu**  
Rehlko



**James Tinjum**  
UW Madison



**Christopher Peguero**  
Type One Energy



**Robb Hughes**  
Realta Fusion

### Sustainable Breakfast Series: Energy Transition Technologies

#### *4/15 Sustainable Breakfast Series: Energy Transition Technologies*

Dive into stories of three different clean energy technologies with us at our April Sustainable Breakfast Series. What does it take to bring these innovations into the mainstream? In what ways are these technologies used today? What role do they or can they play in decarbonizing our economy?

This session will explore three technologies at different stages of public adoption, through stories from multiple local organizations. We will learn about technologies at different phases of development and use: hydrogen cell powered generators, fusion energy, and geothermal.

Louis Liu from [Rehlko](#) will talk about their hydrogen generators that use hydrogen fuel cell technology to produce electricity, emitting zero emissions at the point of use. We will also hear from Christopher Peguero of [Type One Energy](#) and Robb Hughes from [Realta Fusion](#) about the progress of fusion energy, how it is used in research today and future applications. And finally, James Tinjum from [UW Madison](#) will talk about the history of geothermal and the story of how it grew to be a viable green energy solution. Hear from these experts on the challenges, breakthroughs, and future opportunities shaping the energy landscape today.

RSVP



## Recycle Better

### 4/17 Recycle Better

Our popular recycling program is back for 2025. Become a recycling steward with our award-winning program in partnership with the City of Madison. Learn the ins and outs of our local recycling system and get your recycling questions answered. The program will give you the tools you need to teach your family, neighbors, friends, and coworkers how to improve recycling and community sustainability.

Topics include: what makes recycling work and why we do it, local recycling basics, barriers to recycling, other waste streams, low-waste living, & how to champion recycling in your community.

We will meet online via Zoom in two parts on Thursday, April 17 and Thursday, April 24 from 12PM—1:30PM. The session will be recorded and shared with registrants.

[Register](#)



## 5th Annual Earth Day Cleanup

### 4/26 Earth Month Cleanup

Join us for the fifth year of our cleanup in the Starkweather Neighborhood on Saturday, April 26. Our volunteers consistently collect over 800 pounds of trash each year. We are happy to partner with Ian's Pizza and Delta Beer Lab to celebrate this volunteering opportunity.

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 clean up around Garver Feed Mill and Starkweather neighborhood to prevent this pollution from reaching our waterways.

We will meet outside the south entrance of Garver Feed Mill at 10:00 AM. Sustain Dane will provide gloves, trash bags, and hand sanitizer. Please RSVP here to join us so we can get an accurate headcount. Ian's is generously offering a free pizza slice for your hard work and Delta Beer Lab is offering free pint cards!

[Sign up today](#)

## New Member Recognition



+3 individual members

SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP

### New Member Recognition

Welcome our newest members to the Sustain Dane community:

- Emmi Roth
- EUA (Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc)
- New Year Investments
- + 3 individuals

We appreciate all our members and the work they do to move sustainability forward in our community. Support local organizations and businesses that value sustainability.

Interested in becoming a member? [Learn more and sign up online](#). Members receive complimentary access to Sustain Dane programs and other benefits, while also supporting Sustain Dane to continue our work in the community.



Efficiency Navigator Work in Action

*Efficiency Navigator Work in Action*

Sustain Dane and partners are hard at work with the [Efficiency Navigator program](#), supporting small to medium-sized affordable apartment housing to become more efficient, affordable, and resilient. This month we completed work for our first building of 2025 and first building in the Allied neighborhood.

Post-testing on the two-unit duplex showed a 39% air leakage reduction. The efficiency upgrades included air sealing, attic insulation, ventilation, and two dual fuel air source heat pumps. As a result of these updates, residents are expected to save an estimated \$642 annually on their utility bills. Additionally, the projected annual reduction in CO2 emissions is over 2,055 kg, equivalent to avoiding 5,761 miles of vehicle travel.

Know an eligible apartment building? Learn more or apply on our [Efficiency Navigator page](#).

[Learn more and apply](#)

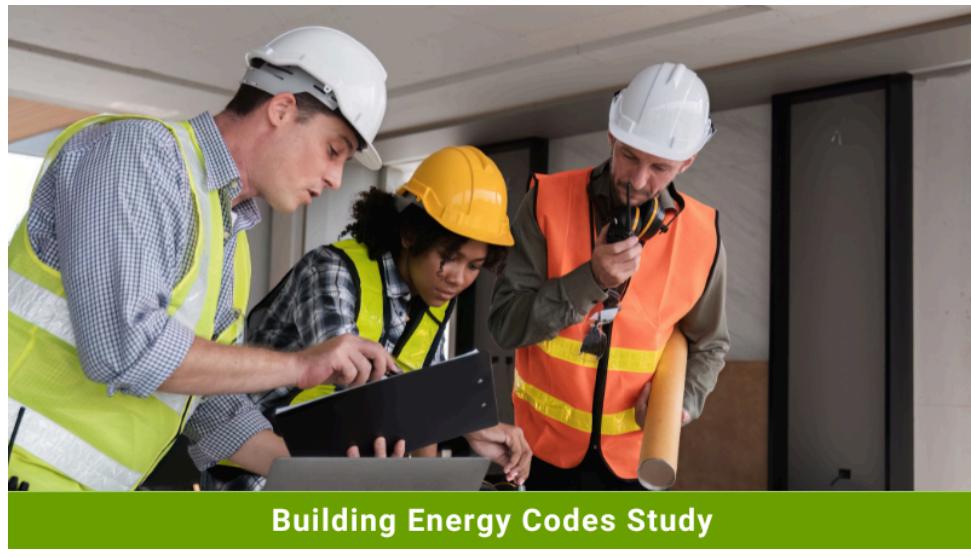


### *RoundTrip Spring Roll Challenge*

The RoundTrip [Spring Roll Challenge](#) is celebrating green transportation choices in Dane County this Earth Month. Log your trips by bike, bus, carpool, and walking/rolling in RoundTrip for chances to win exciting weekly and grand prize drawings. The **first 50 participants** to log a green trip in April will receive a free slice from Ian's Pizza and two free rides with Metro Transit! The Spring Roll Challenge is open to everyone ages 18+ in Dane County and encourages **walking/rolling, bicycling, riding the bus, and carpooling** for everyday trips. Go green, save money, and feel great!

To participate, [register with RoundTrip](#) and log your green trips for work, school, errands, and entertainment throughout April for chances to win weekly and grand prize drawings. Six winners will be drawn each week along with four grand prize winners. Prizes include gift cards for [CommuteRewards](#), [Willy Street Co-op](#), and [Barriques](#), along with monthly and annual [Madison BCycle](#) memberships. Every car-free and car-light trip you take gets you closer to a drawing, and you'll feel great seeing your stats add up in dollars saved, CO2 emissions avoided, and calories burned.

## Join the Spring Roll



### Building Energy Codes Study

#### *Building Energy Codes Study*

Help shape the future of construction practices! Sustain Dane member, Slipstream is conducting the first ever comprehensive field study examining new construction practices in the state of Wisconsin. By joining their study, you can help provide valuable information that will be used to understand how new construction practices align with building energy codes and to identify future training opportunities.

They are currently recruiting new single-family, multifamily, and office and retail buildings to join the study, which includes a review of design and construction documents and a site visit. [More details](#).

#### *EV Commission*



Dane County's Office of Energy & Climate Change has launched Charge Up Dane County, a program to accelerate the transition to electric vehicle (EV) transportation for all. The program is a regional initiative focused on installing EV charging stations in underserved areas. The program will fill critical gaps in EV infrastructure across urban, suburban, and rural communities, ensuring that more residents have access to electrified transportation. By strategically placing charging stations, the initiative aims to improve air quality, lower transportation costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while prioritizing equity and Justice40 populations.

Sustain Dane is proud to serve on the EV Advisory Commission, helping to advise on the program's implementation and advocate for expanding EV charging access throughout the county. As the project moves forward, public input will be essential in identifying priority charging locations. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage and help shape the future of clean transportation in Dane County.

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### *Recycle Better - How do I dispose of...?*

Have you seen the ["How do I dispose of...?" tool](#) on the City of Madison website? Simply search for the item you are curious about, and it will tell you how to dispose of it. And it's not just for recyclables! For example, if you're doing spring cleaning and have a piece of furniture you need to dispose of, the tool will provide one of three options: donate or resale, schedule a curbside large item collection, or take to a drop-off site. And remember that many items don't need to be tossed out - they can be reused or resold! A list of some of the local options where you can donate usable items can be found on the [Streets Division's website](#).

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### *Madison Bird & Nature Festival*

Sustain Dane is a co-sponsor of the [2025 Madison Bird & Nature Festival](#). This free, fun family-friendly annual event is a celebration of International Bird Day, Arbor Day and Earth Day. Features: On-going walkthrough live raptor show and display, Exhibits & hands-on activities by nature organizations, and more! Join in the fun Sunday, April 27 12 PM - 4 PM at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

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### *In the community*

March 31 [The Problem with Birds and Windows: Studying and Reducing Bird-Window Collisions](#)  
April 1 [Recycling Garden Debris Olbrich Gardens](#)  
April 12 [Monona Bay Shoreline Cleanup](#)  
April 12 [Spring Cleanup Day San Damiano, Monona](#)  
April 15+ [Great Wisconsin Birdathon](#)  
April 21+ [Earth Fest at UW Nelson Institute and Office of Sustainability](#)  
April 26 [Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training](#)  
April 26 [Bilingual Conservation Fair](#)

April 26 [Green Life Trading and Green Box](#)  
[Compost Earth Day Fair](#)  
April 27 [Madison Bird & Nature Festival](#)

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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