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## September 2025 Newsletter

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



2025 Summit Agenda

### *2025 Sustain Dane Summit Agenda*

Join us for the [2025 Summit](#) at the Monona Terrace on Friday, November 7.

[Register today!](#) Below is our agenda for the day.

- 8:00 AM — 8:45 AM Arrival, Coffee & Networking
- 8:45 AM — 10:30 AM Keynote with Arielle King
- 10:30 AM — 11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM — 12:15 PM Housing + Sustainability
- 12:15 PM — 1:15 PM Lunch, Raffle, & Networking
- 1:15 PM — 2:15 PM Ideas to Impact: Local Businesses Taking Action
- 2:15 PM — 2:45 PM Earth Signals: Collaboration of Music & Science
- 2:45 PM — 3:00 PM Live Forward Awards
- Closing 3:00 PM

## Register and Learn More



### 2025 Live Forward Awards

#### *2025 Sustain Dane Summit Live Forward Award Nominees*

The Sustain Dane Live Forward Awards acknowledge change-makers and inclusive leaders who are locally promoting thriving sustainability, community healing, and resiliency. The 2025 Live Forward Awards celebrates 14 nominees. Congratulations to this exceptional group of change-makers!

- Huda Alkaff, Wisconsin Green Muslims
- Dr. Teri Allendorf, Community Conservation
- Jessica and Erika Jones, Giant Jones Brewing
- Sarah Karlson, Rooted
- Zoe Lea (Fess), Wild Bearies
- David Lonsdorf, Sustain Verona
- Christy McKenzie, Pasture and Plenty
- Meghan Mietchen, Community Action Coalition
- Burke O'Neal, Full Spectrum Solar
- Diana de Pierola, Focus on Energy
- Jerod Reuter, Purple Cow Organics
- Paul Schechter, Sunny Side Development
- Nik Swartz, Saiki Design
- Lori Whitman, RecycleWisc

The awardees are selected by past winners and the Sustain Dane Board of Directions. Join us at the Sustain Dane Summit to hear from the winners and recognize local change-makers.

[Learn more about the nominees here](#)



### September Sustainable Breakfast Series

#### *Sustainable Breakfast Series: Carbon Sequestration*

At our September Sustainable Breakfast Series, we learned about the science behind carbon sequestration and local projects happening here in Dane County. We explored how soil organic carbon acts as a natural climate solution by capturing and storing carbon, improving soil health, and reducing carbon emissions. Speakers explained how the Dane County Land and Resources Department has a program to purchase and convert agricultural land into perennial farming or prairie restoration. Also, they are conducting long-term soil monitoring that will help meet county-wide climate goals.

Attendees left with an understanding of the science of capturing and storing carbon, how our local sequestration projects are contributing to our climate goals, and that what is beneath our feet has the power to reduce climate change.

Stay tuned for the release of our [podcast episode](#) about carbon sequestration.



## Efficiency Navigator

### *Efficiency Navigator Update*

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.

We recently completed work on a 4-unit building built in 1983 in Fitchburg's Jamestown Neighborhood. Improvements included air sealing, insulation, bath fan replacement & venting, kitchen exhaust duct air sealing & insulation, and new Energy Star refrigerators. A tenant stated that their monthly utility bills are \$10-20 less than at this same time last year.

The efficiency upgrades performed will have an estimated \$410 in annual utility cost savings, annual CO2 emissions savings of 1,430 kg, which is the equivalent of 3,642 vehicle miles travel per year. Do you know an eligible apartment building? [Learn more or apply](#) on our Efficiency Navigator page.



## Sun Prairie Composting

### *Sun Prairie Composting Pilot*



Sustain Dane, in partnership with the City of Sun Prairie, Green Box Compost, and Sun Prairie School District, kicked off a school composting pilot program in September. Elementary students at Token Springs and Royal Oaks are now composting in their own cafeteria. The West High School kitchen production staff will also be diverting their food scraps to compost. We are excited to announce that all three schools started kick-off with students and staff on the first day of school, September 2nd.

In the first week, 365 pounds of food scraps were diverted from the landfill to Green Box Composting. The food scraps are composted into fertile compost that will be diverted to local agriculture and gardens.



### *Recognizing New Members*

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

Sustain Dane 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.

[Membership](#) is rolling throughout the year and all are welcome to join. Recent new members include:

- Urban Triage
- Accurate-Airtight Exteriors
- 6 individual members
- 1 student member



### October Volunteer Session

#### *October Volunteer Session - Seed Collection*

Have you ever tried native seed collecting? On Thursday, October 2 from 9am-11am Sustain Dane will host our fall volunteering session with Madison Parks to collect seeds at Prairie Ridge Conservation Park. Volunteers will collect seeds from designated native plants identified by the on-site ecologist. We will support the City's ecological restoration efforts through hands-on work, while exploring a natural area and contributing to the long-term health and diversity of Madison's parks.

**Register and Learn More**



### Dane County WOW Challenge

#### *Dane County WOW Challenge: Get Kids Walking and Wheeling*

This fall let's walk and bike to school! The Dane County Safe Routes to School team is working with schools, students, and families to celebrate and support

walking and biking this October. There are many ways to incentivize walking or biking for students such as organizing group rides and walks to/from school, having school wide announcements, and tracking which students' bike and walk the most to create a leaderboard. Click [here](#) ideas to support biking and walking for students and families.

International Walk to School Day is on October 8th. However, any day in October your school can have a walk or bike to school day and be entered to win a prize. Prizes range from a bike rack being installed at your school to a bike repair clinic to bike supply kits being distributed to every student.

**Learn More and Sign Up Here**

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**We appreciate you being part of our Sustain Dane community. Make a difference in local sustainability—support Sustain Dane today.**

**Donate to Sustain Dane**



### *In the Community*

October 2: [Seed Collecting](#) with Sustain Dane at Prairie Ridge Conservation Park

October 4: [Multicultural Day](#) at the Hmong Institute

October 7: [Climate Change Symposium](#) at Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

October 7: [Waunakee Sustainability Fair](#)

October 9: [Game-ifying Your Home's Green Transition](#) with Couillard Solar Foundation

October 12: [Kids on the Prairie](#) (Trees, Trees, Trees) with Holy Wisdom Monastery

October 18: [Fall Color Hike](#) with UW Arboretum

October 19: [Family Nature Program](#) (Rocks Rock) with UW Arboretum

October 21: [Optimizing Your Home's Energy Performance](#) with Project Home at Lakeview Public Library

October 27-28: [Transportation & Innovation Expo](#) at Monona Terrace

October 29: [Sustainability Symposium](#) at UW-Madison

November 7: [Sustain Dane Summit](#)

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Sustain Dane Forest & Tree Members and Partners.  
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