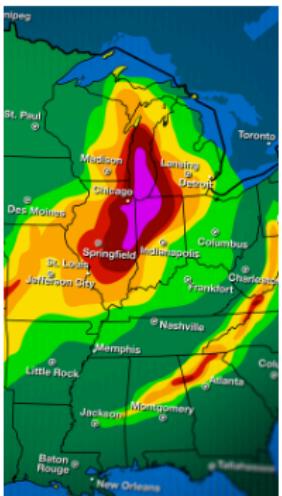


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## January 2026 Newsletter

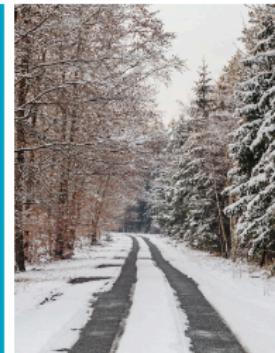
*[Sustain Dane](#) is the sustainability organization of Dane County. [Join us](#) and get involved in accelerating community well-being.*



### Sustainable Breakfast Series

Tues, Feb 24 at 8:30 AM

#### Weather in a Changing Climate



### February Sustainable Breakfast Series

Join us for our February Sustainable Breakfast Series as we explore how climate change is reshaping our weather. The past two decades have been Wisconsin's warmest on record, and the 2010s have been the wettest on record. From various extreme hot/cold spells and out of season weather events, it's clear that Wisconsin's climate is shifting.

We'll hear from Amanda Latham, Climate Outreach Specialist for the Wisconsin State Climatology Office, for a look at the science of weather, historical context, and the factors that impact weather systems. She'll also offer insights into how climate scientists and forecasters are adapting, and what communities should be paying attention to in the years ahead.

The Sustainable Breakfast Series will occur on Tuesday, February 24 at StartingBlock (821 East Washington Ave). Program from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. Networking starts at 8:00 AM.

[Register Today](#)

## New Members



[SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP](#)

### New Members Recognition

Sustain Dane recognizes 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:

- [KleenMark](#)
- [Common Grace](#)
- [Alliere CPA](#)
- [Noel Development](#)



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 264 units to date.

Learn  
more &  
apply



Frankie Fosdick  
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Gabriel Saiz  
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608-266-9029

[sustaindane.org/madison-efficiency-navigator-information](http://sustaindane.org/madison-efficiency-navigator-information)



Save Energy



Live Comfortably



Save Money

## Efficiency Navigator Applications - Open Now!

### *Application Open for the Madison Efficiency Navigator Program 2026*

Applications for the Madison Efficiency Navigator program are now open. This program aims to help small to medium-sized multifamily housing become more efficient, affordable, and resilient while reducing operating costs for owners and energy cost burden for residents.

Whether you are a property owner ready to apply or a resident wanting to recommend your building, [visit here](#) to learn more. Application review occurs on a rolling basis.

In 2025, the Efficiency Navigator program improved affordable housing for 90 residents, including 15 children and 8 seniors in Madison. The Efficiency Navigator program will continue to move forward with a new cohort of buildings for 2026, [learn more and apply here](#).

Apply Today



## Home Energy Rebate Train-the-Trainer Program

### *Home Energy Rebate Train-the-Trainer Program*

In partnership with Focus on Energy and Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Sustain Dane will host a second Home Energy Rebate train-the-trainer program. This three-part class will be held on Wednesdays February 11, February 18, and a final class and celebration on March 18. The is a bilingual program that equips community members to help save money, conserve energy, and create healthier and more comfortable homes.

Students dive into topics like weatherization, energy-saving home upgrades, and Wisconsin and Federal rebate programs. Then, participants put their skills to work, sharing what they learned with friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors to help more households benefit.

The 2025 workshop series was attended by 11 participants, and they shared the information with over 55 community members.

“I learned about energy auditing, which I didn’t know before. Now I see it is key to solving energy problems, saving energy, and protecting my wallet.”  
– Guillermo, program participant.

[Learn More Here](#)



## We're Hiring Compost Interns

### *We're Hiring Compost Interns*

Are you looking for an opportunity to join a fun and energetic team, grow professionally, and support sustainability through diverting food waste? Join the Sustain Dane team! We are hiring multiple part-time limited term employment compost intern positions.

Compost Interns will assist with operations related to collecting, weighing, tracking, and sorting food scraps from community members. In 2026, the program will occur at four free farmers' market food scrap drop-off sites – South Madison, Eastside, Westside, and Capitol View Farmers' Market. To date, this program has diverted over 100,000 lbs. of food scraps from the landfill.

- [Compost Intern Job Posting](#)
- [Driving Compost Intern Job Posting](#)

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting Tuesday, Feb 17, and remain open until the position is filled. The anticipated start date at the first market is April 11; however, start date by intern can vary based on availability.

[\*\*Learn More & Apply\*\*](#)



## The Big Share

### *The Big Share*

This year's The Big Share will take place on Tuesday, March 3! The Big Share is an online day of giving through Community Shares of Wisconsin that supports nearly 70 nonprofits in the CSW network. These nonprofits range from voting rights to criminal justice reform to environmental protection.

Join Sustain Dane at Greater Heights Climbing Gym on Tuesday, March 3 from 5 – 7 pm. For the day, \$5 from every day-pass sold will be donated to Sustain Dane's Big Share Campaign. Connect with fellow sustainability enthusiasts, with non-climbing activities available in the party room.

You can also support Sustain Dane by becoming a [Peer-to-Peer Ambassador](#). Share your passion for Sustain Dane's work online and fundraise to show your support. To create your peer-to-peer fundraiser account:

1. Select "[Fundraise](#)" on our Big Share Webpage
2. Create an account
3. Check your email for an email from GiveGab which contains:
  - Link to share on social media
  - Link to personalize your fundraising page
  - Additional fundraising resource

Questions? Contact [spencer@sustaindane.org](mailto:spencer@sustaindane.org)



## Year-End Donations Update - Thank You!

### *Year-end Donations Update*

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, our Year-End Giving Campaign was a huge success! Together, you helped us fully unlock 100% of our matching funds and raise over \$19,000 in support of our mission. We are deeply grateful to everyone who gave, shared, and cheered us on. Your support makes our work possible and strengthens our ability to help people learn, connect, and take action for a thriving community today and a more sustainable future for the next generation.



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[www.solidarityis.org](http://www.solidarityis.org)  
[www.socialchangemap.com](http://www.socialchangemap.com)

The Sustain Dane team continues to take time to reflect and learn how we can best support our community and neighbors during challenging moments. We know that some members of our community are experiencing uncertainty, disruption, or loss—whether due to immigration enforcement activity, extreme weather events, or other factors. We hope that each of us can find our unique role in the [social change ecosystem](#), as discussed by our 2022 Summit keynote speaker Deepa Iyer. Each of us can make a meaningful difference. Change happens when inspired people take action.



## Data Center Resources

The Sustain Dane team continues to have various conversations around data centers and receive questions from our community. We want to continue providing resources and material to learn more about data centers, view our [website](#) for resources to learn more. Some recent articles include:

- Wisconsin Green Muslims [Data Centers in Michigan and Wisconsin](#)

- RE-AMP [Data Centers in the Midwest and Beyond](#)
- Sierra Club, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Healthy Climate Wisconsin, and Wisconsin's Green Fire [Data Center Toolkit](#)
- Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change [Blog](#)



### *Check out the Sustain Dane Podcast*

Do you want to learn more about sustainability in Dane County? Check out the [Sustain Dane podcast](#). You will hear from local leaders about housing and sustainability, sustainable fashion, carbon sequestration, and more. Our podcast covers our programs that help people learn, connect, and take action for sustainability.



### *Charge Up Dane County*

Charge Up Dane County is a county wide effort to expand the electric vehicle infrastructure to make electric vehicles an accessible option for all Dane County residents. Dane County has selected another round of 22 locations for new electric vehicle charging stations, with an emphasis on accessibility. These locations are near multi-family buildings, multi-modal areas, and rural areas. Learn more about these charging locations and Charge Up Dane County [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*

February 1-28: [Black History Month Workshop Series](#) with Rooted

February 5: [2026 Renewable Energy Summit](#) with RENEW Wisconsin

February 9: [Tales from Planet Earth Presents Wild & Scenic: 2025 Rewind](#) with The Nelson Institute

February 13-15: [Garden & Green Living Expo](#) at Alliant Energy Center

February 15: [Family Nature Program: Winter Birds](#) with UW Arboretum

February 21: [Community Garden Summit](#) with Rooted and UW Extension

February 24-26: [Wetland Science Conference](#) with Wisconsin Wetland Association

February 24: [Sustainable Breakfast Series: Weather in a Changing Climate](#) with Sustain Dane

February 26: [State Parks: Valuing the Invaluable in a Time of Austerity](#) with UW Arboretum

February 28: [Bird & Nature Adventures](#) with Aldo Leopold Nature Center

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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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