

2025 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
- Dane County climate action goals
- Overview and case study presentations on the City of Madison's Building Energy Savings Program & MGE's MyMeter Platform
- Information on how to plan and host low waste events
- Goal and action step planning for sustainability initiatives

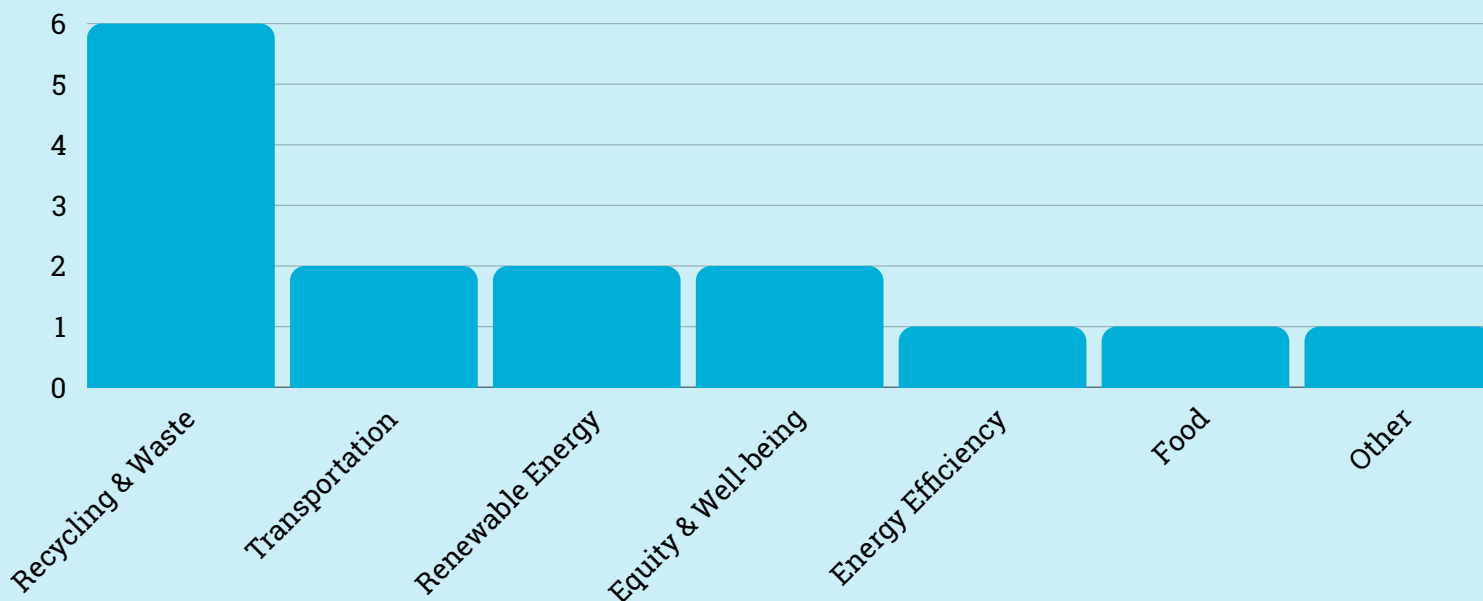
100%
of participants would recommend the workshop to a colleague

Thank you to our program supporters:



Project Areas

As a part of the program, participants commit to taking action on a sustainability initiative at their organization. The projects fall in one of these seven categories.



Change happens when inspired people take action - join us!

At Sustain Dane, we believe that change happens when inspired people take action. If these stories inspire you, please join us at our next workshop in 2026, and reach out to the program facilitator Sam Worden at samantha@sustaindane.org.



Participants

Aldo Leopold Nature Center
 American Family Insurance
 APTIM
 Attic Angel Community
 BBEC Services
 City of Madison
 City of Middleton
 Current Electric
 Dane Buy Local
 Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
 DC Engineering
 Delta Beer Lab
 designCraft Advertising
 EUA
 Everlight Solar
 Exact Sciences
 FairShare CSA Coalition
 Fleet Feet Madison
 Greater Madison MPO
 Green Box Compost
 Green Notes
 HCG-Madison
 Holy Wisdom Monastery
 Hotel Indigo



Participants at the 2025 Accelerate Sustainability Workshop.

J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc
 JDR Engineering
 JP Cullen
 Junction Ridge Neighborhood Association
 Kahler Slater
 Latino Academy of Workforce Development
 Madison College
 Madison Gas and Electric
 Mundo Esperanza
 Overture Center for the Arts
 Palace Entertainment
 Pellitteri Waste Systems
 Powered Up Baraboo
 Promega
 Rehlko
 Reynolds Transfer & Storage
 Shorewood School District
 Sketchworks Architecture
 Step Up: Equity Matters
 Strattec Security Corporation
 Sun Vault Roofing
 TGIF Homes
 The Cooperative Society Project
 The Landing Condominiums
 U.S. Green Building Council
 UPH Meriter
 US Foods
 UW Health
 UW Green Bay
 UW Madison
 We Are Neutral
 Who's New in Madison
 Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 Wise Woman Enterprise LLC

Participant Spotlight

The River Food Pantry



New Building Sustainability Projects

The River Food Pantry is integrating various sustainability initiatives into its new facility, including a rooftop solar array, geothermal HVAC system, and a native pollinator garden. These investments reflect the values of volunteers, staff, donors, and families served to advance environmental stewardship.

On the south-facing roof they have completed a solar array. Now, they are finishing installing the geothermal HVAC system. Landscaping plans are redesigned to include native gardens that will help mitigate stormwater management and create pollinator habitats, while also creating a space for community engagement.

The River Food Pantry is also working with Dane County's Charge Up Dane County program to install four low-cost electric vehicle chargers on-site, available to all members of the public. Public electric vehicle charging will help expand support for lower-income households who may otherwise be prevented from converting to an electric vehicle.

The River Food Pantry will also expand its composting partnership and find ways to divert organic materials collected through their extensive food recovery operations from the landfill.

These priorities in the new building enriches River Food Pantry's efforts to build a stronger community, inviting all who visit to reflect on the importance of creating a resilient and environmental conscious future.



The solar array on the new River Food Pantry building.

Though some challenges have occurred, this project demonstrates how flexibility and a commitment to sustainability can lead to innovative solutions.

The new building will be the office to 28 employees and serve an estimated 20,000 Dane County residents. The upgrades to this building will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower long-term facility costs, and support holistic sustainability.

This is more than just a new building - it is a chance to show how sustainability and community service can go hand in hand.

"I expect that this building will simply be the start of The River Food Pantry's sustainability journey, with many exciting developments ahead."

— Ryan Holley, Grants Manager of The River Food Pantry

Participant Spotlight

Findorff

Carbon Emission Reduction

Findorff completed Scope 1, 2, and 3 baseline for 2023 CO₂ emissions. Now, they are working on reduction goal setting and roadmapping various reduction projects to science-based targets. They have identified pilot projects related to building design, vehicle fleet, and electric upgrades on job sites.

In their facilities, they made significant progress last year by implementing three solar arrays. They are now evaluating the feasibility of expanding solar arrays to additional locations. Additionally, they are exploring the use of AI to enhance the Building Automation System, which could optimize energy efficiency and reduce overall energy use.

Their vehicle fleet has made sustainable improvements, and will continue to do more. In April, Findorff launched an electric vehicle pilot program to explore the potential for electrification. They continue to evaluate pathways for fleet reduction, fuel efficiency improvements, and switching to electric vehicles. For the larger trucks in the fleet, they are exploring biodiesel and renewable diesel to reduce emissions.



Three solar arrays were installed last year on Findorff facilities.



Findorff is working to make jobsites more environmentally sustainable.

At job sites, Findorff is aiming to identify the highest-impact opportunities for sustainable improvements. Initiatives that are being considered to reduce emissions include metering fuel use, piloting thermostats for temporary building heat, and testing hybrid generators and light towers. They are examining the emissions impacts based on the current energy grid. This will help assess fuel-switching and electrification opportunities.

Findorff will continue evaluating the cost, carbon impact, and effort associated with these various carbon reduction strategies across their facilities, fleet, and job sites.

By aligning reduction strategies with science-based targets, Findorff will continue to reduce emissions and create long-term sustainable impact for the future.

Participant Spotlight

Rehlko



Earth Month Activation

In 2025, Rehlko initiated its first global Earth Month Activation to build a strong culture of sustainability. Over two weeks, a cross-functional team led nine activities globally.

Highlights include trash pickups in Wisconsin and France, di-it-yourself hydroponic plants with recycled material in Singapore, sustainability workshops, idea drop boxes and giveaway seedlings to plant. In total, 90+ employees participated, collecting 1,200 lbs. of trash, creating 28 hydroponic plants, 1,000 seedlings distributed, and proposing 60+ improvement ideas. This event shows the importance of driving engagement and creating a strong culture of sustainability in an organization.



Earth Month is a great way to start creating a culture of sustainability.

Participant Spotlight

Attic Angel Community



Attic Angel Community has tracked their average waste over the last 5 years. They are excited to see that number decrease as they increase the capture of recyclable items through education.

Trim the Trash

Attic Angel Community is working to increase recycling education and create a robust and standard community recycling program.

The Attic Angel Sustainability Committee has a goal to increase educational opportunities about recycling and waste streams. It will also roll out standardized waste receptacles for the entire community. They have begun by including small educational articles in their community newsletter and having community members attend Sustain Dane's Recycle Better Workshop. They have secured funding for the new waste receptacles and are in the process of implementing those in their community.

Participant Spotlight

Sun Vault Roofing



Solar Roof Installations

Sun Vault Roofing has chosen to champion solar roofing in Wisconsin to address issues for customers in both the roofing and solar industries.

Solar roofing integrates solar directly into the roofing material, eliminating penetrations, and preserving warranties. It uses less materials and is a high efficiency solution. It can simplify the process for homeowners by combining roofing and solar into upgrades.

Sun Vault Roofing is proud to be one of the first to bring this technology to Dane County and surrounding areas. By doing so, they are giving homeowners a new tool to reduce their carbon footprint, increase home value, and invest in a sustainable future. They are working to combine innovation and sustainability.

The first Solstice Solar Roof installed in Evansville will generate about 6,843 kWh of clean energy per year, this is the equivalent of avoiding 267 barrels of oil or planting 2,941 trees.

Across all five projects, they expect to offset 54,184 kWh annually, equal to 2,474 barrels of oil or planting 27,275 trees.



Solstice Shingle's will be installed in five locations in and around Dane County.

Through innovative installation of solar roofing solutions, Sun Vault Roofing aims to reduce the environmental impact of traditional asphalt shingles while empowering homeowners and businesses to securely harness clean, renewable energy.

Additionally, Sun Vault Roofing furthers their commitment to sustainability through recycling asphalt shingles from homes.

Alongside environmental benefits, Sun Vault Roofing have trained roofing crews in solar installation, expanding their employee's skills and building a stronger and local green workforce.

Through innovative solar roofing and recycling solutions, Sun Vault Roofing has become a champion of sustainability in Dane County.

Participant Spotlight

EUA



Office Composting

EUA successfully implemented an office composting program at the Madison office that reduces the company's organic waste.

Employees separate their food waste into a separate container in the office kitchen. Select employees take home the office compost to add to their home compost bin.

The program kick off was a success. Initially the office expected to produce enough compost to fill a bin every two weeks. Demand was higher than expected. They quickly moved to emptying the bin weekly due to high participation. The food waste is diverted from the landfill and coworkers get to create nutrient rich soil for their gardens and homes.



Employees compost their uneaten food by tossing it in the compost bin.

Participant Spotlight

designCraft Advertising



Alternate ways of transportation - taking the bus or riding your bike!

CO₂ Tracking from Commuting

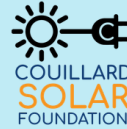
After attending the Sustain Dane Accelerate Sustainability Workshop in 2025, designCraft decided to reboot a previous project that tracked all CO₂ saved by employees by either walking, biking, using public transportation, carpooling or working from home rather than driving alone.

To calculate CO₂ used in each trip designCraft tracks employee commutes by noting car type, home addresses, and days driven to the office.

Through their first few months of tracking, employees at designCraft are saving an average of 1,000 pounds of CO₂ per month! They will continue tracking this data and it will be made publically available on their website soon.

Participant Spotlight

Legacy Solar Co-op



Legacy Solar Co-op



Solar Panels at the Dane County Humane Society

The Dane County Humane Society partnered with Legacy Solar Coop and the Couillard Solar Foundation to develop and cultivate partners to build the Roger Werndli Memorial Solar Flight Pen at the Dane County Humane Society.

The Solar Flight Pen is an L-shaped solar structure that supports the rehabilitation of birds of prey. The flight pen, has over 100 bifacial solar panels supported by a solar canopy. The solar canopy allows light to shine into the space below where large birds are recovering. This space offers an expansive space for large birds to maneuver and hunt before reintroduction, while powering the work of the wildlife center building and reducing CO₂ emissions.



Since being installed in 2024, the Dane County Humane Society has saved over \$10,000, saving over 100,000 lbs of CO₂ emissions.

Participant Spotlight

EZ Office Products



Office Products®



100% Electric Vehicle the Chevy Brightdrop

Electric Delivery Truck

EZ Office Products is a full-service office supply company. They are driven to provide businesses with products and services that help people work efficiently, save money, and protect the environment at the same time.

EZ Office Products has had a long standing commitment to environmental sustainability. This shows in their most recent purchase of a fully electric Chevy Brightdrop. It took several years from project plan to implementation. The vehicle builds on other sustainable efforts including their warehouse run on 100% wind power through the MGE Green Power Tomorrow program. The new EV will be charged by wind power. EZ Office Products values sustainability and shares that commitment with the organizations they work with and beyond.

Participant Spotlight

Noah's Ark Waterpark



Water Slide Fiberglass Recycling & Reuse

Herschend Family Entertainment and Noah's Ark Waterpark are pushing forward recycling and reuse initiatives that with decommissioned water slides.

Through a partnership with, Fix My Slide, decommissioned water slides are being refurbished for residential and entertainment use.

For non-reuseable materials, Herschend Family Entertainment partnered with Veolia, which recycles fiberglass(a main component of water slides). They use a process that shreds fiberglass and uses that as a coal substitute in cement production. Over six tons of fiberglass was shipped to this facility in 2025, marking the first completed fiberglass recycling effort among Herschend Family Entertainment Parks.



Water slide from a Palace Entertainment waterpark being taken to Veolia's recycling facility.

Participant Spotlight

Reynolds Transfer & Storage



Vertical cardboard baler

Waste Diversion

After losing access to two compactors, Reynolds Trasfer & Storage made the decision to install a vertical baler.

Without a landfill compactor on site, this has made waste diversion necessary instead of a suggestion. The team has adapted to sorting cardboard from paper and shrink wrap, and are producing recyclable bales.

This change not only supports diversion from waste to the landfill, but helps create a mindset change and education to employees about recycling. Not only is Reynolds now recycling tons more bales, but disposal costs have gone down and they are able to receive a stipend for the bales that will now be recycled.