



# Accelerate Sustainability Workshop

## Project Ideas & Resources

Looking for sustainability project ideas at your business? This list is compiled from past successful initiatives at local businesses and recommended opportunities. Reach out to Samantha at [samantha@sustaindane.org](mailto:samantha@sustaindane.org) for additional resources and support.

### Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

<b>Carbon Footprint</b>	Calculate your energy carbon footprint & set reduction goals.	- For businesses: <a href="#">Greenly</a> or <a href="#">CarbonFootprint.com</a> - For households: <a href="#">CoolClimate</a>
<b>Energy Assessment</b>	Conduct an energy assessment with your utility or Focus on Energy at your office.	- <a href="#">Focus on Energy Site</a> - <a href="#">MGE Site</a> - <a href="#">Alliant Energy Site</a>
<b>Time-of-use</b>	Participate in the MGE time-of-use program that gives customers the opportunity to reduce their electric bills by changing when they use electricity.	- <a href="#">MGE Time of Use</a>
<b>Efficient Lighting</b>	Replace inefficient lights with energy efficient LED lights.	- SD case study available
<b>HVAC</b>	Replace or perform maintenance on inefficient HVAC systems.	-SD case study available
<b>Behavior Change</b>	Encourage energy conservation behaviors (e.g. reduce heating/cooling, turn off lights & electronics when not in use).	- SD case study available
<b>Electronics</b>	Enable sleep mode and power saver features on electronics, use smart power strips to turn off multiple devices at once.	



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### Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Cont.

<b>Turn off lights</b>	Maximize natural light by placing work spaces around windows. Use task lighting at workstations rather than overhead lighting.	
<b>Energy Treasure Hunt</b>	Conduct an energy treasure hunt at your business with a team to find where can improve energy use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Energy Star Treasure Hunt</a></li> <li>- SD case study available</li> </ul>
<b>MyMeter</b>	MGE business customers have access to the MyMeter platform where you can track energy use, set goals and alerts, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MyMeter</a></li> </ul>
<b>Benchmarking</b>	Measure the energy performance of buildings over time to set a baseline and help prioritize projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Energy Star Portfolio Manager</a></li> </ul>
<b>Utility Renewable Programs</b>	Participate in MGE's Green Power Tomorrow or Alliant's Energy Second Nature to use wind power and solar power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MGE Green Power Tomorrow</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Alliant Energy Second Nature</a></li> </ul>
<b>Renewable Energy Rider</b>	Work with MGE through their Renewable Energy Rider program to provide renewable energy to power all or a portion of your business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MGE Renewable Energy Rider</a></li> </ul>
<b>Solar</b>	Install solar on your business, or participate in community solar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">MGE Shared Solar</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Project Sunroof</a></li> <li>- SD case study available</li> </ul>



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### Transportation

<b>Measure</b>	Track organization-wide transportation carbon footprint.	
<b>RoundTrip training</b>	Train team on how to use RoundTrip resource to find alternative transportation options.	- <a href="#">RoundTrip Site</a>
<b>Emergency Ride Home</b>	Encourage the use of the Emergency Ride Home program from RoundTrip which guarantees a taxi ride if you took alternative transportation and need to get home quickly.	- <a href="#">Emergency Ride Home Program</a>
<b>Commute cards</b>	Offer free or discounted Metro Commute cards, BCycle passes, and encourage employees to use them.	- <a href="#">Metro Commute Cards</a> - <a href="#">BCycle Site</a>
<b>Biking</b>	Install bike racks in a covered, secure, or indoor area. Install bike maintenance station. Offer lockers, changing rooms, and showers on site. Create a "bike to work" group or join an existing one. Offer Bicycle Benefits to employees and customers.	- <a href="#">Bicycle Benefits</a> - SD case study available
<b>Fleet and company cars</b>	Upgrade fleet or company cars to hybrid, electric, or other alternative vehicles. Develop a sustainable travel and rental car policy. Purchase a "community car" for employee use to encourage alternative commutes.	- SD case study available



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<b>Parking</b>	Charge for parking in transit-served urban areas. Shift from long-term permits to daily parking fees. Implement no idling policy.	
<b>Travel emission offsets</b>	Consider purchasing emissions offsets for air and other travel.	
<b>Carpooling</b>	Incentivize or encourage carpooling for employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled.	- <a href="#">WI Rideshare Program</a>
<b>Flexible policies</b>	Allow working from home on a full or part-time basis and flexible start times to encourage alternate modes.	
<b>Incentives</b>	Offer financial incentives and celebrations for using alternate modes.	- SD case study available
<b>Event</b>	Plan an alternative commute event such as Bike to Work Week.	- SD case study available



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### Food

<b>Food waste assessment</b>	Perform a food waste assessment or audit and establish reduction goals.	- SD case study and services available
<b>Compost</b>	Start a composting program on site or through a pick-up service. Encourage employees to compost.	- <a href="#">EPA Composting Approaches</a> - <a href="#">Local composting options</a> -SD case study available
<b>Garden</b>	Plan a community garden on company property.	- SD case study available
<b>CSA</b>	Set up your workplace as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) pick up site.	- <a href="#">FairShare CSA Coalition</a> - SD case study available
<b>Menu Changes</b>	Incorporate more plant-based menu options. Be flexible on portion sizes (offer half-size options, smaller portions, etc.). Make side dishes and bread optional for your customers and ensure that garnishes are edible. Creatively repurpose surplus foods into new recipes and record any new/modified recipes for future use.	-SD case study available
<b>Donate or Sell Food</b>	Donate surplus food regularly to a local charity. Donate or sell food scraps for animal consumption.	- <a href="#">EPA Food Donation Basics</a>



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## Food

<b>Kitchen Prep Techniques</b>	Adopt new practices for food purchasing, storage, and right-sized cooking quantities to minimize waste; if possible, track any changes in amounts of food purchased. Cook in small batches and/or to order. Take a “nose to tail” approach with animal products; record any new or modified recipes.	
<b>Carryout Containers</b>	Actively encourage the use of carryout containers (reusable or recyclable containers preferred to reduce overall waste).	
<b>Single Use Swaps</b>	Swap out single use plastics when possible. Ask the consumer if they need to-go items or let them select it as needed.	



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### Materials & Waste

<b>Waste audit</b>	Perform a waste audit & establish goals.	-SD case study available
<b>Education</b>	Encourage waste reduction practices with internal marketing, education sessions, or employee onboarding.	- <a href="#">SD Recycle Better</a> - SD case study and services available
<b>Printing</b>	Use recycled printer paper, print double sided, and go paperless when possible.	
<b>Bins</b>	Have recycling bins wherever there are trash bins and/or centralize bins in one area. Standardize bins when possible.	- SD case study available
<b>Signage</b>	Set up proper signage for each bin and include visuals of common items disposed of in your business.	- SD case study available
<b>Replace disposables</b>	Replace disposable products in kitchen or cafeteria (plates, cups, utensils) with reusable or more easily composted recycled items. Replace paper towels in bathrooms with hand dryers. Install a water bottle refill station.	- SD case study available
<b>Redesign packaging</b>	Reduce volume and increase recyclability or recycled content.	
<b>E-waste</b>	Organize an electronics drive with a responsible e-waste recycler.	- <a href="#">E-Cycle Wisconsin</a> - SD case study available
<b>Hazardous waste policy</b>	Design a policy for responsibly disposing of hazardous wastes.	- <a href="#">Dane Co Hazardous Waste Program</a>
<b>Vendors</b>	Consider choosing vendors that help reduce your overall materials & waste.	



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### Water

<b>Assessment</b>	Perform a water assessment/plumbing audit to identify possible areas of reduction.	
<b>Conserve</b>	Encourage water conservation practices with internal marketing and education sessions.	
<b>Replace equipment</b>	Install low flow faucet aerators on your bathroom and kitchen sinks. Replace older toilets with low-flow toilets. Optimize or replace old water softeners	-SD case study available
<b>Rain garden</b>	Design and plant a rain garden or swale.	
<b>Landscape</b>	Landscape with water conservation in mind. Plant native plants, maximize the use of natural vegetation, establish smaller lawns, only water when necessary.	
<b>Rain barrels</b>	Install rain barrels to capture rainwater on your company's property and use it to water landscaping.	-SD case study available
<b>Reduce salt</b>	Reduce winter salt use on parking lots and sidewalks and optimize water softener salt use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Wisconsin Salt Wise</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Chloride reduction incentive programs</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Winter Salt Certification</a></li> </ul>



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### Community Engagement & Well-being

<b>Volunteer and Donate</b>	Organize volunteer events or donate to organizations that work on equity and social well-being related issues.	- SD case study available
<b>Educational programs</b>	Plan or attend programs with guest speakers on subjects like well-being.	- <a href="#">SD programs</a>
<b>Benchmarking survey</b>	Ask for feedback from everyone within your organization using anonymous employee surveys to identify areas of improvement.	
<b>Sustainability committee</b>	Start a sustainability committee or green team. Be intentional about inviting diverse members to join.	- SD case study available
<b>Reading group</b>	Offer space for employees to build community through shared learning such as reading groups.	
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	Reflect on how your organization might impact environmental justice, i.e. the uneven exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms.	
<b>Partnerships</b>	Ensure equitable partnerships by prioritizing funding partners and collaborative involvement from the beginning of project. Support co-design and co-implementation of solutions with partners.	