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February 2026 Newsletter

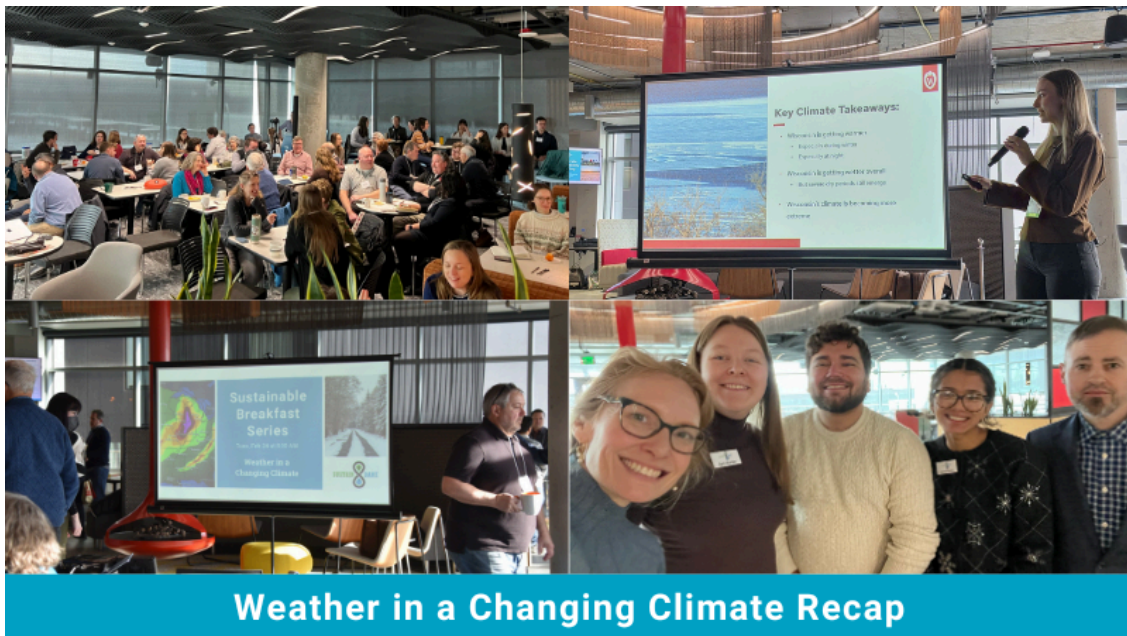
[Sustain Dane](#) is the sustainability organization of Dane County. [Join us](#) and get involved in accelerating community well-being.



Summit Save the Date

Every year, the Sustain Dane Summit brings together people who care deeply about our community and our planet

Save the date for Friday, November 6 for the 18th Annual Sustain Dane Summit at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. It's the perfect way to step into a space of connection, learning, and momentum-building for the future.



Weather in a Changing Climate Recap

February Sustainable Breakfast Series Recap

At our February Sustainable Breakfast Series, we explored how climate change is reshaping Wisconsin's weather and what these shifts mean for our communities. The presentation included:

- What geographical factors and changes in weather patterns shape our state's current climate.
- The role of the polar vortex and how Arctic warming can weaken this system and trigger extreme cold outbreaks even as winters start to trend warmer overall.
- Recent seasonal weather shifts, like less snow, more intense precipitation, and the gradual extending of the summer season into spring and fall.
- Discussions highlighted the impacts of these changes seen across the state from those living in cities, rural communities, and farmers.

Attendees left with an understanding of the forces that are shaping Wisconsin's changing climate and how these shifts are affecting agriculture, local economics and community resilience across the state. We also explored how weather might be one of our most powerful entry points into conversations about climate change.

Stay tuned for the release of our [podcast](#) episode for this program about weather in a changing climate.



The Big Share is Next Week!

The Big Share is next week! We invite you to join us on Tuesday, March 3 from 5 – 7 pm at Greater Heights Climbing Gym in Fitchburg!

Learn the basics of climbing or just join us for light refreshments and be in community with other sustainability-minded people. All ages and ability levels are welcome. Climbing is optional, and guests are welcome to gather in the party room to socialize or participate in other activities.

The Big Share is an annual campaign put on by Community Shares of Wisconsin to support nearly 70 Wisconsin nonprofits' missions. Join us at our Big Share celebration, or [donate to our campaign](#). Bring a friend or colleague - introduce them to the Sustain Dane community.

On March 3, any day-pass purchased at Great Heights will lead to a \$5 donation to Sustain Dane's Big Share Campaign. At 5:15 pm, 5:45 pm, and 6:15 pm, we will have Greater Height's staff provide mandatory introduction to the gym if this will be your first time visiting this location.

Renewing Members



Madison Metropolitan
Sewerage District



Klein's Floral and Greenhouses
McFarland United Church of Christ
New Year Investments
Overture Center for the Arts
+ 2 Individuals

Christ Presbyterian Church
City of Sun Prairie
Dane County Extension
Henry Villas Zoo
Rooted WI
Village of Mount Horeb

SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP

Renewed 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 renewing members include:

- [Attic Angel](#)
- [Christ Presbyterian Church](#)
- [City of Madison](#)
- [City of Sun Prairie](#)
- [Dane County Extension](#)
- [EUA](#)
- [Focus on Energy](#)
- [Henry Vilas Zoo](#)
- [Klein's Foral and Greenhouses](#)
- [Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District](#)
- [McFarland United Church of Christ](#)
- [McKinstry](#)
- [New Year Investments](#)
- [Overture Center for the Arts](#)
- [Rooted WI](#)

- [Village of Mount Horeb](#)
- + 2 new individuals

New Forest Member Highlight



SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP

New Forest Level Member Highlight – KleenMark and Madison Liquidators

[KleenMark:](#)

KleenMark has been serving Wisconsin businesses for decades, providing commercial cleaning services along with the products and equipment needed to keep facilities at their best. Their locally trained teams bring hands-on experience supported by ongoing certifications, which ensure every space is cared for with professionalism and consistency. With strong community roots, a commitment to green cleaning practices, and a reputation for reliability, KleenMark is a partner dedicated to keeping workplaces clean, safe, and sustainable.

[Madison Liquidators:](#)

Madison Liquidators, established on November 1st, 2015 by Nick and Kelly Niesen, specializes in being an online office furniture retailer. They offer affordable products from leading manufacturers including Corp Design, Office Star Products, and Performance Furnishings. As the company continues to

grow, its mission remains the same: deliver exceptional experiences to our customers.



Powerful Teen Leaders - Apply for the Program Assistant

Powerful Teen Leaders Program Assistant Application

Sustain Dane's youth workforce development program Powerful Teen Leaders (PTL) will be back this summer for the fourth time. Join our team - we are hiring for the Program Assistant role.

Working with the PTL Program Manager, the PTL Program Assistant will be responsible for helping facilitate a supportive, interactive, and engaging summer youth employment experience for approximately eight Northside high school youth. The Program Assistant will help implement a summer curriculum focused on employment skills and financial empowerment, leadership and community-building activities, S.T.E.M., sustainability, land management and natural resource conservation, and green job apprenticeships or career opportunities.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting March 31.

Apply Today



Join us! Accelerate Sustainability Workshop

Accelerate Sustainability Workshop Date & Announcement

Are you looking for a leadership opportunity to help you move sustainability initiatives forward at your business or organization? Join our half-day professional development program, Accelerate Sustainability Workshop (ASW), on Friday, April 17 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at Goodman Community Center.

Participants will learn how to effectively communicate sustainability goals to build executive and team buy-in, including how to frame return on investment (ROI) and connect environmental efforts to broader economic and other priorities at your workplace. Topics covered include:

- Tools & skills to communicate sustainability in ways that resonate with business, especially at this time of shifts in priorities.
- Local business case studies feature implemented initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency, renewables, food management, and alternative transportation.
- Strategy & resources to help build an internal team and take action at your business, including framing the work within the Dane County Climate Action Plan.
- Networking to exchange ideas with peers working toward similar sustainability goals in Dane County

[Register Here](#)



March Volunteer Session

Join us at The River Food Pantry for a volunteer opportunity on Wednesday, March 25 from 1:45-4:00 PM. Volunteers will either work in the pantry or meal prep stations. In the pantry, volunteers will pack bags of groceries, load carts with bags, and assist clients in loading these groceries into their cars. In the meal prep stations, volunteers will put together to-go meals for the curbside Family At-Home Meals (FAM) program.

Started in 2006, The River Food Pantry's mission is to make the community fully nourished. Much of The River's physical content is "recycled Madison" with building materials, appliances, and starting finances donated by Madison community members. River Food Pantry is a member of Sustain Dane, and we look forward to supporting their work that assists over 1,000 households each week.

[Learn More & RSVP Here](#)



Earth Month Bingo

Several of our business partners have requested engaging resources to support employee sustainability efforts during Earth Month. In response, we have created two Earth Month Bingo templates.

- [Earth Month Bingo](#) that is designed to encourage and incentivize employees to take meaningful action toward sustainability throughout the month of April.
- [Earth Month Media Bingo](#) is designed to encourage listening, watching, or reading various educational material around sustainability.

These tools can be used to spark friendly competition, recognize individuals with prizes, build awareness and excitement, and promote sustainability actions.

If there are additional resources you would like to see or questions you would like answered, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out and let us know how Sustain Dane can support you and your organization at hello@sustaindane.org.



Earth Month Clean Up

Mark your calendar for the sixth year of our Garver/Starkweather trash cleanup on Saturday, April 18. Meet outside the south entrance of Garver Feed Mill at 10:00 AM. We will provide gloves, trash bags, and hand sanitizer. Bring your energy to make a positive impact on the environment.

We are happy to partner with Ian's Pizza and Delta Beer Lab. Delta will hand out a free pint certificate card. Ian's is generously offering a free pizza slice to each participating volunteer.

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 pick up the neighborhood to prevent this pollution from reaching our waterways. Last year we collected over 800 lbs of trash. Please RSVP here to join us so we can get an accurate headcount and send updates if the weather may need to reschedule the event.

RSVP Here



Sustain Dane and Faherty Fundraiser

Family-run clothing brand Faherty, located in Hilldale, will host a fundraiser for Sustain Dane on Saturday, March 14th. From 10am–8pm, 20% of all proceeds will go directly to supporting Sustain Dane’s mission of driving local sustainability and community well-being. Sustain Dane staff team members will be at Faherty store between 12PM-2PM.

Faherty is fueled by a deep-seated responsibility to do right by the planet and the people on it. A few key sustainability initiatives Faherty follows:

- Being certified as a B Corporation
- Meeting B Corp highest verified standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability
- Using responsible materials
- Having a resale platform to extend the life of clothing
- Using plastic-free packaging.

At its core, Faherty believes that clothes should not only be made to last a lifetime but should be made in a way that ensures a healthy planet for those who wear them.



Sustain Dane and Faherty Fundraiser

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.

Last week, Frankie, our Efficiency Navigator Specialist, visited a 16-unit building in Fitchburg with 20 residents that was in the process of improved energy efficient windows being installed. As part of an Efficiency Navigator building assessment, windows are evaluated on criteria of operability, glass condition (single/double pane) and window frame condition and materials. Window replacement can reduce heat transfer and air from leaking into and out of a home. Ultimately, reducing energy bills and creating more comfortable homes.

Do you know an eligible apartment building in Madison or Fitchburg? [Learn more or apply](#) on our Efficiency Navigator page.

Join us for upcoming *Recycle Better Sessions!*



Become a recycling steward with our award-winning program in partnership with the City of Madison and WM. 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.

We have two opportunities and each class will meet online via Zoom in two parts.

- [May 6 & 13: 12 – 1:30 PM](#)
- [July 23 & 30: 6:30 – 8 PM](#)

Learn more about Recycle Better [here!](#)

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

March 6, [Health and Environment Series: Making the Connection](#) with UW-Madison

March 7, [Tree Stewards Program](#) with Wisconsin EcoLatinos

March 7, [Wisconsin KidWind Challenge](#) with WI Department of Public Instruction

March 11, [Sustainable Success — Sustainability Across Sectors: Opportunities, Challenges, and](#)

[Solutions in Today's Landscape](#) with UW-Madison

March 14, [Maple Syrup Fest](#) with Aldo Leopold Nature Center

March 14, [Sustain Dane Fundraiser](#) at Faherty in Hilldale

March 15, [Native Garden Learning Hub Community Gathering](#) at Lussier Family Heritage Center

March 16, [Volunteer Event: Garden Seed Packaging](#) with Goodman South Madison Library

March 25, [Volunteer Event](#) with River Food Pantry and Sustain Dane

March 28, [Bird & Nature Adventures](#) with Aldo Leopold Nature Center



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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