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August 2026 Newsletter

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



**A sustainability conference
to learn, connect & take action.**

Friday, November 6



2025 Sustain Dane Summit Recordings Release

Join us for the 2026 Summit at the Monona Terrace on Friday, November 6. [Register today!](#)

In anticipation of the 2026 Sustain Dane Summit, recordings from last year's Summit sessions are now available to the public:

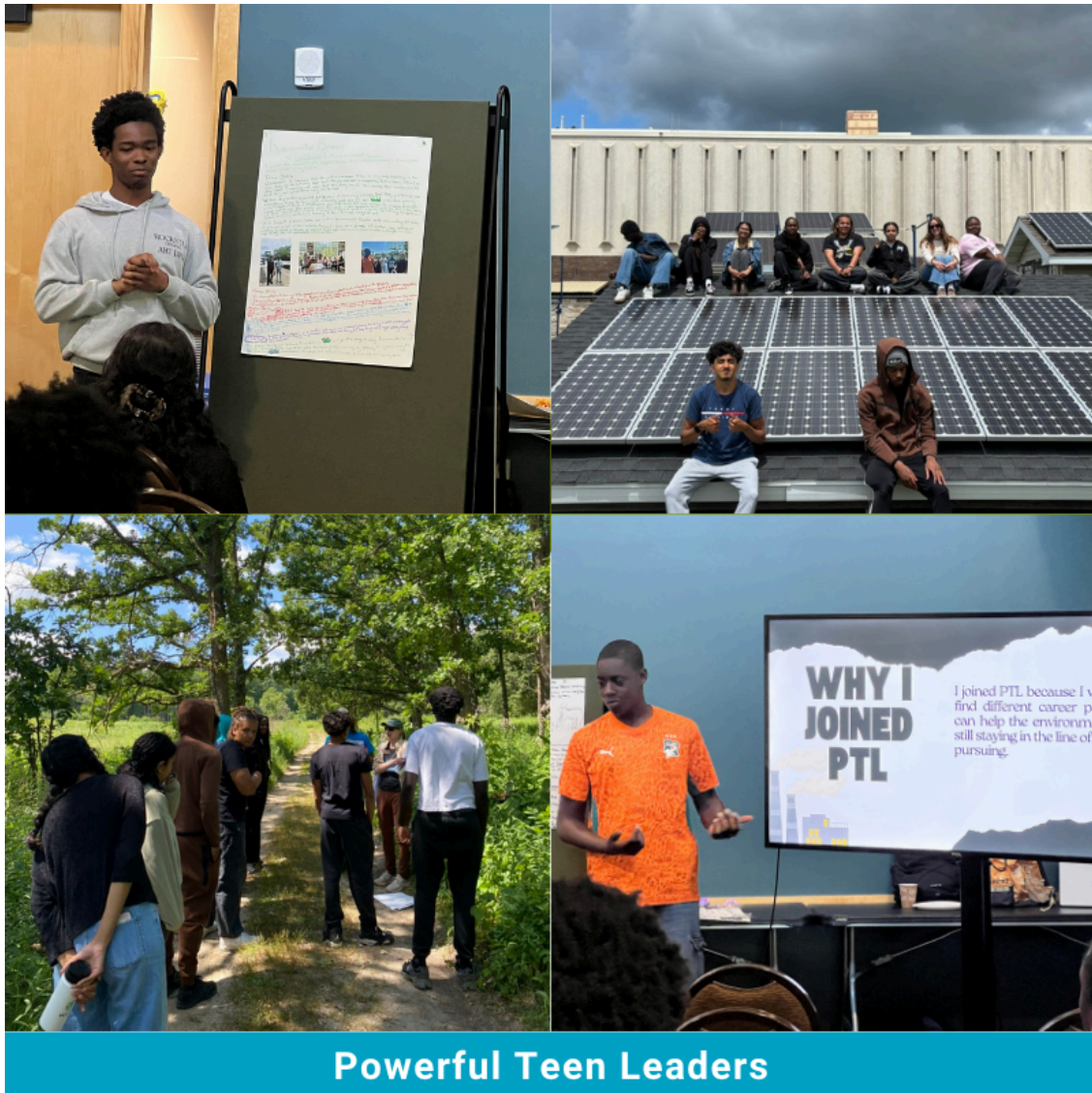
- [Keynote from Arielle V. King](#), environmental attorney, educator, and host of [The Joy Report podcast](#)
- [Housing + Sustainability Panel](#), diverse perspectives to understand our housing future, challenges, and incorporating sustainability into local

housing solutions

- [Ideas to Impact: Local Businesses Taking Action](#), featuring businesses and organizations working towards sustainability
- [Earth Signals: Collaboration of Music & Science](#), featuring a jazz and classical piece to understand the weather pattern, El Niño
- [Live Forward Awards](#), honoring local changemakers and leaders

We have now extended our **Live Forward Awards nominations until Friday, September 4** – get your nominations in now! The Live Forward Awards honor local changemakers and emerging leaders who are creating positive impact through sustainability, community well-being, and resilience. Nominate a leader [here](#).

Register for the 2026 Summit [here](#)



Powerful Teen Leaders

Powerful Teen Leaders 2026 Graduation & Celebration

This month we celebrated our Powerful Teen Leaders after they completed seven weeks of programming, including field trips, guest presenters, and professional development opportunities. Family, friends, Sustain Dane staff, and program partners came together to celebrate the students' completion of the program.

At the celebration, each student presented about:

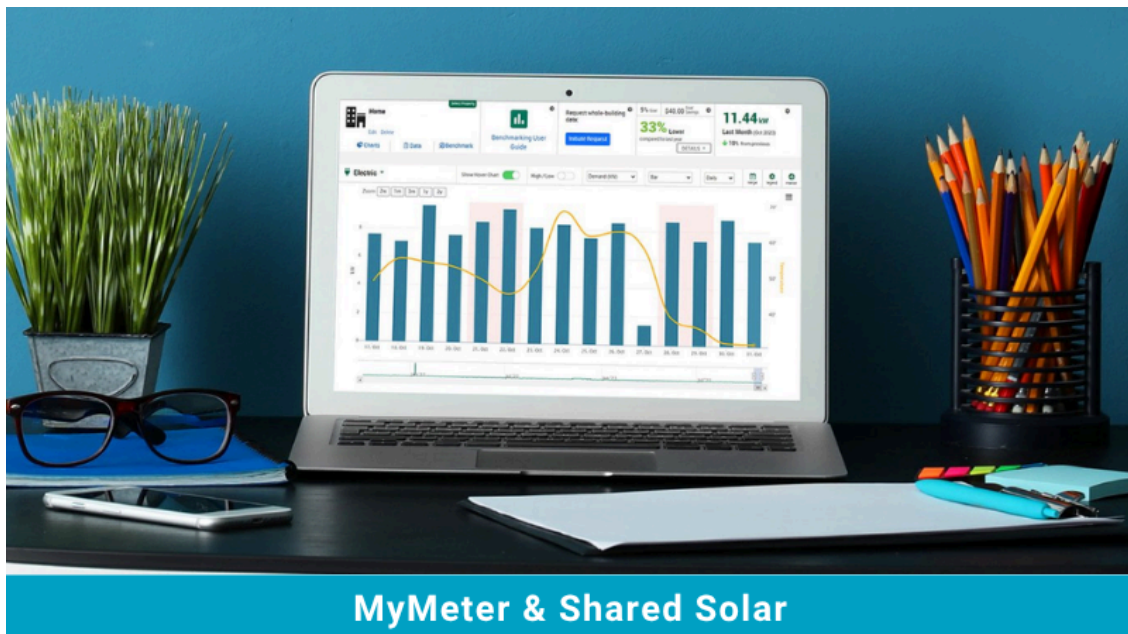
- Three careers they learned about and the pathway to get there.
- Skills developed or strengthened throughout the program.
- A rose, bud, and thorn from their summer.
 - Rose: favorite part or a win from the summer
 - Bud: area of growth or potential
 - Thorn: obstacle or area of difficulty

- Their next steps included going to college, returning to Powerful Teen Leaders for additional programming, bringing the skills they learned into the school year, and more.

“I am looking forward to take the information I am learning now and carry it with me through high school, to give me more ideas about what I can do after high school.”

– 2026 Powerful Teen Leader

Learn more about Powerful Teen Leaders Celebration here



MyMeter & Shared Solar

MyMeter and Shared Solar for Businesses

Is your business or organization looking for ways to reduce energy use, lower costs, and advance sustainability? [76% of Dane County residents](#) believe that corporations should be taking more action to address global warming. Here are two tools businesses can take action to reduce energy and natural gas consumption:

- [MGE's MyMeter tool](#) allows businesses to understand their electricity use. This tool allows you to view how much energy you are using during each billing cycle, set notifications to alert you when you are going over a specific threshold, and track and set performance targets.
- [MGE's Shared Solar for Business](#) is a community solar program designed for businesses. This program allows businesses to have easy and

affordable access to powering your space with a renewable energy source. MGE builds, owns, and maintains the solar arrays and offers businesses to purchase shares of locally generated solar energy to support the growth of renewable energy supplied to our grid.

Get inspiration and resources for other projects



Summer Social & Volunteering Recap

This month we had our annual summer social and volunteer event at Olbrich Park. Together we spent the afternoon collecting trash around the park and lake to keep these shared spaces beautiful for everyone to enjoy. We even found two shoes along the way! Unfortunately, they were not a matching pair. Beyond the cleanup, it was a great chance to connect with our neighbors, enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with a fantastic group of community members. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Renewed Members



SUSTAIN DANE MEMBERSHIP

Renewed Member 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.

Membership is rolling throughout the year, and all are welcome to join. Recent renewed members include:

- [Accurate Airtight Exteriors](#)
- [Artisan Dental](#)
- [Delta Beer Lab](#)
- [Envest Microfinance](#)
- [Food Fight Restaurant Group](#)
- [JP Cullen](#)
- [Pellitteri Waste Systems](#)
- [The River Food Pantry](#)
- [Willy Street Coop](#)
- [YWCA Madison](#)



Efficiency Navigator

Efficiency Navigator Update

Sustain Dane and partners are hard at work with Efficiency Navigator, supporting small to medium-sized affordable apartment housing to become more efficient, affordable, and resilient.

We recently completed work on a four-unit property in Madison's Meadowood neighborhood. Improvements completed include insulation, air sealing, and windows. The efficiency upgrades performed will have an estimated \$569 in annual utility cost savings for residents and an annual CO2 emissions savings of 2,930kg. This is the equivalent of avoiding 7,267 vehicle miles traveled, and an estimated 19% reduction in overall energy usage.

Learn more about Efficiency Navigator [here](#)



Bilingual Recycle Better – English & Spanish

We are proud to continue our partnership with the Latino Academy of Workforce Development. This marks our third year of collaboration on the bilingual Recycle Better program to deliver a culturally relevant recycling education program tailored for the Latine community.

Join us for a **free community session of Recycle Better provided in both English and Spanish on Saturday, September 19 from 9AM-12PM**. Topics include: what makes recycling work and why we do it, local recycling how-tos, other waste streams, low-waste living, and championing recycling in your community.

[Learn more and RSVP here](#)



September Sustainable Breakfast Series: Our Local Energy Grid: Safe, Reliable, Affordable & Sustainable

Energy is essential to our daily lives, from heating and cooling our homes to powering businesses, transportation, and the technology we rely on every day. **Join us on Tuesday, September 29 for a look at how our energy system works and what it takes to transition to a cleaner energy future.** We'll hear from Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) representatives about our energy grid, the company's goals for reducing carbon emissions, and their roadmap for achieving net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

Together, we'll explore:

- How the electric grid works and how electricity gets from generation to our homes and businesses
- The role of renewable energy, energy storage, and other technologies in the transition to a cleaner energy system
- MGE's goals and roadmap for achieving net-zero carbon electricity by 2050
- The opportunities and challenges communities face as our energy system evolves

Learn more and register here



Walking All Around Dane County

Thursday, Sept 24 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Town of Verona Community Room
7669 County Rd PD, Verona, WI 53593

[Register Now](#)

Logos: Sustain Verona, VERONA, TOWN OF VERONA WISCONSIN, SUSTAIN 8 DANE

All Around Dane County – Verona

Sustain Dane will host an All Around Dane County on Thursday, September 24 from 5:30PM – 7:00PM at the Town of Verona Town Hall. Connect with other sustainability enthusiasts and learn about local initiatives happening in Verona.

We will hear brief sustainability stories from Verona Area School District, the Farley Center, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Conservancy, Sustain Verona, and Dark Skies Verona. Afterwards we'll take a short walk through the prairie.

[Learn more and RSVP here](#)



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SESSION

Logos: SUSTAIN 8 DANE, CITY OF MADISON WISCONSIN

Image: Prairie Ridge Conservation Park sign, City of Madison logo

September Volunteering Session

Have you ever tried native seed collecting? On Thursday, September 24 from 2PM–4PM. 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.

Learn more and RSVP [here](#)



Community members have diverted more than 23,000 lbs pounds of food scraps from the landfill so far this season. That's a little more than the weight of 11 giraffes. The season goal is to divert the weight of 24 giraffes (48,000 pounds). Help us reach our goal! View market and drop off locations [here](#). Farmers' market food scrap drop-off runs through the end of October.

Food Scraps Update



Sustain Dane is hiring a Partnership and Development Manager! The Partnership and Development Manager plays a key role in expanding the network of businesses, organizations, and individuals involved in and supporting sustainability. They will lead member and sponsor relations, retention, and recruitment. This position supports development efforts including grant writing and reporting requirements, as well as leading individual giving campaigns. Applications will be reviewed starting Friday, September 11 until the position is filled.

[Learn more and apply here](#)



Join Sustain Dane, Madison Magazine and Pasture and Plenty on Friday, September 18 for a family-style fish fry dinner. For generations, the Friday fish fry has been a place for connection, community and conversations. Over food and shared conversation, we'll explore the past, present and future of this iconic Wisconsin institution and the impacts of climate change.

[Learn more and register here](#)



The City of Sun Prairie is hosting another repair cafe on Wednesday, September 23, from 5PM–7:30PM at the Sun Prairie Public Library. At the Repair Café, community members will gather to repair broken items, reduce waste, and share skills. Bring your small appliances, electronics, clothing, bicycles, or other household items that need repair for free!

Whether you bring something to fix or attend to learn and connect, the Repair Café is a celebration of community, creativity, and sustainability.

[Learn more here](#)



RoundTrip Greater Madison's fourth annual [Smart Trips Challenge](#), September 1-30, celebrates sustainable, affordable, and healthy transportation choices in Dane County. Replace as many drive-alone trips as you can with carpooling, bicycling, riding the bus, and walking & rolling – then log those trips for chances to win 20+ weekly and grand prize drawings. The challenge is free and open to everyone ages 18+ in Dane County. This year's challenge includes a fun bingo opportunity with prompts to inspire participants to try something new, learn something new, and make new connections

along the way – great for involving families and friends!

Learn more and join 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

November 6: [Sustain Dane Summit](#)

September 2: [Dragonfly Walk](#) with UW-Arboretum

September 3: [MadiSUN Solar Walking Tour](#)

September 11: [Sustain-a-bash](#) with UW-Madison

September 11: [Badger Rock CommUNITY Dinner](#) with Rooted, WI

September 12: [Farm to School Aid](#) with Rooted, WI

September 12: [Learn to Monarch Tag](#) with Lussier Family Heritage Center

September 15: [CFC Power Breakfast 2026](#) with Customers First Coalition

September 19: [Urban Harvest Festival](#) with Urban Triage

September 23: [Repair Cafe](#) with the City of Sun Prairie

September 24: [Walking All Around Dane County – Verona](#) with Sustain Dane

September 28: [Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit](#) with Faith in Place

September 29: [September Sustainable Breakfast Series](#) with Sustain Dane

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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