Sustain Dane Summit 2023

A conference for sustainability enthusiasts to learn, connect, share, reflect, and build new personal and professional skills.



Keynote Speaker Diamond Spratling

320 Attendees

16 Speakers

14 Exhibitors

25 Award nominees

100% of survey respondents say Sustain Dane programs prioritize an inclusive and diverse sustainability movement

Inspiring, friendly, high-vibe affair. Leaving reacquainted with old friends and colleagues, having new connections and energy to keep innovating in climate.

— Sharon Barbour, Green Thunder Collab. & Sharon Barbour Coaching, LLC



Live Forward Awardees Ben Austin, Cristina Carvajal, and Ruthanna Hutton-Okpalaeke

SUSTAIN DANE

Program Highlights

- Participants network, connect, & engage with facilitated conversations
- Keynote with Diamond Spratling, award-winning environmental justice activist
- Transformative Local Projects: the Lake Monona Waterfront Redesign & the Dane County Office of Waste & Renewables Sustainability Campus
- Local leaders share stories of successful sustainability projects
- Live Forward awards honor regional change-makers



Attendees Kyla S. , Brandi G., and Hedi R.

"Sustain Dane excellently organizes a community of like-minded yet diverse people from all walks of life who are passionate about being better stewards of the Earth."

—Leah Purdy
Project Manager, TDS Telecommunications



Attendee adds their thoughts to interactive art



Ed Freer presents on the Lake Monona Waterfront Plan

Program Highlights

"This was my first time attending the Sustain Dane Summit and I can confidently say that I'm walking away from this event with renewed hope for the future of sustainability in Dane County, increased momentum in our own city's movement, and newfound connections with other leaders."

—Rose Daily, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Sun Prairie



Attendees Jess T. and Blake B.



Attendees Lina G. and Jenna S.

Change happens when inspired people take action



Sustain Dane Staff

"I enjoyed the representation in every way. It doesn't go unnoticed. The variety of topics covered and the ability to meet and hear stories from people making a positive difference."

—Summit Attendee

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Keynote: Diamond Spratling, award-winning environmental justice activist, storyteller, and public speaker for the keynote address and workshop session.

Interactive Climate Roundtable:

- Cristina Carvajal, Founder & Executive Director, Wisconsin EcoLatinos
- Ben Reynolds, Director of operations, Reynolds Transfer and Storage
- Cheryl Dewalt, Environmental Education & Garden Manager, Madison Children's Museum
- Cynthia Moore, Resident, Linden Cohousing
- Paul Schechter, Executive Director, Sunnyside Development

Transformative Local Projects:

- Ed Freer, Senior Landscape Architect, GRAEF, on the Lake Monona Waterfront redesign
- John Welch, Director, Dept. of Waste & Renewables, on the new landfill

Live Forward Awardees:

- Cristina Carvajal, Founder & Executive Director, Wisconsin EcoLatinos
- Ben Austin, Sustainability team, J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc.
- Ruthanna Hutton-Okapalaeke & Cooper Talbot, Agriculture Team, Urban Triage