



A²ZERO Progress and Challenges

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Renewable Energy



- Intervened in two gas cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission called for a “Future of Gas” proceeding that clearly outlines a path to decarbonized heating and cooling.
- Continued interviewing in electric cases representing rate payers.
- Solarize Ann Arbor has installed over 5.2 MW of solar on over 700 homes through the program with new group buys on the way!
- Two new ground mount solar arrays recently built at the Ann Arbor municipal airport, bringing the total amount of solar on City facilities over 700 kW with more coming!



Switching to Electric

- The A²ZERO Home Energy Rebate program distributed over \$250,000.
- Completed work to design a district geothermal system for the Bryant neighborhood. Broke ground on geothermal system for community center.
- Launched the Commercial EV Charger Program and won CFI award to go even further.
- Launched city-wide geothermal study.
- The 3rd Annual Electrification Expo was a success with hundreds of attendees and dozens of vendors.



Energy Efficiency



- **A²ZERO Home Energy Advisor has delivered “Path to Zero” customized home decarbonization plans to 195+ Ann Arbor households.**
- **Received \$3.1 million from the Michigan Public Service Commission to continue work on homes in the Bryant neighborhood.**
- **Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) is in full swing.**
- **Working to transition all streetlights to LEDs.**
- **Green Business Challenge initiated.**



Reduce VMTs



- Funded more bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Supporting Comprehensive Land Use Plan update.
- Supported re-introduction of bike share.



Circular Economy



- Kicked off the first full year the Sustainable Food Business Coalition with 40 members.
- Reached over 3,715 Ann Arbor residents with educational programming designed to increase awareness of the carbon impacts of food and promote the benefits of more plant-forward diets.
- Hosted first electronics takeback event, collecting more than 6,400 lbs. of electronic devices to be reused, repaired, refurbished, and recycled.
- Designing a city-wide returnable container program.
- Won grant to test small-scale refrigerant replacement program.



Resilience



- Reached 10,000th tree distributed and launched a survival study to determine the status of the trees distributed.
- More than 440 households are participating in the Pollinator Aware Yard Care program.
- The A²ZERO Ambassador program graduated its 100th+ Ambassador.
- Ann Arbor's 4th and 5th Resilience Hubs have been identified as Peace Neighbor Center and Green Baxter Court Community Center.



Engagement



- Engagement on the Facebook and Instagram pages has been going up.
- Green Light releasing consistent episodes, with growing viewership.
- Eight AmeriCorps members completed their service term as the inaugural cohort of OSI's AmeriCorps program.
- New youth-based program with LSNC and NZ.



What's Coming in 2025?



- **SEU planning and structuring**
- **Continuation of Home Energy Rebates and Home Energy Advisor**
- **Wraparound services for HERD**
- **Green Rental Housing to City Council**
- **Electric lawn care discount and rebate program**
- **District geothermal feasibility studies for three locations**
- **Funding to rapidly work on more homes in Bryant**
 - **Awaiting funding decision for district geothermal**

Challenges



- **Policy landscape**
 - State and federal preemptions
 - Need for more transformational policies
 - Good progress in Michigan but more needed
 - Uncertainty about climate policies in new administration
- **Grant funding**
 - Time and effort for applications and administration
 - Uncertainty of future landscape
- **Generating enthusiasm around certain actions**
 - Available insulation and air sealing rebate dollars



THANK YOU

Questions?