

Subject: Ongoing Energy Waste

From: Robert Frank

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:39 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Stults, Missy <MStults@a2gov.org>

Subject: Ongoing Energy Waste

Dear Planning commissioners, city council, Mayor and A2 Sustainability office,
After many years of individual complaints about the city of Ann Arbor ignoring energy waste with simple solutions, I am writing to all involved to get you to pay attention to the simple low hanging fruit of energy conservation and sustainability.

My background includes 10 years as Ann Arbor's first certified energy analyst and decades as an independent home inspector who always added an emphasis on sustainability.

Here are just some of the things I have observed. All are 100% waste serving no purpose.

1. The Farmers Market lights have been on 24/7 for a very long time. All day long every day. I have talked to the city official in charge of the Farmers Market till I'm blue in the face about this and she shows no interest in hearing about energy waste at the market. I have repeatedly talked to Sustainability office workers when they are at the Farmers Market for an event and point it out to them. Solar energy during the day can be fed back to the grid if these are currently solar powered.
2. The lights at the city parking lot at the former Y lot have been on 24/7 since they were erected many years ago. Sure, they will be torn down very soon, but for years they have been needlessly wasting precious energy for zero purpose during the daytime.
3. The new pedestrian bridge over the Huron River where the new development is going has lights that are on 24/7. If solar, they can be fed back to the grid.
4. At Vets Arena, the exterior lighting has been on during the daytime for decades. (Not sure after the tornado what the current situation is, but doesn't change the decades of waste.) I have alerted the city employees of Vets about this repeatedly and also the Sustainability office.
5. The Flagpole light at the Fire Station on Jackson Road has been on during daylight hours for over a decade. Have alerted the fire station and Sustainability office.
6. At the LEED underground parking structure between S. Fifth and Division, there have been above ground lights on 24/7 since inception. I have notified the DDA and Republic employees who do maintenance at parking structures. There have been several other parking structures that have had exterior lighting 24/7 on for decades, or others for months at a time, then off for months, then on for months, etc.
7. The lights at the parking area at Fuller Pool were on 24/7 for many months after solar panels were installed. Finally off now, but no getting back the wasted energy not fed back to the grid. And the dollars DTE would have paid to the city are lost forever.
8. Walk around downtown Ann Arbor and see the hundreds of lights on 24/7 at our businesses and shops. The office of Sustainability could work with the DDA to talk to businesses about being more energy conscious. I have tried, but as an individual success has been rare. These exterior lights are not advertising, but are only for nighttime lighting. Most have been on continuously for decades.

9. The Parking garage on S. First between Ashley and First has had exterior lights on since it was built.
10. I saw a photo of planning commissioners walking past the South Vic Village building, which had been required to be built with sustainable features. Yet, all the exterior lighting is on 24/7 every moment since the lighting was installed. I can see it on the photo on my cell phone that was on MLive. If I can spot it that way, can you tell me the planning commissioners on this tour didn't see this and didn't bother to talk to employees inside the building like I did. To no avail because I'm an individual, not a city official.

These are only a few examples of what I see daily.

I ask, many of these things are very obvious to most of you. You walk and drive past these obvious bright lights all the time. Yet nobody in an official capacity seems to care, even when alerted.

Please act! Do something. This is all low hanging fruit that costs little to nothing to remedy. Exterior non-Advertising lighting on during daylight hours serves zero purpose and is only a major negative.

I am willing to be involved if that would be helpful. Like I mentioned, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Sincerely,

Bobby Frank

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