

Staff Updates for Sustainability Commission – October 2025

Office of Sustainability and Innovation

- City awarded grant to advance SEU: The Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) has won a competitive grant for \$250,000 to support foundational activities, including building a public-private partnership plan, educating and connecting with potential vendors and contractors, beginning rate design, and more. The grant also opens the door for a potential, larger second round of funding from the grantor, the Municipal Investment Fund. [Read more about this award!](#)
- Solar is being installed on the roof of City Hall! Check out the video on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#). Plus, learn more about this project and others like it in [the latest edition of our newsletter](#).
- Ann Arbor Launches Air Quality Map and Alert System: The City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) is announcing a partnership with Clarity Movement (Clarity), the manufacturers of its city-wide network of 10 air quality monitors, to launch a new map displaying the current air quality index (AQI) at each of 10 monitoring locations. The new map can be found at www.a2gov.org/airquality and features a way to sign up for email alerts when AQI reaches an “unhealthy” level.
- Business Rebates for Electric Leaf Blowers: [Business rebates for electric leaf blowers have been reinstated](#) through September 30, 2026, or until funding is expended. Designed to help lower the cost of transitioning from gas to electric leaf blowers in accordance with Ann Arbor’s leaf blower ordinance, these rebates will be available to businesses that provide lawn care or landscaping services to properties located in Ann Arbor.
- OSI Makes National News: OSI has captured national attention from [NPR for its work in on the Sustainable Energy Utility \(SEU\)](#) and international attention from the [BBC for its work in the Bryant Community](#). This recognition underscores Ann Arbor’s leadership in climate action and highlights the power of community-driven solutions to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time.
- Monthly Clothing Swap, October 16, 4 – 7 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall: Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations for monthly clothing swaps on the third Thursday of each month! These are a perfect way to give your gently used clothes a new home. And you might just find an item of clothing you have been looking for, without having to buy it new.

- Sustainability and Cinema Film Series: Fashion Reimagined, October 22, 7 – 9:30 PM: Michigan Theater: Free Admission - Please reserve tickets in advance for an accurate attendance. *Fashion Reimagined* follows Amy Powney, a daughter of environmental activists, during her trajectory from outsider to industry leader as she sets out to create a fashion collection that's ethical and sustainable at every level. See the full line-up and reserve your tickets at marquee-arts.org/cinema-and-sustainability.

Public Services

- Public Works Open House October 25th from 10am to 1pm! Get ready to roll into the world of Ann Arbor public works! Join us for a free, family-friendly event where you can explore the tools, vehicles (including the new electric solid waste trucks!), and people that keep Ann Arbor running smoothly. Visit the [website](#) for more details.