

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
FEBRUARY 24, 2026 MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

With Zoom Viewing. Link to watch:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzgf7mj.1>

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Meeting
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
- VII. Staff Reports
 - A. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
 - B. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report*
 - 1. Resiliency Office Report
 - 2. Resiliency Office Events since last meeting and any upcoming, including tabling or other events that the WCEC might want to also participate in.
 - 3. Other Updates
- VIII. Chair's Report
 - A. Finance/Budget Report
 - B. March & April Meetings
 - 1. Elections
 - 2. Hydrogen Presentation
 - C. Update: Washtenaw County Environmental Council Resolution Advising the County Board of Commissioners Against Approval of the Proposed Expansion or

Creation of a New Landfill Associated with the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem
Township, Washtenaw County

- IX. Remarks/Presentation: Werner Road Widening and Tree Cutting: Updates.
Presentation by Justin Perkins
- X. Committee and Member Reports
 - A. Recommendations and Advisory Committee
 - 1. Followup: Werkner Road and Tree Conservation/Cutting
 - 2. Followup: Beth Foley Presentation & Data Centers
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Adjourn

Next Meetings

March 24, 2026

Chair's Proposal:
2026 Washtenaw County Environmental Council Calendar

The proposed Council meeting dates are third or fourth Tuesdays 5pm to 6:30pm

January 27, 2026

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 28, 2026

May 19, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is the first evening of Eid and day after Memorial Day)

June 23, 2026

July 28, 2026

August 25, 2026

September 22, 2026

October 27, 2026

November 17, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is Thanksgiving week)

December 15, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is Dec. 22)

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
JANUARY 27, 2026

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

With Zoom Viewing. Link to watch:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzgf7mj.1>

JANUARY MINUTES DRAFT

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Mark Coryell, Michelle Deatrick, Gay MacGregor, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Kris Olsson, Lauren Sargent, Finn McCarty, Annie Somerville, Brian Geiringer, Yousef Rabhi
 - B. Not Present: Anne Brown, Andrea Pierce, Liz Ratzloff
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - B. Second: Alex Bryan
 - C. Motion to move Remarks about Salem Twp AI Data Center to immediately after Staff Reports
 - 1. Moved: Kris Olsson
 - 2. Second: Lauren Sargent
 - 3. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting
 - A. Moved: Alex Bryan
 - B. Second: Kris Olsson
 - C. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

1. Loren Rullman Chelsea, MI - concerning WC Road Commission widening of Werkner Road
 - a) Council members ask clarifying questions and express suggestions to speak with Washtenaw area transportation area study group and bicycle groups. A request is made for this council to come up with a statement on the value of trees. An additional request confirms desire to work with Road Commission on balancing zero-carbon goals and importance of bicycle transportation with the value of preserving trees.
 - b) Motion to refer it to advisory and recommendations committee to work on a statement and consult the Washtenaw transportation groups.
 - (1) Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - (2) Second: Ben VanGessel
 - (3) Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
2. John Spur Salem Township – concerning Arbor Hills landfill expansion
 - a) YR thank advocates in Salem Twp, does not support expansion.

B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation

1. No written comments made

VII. Staff Reports

A. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications

B. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report*

1. Resiliency Office Report
2. Resiliency Office Events since last meeting and any upcoming, including tabling or other events that the WCEC might want to also participate in.
 - a) Council Responses
 - (1) Thanks for staff report and thanks to departing office staff Kim Heumann.
 - (2) Multiple council members were unable to register for UM data center event, the Chair is going to communicate with

event leaders that community members wanting to come are unable to get tickets.

3. Other Updates

VIII. Remarks/Presentation: Salem Township AI Data Center. Beth Foley, Saline Township resident

A. Council Responses

1. Council members express thanks to Beth for sharing and hope the council will follow through on the requests. A specific suggestion is made to recommend the full moratorium on data centers in the county until some issues can be worked out.
 - a) Chair reminds the council on previous actions taken, suggests a motion to instruct the advisory and recommendations committee to look at what other steps this council can make with the Board of Commissioners or other county departments regarding data centers.
 - b) Moved: Brian Geiringer
 - c) Second: Andrea Pierce
 - d) Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

IX. Chair's Report

A. Finance/Budget Report

B. February Meeting

1. Elections
2. Hydrogen Presentation

X. Washtenaw County Environmental Council Resolution Advising the County Board of Commissioners Against Approval of the Proposed Expansion or Creation of a New Landfill Associated with the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, Washtenaw County

- A. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
- B. Second: Annie Somerville
- C. Council Discussion

1. Council members share additional experiences related to this and continue to recommend residents share their perspectives with councils and at public meetings.

D. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

E. Chair confirming County process, asks Resiliency Office to send through regular resolution process, WC Health Dept, and Water Resource Commissioner's Office. Chair will email all members of the board directly and Commissioner Rabhi notes to be sure to include Ashley, it is not too late to add before next agenda packet meeting.

XI. Committee and Member Reports

A. Commissioner Rabhi is impressed and proud to live in a community where people are organizing and stepping up against the corporate machine that is coming to hurt our environment.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

A. Council members welcome Finn McCarty to Youth seat.

XIV. Adjourn

A. 6:21 PM

B. Moved: Annie Somerville

C. Second: Yousef Rabhi

D. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

Next Meetings

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026



Outlook

January 2026 Report WCEC

From Camellia Khorrami <khorrami@washtenaw.org>

Date Thu 2/19/2026 1:54 PM

To Beth Gibbons <gibbonsb@washtenaw.org>; michelle@michelledetrick.com
<michelle@michelledetrick.com>

Good Afternoon,

There were no expenses made during January 2026 for the WCEC. Please let me know if there is anything else.

Best,
Cami

Washtenaw County Environmental Council – February 24, 2026

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing/Support Status

Mobility Fellow, the State of Michigan

WCRO applied to the MI Mobility Fellows (MMF) Program to secure a 15-month placement. The Fellow will increase office capacity in addressing the 9 actions related to the Mobility and Access Strategy area in the RWP.

Summerworks Intern

WCRO will participate in the Washtenaw County Summer Youth Employment Program by hosting a SummerWorks intern for 10 weeks over the summer. The intern will support the Green Team's efforts to increase resiliency awareness among staff by conducting a Waste Audit at a county facility and supporting outreach events with the WCRO and Racial Equity Office.

2. Projects Underway

Shifting Demographics in Changing Climate

ICLEI USA and WCRC will convene a series of community meetings and one larger workshop related to climate migration and shifting demographics. The goal of this project is to strengthen Washtenaw County's capacity to plan for climate- and demographically driven - population changes. Through a series of stakeholder and community conversations and storytelling activities, this effort will advance local understanding of climate migration dynamics and aging trends while creating inclusive, forward-looking narratives to guide regional planning. Objectives include:

- Gather perspectives from diverse stakeholders on how climate change may influence demographic shifts.
- Identify information and data gaps across sectors related to migration, aging, and resilience.
- Develop narratives that inspire collective action to prepare for and equitably welcome newcomers.
- Integrate findings into planning and actions of public, private, and non-profit actors in the county.

SEMCOG Review team for 2024 Emissions Inventory Update

WCRO staff served on the review committee to hire the consultant to SEMCOG that will conduct an updated GHG emissions inventory. The inventory process will produce a region-wide inventory and a detailed analysis for each SEMCOG County and the City of Detroit.

Renewable Energy TA Program & Data Center Resources:

At the BOC meeting on February 5, 2026, the Commissioners authorized the Resiliency Office to host municipal leaders across Washtenaw County. WCRO is partnering with the Graham Sustainability Institute Center for EmPowering Communities on these events. These events will

focus on sharing information about data centers and hosting an information sharing space for municipalities in the County and introducing a toolkit on the revenue implications from data centers and renewable energy projects.

3. Grants & Funding Update

A co-design approach to energy systems that mitigate land-use competition in rural communities, proposal to NSF

WCRO and Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is partnering with researchers at the University of Michigan researchers on a proposal to the National Science Foundation on improving agrovoltaic systems. The project aims to reduce competition between solar energy generation and food production by improving solar PV technology to improve crop outcome.

Advancing the Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network, proposal to Climate Smart Communities Initiative

In partnership with local community based organizations and a nationally recognized climate adaptation practitioner partner, the WCRO is preparing to submit a proposal to continue supporting and strengthening the Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network.

4. Outreach Updates

Event	Hosting Organization	Dates	Location
Midwest Climate Conference	Midwest Climate Collaborative	3/3/2026	Cleveland
MI Healthy Climate Conference	EGLE	4/21 - 4/22	Detroit
American Planning Association Conference	American Planning Association	4/25-28	Detroit
National Adaptation Forum	EcoAdapt	5/12/2026	Pittsburgh
MI Sustainability Conference	EGLE	November 2026	Lansing
MI EJ Conference	EGLE	September 2026	

Washtenaw County Resiliency Office
July - December 2025

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT



Washtenaw County Resiliency Office
Published January 2026
County Farm Park from washtenawcountyparks Instagram

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In its first year, the Washtenaw County Resiliency Office (WCRO) has focused on advancing the preparatory work needed to implement the Resilient Washtenaw Plan (RWP), while strengthening collaboration with agencies, municipalities, and community-based organizations to enhance the county's ability to respond to climate, social, and economic challenges.

The WCRO has become an integral part of county operations, guiding the integration of resilience into planning and budgeting. The office has collaborated with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission on the Eastside Community and Recreation Center project, orienting the design as a community resilience hub that prioritizes accessibility, health, and climate readiness. The office also advanced decarbonization initiatives, including the development of the Zero Emissions Building Handbook, the Climate Resilience Network, and a Data Center outreach hub that helps municipalities and residents make informed decisions by providing reliable information and resources.

Other efforts during this reporting period include support for the updated PACE program and staff participation in resiliency awareness within the organization. Across these initiatives, the WCRO has emphasized collaboration, technical assistance, and tools to strengthen the county's overall resilience.

This report highlights progress in developing pathways for a more resilient Washtenaw County, demonstrating how partnerships, shared planning, and community engagement are moving beyond business as usual and emission reduction focus on resiliency, to include the social and health impact of greenhouse gas emissions and extreme climate events.

APPLYING *Resilient Washtenaw* PRINCIPLES

Over the past year, the WCRO advanced the [Resilient Washtenaw Plan \(RWP\)](#) by promoting equity, public health, and community resilience. WCRO staff participated in the Underground Railroad Tour and Justice InDeed to gain from a shared history, creating a foundation upon which climate initiatives can further advance racial equity. The development of the Eastside Community Recreation Center will provide access to recreation opportunities, healthy lifestyle building resources, and serve as a resilience hub on our best days and worst days. The WCRO also supported municipalities and residents through the Renewable Energy Academy, public discussions, and zoning guidance to foster a just transition to clean energy and a resilient local economy. The WCRO is intentional in promoting inclusion and equity in the face of climate and social challenges, through engaging with local organizations that focus on the understanding of local history.

STRATEGIES

Focus areas of climate action plan
Do impact carbon levels

1. Implementation
2. Energy Transition
3. Housing
4. Mobility & Access
5. Health
6. Preserve Working Lands & Natural Areas
7. Infrastructure
8. Circular Economy

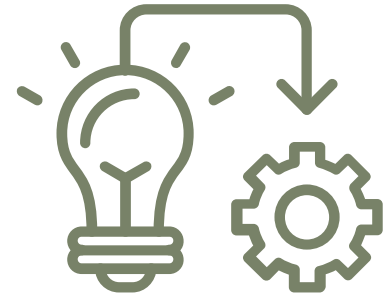
PRINCIPLES

County-wide principles
Do not impact carbon levels

1. Racial Equity & Environmental Justice
2. Support Public Health
3. Just Transition
4. Resilient Economy
5. Community Support & Partnership
6. High Communication & Engagement

Actions: 5-10 per strategy, each of which connect to the plan principles, and which cumulatively would achieve the carbon neutrality goals

STRATEGY AREA 1 IMPLEMENTATION



Actions:

1. On-going Climate Education and Public Engagement
2. Create a Regional Resilience Authority
3. Carbon Pricing in Decision Making
4. Create a County-wide Carbon Off-set program

Summary:

The Resiliency Office has prioritized actions within the Implementation Strategy to lay the groundwork for achieving sustained success in the following seven strategy areas. The actions under this strategy are necessary foundational steps to reinforce climate goals across operations and staff culture in order to continue building internal alignment across County departments, including support for budget planning, internal communications, and staff engagement.

1 County Department Business Meeting Participation and Consulting

The County began formally integrating RWP strategies and principles into the annual department business meetings and the program inventories, and budget adjustment request process. The WCRO supported these efforts by participating in business meetings and reviewing proposed projects to promote a coordinated, cross-departmental approach to resiliency. This shift expands project evaluation beyond cost and schedule to include long-term environmental impacts and community resiliency. WCRO participated in **20 Department Business Meetings and reviewed 73 Budget Requests.**

2 County Green Team

Co-led by the WCRO and the Facilities Management Department the County Green Team members volunteer to advance sustainability and climate resilience across county operations. In 2025, the Green Team prioritized planning and hosting quarterly Lunch and Learns centered around sustainability. The third and fourth quarter convenings focused on waste management and the health impacts of climate change. Resources from each learning session are available to all-county staff through an online resource hub. In 2025 Green Team activities **engaged 73 staff across 16 departments.**

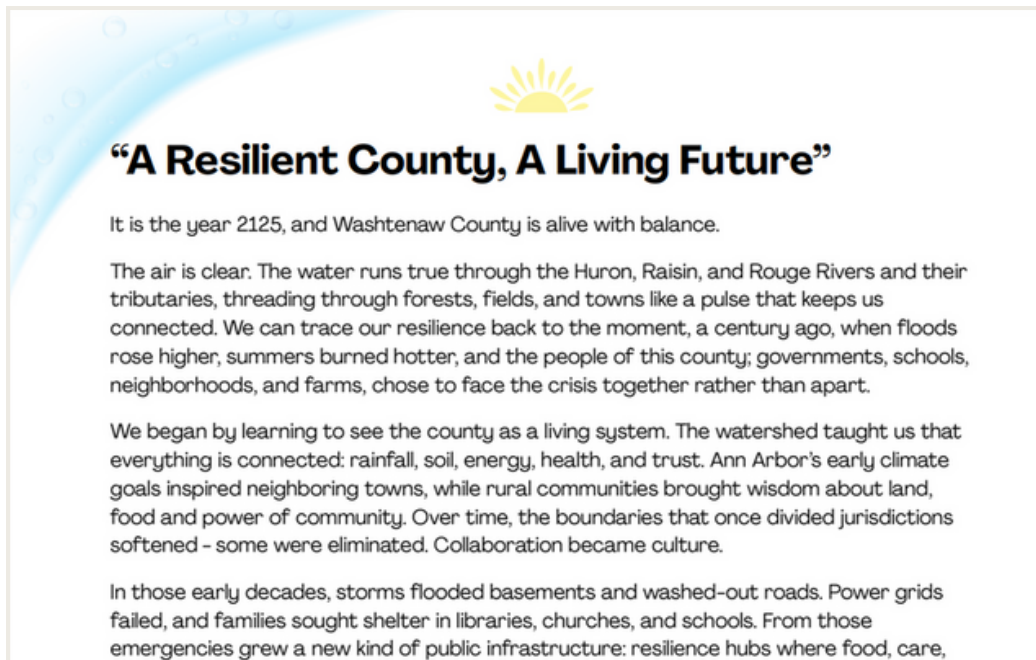


Q3 Lunch and Learn

3

Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network

Working together with partners across the County, the WCRO is facilitating the formation of a new network, rooted in a vision for an equitable and resilient climate future. The network established a mission statement, a 100-year vision, and a draft action plan. Following the October 2025 Network Meeting, a 12-person Core Design Team formed to continue molding the vision and priorities into a durable governance structure. The October meeting was attended by **45 participants, representing 16 Washtenaw County organizations and institutions**. The uplifting vision from that meeting can be found [A Resilient County, A Living Future](#) on the Resiliency Office webpage.



Opening paragraphs of “A Resilient County, A Living Future”

4

Regional Collaboration

The WCRO staff gains significant value from partnerships that support peer-to-peer learning and collaboration both regionally and statewide. These networks include Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Michigan Healthy Climate Task Force, the Inter-County Sustainability Network, and the Resilience Hub Network. Participating in these groups and networks is accelerating resource sharing, project implementation, and strengthening regional capacity for more equitable and scalable climate solutions. Additionally, WCRO works with Washtenaw's 2030 District to host the [Elective Pay Ambassador Program \(EPAP\)](#) through the Michigan Infrastructure Office, providing technical assistance to tax-exempt organizations applying for elective pay across the region.

**COLLABORATION IMPACT****SHOWING UP IN THE COMMUNITY**

In this reporting period, the office interacted with over **1500 residents** through event such as Scio Township Sustainability Fair, Local Food Festival, University of Michigan's Climate Week 2025, and attending neighborhood and block group meetings.

STRATEGY AREA 2

ENERGY TRANSITION



Actions:

1. 100% Renewable Energy Options for Everyone
2. County-wide Energy Concierge
3. Community Bulk Buy for Solar and Building Electrification
4. Expand Weatherization
5. Update Building Codes
6. Time of Marketing Energy Rating Disclosure
7. 100% Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for County Operations

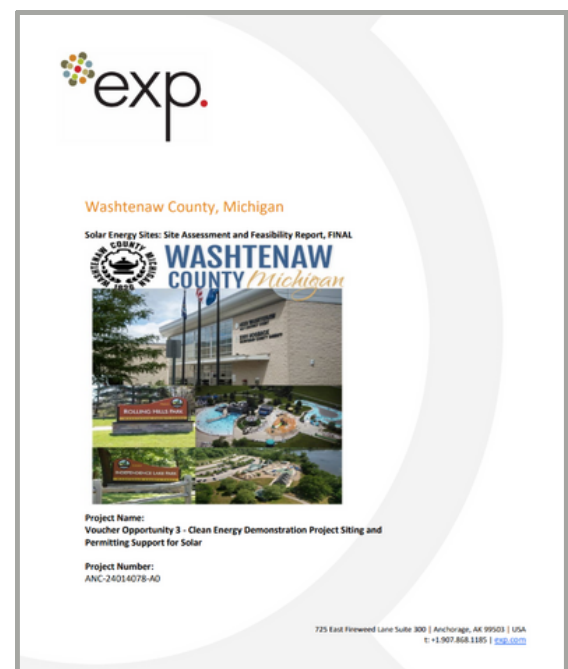
Summary:

The Energy Transition strategy advances Washtenaw County's efforts to achieve carbon-neutral, resilient operations. This year, the Solar Prioritization Project evaluated county facilities for on-site solar and battery storage, creating a roadmap for future renewable energy installations. In addition, the ClearPath 2.0 update transformed the 2019 emissions inventory into a dynamic planning tool, allowing staff to track trends, evaluate climate actions, and make data-driven decisions. Together, these initiatives strengthen the County's capacity to deploy renewable energy and monitor progress toward its low-carbon goals.

1

Department of Energy Voucher Program: Regulatory Roadmap and Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The WRCO led a **Solar Prioritization Project**, funded by the **U.S. Department of Energy**, which evaluated behind-the-meter energy installations to improve county facility energy reliability through on-site renewable power generation and storage capability. The project delivered a comprehensive roadmap for expanding rooftop, carport, and ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems, with optional battery energy storage. This project assessed three county sites: Washtenaw County Service Center, Independence Lake Park, and Rolling Hills Park. The final report will serve an important tool for the County to pursue funding opportunities for future solarization project and to plan for regular upkeep and improvements across the county.



Final feasibility report from EXP

2 ClearPath 2.0 is fully updated

The WRCO upgraded the **2019 Emissions Inventory** into an actionable planning and decision-making tool under the ICLEI **ClearPath 2.0** platform. This upgrade allows county staff to analyze emissions trends, evaluate the impact of climate intervention and transition activities, and adjust actions over time using clear data visualizations and a public-facing dashboard. By aligning with **SEMCOG's** data format and analysis, Washtenaw County ensures consistency in data analysis and benchmarking, supporting coordinated planning and shared data sources across regional agencies, municipalities, large organizations, and industry partners.



Screenshot from ClearPath 2.0 platform



STRATEGY AREA 3 HOUSING



Actions:

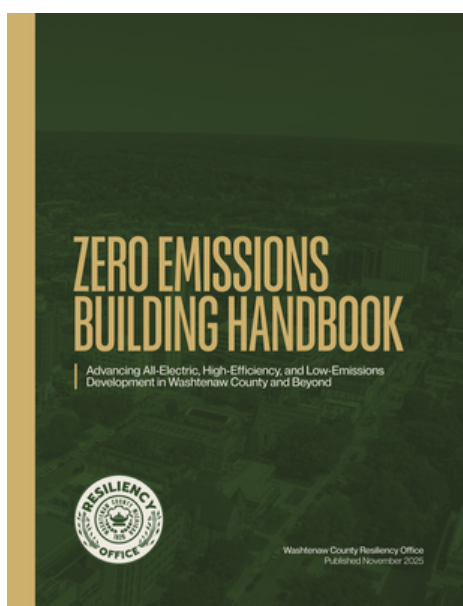
1. Infill Housing and Increased Density
2. Model Zoning Ordinances and Policies
3. Create Emissions Accounting Mechanism

Summary:

As a subsector, residential housing occupies 10% of Washtenaw County's land and plays a central role in community well-being. Residents spend upwards of 68% of their time in their homes, making housing quality and energy performance critical to public health and climate resilience. Improving building efficiency, indoor air quality, and electrification not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but it also ensures that homes remain safe, comfortable, and affordable as climate risks such as extreme heat and energy price volatility increase. WCRO's housing-related work prioritizes policies and programs that support low-emission, resilient housing across all communities and access to state resources.

1 Zero Emissions Building Handbook

The WCRO published a [Zero Emissions Building Handbook](#) to support developers, contractors, and municipal leaders in advancing all-electric, high — efficiency, and low-emissions residential development across Washtenaw County in local experience. The handbook provides practical guidance on planning, addressing challenges, and sharing financing tools, including the County's updated PACE program. The handbook was launched at the third annual Zero-Emission and Passive House Building Workshop organized by the Wolfpack Climate Action Team and **attended by over 45 Washtenaw County developers, builders, and local government representatives.**



Multifaced Application

- RWP Strategy: Implementation
Actions - On-going Climate Education and Public Engagement
- RWP Strategy: Energy Transition
Actions - Model Zoning & Energy Efficiency Policies
- RWP Strategy: Housing Strategies
Actions - Infill Housing & Increased Density

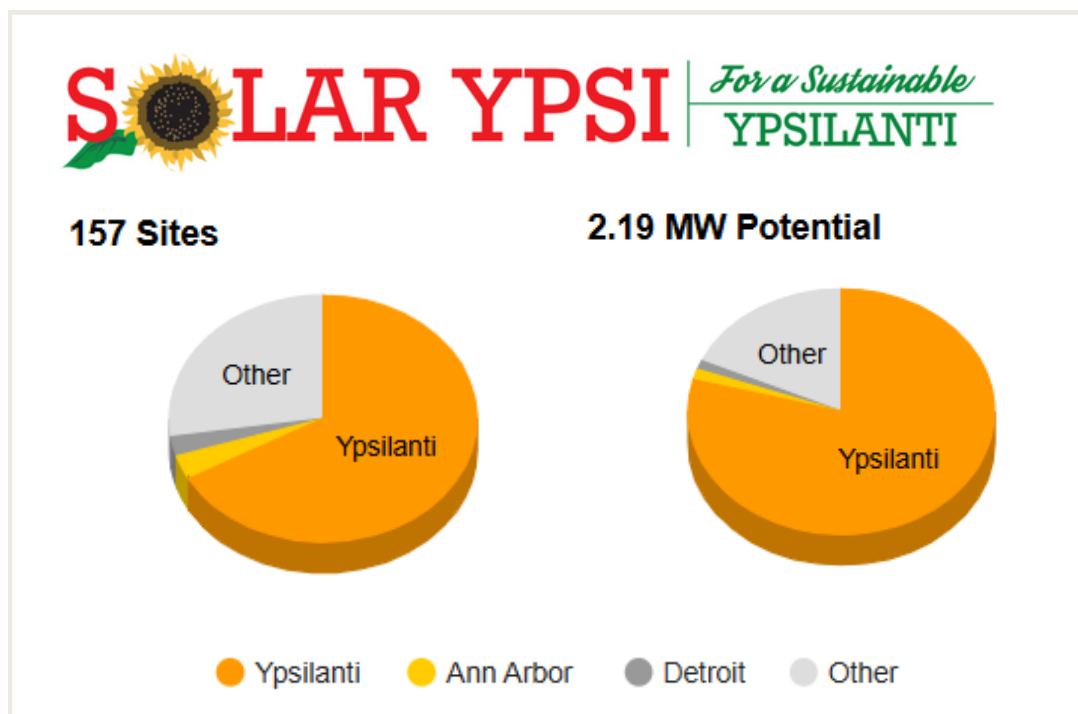
Cover of Zero Emissions Building Handbook

2

SolarYpsi Highlight

[SolarYpsi's](#) efforts to bring renewable energy to Ypsilanti residents were significantly impacted by the Michigan House of Representatives' cancellation of \$645 million in state funding heading into 2026. The cancellation represents a significant setback to residential decarbonization, undermining local efforts to reduce energy burdens for low-income residents and a just, equitable energy transition.

Despite this setback, SolarYpsi continues to deliver a sustainable future for all Ypsilanti residents through ongoing efforts to mobilize **local interest in solar projects** and by working with local organizations, municipalities, and statewide partners to **find other sources of funding**.



SolarYpsi's impact from their website



STRATEGY AREA 4

MOBILITY & ACCESS



Actions:

1. Electric Mobility Options Hub
2. Improve Transit County-wide
3. Build All-Season County-wide Non-Motorized Transportation Network
4. Support Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
5. Reduce VMTs by Sector
6. Track and Report VMTs by Sector
7. Improve MPG and MPGE throughout Community-wide Fleet
8. Expand on Work from Home and Remote Service Access for County Operations
9. Provide Financial Incentives to Employees to Mode Shift
10. Support More Efficient School Transportation

Summary:

Transportation remains a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washtenaw County, making continued investment in low-carbon mobility critical to achieving climate and resilience goals. The Resilient Washtenaw Plan advances this work by expanding nonmotorized transportation, improving vehicle efficiency, and supporting a transition to electric mobility. During this reporting period, the County focused on implementing priority infrastructure projects and fleet investments that strengthen countywide connectivity, reduce emissions, and build a more resilient transportation system.

1 Electric Vehicle Charging Network

This year, the Facilities Management Department expanded electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the county for both county fleet and public use. This includes four EV chargers at the recently upgraded 14A-4 District Court in Saline, with plans to install chargers at three additional county facilities in early 2026. The county also **added more electric vehicles to its fleet, increasing the total to ten**, which supports the energy transition to a low-carbon, electrified fleet.



An installation of solar paneled EV chargers at the Ypsi Performing Space at 218 N Adams St. expands the public EV charging network throughout the county

2

Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail)

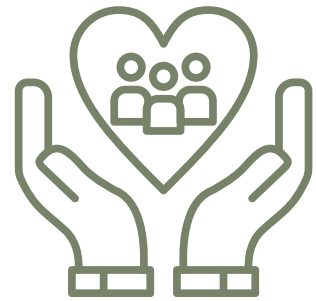
In 2025, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission completed the long-awaited Barton-Bandemer Tunnel in northwest Ann Arbor, providing a safe, grade-separated crossing under the Amtrak Railroad and connecting Ann Arbor and Dexter for nonmotorized travel while supporting faster passenger rail service between Chicago and Detroit. This project also received \$1 Million of state funding. These accomplishments advance the county's vision for achieving **an entirely nonmotorized network**, directly supporting the Resilient Washtenaw Plan's goals to expand non-motorized transportation options and reduce vehicle emissions.



Ribbon cutting of Barton-Bandemer Tunnel, picture from annarborparks Instagram



STRATEGY AREA 5 HEALTH



Actions:

1. Update County's Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Create Resilience Hubs Countywide
3. Reduce Heat Island Effect
4. Expand And Maintain County Tree Canopy.
5. Expand County Education/Outreach Programs
6. Create Opportunities For Local Food Production On County Properties
7. Prepare Health System For Climate Emergencies

Summary:

The Resilience Office prioritizes health equity and resilience, emphasizing the intersection of climate change and public health. WCRO has initiated community engagement and stakeholder listening to inform actionable climate readiness strategies and incorporate sustainable design attributes that mitigate climate impacts on health.

1 Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Planning Project

The Washtenaw County, **Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Planning Project (MICHAP)** is a community-centered planning project working to address local climate-related health challenges through collaborative adaptation planning. Led by WCRO, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan State University (MSU), and multiple Washtenaw County departments, the focus is on the Ecorse Road Corridor, which is scheduled for a major revitalization and transportation projects by Ypsilanti Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). In preparation for the adaptation design work and community engagement meeting, the WCRO organized a **site tour in October to visit 8 locations as well as attending two neighborhood meetings that reached 18 residents.**

DESIGNS CONSIDERATION



Top: Design considerations, Bottom: Site tour meeting

2 Eastside Community Recreational Center

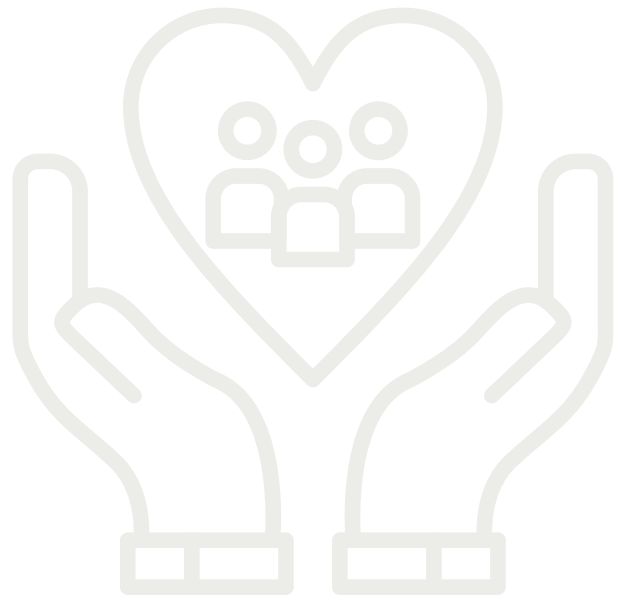
The WCRO is working closely with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to support the design and building of the new [Eastern Washtenaw Community Recreation Center](#). This project expands access to a community hub and wellness center residents to residents across the east side of the County. The project represents a significant investment in **equity, health, and community connection**. By integrating climate mitigation and resilience considerations into the design, the project demonstrates the County's dedication to the climate goals and will serve as a hub that decreases community vulnerability to worsening storms and other climate impacts.



CONCEPTUAL SITE MASTERPLAN



Concept design and open house September 2025,
pictures from WCPRC website



STRATEGY AREA 6

PRESERVE WORKING LANDS & NATURAL AREAS



Actions:

1. Natural Area Preservation
2. Farmland Preservation

Summary:

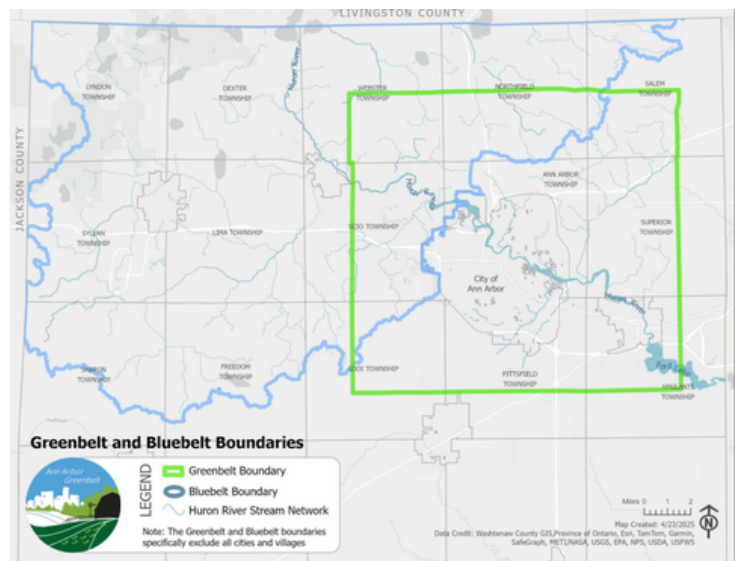
This Strategy aims to protect 30% of natural areas by 2030 and 50% by 2050. To achieve these milestones, the Resiliency Office is coordinating with partners to provide frameworks for land use planning for renewable energy planning and production, a shared understanding of the value of preserved land for carbon sequestration and storage, benefits to local habitats and wildlife, and wellness benefits to residents.

1 County-Wide Land Preservation Efforts

Local initiatives and preservation efforts are advancing the Resilient Washtenaw Plan's strategy to preserve natural and working lands! Working in partnership with property owners across the County [Ann Arbor's Greenbelt and Bluebelt programs](#) and [Scio Township's Land Preservation Commission initiatives](#) support the local food economy, natural green infrastructure that safeguards drinking water, and open spaces that offer scenic views, recreation, and biodiversity.

The Scio Township Land Preservation Commission has secured conservation easements on active farmland, **protecting 1,709 acres to date, with 45% of that land in natural features** (woods, streams, and wetlands). These projects strengthen climate resilience, safeguard water resources, and support the long-term conservation of the county's natural and working lands.

Ann Arbor's Bluebelt Program is preserving high quality lands that support groundwater recharge protection and riparian buffer protection throughout the region.



Greenbelt and Bluebelt boundaries from City of Ann Arbor Bluebelt framework presentation

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission Recreation Master Plan

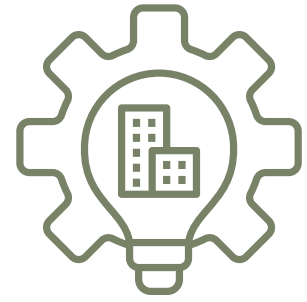
The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) is advancing efforts to protect natural lands in support of the County's climate goals. This work includes a commitment to net-zero operations, approved as one of six goals in its [2025–2029 Recreation Master Plan](#). WCPRC manages 55 parks and preserves and protects more than 14,000 acres across the County. These lands enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors, provide opportunities for carbon sequestration, and help accelerate progress toward countywide carbon neutrality. Our office is partnering with WCPRC to develop a comprehensive inventory of natural areas. The RWP supports this work by aiming to protect 30% of natural lands and collaborating with landowners to expand conservation practices, particularly in flood-prone areas.



Cover of WCPRC Recreation Master Plan



STRATEGY AREA 7 INFRASTRUCTURE



Actions:

1. Provide Comment on Infrastructure Agency Planning Projects
2. Prioritize Public Projects That Reduce Fossil Fuel Use and Prepare for More Extreme Weather
3. Urbanized Area Storm Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Prioritization
4. Countywide Stormwater Basin Inspection and Retrofit
5. Expand Rain Garden Program
6. Develop New Stormwater Regulations

Summary:

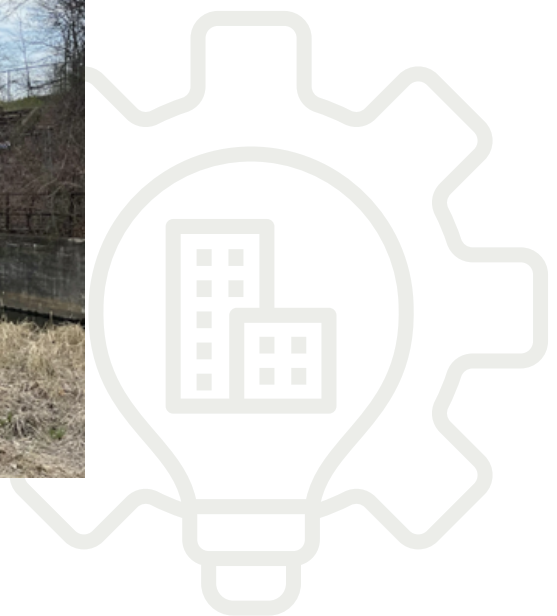
WCRO advanced infrastructure resilience by integrating climate considerations into investment decisions. Recognizing the need for coordinated effort in addressing infrastructure projects, WCRO in collaborating with the Health Department, Water Resources Commissioner's Office, and Racial Equity Office on MICHAP project in climate mitigation efforts in East Ypsilanti. The Beyer Dam and Willow Run drainage studies were considered in designing MICHAP project site reviews.

1 Beyer Dam Removal

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners **approved the removal of Beyer Dam** with a \$2.5 million grant from EGLE and \$250,000 in county matching funds. Removing the dam will reduce residential flooding while restoring natural river flow and water retention. These improvements will enhance water quality, support wildlife habitat, reduce the risk of flooding, and lower methane emissions, contributing directly to long-term climate resilience and watershed health.



Beyer Dam from Water Resource Commissioner's Office



STRATEGY AREA 8

CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Actions:

1. Build an Equitable, Low-carbon, and Resilient Circular Economy
2. Develop a County Wide Organics/Compost Program
3. Support and Grow the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA)
4. Build a Multi-dimensional Public Education and Promotion Plan for the Circular Economy
5. Diversify Funding for Circular Economy Work
6. Policy Initiatives to Expand Circular Economy Scope and Infrastructure
7. Incentivize Local Food Production

Summary:

The actions the Resiliency Office took during this reporting period within the Circular Economy Strategy moved forward initiatives regarding materials management and education. Attention was also given to residents in Freedom Township regarding concerns about a bio-digester in that community. Moving these actions forward are helping embed circular practices in County culture while preparing for statemandated updates to the County's Materials Management Plan.

1 Food Scraps Collection Pilot

WRCO is partnering with the Water Resources Commissioner's Office to monitor the community food scrap pilot in Ypsilanti at the Towner campus drop-off site. This pilot program is funded by a \$10,000 grant through Compost Consortium, BPI, and the US Compost Council, serving up to 300 households in the County. The successful implementation of this pilot has the potential to divert 45,000 pounds of food waste from landfill and lays the groundwork to expand the composting county-wide.

In Ypsilanti, 142 households expressed interest, and 88 households are currently participating in the pilot.



Food scraps pilot bins at Towner campus

2 Waste Audit

WRCO partnered with the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioner's Office and Facilities Management to complete the county's second waste audit at the County Administration Building. Results of the week-long collection effort were shared with staff, along with encouragement on what they were doing well and recommendations for improvement. Understanding internal waste management practices is essential for the County to move forward in supporting sustainable materials management, waste reduction, and more responsible use of community resources.

A total of 156.53 pounds of trash and recycling were collected. Recyclable materials made 74% of the waste.



Trash and recycling bags collected



Waste audit sorting event volunteers



Resilient Washtenaw

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Engagement
over **1500** connections

Resiliency Office Newsletter

127

Subscribers

6

Publications



Saline Court

Solar Installations

Community Corrections

Learning Resource
Center

District 14A-4 Saline
Court Expansion



Saline Court



Hosted

4 events and
workshops

Social Media
2025

7,446

Views and
Interactions

69

Followers

Office Capacity

9

Interns
and
Fellows

worked on 5 projects



Learning Resource Center

Launch of [Data Center Resource Page](#) on Resiliency Office webpage



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