Goals from Interviewees

Ann Arbor Library - They have had a commitment to facilities having low carbon impact for about 20 years which includes things like explicit processes for addressing the life cycle of books and other materials they rent (an extensive list) and plans to go to electric vehicles for deliveries.

Housing Commission - They currently have 18 affordable housing properties and have plans to increase to 36 properties in Washtenaw and Monroe Counties. The relevance is their commitment to having all new properties be energy efficient. Some recent examples are the solar power installation at the largest facility (Miller Manor) and the installation of warm flooring at West Arbor. The Housing Commission is also working with the City's Office of Sustainability and Innovations to transition all existing sites to carbon neutrality.

Meals on Wheels - Implemented a pilot project to shift to returnable containers that was not successful. The clients need reheatable containers The main barriers to success were staffing and the need for extra sanitizing space.

Live Zero Waste - Is following up on their previous zero waste educational events with a Zero Waste Challenge in March 2023 focused on student involvement. So far, they have had 30+ businesses and about 1,000 people participate in previous events. When asked about their aspirations for the work, they want zero waste to become a beacon of practical success and for it to be seen as an outcome of a highly functioning circular economy. Their benchmark for success is to have 3.5% or approximately 4,200 people in Ann Arbor taking on a Zero Waste lifestyle.

Community Action Network - This organization is committed to decarbonization in their operations. Specifically, they are creating Resiliency Hubs in each neighborhood they serve, installing solar power and other energy efficiency technologies in their facilities, instituting programs such as battery collections, and creating a food security ecosystem that reduces food waste.

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice - They are interested in establishing regional composting and some forms of high-volume food waste diversion. They would like to see permaculture and other aspects of a regenerative economy being seeded.

House N2 Home - Served 290 families in 2022, up from 31 in 2019. They were able to execute this on a budget of $100,000. They now have set their sights on raising $200,000 in order to house more individuals. They use reused goods to help house people.

Goals for Circular Economy

Reuse

A 200% increase in retail spaces related to reuse.

Hold five (5) swap days per year with 15% of residents participating each year.

Increase the number of rentals of non-book items from the local libraries.

Refurbishing

A 200% increase in repair entities.

A 200% increase in membership and/or attendance at maker spaces.

A 200% increase in the amount of people visiting repair shops rather than buying new.

Skill Building

Partner with Washtenaw Community College and the University of Michigan to promote the circular economy as a cornerstone of business development.

Creation of a network of local experts who are willing to teach their trade or skill for free or at a low cost to Washtenaw County residents by 2025, including sewing, cooking, composting, gardening, and electrical repair.

Material Use

20% of restaurants move away from single use culinary ware towards reusable and compostable options by 2026.

By 2025, 50 businesses or multi-family units opt into commercial compost.

Behavior Change

By 2025, 3.5% of the city's population adopt a zero-waste lifestyle.

By 2030, 50% of residents opt for reuse, repair, or refusal over buying new.

Resilience

The creation of five (5) new resilience hubs in community neighborhoods.

By 2030, 20 religious institutions in the City are prepared to be activated in case of emergency with back-up power, cots, and nonperishable food items.