

Detroit Environmental Agenda

How can we help advance Detroit's sustainability goals, together?

The Detroit Environmental Agenda (DEA) was initiated in early 2012 following an environmental summit held by the City of Detroit in 2011. Ten organizations came together and formed the DEA, whose purpose was to engage Detroit residents and groups about sustainability, public health, and environmental justice issues taking place in their city. The DEA surveyed nearly 500 residents and created Detroit's first grassroots sustainability action agenda describing the state of the environment in Detroit's neighborhoods, while also providing community-based solutions to respond to these problems. This report, named after the Coalition, was titled Detroit Environmental Agenda and was published in July of 2013.

community-based organizations

government

civil society

residents

business

researchers

our principles

- 1 Ensure environmental justice: protect and involve vulnerable populations in decisions that impact their lives.
- 2 Protect and restore the earth's resources: land, water, air.
- 3 Engage affected residents to understand community needs and potential impacts.
- 4 Leverage the connections between environmental solutions and health, safety, jobs, and education.
- 5 Build on successful models of sustainability in Detroit and from elsewhere.

quality of life

areas we address

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Accessible transportation | Green jobs |
| Clean air | Healthy housing |
| Clean energy | Healthy land |
| Clean and affordable water | Healthy neighborhoods |
| Climate change | Public Health |
| Community benefits | Sustainable community development |
| Food justice | Waste reduction |

who we are

There are currently over 20 active DEA member organizations that contribute to this work aimed at achieving a healthy, clean, and safe Detroit for all people to live, work, and thrive. Learn more about our members by visiting the DEA website: www.detroitenv.org.

improve health

keep & attract residents

green jobs for family security

2021 priorities

community

- Increase community leadership and decision-making around blight control, as well as around ownership and redevelopment of vacant lots and buildings
- Development and publication of municipal election Voter Guides to inform and activate Detroit voters

energy

- Improve air quality and strengthen climate resilience by helping increase the demand for clean energy alternatives, like solar power

jobs

- Build a database connecting green job seekers and employers

public health

- Help reinstate the Green & Healthy Homes program spearheaded by Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies
- Improve public and environmental health in planning and zoning (buffer zones, truck routes, etc.)
- Create safe and reliable walking and biking pathways for residents of all ages and abilities that connect them with parks, schools, transit, jobs, retail, and more

recycling

- Implement the citywide recycling program expansion approved by City Council
- Create and implement citywide food waste prevention, food recovery and rescue, as well as organics recycling programs

water

- Protect and restore our local waterways
- Support water affordability and educate communities to monitor and interpret water quality
- Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure into street redesign and greenway projects
- Reduce industrial and stormwater pollution, through the Protecting Our Waters Ordinance

major wins

The DEA and its members have been actively involved in leading and supporting efforts to make Detroit a greener and more just city for its residents. Here are notable examples of our collective wins over the years:

- Candidate and voter education on sustainability and environmental justice issues in Detroit since 2013
- Detroit's first curbside recycling program or single-family homes launched in 2015
- Detroit's first Office of Sustainability launched in 2017
- Detroit's first Climate Action Plan published in 2017
- Detroit's first Public Health Action Plan published in 2017
- Detroit's first Sustainability Action Agenda published in 2019
- Detroit's first municipal Sustainability Commission launched in 2019
- Detroit Renewable Power (Detroit's municipal waste incinerator) successfully shut down in March of 2019 after decades of advocacy
- Detroit's first Greenhouse Gas Ordinance passed by City Council in 2019 to reduce citywide carbon emissions by 30% by 2024
- Commercial Curbside Recycling Expansion to multifamily buildings, public spaces, businesses, municipal buildings, churches, successfully approved by City Council in 2019

clean water

clean air

clean soil & healthy food

clean streets

Detroit Environmental Agenda

Interested in joining or have further questions? Get in touch with:

Sandra Turner-Handy
Michigan Environmental Council, Engagement Director
Sandra@environmentalcouncil.org

Catherine Diggs
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Manager of Programs & Outreach
Catherine@detroitenvironmentaljustice.org