

Agenda-at-a-Glance

DAY 1 – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Michigan Sustainability Conference

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2025 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI



TIMES	SESSION DESCRIPTION	
8:30 AM	Registration, Breakfast, and Visit Exhibitors	
9:30 AM	Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks	
9:45 AM	Keynote Address – Countdown to 2030: Progress Made, Action Underway, Gaps to Glose	
10:45 PM	Networking Break – Visit Exhibitors	
	Track 1	Track 2
11:15 AM	Designing Effective Nudges for Food Waste Reduction: Insights from a Michigan Case Study Jelili Adebiyi, Northern Michigan University	Green Minds, Shared Mission: How Public-Private Partnerships Shape Local Sustainability Maya Klanderman, Outdoor Discovery Center Network Isabel Stein, The City of Holland
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Panel: Using Food Rescue as a Template for Community Sustainability Investments and Cross-Sector Sustainable Business	
1:45 PM	Break – move to concurrent sessions	
	Track 1	Track 2
2:00 PM	Best Practices in Food Loss & Waste Reduction in Michigan's Agribusiness Industry Joe Herrud, Fairlife, LLC Jamie Kober, Riveridge Produce Marketing	Taking Action for a Healthy Climate Cara Decker, Grand Valley Metro Council Damaris Potter, Grand Valley Metro Council
2:45 PM	Networking Break – Visit Exhibitors	
3:15 PM	Panel: Composter Success Stories and Start-up Experiences Moderator: Tracy Tomaszewski, EGLE Panelists: Luis Chen, Wormies; Megan Alexander, Carter's Compost; Sarah Archer, Iris Waste Diversion Specialists	The Missing First Step: How Home Repairs Enable Meaningful Residential Decarbonization Maria Galarza, City of Detroit Evelyn Zwiebach, Enterprise Community Partners
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Networking and Visit Exhibitors	

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

TIMES	SESSION DESCRIPTION	
8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	
8:45 AM	EGLE Materials Management Division Updates	
9:00 AM	NextCycle FLOWS Spotlight Session Moderator: Julie Staveland Panelists: Harriette “Chef Bee” Brown, Sisters on a Roll Luke Malski, Grand Rapids Compost Ines Vigil, Plantwise Academy Elisa Seltzer, Resource Recycling Systems	
10:00 AM	Break – move to breakout sessions	
	Track 1	Track 2
10:15 AM	Development of a Smart Composting System for Small Scale Farming and Community Education Catherine Molloseau, Grand Valley State University Isak Davis, Grand Valley State University	Declaring a net-zero goal is the easy part: A realistic approach to reaching net-zero as told by local government and industry. Justin Gish, City of Kalamazoo Ian Kennedy, Kalsec
11:00 AM	Break	
11:15 AM	Using Apps and Volunteer Power to Rescue Perishable Food Krista Burgett, Lakeshore Food Rescue Valerie Lafferty, Food Rescue US Lansing	Panel - Transforming MI: Greener Buildings & Healthier Communities Moderator: Audrey Whaling, Michigan Green Building Collaborative, Lansing 2030 District Panelists: Calista Rockwell, MassTimber@MSU Matt Hollander, Edison Community Partners Lissa Spitz, Ann Arbor 2030 District
12:00 PM	Networking Lunch with Closing Remarks	
1:00-4:00 PM	Catalyst Communities – Walking Tour and Workshop	

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