



**Michigan
Sustainable
Business
Forum**

2025
Annual Report



Our Mission

Forwarding Sustainable Business Since 1994

Michigan Sustainable Business Forum promotes business practices and public policy that advance climate leadership, social justice, and the creation of a circular economy. We accomplish this by providing education, resources, and opportunities for collaboration and civic engagement to businesses and institutions across the state.

Our Work



Leading Sustainable Business

The Forum is Michigan's leading organization for beyond-compliance sustainability practitioners, a statewide network serving Michigan's most recognizable brands, largest employers, and most innovative entrepreneurs, advocates, and educators.



Social and Environmental Justice

A safe and impactful space for professional and organizational growth, the development of new relationships, and the co-creation of initiatives that enhance environmental health and economic vitality for local communities.



Creating a Circular Economy

We are supporting the creation of a circular and low-carbon economy in Michigan, uniquely positioned to support manufacturers, small businesses, and institutions throughout the supply chain in meeting climate and circularity goals.

History of the Forum and Our Transition to Statewide

Throughout its history, the Forum has introduced sustainability to hundreds of organizations and thousands of professionals. Our programs and events are valuable networking and educational opportunities for business and community leaders.

We host the premier sustainability event in several regions, including the Triple Bottom Line Bash, while the Michigan Sustainable Business Hall of Fame and Sustainable Business of the Year Awards serve as the state's most prestigious recognitions in the field. Our campaigns and initiatives are contributing to positive improvements for the state and local communities.

As we wrap up our first year as a fully statewide organization, we continue to center the cultural and industry values of collaboration, design-thinking, and generosity that have made West Michigan a leader in sustainable business. With a renewed brand and mission, we are scaling our efforts to meet the growing challenges of the next 30 years.

Learn about our efforts in the pages that follow and at misbf.org.



Our Programs

Forums

EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

Serving professionals and stakeholders statewide through in-person and virtual events and workshops.

Learn more at misbf.org/our-events.

Resources

TRAINING AND TOOLS

Serving novice and advanced sustainability practitioners in business, education, government and neighborhoods — in English and Spanish.

Learn more at misbf.org/our-members.

Projects

CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

Outreach, advocacy, and collaboration opportunities developed through a working group and shared capacity model.

Become involved at misbf.org/programs.

How We Serve Our Mission

Through our membership program, we are Michigan's leading organization for beyond-compliance sustainability practitioners. Our campaigns are influencing decisions across the mitten with opportunities for both local and statewide engagement.



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

We host in-person events and programs in West Michigan, Southwest Michigan, Great Lakes Bay, Southeast Michigan, and the Capitol Area, along with virtual webinars and roundtables.



MEMBERSHIP NETWORK

We support community partners through coalitions, technical support, educational programs, and membership programming with peer-to-peer learning, access to hands-on resources, and engagement in high-impact initiatives.



BOUNDARY ORGANIZATION

The Forum employs a “boundary-chain” methodology for partnership development rooted in deep listening and participatory engagement.



CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY COLLECTIVE

Michigan's leading program for higher education sustainability professionals, a regional affiliate of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.



MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Michigan needs a robust and well-connected community of practice to achieve its climate and sustainable materials management goals, and to ensure fair access to all communities. We are working to fill this need by growing to 1,000 professional members by 2027.

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Climate Leadership

Michigan businesses are working toward a future where greenhouse gas emissions from their operations, industries and local communities are eliminated.

The Forum supports organizations of all sizes and almost every industry, providing a collaborative resource for supply chains and main street businesses alike. We are a trusted partner to local governments and the environmental community. We can be your first call for climate programs of any scope.



Circular Economy

There is an \$8 billion opportunity in the plastic, fiber and metals currently being disposed of in Michigan's landfills. There is a \$1 billion opportunity to reduce waste in our food system.

The Forum produces Michigan's Municipal Solid Waste Valuation Study and its Food Waste Roadmap. Some current initiatives include the development of a regional biomaterials industry, technical assistance for waste reduction at manufacturers, offices and restaurants, a sustainable foodware initiative, methane emissions advocacy, and a campaign to double the amount of donated food in the charitable food system.



Equity & Sustainability

Sustainable business and sustainability should be accessible to all businesses and professionals, make communities healthier, and improve lives. The Forum centers justice.

We invest in neighborhoods of need. We invest in rural communities. We communicate the value of sustainability to representative businesses and professionals, curating our programs to the community, in English, Spanish and other languages as required. Recent programs include targeted education for Hispanic restaurants, studies on heavy-truck traffic in frontline communities, staff support for the City of Benton Harbor, and a recycling coalition of 10 rural communities.



Green Infrastructure

We care about the Great Lakes and our local water resources. We need thoughtful design and responsible practices to protect them.

Polluted runoff from city streets, parking lots and rooftops is one of the largest sources of water pollution in Michigan, and contributes to flooding, erosion and regulatory concerns. We partner with watershed groups and local communities to promote low-impact development concepts, educate property owners and provide resources, such as complimentary tree plantings.

Michigan Sustainable Business Hall of Fame

A lifetime achievement award that recognizes extraordinary contributions to the growth of sustainable business in the state over the course of a career.

Meet the 2025 inductees:



Sarah Archer

PRESIDENT & CEO
Iris Waste Diversion
Specialists Inc.



Allmon Forrester

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES,
PLANNING, & SUSTAINABILITY
John Ball Zoo



Vickie Lewis

PRESIDENT & CEO
VMX International, LLC

Meet all the Michigan Sustainable Business Hall of Fame inductees at
misbf.org/hof.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Thank you to the businesses and institutions that have made our work possible this year through support of our Triple Bottom Line Bash and Forum Programs.

Consumers Energy	Iris Waste Diversion Specialists	Enagon
Schupan	Kalsec	Grand Valley Metro Council
Michigan EGLE	Kent County DPW	Gordon Food Service
Haworth	The WinMatt Group	Hydro Aluminum Metals USA
John Ball Zoo	Urban Core Collective	Impact Collective Group
MillerKnoll	Vantage Plastics	Jim Roberts Enterprises
PADNOS	Barnes & Thornburg	Michigan State University
Steelcase	Be Heard Productions	Miller Johnson
Atomic Object	Fishbeck	Organicycle
Breakwater Capital	Wolverine Building Group	Symbiote
DTE Energy	Worthen	Thomas J. Newhouse Design
Foresight Management	Agathon Solar	Unlimited Recycling
Grand Valley State University	Detroit Zoological Society	

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Rinse and empty all plastic, glass and metal containers



Flatten all cardboard



Don't put recyclables in plastic bags



EGLE

LEARN MORE AT
RecyclingRaccoons.org



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Our Work Toward Better Futures

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P.O. Box 68696

Grand Rapids, MI 49516

616.422.7963

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