



PRESS RELEASE

For release: February 26, 2020

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Nishaat Killeen
815-742-2361, killeenn@detroitmi.gov

Connie Lilley
248-897-1255, ConnieLilley@2030Districts.org

CITY OF DETROIT'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY LAUNCHES DETROIT ENERGY CHALLENGE

- City challenges Detroit's commercial building owners to reduce wasted energy and greenhouse gas emissions while improving their bottom line.
- Friendly competition is a partnership with the Detroit 2030 District, Michigan Battle of the Buildings, and the Office of Sustainability.

Detroit, Michigan – To encourage buildings to take a leading role in reducing energy waste and greenhouse gas emissions, the [City of Detroit's Office of Sustainability](#) partnered with the [Detroit 2030 District](#) and [Michigan Battle of the Buildings](#) to develop the [Detroit Energy Challenge](#). The Challenge launches at the Detroit 2030 District Member Meeting on February 27, 2020 at the TCF Center. [Tickets are still available here.](#)



The **Detroit Energy Challenge** encourages Detroit building owners to track and reduce wasted energy in buildings across the city. The buildings with the greatest reductions from their prior-year baseline will be recognized at the first annual Detroit Energy Challenge Award Ceremony in spring of 2021. Competitors can join the Challenge at [Detroit Energy Challenge website](#).

“The Detroit Energy Challenge is a great way for building owners to save operating expenses, foster healthier indoor environments for employees and residents, and to play an important part in reducing our emissions. I would like to personally challenge all Detroit building owners to be a part of this exciting challenge!” said **Joel Howrani Heeres, Director of Sustainability for the City of Detroit**.

Competitors will benefit from education and networking opportunities. Energy Star Portfolio Manager workshops will be held throughout the year to assist competitors who would like to learn energy-efficiency strategies and assistance with entering the challenge. The [first workshop](#) is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020 Walker Miller Energy, located at 8045 Second Ave, Detroit, MI.



PRESS RELEASE

Building owners and managers can also receive free assistance from two partner organizations - Detroit 2030 District and Michigan Battle of the Buildings. Detroit 2030 District offers building owners and manager members a trained ambassador to assist them for an entire year at no cost. For more information visit www.2030districts.org/Detroit.

“The Detroit 2030 District has the resources to assist Detroit building owners and managers in reducing their energy and water usage which will also help to reduce operating expenses” said **Connie Lilley, Detroit 2030 District Executive Director**. “We welcome any type of building in Detroit into our free program.”

All [Detroit Energy Challenge](#) competitors are automatically enrolled in the popular [Michigan Battle of the Buildings](#) giving the additional opportunity to be recognized as a Biggest [energy] Loser in the state-wide competition.

"I commend the City of Detroit for prioritizing energy efficiency and carbon reduction in Michigan's largest city. By recognizing local companies who are leading the way, we will inspire storytelling and increase the vibrant culture that is Detroit. Building on the only state-wide energy competition in the country proves Michigan is serious about securing our clean energy future. It's go time!" said **Cheri Holman, Executive Director of Michigan Battle of the Buildings**.

###

About the City of Detroit, Office of Sustainability

The City of Detroit, Office of Sustainability's mission is to create healthy, green, vibrant, accessible neighborhoods where all Detroiters can contribute and benefit through collaboration between City departments and agencies; engagement and partnership among the City, citizens, and relevant organizations; and Process and policy improvement

About the Detroit 2030 District

The Detroit 2030 District is a private-public community which aims to assist building owners & managers in reducing energy, water and operating expenses in commercial buildings, as well as ghg emissions from transportation and other sustainable initiatives. The Detroit 2030 District has 24 million square feet of commercial space committed to creating high-performance buildings and a healthier, sustainable Detroit. There are Twenty-Two 2030 Districts throughout North America, including three in Michigan - Detroit, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor.

About Michigan Battle of the Buildings

Michigan Battle of the Buildings is an awards and recognition program for energy use reduction open to all Michigan area commercial, industrial & multi-family buildings. The program is a way to encourage energy-efficient practices in buildings across the state and to instill a spirit of friendly competition among the area's building owners and operators. There is no cost to enter the competition.