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P. O. BOX 5431
TRAVERSE CITY
MICHIGAN, 49696
WWW.MGCONLINE.ORG

About the Consortium

The Michigan Green Consortium (MGC) is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically, to foster the general knowledge of sustainable practices and to promote the application of sound environmental stewardship through educational workshops, seminars, monthly networking events designed to raise awareness of green products, services and practices, and community-wide events that lessen the burden of government. MGC members share green values; conserving natural resources, eliminating dependence on fossil fuels, and reducing waste stream. Michigan Green Consortium is a 501c3 public charity.



In Review

The 2017 Fall Clean Up and Green Up was another successful event. With a new location at Traverse City West Senior High School we were happy to team up with a few new members of the community. We would like to thank all the volunteers and businesses who participated. The event would not be possible were it not for your support. Clean up Green up is our annual event for the collection of difficult to recycle items so they may be repurposed and diverted from area landfills. MGC has hosted 16 events to date. After feedback from our partners and guests, we are happy to report that Clean Up Green Up for Fall 2018 has been moved up to late September.

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Helpful Tips

Energy Efficiency Tips for Homeowners

Maintain Your Heating and Cooling System

The average household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills, with nearly half of that going to heating and cooling. A well maintained system can save a lot. Change your air filter regularly, and have a professional perform scheduled tune-ups.

Set Your Refrigerator for Optimum Cooling and Freshness

ENERGY STAR® recommends a temperature range between 35° and 38°F to keep food fresh while not wasting energy.

Use the Cold Water Cycle in Your Washing Machine

Washing your clothes in cold water saves big on water heating costs. It also keeps colors from fading and clothes from shrinking.



Seal Your Windows and Doors

Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around windows and doors. Homeowners save an average of \$200 per year on heating and cooling by better insulating and sealing their homes.



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Helpful Tips

Save the Game Console for Gaming

If you stream content to your TV, use a dedicated set-top box, smart TV or streaming-capable Blu-ray player. Game consoles use far more energy than these alternatives.

Heat Your Water to 120°F

At an average of \$250 a year, water heating is the second largest energy cost for most households. Don't overheat your water only to mix it with cold. 120°F will give you hot showers while saving energy too.

Upgrade Your Porch Light

That porch light outside your home is probably one of your most used light fixtures, and it's likely often on when it doesn't need to be. Replace it with an ENERGY STAR-certified fixture with automatic daylight shutoff and a motion sensor to brighten the light when it's most needed.

"Energy Efficiency Tips for Homeowners"
Consumers Energy. 31 January 2018 Web.

Featured Business



Located in the heart of Traverse City – on the beautiful grounds of Historic Barns Park – The Botanic Garden is a year-round sanctuary of environmental preservation, recreation and education. Its 25 acres nurtures the soul, enlivens our history and promotes Michigan's natural beauty.

With an emphasis on plant species native to northwest Michigan, it creates and enhances habitats for various forms of wildlife. As a

place of refreshment and solace, The Botanic Garden's unique and original design strives to inform and inspire.

Environmental sustainability is a guiding principle of The Botanic Garden. Many components of the renovation were designed *Photo Credit: Botanic Garden Society*



for LEED certification. Energy saving lighting, heating & cooling and water conservation systems was incorporated. The Visitor Center's V-shaped roof collects and stores rainwater for garden irrigation. Recycled materials were utilized wherever possible, including wood paneling from Manistee's Vogue Theater. Even old cast iron cow water buckets from the adjoining barn now serve as lighting fixtures in the classroom!

The Botanic Garden is all tucked in for the winter and will reopen in April 2018. The Botanic Gardens offer a variety of year round classes to the community. Classes range from Vertical Gardening- a class to help monopolize on space, to Morel Mushroom exploration.

Botanic Garden offer tours – it's free! They love to show off the Garden and share the transformative story of this historic park.

Follow Us



Upcoming Events

MON APR 16-20- Traverse City Light and Power Annual “seedling” give away. 1131 Hastings St 8:00am- 4:00pm



SUN APR 22- 2nd Annual Recycle Smart Earth Day Event, Twin Lake Park 11:00 am -4:00 pm



APRIL 2018 - Household Hazardous Waste collection. Recycle Smart Hotline 231-941-5555



MAY – OCT - Sara Hardy Farmers Market 8:00 am – 12:00 pm



SUN SEP 30 - Clean Up Green Up, Traverse City West Senior High. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

If you are interested in volunteering at an event, or becoming a member of the Michigan Green Consortium, reach out to us at mgconline.org/contactus

In the News

KALEVA — After a blaze left most of Kaleva’s Bay Area Recycling for Charities building in ruins on Tuesday January 9TH, the company is now searching for ways to continue its mission. Andy Gale, BARC founder and president, said the nonprofit, which offers comprehensive waste management services and compostable products, is not giving up hope. The company’s founder said he is determined **to** work past the devastation, which is now left in ashes.

“Something started a fire out there. I don’t know what it was, but they are sending (an official) out there to do a full investigation.”

At the time, Gale said BARC was renting the building at 14407 Industrial Drive — which formerly housed NABCO — and had plans to use a loan to purchase it the following week. He said the plan could have brought around 50 to 100 more jobs to the Kaleva area.

More than 20 years ago, NABCO, Inc. held its grand opening celebration at the building, where it re-manufactured starters, alternators and solenoids for the automobile industry. NABCO permanently closed its distribution and production operations in 2006.

In June of 2017, BARC expanded and opened a location for its recycling business at the old NABCO building. Gale started the company nearly 10 years ago with only one truck, which soon grew into one of the largest recycling businesses of its kind in the Midwest.

Working toward a zero-waste vision for society, BARC recycles items like electronics or mattresses, and donates a portion of its profits back to local charities.

“This is the only mattress recycling location in the state of Michigan,” said Gale.

Manistee County Central Dispatch reported the fire around 3:30 p.m. saying the building was “fully engulfed in flames.” Maple Grove Township Fire Department, along with six

additional fire departments, responded to the scene. Four employees were in the building at the time of the fire; however, all were able to make it out safely.

“The most important thing is that everyone got out safely,” Gale said. “The firefighters contained that fire so well.” The building was engulfed in thick smoke that later erupted into intense flames, which swallowed the southwest end of the building — destroying the entire loading dock on the west side.



Photo Credit: Manistee News Advocate

Although the fire was nothing short of a crisis for BARC, Gale said only an eighth of the 82,800 square foot Kaleva Industrial Park building was scorched, leaving plenty of mattresses, electronics and refrigerators untouched.

The rest of the building suffers smoke damage; BARC’s insurance company is currently assessing the damage.

“There was a bit of a miracle, as only 10,000 square feet of that loading dock was burned,” said Gale. “The firefighters kept that fire in that area, so it did not burn the rest of the stuff inside the warehouse part of the building.”

In wake of the fire’s destruction, BARC is now accepting donations from the community to help it carry on its mission.

On its Facebook page, BARC posted a statement: “Many of you have asked what you can do to help. As you can imagine, we will be facing some challenges as we move past this crisis.” - Ashlyn Korienek, Jan 11, 2018, [The Manistee News Advocate](http://TheManisteeNewsAdvocate.com)