



In this 2019 file photo, nurse Jessica McMillan works with a patient in the emergency room at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit. | BRANDY BAKER

## Ascension hastens exit out of Michigan

Leaving state clearly part of cost-cutting strategy

By Dustin Walsh and Mark Sanchez

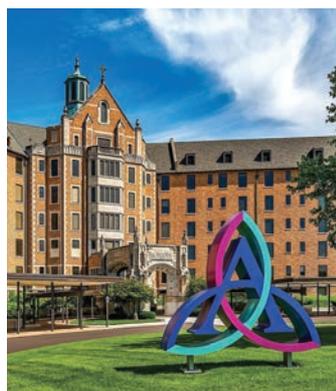
Ascension Health is unloading its Michigan operations. Late last month, the St. Louis-based system said Midland-based MyMichigan Health would take over its three Northern hospitals only a few months after it announced Henry Ford Health would assume ownership of its eight Southeast Michigan hospitals.

When those deals close, only four Ascension hospitals will remain in the state — all in Southwest Michigan.

It's clear the Catholic system is looking to exit the state as part of its overall cost-cutting strategy that's seen it offload hospitals in New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Alabama and Wisconsin.

The asset ditching is in response to massive financial bloodletting. Ascension reported a \$3 billion loss in its fiscal 2023. Experts believe the large-scale investments by its secular competitors is driving down margins and forcing a competitive consolidation market.

See **ASCENSION** on Page 27



Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo is among the four Ascension hospitals in Southwest Michigan that Ascension retains. It's likely the system is shopping them. | ASCENSION

## Downtown hotel prices inflate for the NFL Draft

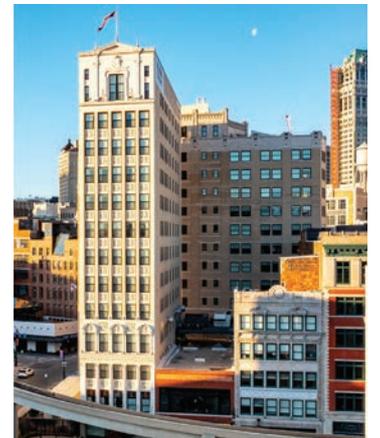
By Kirk Pinho

If you're still looking for a place to stay for the NFL Draft downtown, you'll probably be shelling out a lot — if you can find a room.

While there's still some availability in and around the central business district — as of the morning of April 1, you could rent a room for two people at the new Godfrey hotel in Corktown for almost \$800 per night April 25-27, for example — it's limited.

And at least some hotels in major commercial areas like Royal Oak and near Detroit Metropolitan Airport, for example, are asking more than \$350 a night, far north of normal rates.

Some 300,000-plus people are expected to flock downtown later this month to take part in the NFL's annual event that has grown to become somewhat of a festival in and of itself the last several years. About 312,000 people attended last year's draft in Kansas



Higher-end downtown hotels including the Siren Hotel have helped push up the region's average hotel rates. | COSTAR GROUP

City, and organizers anticipate to at least match that due in part to Detroit's proximity to other NFL cities including Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and others, not to mention fans traveling from even farther away.

See **HOTEL** on Page 29

## Fraud concerns spur landlords to get tough

By Nick Manes

Apartment landlords and property managers around Southeast Michigan say they're seeing a large uptick in attempted fraud, causing them to implement more stringent screening measures.

As Michigan — and much of the country — grapples with rising housing costs, landlords in the area say they're increasingly seeing more prospective tenants attempt to provide falsified financial

information to obtain units, with some never paying rent. That leads to the start of a monthslong and costly eviction process.

In reaction to what landlords say is the rise in attempted fraud by prospective tenants providing falsified W-2s or Social Security numbers, they're now investing in more enhanced screening measures on the front end to catch such maneuvers.

Those in the tenant defense world say they are seeing little such evidence of the purported fraud talked about at length by landlords and question the authenticity of the issue.

See **FRAUD** on Page 26

### NOTABLE LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Among this year's honorees are top executives, nonprofit leaders and entrepreneurs. **BEGINS ON PAGE 19**



# NOTABLE

## LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing waste, eliminating coal use, building with sustainable products. The people featured on this list are leading the way. Among these Notable Leaders in Sustainability are top executives, nonprofit leaders, and entrepreneurs setting and reaching ambitious goals toward zero emissions, supporting environmental justice efforts and educational initiatives, and providing green solutions.

### METHODOLOGY:

These Notable Leaders in Sustainability were nominated by their peers, colleagues, friends and family and selected by a team of Crain's Detroit Business editors based on their career accomplishments, track records of success and impact. Profiles are solely based on information in the nomination forms. Notables is managed by Leslie D. Green, assistant managing editor — special projects. For questions about Notables, please email [detroitrecognitions@crain.com](mailto:detroitrecognitions@crain.com).



### Samuel Ashley

**President, Cunningham-Limp**  
**Scope of work:** Samuel Ashley heads up strategy at Cunningham-Limp and directs its real estate development opportunities. Under his leadership, the company has generated \$1.8 billion in construction revenue and managed over 500 projects.

**Biggest professional win:** After ascending from a construction field worker to president and owner of the company, Ashley spearheaded the commercial construction of JST, a 16,000-square-foot project in Farmington Hills built with natural materials from the surrounding 10-acre forest. The trees removed for the site were used in the construction and their saplings were replanted. The six JST buildings are powered with 100% clean energy.

**Other contributions:** Ashley also serves on the boards of Leaders for Kids and Real Estate Answer Forum.



### Scott Burr

**Co-founder and CEO, Accelerated Filtration Inc.**

**Scope of work:** Scott Burr founded Accelerated Filtration in 2020. He leads 13 employees and the design, building and marketing of the VeiRay X, a water filtration system that removes suspended solids and allows for water reuse.

**Biggest professional win:** The technology was not being widely used in the market. He obtained patents and technology from DuPont to build the system and address larger commercial needs. His team spent a year designing and engineering the system to make it scalable for water-dependent industries like agriculture, mining, oil and gas, and food processing, particularly in water-scarce regions.

**Other contributions:** Burr co-directs Royal Family Kids Camp in mid-Michigan with his wife. The camp supports children with family induced trauma.



### Knox Cameron

**Director of renewable solutions, DTE Energy**

**Scope of work:** Knox Cameron directs MiGreenPower, which has enrolled 5 million megawatt hours of clean energy annually, avoiding 3.9 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, or the greenhouse gas emissions from nearly 790,000 passenger cars.

**Biggest professional win:** Cameron led renewable energy transactions that will add 650 megawatts of solar capacity for Ford Motor Co. and 400 megawatts of solar capacity for Stellantis. The Ford installations will increase its solar capacity by 70% and allow its Michigan-made vehicles to be assembled with 100% carbon-free electricity. The added solar power at Stellantis will bring it closer to a 2038 goal of net-zero carbon emissions.

**Other contributions:** Cameron chairs the board of the Association of Energy Services Professionals.



### Denise Carlson

**Vice president, North America Production Innovation Center; executive lead for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, Denso**

**Scope of work:** Denise Carlson oversees Denso's regional sustainability promotion team and its safety, health and environmental operations at almost 50 facilities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. She is also leading a program to optimize compressed air systems in Michigan to cut carbon.

**Biggest professional win:** Carlson led the development of Denso's North America Energy Policy Statement, a set of principles to improve the company's energy efficiency and eco-friendliness. Principles include "continuous activity to reduce energy consumption and investing in energy reduction and clean energy technology."

**Other contributions:** She serves on the boards of the Michigan Science Center and the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment.



### Christy Clark

**Director of environmental management and safety, DTE Energy**

**Scope of work:** Christy Clark manages a team of environmental experts who ensure energy portfolio regulations are met. She also leads efforts to grow sustainability projects, including the installation of pollinator gardens at DTE's solar sites.

**Biggest professional win:** Clark participated on a team that developed DTE's strategy on business waste reduction, such as the reuse of meter modules. She is also a founding member of the Detroit Tree Equity Partnership, which aims to plant more than 75,000 trees in Detroit neighborhoods.

**Other contributions:** Clark serves on the board of governors at Cranbrook Institute of Science and is part of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments' "Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy with Nature" task force.



### Cory Connolly

**Chief climate officer, Office of Climate & Energy, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**

**Scope of work:** Cory Connolly coordinates the state's response to climate change with other state departments and agencies and provides guidance on mitigation and resiliency strategies.

**Biggest professional win:** As leader of the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan, Connolly led a team that organized a conference with over 600 attendees, launched the MI Healthy Climate Corps, and secured millions of dollars in federal climate funding. The governor also appointed him to the Michigan Council on Future Mobility and Electrification.

**Other contributions:** He founded and ran the Michigan Clean Energy Leaders Project, focused on building a more diverse and collaborative clean energy industry. He is active in the Environmental Entrepreneurs and Young Climate Leaders Network.



### Angela Cook

**Head of ESH, sustainability & security, USA & Canada, Vitesco Technologies**

**Scope of work:** Angela Cook manages the environmental safety and health protection team and leads Vitesco's America's Sustainability Core Team of cross-functional stakeholders, educating them on such things as carbon accounting and decarbonization strategy. The team tracks performance indicators, such as energy usage, business waste and recycling.

**Biggest professional win:** Cook implemented sustainability standards at two company locations and educated employees on the elimination of single-use plastics, pushing Vitesco toward its goal of a 2% waste reduction per year. Her efforts helped the company's Auburn Hills site reduce energy consumption by 14.5% last year and its CO2 emissions by 25%.

**Other contributions:** Cook serves on the board of Women of Vitesco.



### Mike Csapo

**General manager, Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County**

**Scope of work:** Mike Csapo has run Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority, an intergovernmental solid waste authority, for 30 years. His team focuses on increasing recycling rates in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake and Wixom.

**Biggest professional win:** Csapo's team has consistently increased recycling in RRRASOC's communities through drop-off centers, household hazardous waste collection events and public education. In 2022, the nine communities recycled over 15,000 tons and composted 19,000 tons.

**Other contributions:** Previously, he was the policy committee chair for the Michigan Recycling Coalition, lead author of a report detailing the state of recycling in Michigan and a Novi city planner.

## NOTABLE LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY



### Lois DeBacker

**Managing director, Environment Program, The Kresge Foundation**

**Scope of work:** Lois DeBacker oversees a \$20 million grantmaking portfolio and a team dedicated to helping cities address climate change and advance racial and economic justice.

**Biggest professional win:** In 2021, under DeBacker's direction, the Kresge Foundation took the Climate Funders Justice Pledge to commit at least 30% of its grantmaking dollars to Black, Indigenous and other people of color-led organizations. She also led Kresge to increase funding for BIPOC-led organizations from 10% to 40%.

**Other contributions:** DeBacker serves on the External Advisory Board of the University of Michigan's Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute and the advisory board to the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



### Carlton Dennard

**Director of housekeeping and EVS, MGM Grand Detroit**

**Scope of work:** Carlton Dennard manages a budget of more than \$5 million and about 250 people who clean the MGM Grand Detroit's 400-room hotel and 147,000 square feet of casino gaming space. Dennard also oversees its recycling programs.

**Biggest professional win:** He reduced the number of cleaning chemicals used from 27 to four and initiated the use of bulk hotel amenities to reduce plastic waste. Additionally, Dennard's team recycled nearly 200,000 pounds of cardboard and more than 5,000 pounds of glass last year. He also started the Green Advantage program at the hotel, which cuts down on washing machine use.

**Other contributions:** Dennard leads the African American Employee Network Group at MGM Grand.



### Tony Denton

**Senior vice president and chief environmental, social and governance officer, Michigan Medicine**

**Scope of work:** Tony Denton communicates with the University of Michigan governance on issues of environmental sustainability, carbon neutrality, health equity improvement, and community benefit. He is also responsible for strategic facilities planning at UM health.

**Biggest professional win:** Denton led the \$920 million D. Dan and Betty Kahn Health Care Pavilion project that includes a plan for a Leadership in Energy Efficient Design platinum designation. He is also executive sponsor for a \$35 million relocation and expansion of a primary care center in Ypsilanti that will give public transportation users better access.

**Other contributions:** Denton serves on the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board 5.



### Matt Elliott

**President of Bank of America Michigan; sustainability executive for global commercial banking and business banking, Bank of America**

**Scope of work:** Matt Elliott oversees banking services to Michigan clients. And he and his sustainability team engage more than 40,000 clients on sustainability principles that will help grow their businesses.

**Biggest professional win:** Under his leadership, the team trained all Bank of America's commercial banking and business banking managers on how to make a case for net-zero operations. Over 1,200 commercial relationship managers received training. He initiated the bank's \$1.5 trillion sustainable finance commitment. As part of a sustainable development plan surrounding health, small business, workforce development and access to affordable housing, he led the bank's commitment to economic mobility.



### Leon Evans

**Project manager, Giffels Webster**

**Scope of work:** Leon Evans is leading the design and construction of the Michigan Central Station redevelopment in Corktown, helping to solve engineering problems and overseeing a team of 15 consulting firms. Evans also manages the scope, budget, schedule and activity of the project.

**Biggest professional win:** His company won the contract for the Michigan Central Station site redevelopment, a project that will redevelop a 30-acre site around the Central Train Station. It includes outdoor plazas, green spaces, and an elevated walkway. It also includes a stormwater management plan, bioretention rain gardens, permeable paving, green roofs and irrigation and rainwater harvesting systems. The rainwater harvesting system uses data and artificial intelligence to predict rainfall probabilities and maximize water reuse.

## NOTABLE SPOTLIGHT with Jessica Thompson, Ph.D.

Sponsored Content

### Fostering a culture of sustainability throughout the community



*Dr. Jessica L. Thompson is the inaugural assistant vice president for sustainability at Northern Michigan University. She previously served as the director of the Sustainability Hub for Innovation and the Environment (SHINE) and as a full professor in the College of Business. She is also a trained facilitator and mediator and holds graduate certificates in Adaptive Management of Environmental Systems (University of Utah) and Sustainable Business Strategy (Harvard University).*

*Her research is focused on team and organizational communication about complex ecological issues, such as climate change resilience and adaptation.*

*Thompson has published more than 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts in Science Communication, Environmental Communication, Society and Natural Resources, and Journal of Applied Communication Research, along with two books.*

Earlier this year, Northern Michigan University appointed Jessica Thompson, Ph.D., to a newly created role as assistant vice president of sustainability, focused on advancing the university's widespread sustainability efforts. Now, she's driving Northern's vision to foster a "culture of sustainability" throughout the campus and surrounding community.

#### What are you doing to advance NMU's sustainability efforts?

I see my role like a Venn diagram of three intersecting circles: our campus operations, our curriculum and our community. First, is our commitment to carbon neutrality, so a third of my job is looking at campus operations to find opportunities to reduce our footprint. Beyond that, what conversations do we need to have to be a resilient and thriving community, and how can we embed those themes into our curriculum?

We recently had 80 stakeholders from the community come to campus for a big brainstorming session about their top sustainability concerns. We're launching a "Learning Circles Series" to explore these topics, which include food systems and food security, renewable energy, materials

management, water use and quality, population health and infrastructure, and economic development and diversification.

#### What is a "culture of sustainability," and how do you foster this environment?

This is about building shared responsibility and increased communication and coordination around the efforts happening on campus and in the community. The decisions we make influence our community, so we have to think collectively and collaboratively. That's what building a culture of sustainability is. It's saying, how do we make the best long-term decisions together? It's not just me working alone.

#### How are you embedding sustainability into the curriculum at NMU?

We have 46 of nearly 300 faculty who already do research or teach classes related to some aspect of sustainability in 20 of 25 academic departments, so the students are already experiencing it. What we haven't done is coordinate and communicate it, so we're working on a general education certificate.

#### Why is your communications background so critical to this role?

I work with scientists and chemists who are doing legitimate climate change research, and I used to think, well, all I can do is translate that story for the public. And they're like, "That's the most important thing!" I finally realized that communication is an asset.

#### What goals do you hope to achieve in this role?

I want every student who graduates to understand sustainability and know that their role in society matters. Everyone has a part to play in the future.

I also want to be part of Northern's footprint-shrinking era. I want people to look back and say, this is when we shrunk our carbon footprint and started using less — consuming less water and energy, and sending less waste to the landfill — while investing in things that make us healthier, both as a learning ecosystem and also as an environmental system.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
HARQUETTE, MICHIGAN



### Michael Gray

**CSCP/CPIM manager, Distribution Center Services, Meijer**

**Scope of work:** In his role for 10 years, Michael Gray oversees recycling programs for pallets and low-density polyethylene film. He also launched an onsite plastic grinding program to increase the amount of plastic that is recycled.

**Biggest professional win:** Gray was key to Meijer's partnership with the Greater Lansing Food Bank to grow local food sustainability by donating surplus seeds from 36 Meijer locations. The donations support the food bank's Garden Project, increasing food pantry offerings to low-income communities. The project impacts 90 community gardens and more than 500 home gardeners. It yields 1 million pounds of food, or 100,000 meals, annually.

**Other contributions:** He chairs the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.



### Donna Kashian

**Director of environmental science, Wayne State University**

**Scope of work:** Donna Kashian is a professor of biology and environmental science and leads the Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training. She was recently named director of the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development at Wayne State. This includes bringing together stakeholders to address challenges.

**Biggest professional win:** She measures success by her students' wins. One student won a pitch competition and now runs BAN Lab Detroit that uses food waste to make an alternative material to plastic. Kashian also helped increase local sustainability efforts through projects like the stormwater runoff structures built on Wayne State's campus.

**Other contributions:** Kashian is incoming president of the International Association of Great Lakes Research.



### Jill Kupcak

**Corporate office sustainable relations management — North America, Robert Bosch LLC**

**Scope of work:** Jill Kupcak focuses on reaching and promoting sustainability goals for Robert Bosch and its customers. She works with colleagues on issues including water scarcity, CO2 levels, energy efficiency and safety.

**Biggest professional win:** She has been working on establishing a Sustainability Committee for Bosch's U.S. and Canadian business "to ensure our work on sustainability-related topics is contributing to our business success while meeting our customers' and our sites' needs."

**Other contributions:** She is a member of the Executive Steering Committee for the Motor Equipment Manufacturers Center of Sustainability and serves on the Board of Governors for the Environment Health and Safety and Sustainability Council.



### Eric McDonald

**Chief technologist, NextEnergy**

**Scope of work:** Eric McDonald is responsible for research and development. He leads a team in technology vetting and planning for energy, mobility and environmental work. His work includes designing, permitting and installing a stretch of electrified roadway in Corktown in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, DTE, Michigan Central and others.

**Biggest professional win:** He led the technical scope of work in NextEnergy's LITES program to create sustainable business models and scale networked lighting systems for commercial buildings. He oversaw installation in over 30 Michigan buildings, mentored the NextEnergy program team on return-on-investment models and developed a training curriculum that was used by more than 300 professionals.

**Other contributions:** He mentors NextEnergy team members and young Black men.



### Andy McDowell

**Manager of sustainability, Detroit Zoological Society**

**Scope of work:** Andy McDowell, a landscape architect by training, is the top strategist for reducing the Detroit Zoo's environmental impact. With stakeholder collaboration, he develops plans for sustainability systems to manage materials and waste, water usage, stormwater runoff and energy.

**Biggest professional win:** Before joining the Detroit Zoological Society, McDowell helped advance sustainability in the city of Detroit during consultancies with the Friends of the Detroit River and The Nature Conservancy. He led such projects as the Sugar Island Habitat Restoration, a \$17 million, 19-acre coastal wetlands restoration, and the Belle Isle Lake Okonoka Restoration, a \$5.3 million project that restored the connection of the Detroit River to more than 25 acres of coastal wetlands.



## WE CONGRATULATE ANGELA COOK

**ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS AS A SUSTAINABILITY LEADER AT VITESCO TECHNOLOGIES**

As the Head of Environmental, Health, Safety, and Sustainability for USA and Canada, Angela has been instrumental in fostering a culture of safety and environmental responsibility across our operations ensuring employee well-being and operational longevity. She is an important trailblazer for a more sustainable future for our company.

[WWW.VITESCO-TECHNOLOGIES.COM](http://WWW.VITESCO-TECHNOLOGIES.COM)

## Congratulations Lois R. DeBacker,

Managing Director of Kresge's Environment Program, on being named a Crain's 2024 Notable Leader in Sustainability.



For decades, Lois has been committed to helping U.S. cities combat and adapt to climate change while advancing racial and economic justice.



## NOTABLE LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY



### Amy McMillan

**Director,** Huron-Clinton Metroparks

**Scope of work:** Amy McMillan leads the Huron-Clinton Metroparks' management of nearly 25,000 acres of land, a \$65 million budget and nearly 1,000 employees. Her team's sustainability efforts include improved stormwater management and climate resiliency, regional educational programs on climate and environment, and the restoration of natural habitats and shorelines.

**Biggest professional win:**

McMillan directed the creation and launch of a five-year climate action plan that aims to reduce carbon emissions and preserve the parks. It includes five goals, 24 objectives and 130 specific actions.

**Other contributions:** She is a delegate on the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and has participated in Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance to expand the state's network of connected trails.



### Caleb Rutledge

**President and CEO,** Goodwill's Green Works

**Scope of work:** Caleb Rutledge directs strategy, revenue, safety and 105 employees. Under his direction, the organization launched a Styrofoam recycling unit and GGW recycled 24.5 million pounds of non-ferrous metal and other materials.

**Biggest professional win:**

Rutledge recently secured an appliance recycling contract with CleaResult and Consumers Energy that made GGW among the largest appliance recyclers in the country. GGW is on track to recycle more than 70,000 units this year. And, under his leadership, the company has also employed more than 750 people with workforce barriers.

**Other contributions:** Rutledge serves on the boards of the Investment Recovery Association, the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance, the Environmental Management Association and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.



### Andrew Sarpolis

**Michigan field manager,** Sierra Club

**Scope of work:** Andrew Sarpolis helps pass climate legislation and advocates for the closing of coal energy plants for the environmental nonprofit.

**Biggest professional win:**

Sarpolis co-founded and grew Turn Oakland County Green, a grassroots climate organization that successfully championed the creation of the Oakland County sustainability office as well as regional climate goals. The organization has held Earth Day gatherings that attracted state leaders and mobilized residents.

**Other contributions:** He spent 10 years building the Beyond Coal Campaign, which saw more than 90% of Michigan's coal fleet retired. He serves on the board of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and is an executive committee member and co-chair of North Oakland Branch of the NAACP's Climate Justice.



### Greg Sharrow

**Founder and CEO,** Sharrow Engineering and Sharrow Marine

**Scope of work:** Greg Sharrow manages a team of engineers and guides the development of his invention, the Sharrow Propeller. The company has secured more than \$30 million in financing, increased sales 1,200% year over year and built more than 5,000 propellers since 2020.

**Biggest professional win:**

He spearheaded a partnership between Sharrow Engineering and Veem, an Australia-based public company that specializes in large propeller manufacturing. The companies are working together to build quieter and more fuel-efficient propellers. Sharrow also partners with Yamaha. The propeller has over 130 patents and was included in Time Magazine's 2023 list of best inventions.

**Other contributions:** Sharrow serves on the National Marine Propeller Association board of directors.



### Kristin Shaw

**Transportation decarbonization lead, Office of Mobility Innovation,** City of Detroit

**Scope of work:** Kristin Shaw, who is also Detroit City Council Green Task Force Climate chair, manages the electric vehicle infrastructure in Detroit, is leading a proposal to mitigate freight emissions' environmental impact and supports city partnerships to increase low-carbon transit options.

**Biggest professional win:** Shaw helped the Cobo Center (now Huntington Place) reduce transportation emissions, increase water and energy efficiency and achieve a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification when she was project administrator there.

**Other contributions:** Shaw serves on the United States Green Building Council Michigan Leadership Advisory Board and the State of Michigan Council on Climate Solutions Housing & Buildings Working Group.

## Congratulations to Accelerated Filtration's co-founder and CEO, Scott Burr

A 2024 Crain's Detroit Business Notable Leader in Sustainability.

Delivering innovation and conservation for water-using industries and our environment!



 Accelerated Filtration

[www.acelfil.com](http://www.acelfil.com)

## Envisioning a world where climate resilience, economic prosperity, and equity are seamlessly intertwined.



Sanjiv K. Sinha, P.E., Ph.D.  
CEO - CIS

Congratulations Sanjiv!  
On being named a **Notable Leader in Sustainability Honoree** by **Crain's Detroit Business**. You so deserve it!

Team CIS

Grounded in Partnership  
→ Focused on Impact





### Sanjiv Sinha

**CEO**, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions LLC

**Scope of work:** Sanjiv Sinha leads urban infrastructure company CIS, which generates annual revenue of \$45 million to \$50 million. CIS, which operates in Ann Arbor, Milwaukee, Seattle and Washington, D.C., has managed \$450 million in green infrastructure projects.

**Biggest professional win:** He started Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities to unite city, state and federal leaders to expand green stormwater infrastructure. The organization has helped launch two investments, a \$54 million environmental impact bond for Buffalo Sewer Authority and a \$49 million partnership for Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

**Other contributions:** Sinha was previously board chair of the Delta Institute. He serves on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Finance advisory board.



### Jes Thompson

**Assistant vice president for sustainability**, Northern Michigan University

**Scope of work:** Jes Thompson was promoted in December. She directs the Sustainability Hub for Innovation and Environment, which coordinates curriculums with faculty, oversees sustainability operations and works with student groups on sustainability initiatives. She also teaches courses in environmental and social responsibility.

**Biggest professional win:** In 2023, Thompson was one of 15 new members the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland appointed to the National Park System Advisory Board.

**Other contributions:** In 2020, she published "America's Largest Classroom: What We Learn from Our National Parks," which won a national Nonfiction Book Award silver prize and the Stewart Udall Award from the Western National Parks Association.



### Adriel Thornton

**Executive director**, MoGo Detroit

**Scope of work:** Adriel Thornton manages MoGo Detroit, an eco-friendly system of more than 80 stations for public bicycles, and maintains relationships with sponsors, cities and other partners. His work includes investing in solar power and other environmentally conscious equipment.

**Biggest professional win:** He led efforts to successfully extend two-year sponsorships from Henry Ford Health and Health Alliance Plan after being promoted to executive director. The sponsorships help sustain MoGo's bikeshare operations in Metro Detroit.

**Other contributions:** He is board president of the North American Bikeshare and Scootershare Association, president of Dally in the Alley, and a city of Detroit "Independent Night Ambassador."



### Lisa Wallick

**Field services director — Permitting & Stormwater Management Group**, Detroit Water & Sewerage Department

**Scope of work:** Lisa Wallick oversees permitting, drainage charge and green credit programs, drainage customer service, and compliance engineering. This includes leading projects totaling more than \$100 million, including initiatives to manage stormwater, mitigate street flooding and reduce basement water backups.

**Biggest professional win:** Wallick collaborated with surrounding communities to advance projects that slow runoff from entering the sewer systems. She also partnered with the Michigan Department of Transportation to remove hundreds of millions of gallons of stormwater from the region's combined sewer system.

**Other contributions:** Wallick helps educate the public on stormwater management.



### Lisa Wozniak

**Executive director**, Michigan League of Conservation Voters

**Scope of work:** Over the past 18 years, Lisa Wozniak has grown the organization from an office in Ann Arbor to one with multiple offices and a staff of 30 in several Michigan regions.

**Biggest professional win:** Wozniak played an integral role in the passage of Michigan's Clean Energy and Jobs Act last year, which outlines a path for the state to achieve 100% clean energy. She also led the Michigan LCV's 2023 efforts to build support for other clean energy bills and pro-clean energy lawmakers.

**Other contributions:** Wozniak serves on the National League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, the University of Michigan Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and the Huron River Watershed Council.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

# MIKE CSAPO

General Manager, RRRASOC

Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County

**2024 Crain's Detroit Business Notable Leader in Sustainability Honoree!**



Mr. Csapo has been instrumental in supporting Southfield's recycling efforts and initiatives in addition to educating the public about the importance of recycling and materials management. He also serves on the City's Sustainability Board which leads Southfield's efforts

The City of Southfield has long been a leader in Green Infrastructure, Micromobility, Parks & Greenspace, Adaptive Reuse, and Renewable Energy – even becoming the first municipality in Oakland County to enroll in DTE's MIGreenPower voluntary renewable energy program.

To learn more, visit [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com).



## Congratulations Carlton Dennard

Director, Housekeeping & EVS on being named a Crain's Notable Leader in Sustainability Awardee

We salute your leadership and commitment to excellence!

