

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2021

Greetings!

Happy New Year! As we put 2020 in the rearview mirror, we are excited to embrace 2021 and new opportunities to work towards our mission to accelerate smarter, cleaner, and more accessible solutions for communities and cities. As we kick off the new year, I want to highlight our latest program.



**Jim Saber**  
President & CEO

NextEnergy and our partner **Battery Solutions** have kicked off our EV Battery 2<sup>nd</sup> Use and Recycling program which is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. In this program, we will analyze the current state of EV battery supply and expected battery capacity and automotive afterlife of electric vehicles, identify gaps and opportunities for secondary use, and provide recommendations for addressing the gaps in both EV battery recycling and secondary use within Michigan. For additional information on this program, please reach out to **Tim Slusser**, our Director of Smart Mobility Initiatives.

Please be sure to check out Wayne Snyder's latest blog on "[Rethinking Sustainability During COVID-19.](#)"

Stay tuned for updates on our work and activities via our [website](#) and [social media platforms](#). As always, please feel free to connect with our [team](#).

- Jim

## Viewpoints

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### Rethinking Sustainability During COVID-19

By Wayne Snyder | Director, Technology Department at NextEnergy

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted economies, food systems and lives across the globe, forcing many to shelter in place to prevent the disease's spread. Since March 2020, I have spent nearly every day working, learning and playing around my home with my wife and daughter. While I am grateful for this additional time with my family — and fortunate enough to work from home — spending more time in our house has increased our home energy usage by 50%. For many families, this is a stark, expensive reality.

For years, I have maintained a lofty goal of transforming our 1946 bungalow into a net-zero home. While this is still my ultimate goal, the pandemic has made me rethink my approach to sustainability. Instead of large, sweeping moves to slash our energy usage, my family took small, simple steps to minimize our bills, leverage our existing resources and contribute to a healthier planet. Here are some simple ways my family has worked to tackle our sustainability problem amid the pandemic. [Read more.](#)

## In Case You Missed It!

In last month's viewpoints, NextEnergy's [Tim Slusser, Director of Smart Mobility Initiatives](#), [Eric McDonald, Director of Testing & Infrastructure Development](#) and [Jim Saber, President & CEO](#) discussed the highlights from the Michigan UP EV Readiness Workshop sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE).

The workshop provided participants with an EV charging technologies overview, findings from the State of Michigan EV charging study, what to know before breaking ground on an EV charging deployment, how UP utilities are getting EV ready and how to apply for available EV charging station incentives.

Check out the video below for the highlights from the [workshop](#).





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

## News & Events

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### [EV Charging Infrastructure Summit - North America](#)

Date: January 26, 2021

This virtual summit convenes top industry experts and utility professionals to examine how growing EV adoption rates will impact the network, and what investments are needed to ensure grid stability and benefit. [Learn more.](#)

### [2021 Lighting R&D Workshop](#)

Dates: February 1-4, 2021

This virtual workshop features top lighting scientists and industry thought leaders will gather to share progress, challenges, ideas, and solutions to shape the future of lighting. [Learn more.](#)

### [2021 Virtual Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#)

Dates: February 16-19, 2021

MES 2021 is set to be four days of unparalleled virtual networking and discussion opportunities and engaging presentations covering policy, programs, energy codes, tech innovations and more. [Learn more.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

[View our full list](#)

## Rolling

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- Business Accelerator Fund
- Energy Foundation Grants
- The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loans for Michigan Businesses

Join our established network of innovators, corporations, communities and cities.

[Join Our Network](#)

[NextEnergy.org](http://NextEnergy.org)

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