



A Newsletter for the Eco-Conscious Athlete
From Happy Planet Running
We can make your race leave no trace!

happyplanetrunning.com



Issue #3 – October 3, 2025

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Recent HPR Updates

- The RF Events [Dances with Dirt](#) at Bruin Lake hosted a “Hell” of an event, but the waste results were anything but evil. While runners took on grueling distances such as 30K, 50K, and 50 miles, and the 55-mile relayers got muddied and bruised with “honest trail running”, participants crossed the finish line in high spirits, many in hilarious costumes and wide smiles. The Green Team also sorted to avoid the evils of the landfill. Waste was down from 2024 at around 250 lbs., and with only 3.6 lbs. of landfill **we had an overall diversion rate of 98.6%!** [Read the full sustainability report here.](#)



Looks like one of these runners lost some weight on the trail!

- Autumn is finally here! Fall running events kicked off with the Epic Races [Women Run the D](#) on Belle Isle. This vibrant, all-women event creates solidarity in the running community, focusing on generational

connection and inclusivity for athletes of all abilities. Our team was smaller than usual at this event, but Jeff and volunteer Kevin stepped right up, and with some help from Epic staff we had a successful day, with a **diversion rate of 93%**. [Read the full sustainability report here.](#)



- For more about what we do, [check out our full set of sustainability reports](#), which covers every event we've done since 2017. They're good reads!
- Check out our [Instagram](#) or [TikTok](#) for frequent event updates and content!



This Issue's /FAQ

- **Q: Where does recycling go after curbside pickup in Ann Arbor?**

- A: It's transported to the [Recycle Ann Arbor Material Recovery Facility](#) (MRF). Here, dedicated staffers and specialized machines sort the recycling and 98% of the materials reach useful end markets, most of which are in southeast Michigan.
- Also, RAA is a nonprofit, with a focus on supporting a Zero Waste approach and educating our local community rather than trying to maximize revenue. Read more [here](#).



The Latest in Sustainability News

- **Global Solar Energy Up 64%:** Solar energy is on the rise globally! In the first half of 2025, global solar installations resulted in a total of 380 GW of solar capacity, a 64% increase compared to the same period in 2024. While solar energy capacity has only risen 4% in the U.S., Asia and Africa are leading the charge for the transition to renewable energy.

- To learn more about the fastest growing source of new energy generation, check out this [link](#).
- **University of Michigan Launches Maize Rays:** Two solar arrays have successfully started to generate power on the University of Michigan's North Campus. These arrays are part of University of Michigan's three-year, \$71 million solar-expansion plan known as Maize Rays. Currently, the arrays on the North Campus Facilities Services Building and the parking lot on Baxter Road have the capacity to power over 100 Michigan homes, and by the end of the project in 2028, solar panels across the University of Michigan campus will be able to power over 3,000 homes. This solar expansion initiative is a step forward in clean energy and will significantly decrease the carbon footprint of the U of M campus. To learn more about Maize Rays, read [this article](#).

Zero Waste Fun Fact: Leaf Litter

- It's officially autumn! Did you know that [leaves are actually really great for your yard](#)? Leaf litter helps promote microbial activity resulting in better soil health, and provides habitat for butterflies and birds. So when your leaves fall, consider mulching them into your lawn, or distribute some around the bases of trees and flower beds for a weed-suppressing mulch and "leave" the rest to break down naturally!
- If you do use curbside leaf collection, that's okay. In Michigan it's illegal to landfill yard waste, so leaves will be composted.

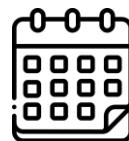


Get Involved!



Join the Green Team!

- Get in on the action and join us at our upcoming events! Look up an upcoming Zero Waste event on our [calendar](#), click on the event's logo to go to its website, and sign up to volunteer for the Green Team.
 - Don't listen to me, listen to our lovely volunteers! **"It feels good to volunteer. The runners kept thanking us for our efforts to make the race zero waste. The incentive of credit towards race fees is a plus, too."** - Julia



Run Into Us!

Sun. October 5	Scrumpy Skedaddle 5K/10K	Almar Orchards, Flushing
Sat. October 11	Run Scream Run 5K/10K	Wiard's Orchards, Ypsilanti
Sun. October 12	Ann Arbor Marathon	Downtown Ann Arbor

- Click [here](#) for the full schedule!

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Reach out [here](#) or email jeff@happyplanetrunning.com!

Thank You!

- Thanks for reading and supporting sustainability! If you enjoyed this update, please consider sharing it with others who care, too — together, we can grow a more waste-free future.

Follow us on Social Media!

- To learn more about sustainability and zero waste, and to stay up to date with all Happy Planet Running news and events, follow us on social media!



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This issue was produced by Marilyn Harbin and edited by Jeff Jackson.