



# Oakland SAVES: Investing in Communities Through Energy Efficiency

Inspiring Efficiency Impact Award – MES Conference

January 28, 2026

**Julie Lyons Bricker**, LEED AP O+M, PMP  
Chief Sustainability Officer, Oakland County, MI



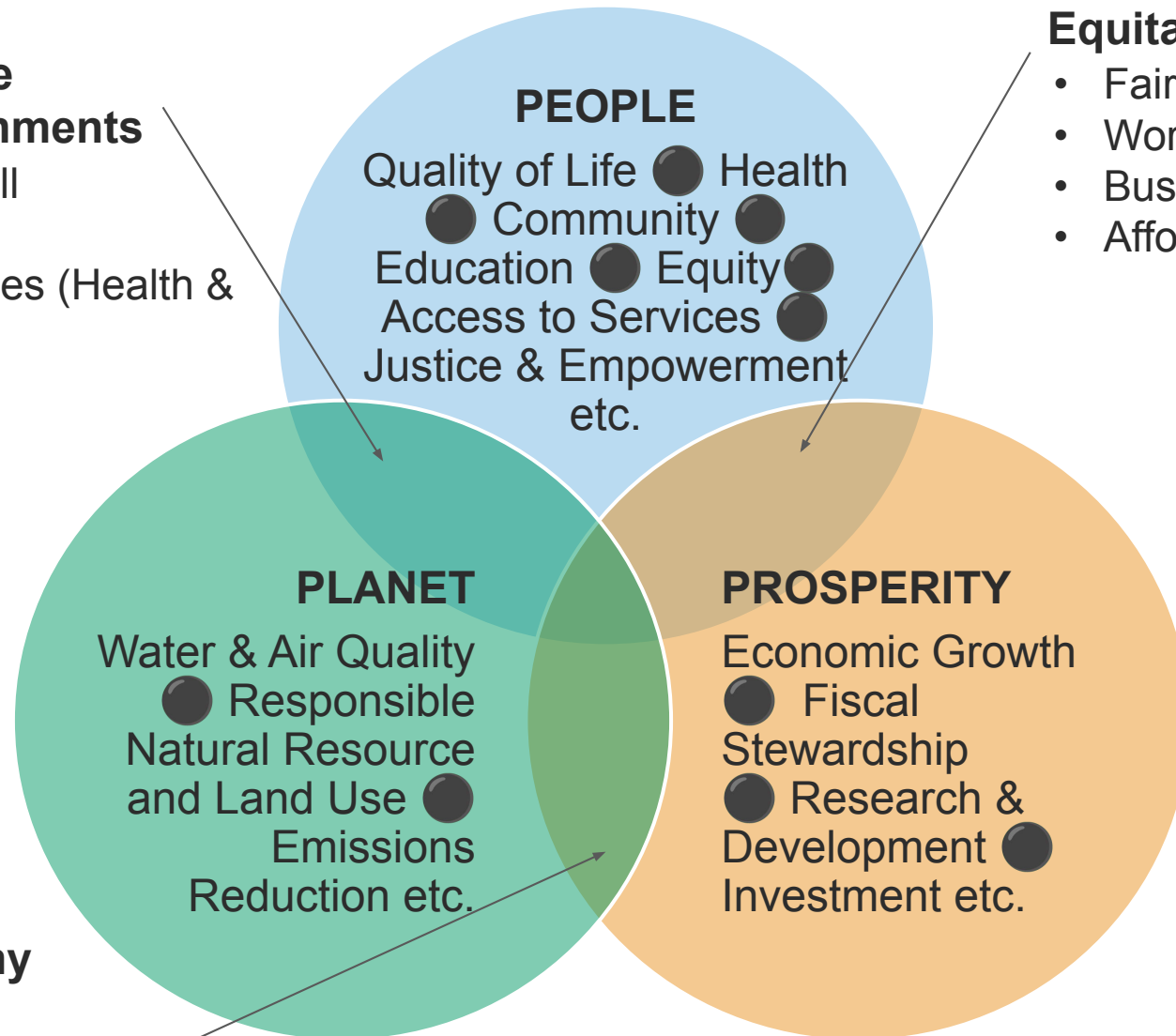
# Sustainability?

## Accessible & Equitable Natural & Built Environments

- Clean air & water for all
- Environmental Justice
- Access to Green Spaces (Health & Wellbeing)

## Viable 'Green' Economy

- Green Jobs
- Energy Efficiency (\$ Savings)
- Natural Resource Conservation



## Equitable & Viable Social Economy

- Fair Access to Financial Resources
- Worker's Rights
- Business Ethics
- Affordable Housing

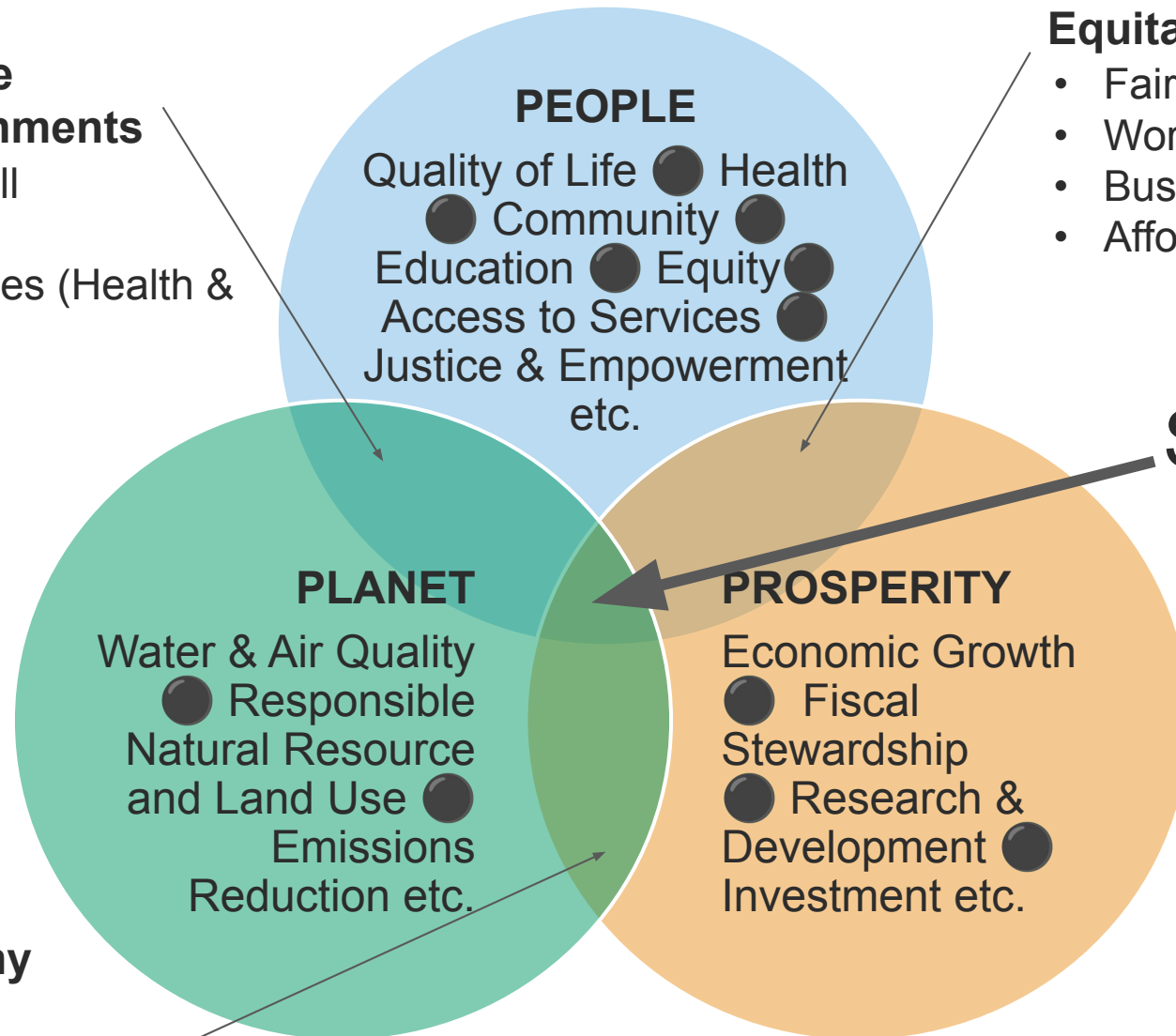
# Sustainability?

## Accessible & Equitable Natural & Built Environments

- Clean air & water for all
- Environmental Justice
- Access to Green Spaces (Health & Wellbeing)

## Viable 'Green' Economy

- Green Jobs
- Energy Efficiency (\$ Savings)
- Natural Resource Conservation



## Equitable & Viable Social Economy

- Fair Access to Financial Resources
- Worker's Rights
- Business Ethics
- Affordable Housing

SUSTAINABILITY

# Oakland County's Office of Sustainability –

## Internal

### Operations, Policy, Programs & Services

- Campus Sustainability Plan
- Partner with Other Departments
- Grant Funding
- Native Landscaping & Tree Planting
- Solar Installation & Offset Procurement
- LEED® for Cities and Michigan Green Communities Gold certified



## External

### 62 Communities, Residents & Stakeholders

- Resource Events for cities, villages, & townships (CVTs)
- Grant Funding - Community Partnerships
- Community Outreach – Relationship Building, Resource sharing, etc.
- Programs like Oakland SAVES – Residential energy efficiency grant program



# Oakland SAVES – History

## In 2023:

- Michigan Saves (the nation's 1<sup>st</sup> nonprofit green bank) pitched an energy efficiency rebate program to the county
- The Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved \$5 million ARPA dollars to fund the energy efficiency program and the partnership between its Office of Sustainability and Michigan Saves



**Michigan Saves**® =



- The Oakland SAVES program was launched in Jan 2024 & allocated the funding in 4.5 days!

# Oakland SAVES – Overview

## Energy Efficiency Grant Program For Oakland County homeowners

### Designed with Three Tiers :

- **Tier 1:** Up to \$5,000 for eligible improvements for income qualified applicants
- **Tier 2:** 20% off eligible projects up to \$3,000 for all others
- **Tier 3:** Michigan Saves loan program as an additional source of funds, if needed, beyond what the rebates would cover



# Oakland SAVES – Metrics

## Program Metrics – Community Benefits

- 1,097 households served
  - single-family homes
  - condos
  - mobile homes
- 47 of 62 CVTs had resident participation
- 100+ unique contractors participated

## Oakland SAVES Job Summary



# Oakland SAVES – Metrics

## Program Metrics – Energy Improvements Summary

### Types of improvements funded:

- Building Shell – 56%
- HVAC – 40%
- Water Heating – 3%
- Renewable Energy (rooftop solar) – 1%



# Oakland SAVES – Metrics

## Estimated Lifetime Energy and Utility Bill Savings

### Electrical

- 5,242,190 kilowatt-hours avoided
- \$733,907 in electrical bill savings

### Gas

- 2,538,357 therms of natural gas avoided
- \$2,817,576 in gas bill savings

### Total Estimated \$\$ Savings

- \$3,551,483 in utility bill savings
- Average lifetime savings - \$3,080/household

# Oakland SAVES – Metrics

## Program Metrics – GHG Emissions Reductions & Local Economic Benefits

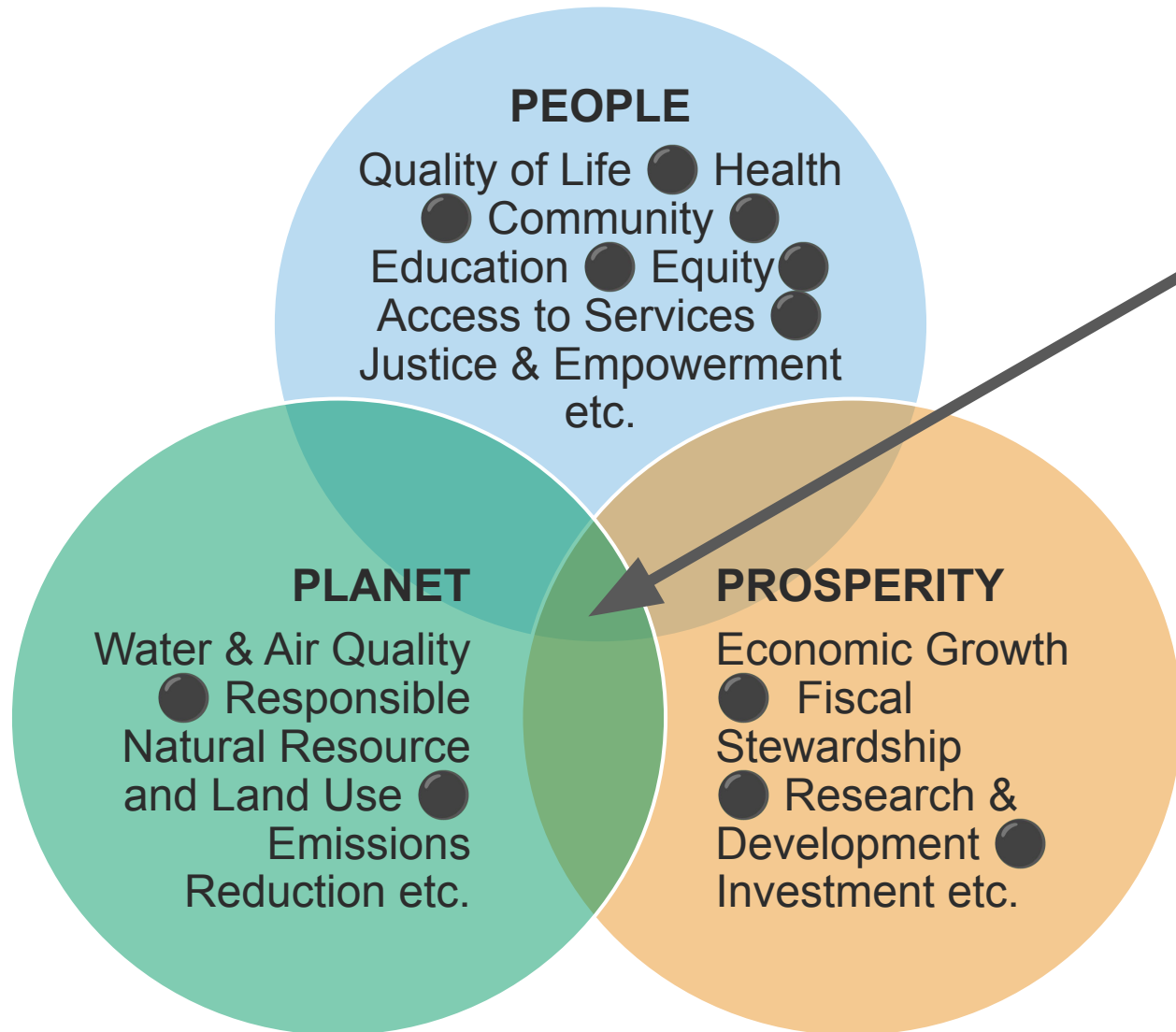
### Estimated Emissions Reduction:

- 17,914 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoided (Equivalent to approximately 3,700 homes' electricity use for one year\*)

### Local Economic Benefits:

- Approximately 90 unique local contractors participated
- Program leveraged \$ 2.9 million, increasing economic benefit to \$ 7.8 million
- Additional \$52K in utility rebates available for participants

# Sustainability!



# Oakland SAVES – StoryMap



[Oakland SAVES StoryMap](#)

