



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: sphyfer@vrf.us

You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 882 8925 3934 or by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88289253934>. If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sphyfer@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Continued Discussion and Recommendation Regarding Draft Single-Use Plastics in Places of Eating Ordinance
6. Introduction to EV Readiness Program
7. Website Plan
8. Communications
9. Other Business
10. Schedule Next Meeting – June 14, 2022
11. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean, Student Commissioner Meyer
Absent: Commissioner Roberts, Student Commissioner Raidt
Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Mark Pruitt (Illinois Power Bureau)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, to approve the March 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Cheng requested revisions to her comments, and Commissioner McLean asked that DU be written out for Dominican University.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Charrette reported that she attended PlanItGreen and the Dominican University sustainability meeting, noting there will be a showing of the film *The Ground Between Us* there during Earth Week. She also commented about the waste contract discussion at the Village Board meeting in regards to the composting program.

In response to a question about the program, Ms. Phyfer stated all existing composting subscribers will have their rates lowered and Staff will reach out to notify them of the new cart sizes.

Commissioner Cheng thanked Staff and the Village Board for weaving sustainability into the new waste contract, and she expressed her excitement about hazardous waste and e-waste being included, as well as additional composting sizes. She commented about the process related to the contract and acknowledged that while there is a lot going on, that if the Commission had known about some provisions related to waste, they could have perhaps settled those items prior to the Board meeting. She stated that for future process, the Commission should keep the annual review of the compost program on their radar, as well as review the LRS reports in relation to the waste reduction goals.

Student Commissioner Meyer stated that while she was not able to attend the OPRF sustainability meeting but that a draft was presented to the Board. She also asked about the outcome of the Village Board's meeting.

Trustee Gillis stated the vote was postponed so the Board could draft new language to address their concerns regarding the threshold for opt-in composting and the provision about unlimited waste removal day.

Ms. Phyfer stated an email was sent to curbside composting customers to sign up for compost delivery. She also asked what information the Commission needs related to parkway tree plantings and removals to track the Village's carbon inventory.

5. COMMUNITY SOLAR AND BENCHMARK ENROLLMENT

Mr. Pruitt commended the Commission and Staff for getting the program launched. In response to a question from Commissioner Cheng about enrollment, Mr. Pruitt explained the nuances of the program as it relates to state statutes and noted the Commission's role as it relates to marketing. He stated River Forest is on the front end of the customer acquisition and engagement side and that when communities lead, residents respond favorably. He stated the Village's 2.6% response rate is high due to the Village sponsoring the program. He suggested finding additional channels of outreach and repeated the message as ways to boost enrollment. Mr. Pruitt further explained MCSquared's role in moving customers through the process, administering billing and ongoing customer care, but noting it is ultimately the Village's program. He stated that in June, ComEd will begin providing net billing, which is anticipated to reduce dropout due to autopay billing concerns.

Commissioner Cheng's inquired about River Forest's conversion rate and about a realistic goal for the number of subscribers.

Mr. Pruitt stated MCSquared could pin down what they hear about customer feedback. He also suggested inviting people to a Zoom session Q&A for those who have not completed enrollment. He stated there are no specific goals for Illinois Power Bureau but thought 20% may be a good benchmark as compared to opt-in municipal aggregation. He also explained their procurement process and suggested including a community goal as part of the marketing to residents.

In response to a question from Chairperson Simon about best practices in other communities, Mr. Pruitt stated those with the highest conversion and response rates repeat the direct mailing and push the message through communication channels. He commented about other opportunities as well, such as having a QR code on a sticker for businesses that have signed up for the program.

The Commission discussed the various ways residents can receive electricity and how to resonate with residents.

In response to a question from Commissioner Charrette about signing up municipal accounts, Mr. Pruitt explained that the program allows for small and commercial accounts and there are very few accounts that fit that profile and are not on franchise agreements. He noted some municipalities have moved accounts to infrastructure maintenance fees, which would allow accounts otherwise ineligible to participate in community solar. He also explained that in June, the utility is to provide bill credits to all accounts regardless of size on an equalized basis, which would allow communities to put community solar on existing retail supply accounts.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Charrette, Mr. Pruitt stated the credits might not match up to consumption due to the seasonality of the farm's electricity generation, noting that the annual consumption should match the annual output.

Mr. Pruitt emphasized the program is the Village's, noting the process is not seamless, which is partially due to regulation, and he expressed hope that would improve over time.

Commissioner Cheng suggested offering on the MCSquared website a brief explanation of the forms subscribers would be signing.

There was also a brief discussion about why a residence might not be eligible for the program.

6. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING DRAFT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN PLACES OF EATING ORDINANCE

Ms. Phyfer stated the Commission has a revised ordinance for their consideration. She reported she spoke with the Village attorney about including plastic bags in the definition and that her recommendation is to separate that out because the Village could adopt an opt-in plastic bag ordinance that would apply more broadly across all Village businesses rather than the narrower focus of food establishments. She noted the challenge about including plastic bags would be if, for example, one customer at Walgreens was purchasing a food item they would have to opt-in to the plastic bag, but the next purchasing a non-food item such as a magazine would not.

Commissioner Charrette suggested including language about food prepared on site. Ms. Phyfer stated a list of affected businesses is included in the packet, and that if the Commission

would like to establish a list of business types to include or exclude, the Village attorney could draft language to implement that.

Chairperson Simon stated right now the ordinance does not include plastic bags. He commented he agreed with this approach, noting that there could be an opportunity to implement an opt-in plastic bag ordinance across the Village, which is what the Commission ultimately wants. Ms. Phyfer clarified the plastic bag ordinance would be in a similar vein, and not a ban or tax. Commissioner Cheng stated she also agreed with this approach.

In response to a question from Commissioner McLean, Chairperson Simon clarified that a customer would need to request utensils and that every affected business would have to conform to this ordinance.

In response to a question from Commissioner Charrette, Ms. Phyfer stated the ordinance would be enforced the same way as other ordinances and follow the Village's adjudication procedures.

In response to a question from Commission McLean about a plastic bag ban, Ms. Phyfer stated the Village is a non-home rule community, which limits the Village's authority to implement a ban or tax on plastic bags.

Ms. Phyfer stated the next steps are to invite businesses for their input and to summarize the key findings. The Commission reached a consensus to invite businesses to the May meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veazie, Ms. Phyfer noted Staff would mail letters directly to the businesses and communicate the meeting via the Village's communication channels.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

a. RECOMMENDATION TO SUSPEND TALL GRASS/WEEDS REGULATIONS FOR MONTH OF MAY

Commissioner Charrette stated this a request that came out of the Community Wildlife Habitat Team at Roosevelt. She reviewed the initiative, which is to address the decline in bees and pollinators. She stated in order to promote this, the Village would have to suspend the ordinance.

The Commission discussed this item and were supportive of the initiative. Commissioners noted it was unlikely much grass would reach 8" anyhow and that commercial properties did not need to be included. Ms. Phyfer stated the Village's code enforcement officer did not have any concerns about this and the Village attorney provided guidance on how the Board could implement a moratorium.

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Simon, to make a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees to suspend enforcement of weeds and grass height regulations for residential properties during the month of May.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. RECOMMENDATION TO PURSUE SOLAR PANEL TEXT AMENDMENT

Ms. Phyfer stated the Village has enough points for silver but is unable to obtain the designation without using the term “accessory use.” She explained this would require amending the Village’s zoning code as it relates to solar panel systems, which can be done through the text amendment process. She noted the options to move forward with that process.

Chairperson Simon stated his preference is to handle this as a standalone text amendment, and Commissioner Charrette concurred, suggesting they do what is needed for SolSmart and have a bigger discussion regarding solar as part of the overhaul.

Chairperson Simon noted he would like to see battery storage included as well.

Commissioner Veazie stated this would also check a box for the gold designation as well, noting this is the bigger hurdle. He also stated CEJA contains directives about implementing best practices related to zoning and if possible, the Village should try to sync its efforts with that guidance.

Commissioner Veazie made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, Motion to make a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees to proceed with a text amendment related to solar panel systems.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. TREE REGULATIONS RESEARCH

Trustee Gillis stated she is representing a resident who is advocating for stronger tree regulations. She reviewed the resident’s concern related to her neighbor wanting to trim her oak tree, whose canopy hangs over their swimming pool. She noted oak trees should only be trimmed in the winter to prevent spreading oak wilt and the lack of education about what trees do for us. She noted Washington DC’s heritage tree regulations and stated the

Commission could investigate what other municipalities are doing and put forth a recommendation to strengthen protection of trees.

The Commission discussed this item and was supportive of the project. Chairperson Simon stated part of this process would be seeing what other municipalities have done in this regard.

Ms. Phyfer stated she would need to have some discussions with the administration and the Village attorney to see what would be an option from a regulatory standpoint, but that there is certainly an educational opportunity here.

Commissioners Cheng and Charrette volunteered to work on this with the resident.

9. WEBSITE PLAN

Commissioner Cheng stated this item could be postponed to the next meeting, noting the goal is to make the website more organized.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission discussed the communications calendar and content options.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

12. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MAY 10, 2022

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Development Services
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2022

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst

Subj: Consideration and Approval of Recommendation for Proposed Opt-In Single-Use Plastic Ordinance

At the April 12, 2022 meeting, the Commission reached a consensus to proceed with proposing an ordinance that would require places for eating only hand out single-use plastics for take-out and delivery orders at the customer's request, meaning customers would "opt-in" to receive them. The Commission directed Staff to invite businesses affected by the proposed ordinance to attend the May 10, 2022 meeting to hear their input.

Letters were mailed directly to affected businesses at both their mailing (corporate) address, as well as the business address in River Forest. A copy of this letter was also emailed. The meeting was also communicated by the Village as follows:

- Website: April 18, 2022
- E-News: April 21, 2022
- Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor: April 26, 2022
- Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor: May 7, 2022
- May Newsletter: May 6, 2022

All communication included information about the proposed ordinance change and noted that all are welcome to attend the meeting to learn more and or provide comments. This can be viewed at www.vrf.us/SingleUseOrdinance.

At the May 10, 2022 meeting, the Sustainability Commission will hear any public comments and determine if any further changes to the proposed ordinance are needed. If none, the Commission may make the following motion: move to approve the recommendation of the proposed ordinance change to the Village Board of Trustees.

Motion to make a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees to approve an opt-in single-use plastic ordinance.

Attachments:

Draft Ordinance

Letter to Affected Businesses

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RIVER FOREST VILLAGE CODE REGARDING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN PLACES OF EATING

WHEREAS, the Village of River Forest (“Village”), is a non-home rule unit of local government as provided by Article VII, Section 7 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the Village’s Comprehensive Plan declares that “[e]nvironmental sustainability is a multi-faceted principle that aims to reduce negative impacts on the environment and preserve natural resources to ensure quality of life for future generations. Often sought through dedicated initiatives, sustainability informs every component of a municipality by emphasizing that we are conscious of how we affect the world around us;” and

WHEREAS, single-use foodware, meaning items designed and intended for only one usage before being discarded, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, chopsticks, other eating utensils, stirrers, drink stoppers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, napkins, wet-wipes, cup sleeves, beverage trays, disposable plates, and condiment packets, but excluding straws, beverage lids, or items used to contain or package food or beverages for delivery or take-out orders, unnecessarily distributed in the Village generates a significant amount of waste; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastics do not readily break down in the environment, eventually becoming microplastics which are known to have harmful effects to humans, wildlife ([NRDC](#)) and which microplastics are now found throughout the marine ecosystems in the Great Lakes ([EPA](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Village’s Sustainability Commission considered the regulation of single-use foodware set forth in this Ordinance at several meetings, on March __, 2022, April __, 2022 and _____ __, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission sought input from Village business owners potentially affected by the regulation of single-use foodware set forth in this Ordinance, and the business owners were invited to share their comments and attend a Sustainability Commission meeting to voice their opinions; and

WHEREAS, after considering a variety of materials available to it, including the scientific studies set forth above, the Sustainability Commission recommended that the President and Board of Trustees regulate single-use foodware as proposed in this Ordinance in order to better protect the public’s health, safety and welfare, by reducing waste occurring from the distribution of single-use foodware except when allowed by this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Village has the authority to “regulate the places where and the manner in which any beverage or food for human consumption is sold,” pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-20-2; and

WHEREAS, the Village has the obligation to “regulate and inspect retail food establishments in the municipality” in accordance with local ordinances and regulations, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-20-16(a); and

WHEREAS, the Village has the authority to “define, prevent and abate nuisances,” pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-60-2; and

WHEREAS, the Village has determined that limiting the distribution of single-use foodware in the Village would reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use foodware, thereby reducing the environmental impact from such waste; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village have determined that limiting the distribution of single-use foodware is a reasonable and necessary regulation of places where beverage or food for human consumption are sold; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village finds and declares that the unnecessary distribution of single-use foodware is a nuisance and a significant detriment to the public’s health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in order to best serve the public’s health, safety and welfare, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village desire to make certain amendments to the Village of River Forest Village Code (“Village Code”) regarding the use of single-use plastics in places of eating, as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of River Forest, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: Incorporation. That the recitals above shall be and are hereby incorporated in this Section 1 as if restated herein.

SECTION 2: Amendment. That the Village Code is hereby amended as follows, with additions underlined:

Amendment One:

Section 6-5-1 of the Village Code, titled “Definitions,” is amended as follows by adding the following definitions:

“ * * *

SELF-SERVICE STATION: An area dedicated to customers taking away single-use foodware and condiments.

* * *

SINGLE-USE FOODWARE: Any eating utensil or other item to be used as part of food or beverage service that is designed and intended by the manufacturer for only one usage before being discarded, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, chopsticks, other eating utensils, stirrers, drink stoppers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, napkins, wet-wipes, cup sleeves, beverage trays, disposable plates, and condiment packets. “Single-use foodware” does not include straws, beverage lids, or items used to contain or package food or beverages for delivery or take-out orders.

* * *

Amendment Two:

Section 6-5-2.Q. of the Village Code, titled “Single-Use Foodware,” is added as follows:

“1. Requirements. In connection with any delivery or take-out order of food or beverage, a food establishment may only provide single-use foodware upon request from the customer or at a self-service station. Food establishments shall provide options for customers to affirmatively request single-use foodware when ordering food and beverages for delivery or take-out across all ordering or point of sale platforms, including internet enabled applications, digital platforms, phone orders, and in-person ordering. The Village Administrator is authorized to establish, by rule, a standard sign for use by food establishments in connection with this Subsection.

2. Exceptions. This Section shall not apply to:

a. Single-use foodware necessary to address safety concerns, such as lids, drink stoppers, beverage trays and cup sleeves for beverages served at an average temperature in excess of 170 degrees Fahrenheit;

b. A food vending machine, as defined in Section 6-6-1 of the Village Code;

c. Any single-use foodware that is prepackaged with or attached to any food or beverage products by the manufacturer prior to receipt by the food establishment;

d. Any charitable food establishment;

e. Single-use foodware provided in connection with any food or beverage order fulfilled at a drive-through facility; and

f. A food establishment granted a waiver by the Village Administrator. Any waiver granted by the Village Administrator shall be reported, in writing, to the Village President and Board of Trustees.”

SECTION 3: Further Study of Single-Use Plastic Bags. That the Sustainability Commission shall study the use of single-use plastic bags in the Village and make recommendations to the President and Board of Trustees regarding regulations on such bags as a way to further protect the public’s health, safety and welfare.

SECTION 4: Continuing Effect. That all parts of the Village Code not amended herein shall remain in effect.

SECTION 5: Severability. That if any Section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such Section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6: Repeal. That all ordinances, resolutions, motions or parts thereof in conflict with this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7: Effectiveness. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2022 by the Village President and Board of Trustees pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

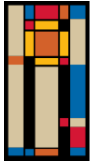
ABSENT: _____

APPROVED by me this ___ day of _____, 2022.

Catherine Adduci, Village President

ATTEST:

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

Village President
Catherine Adduci

Village Clerk
Jonathan Keller

Village Trustees
Kathleen Brennan
Erika Bachner
Lisa Gillis
Kenneth Johnson
Robert O'Connell
Respicio F. Vazquez

April 19, 2022

SENT VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

You are receiving this notice because your business is licensed to sell or distribute beverages or food for human consumption in the Village of River Forest, Illinois.

A public meeting will be held by the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7PM, at Village Hall and via Zoom, regarding a proposed ordinance for single-use foodware. Visit www.vrf.us/SingleUseOrdinance for meeting information.

The change that is being proposed by the Sustainability Commission is to require that places for eating and places distributing beverages or food sold for human consumption **only hand out single-use foodware for take-out and delivery orders at the customer's request, meaning customers would "opt-in" to receive them.** Single-use foodware are items designed and intended for only one usage before being discarded. Single-use foodware is defined in red text below. Notably, this proposed ordinance would not tax nor prohibit the distribution of single-use foodware. Rather, the purpose of this ordinance is to limit the unnecessary distribution of single-use plastics, which generates a significant amount of waste.

A list of businesses that would be subject to this change can be found below. Businesses are being contacted directly to notify them of this proposed change. All are welcome to attend this public meeting to learn more and/or provide comments on this proposed change.

Affected Businesses

Business Name	Business Address
754 Harlem Inc. dba Mobile Gas Station	754 Harlem Ave
7-Eleven # 23852E dba 7-Eleven	1140 Harlem Ave
AFC Sushi @ Jewel Oco #3223	7525 Lake St
Asiana Cuisine Enterprises dba Ace Sushi	7501 North Ave
Believers International LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Bertollis Pizza	7970 Oak Ave
Bond Drug Company of Illinois dba Walgreens #3076	7251 Lake St
Boon Box Bakery	349 Ashland Ave
Boston Market Corporation (#575)	7211 Lake St
Capri Italian Foods	7325 North Av
Carby Eats	349 Ashland Ave
Cathy's Ultimate Soul Food & Catering	349 Ashland Ave
Celebrations by Us	349 Ashland Ave
Franks Deli	7971 Lake St
Good Earth Greenhouse	7900 Madison St
Highland Park CVS LLC dba CVS Pharmacy #3889	7929 North Ave

Jewel Food Store #3223	7525 Lake St
Jewel Food Stores	7525 Lake St
Jilly's Jerky Snacks LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Joy Milk Tea LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Karavites Restaurant 6749 - McDonalds	624 Harlem Ave
Karl's Craft Soup	349 Ashland Ave
La Parrallita Mexican Food	7225 North Ave
Meze Table	349 Ashland Ave
New Rose Catering	349 Ashland Ave
Noodles & Company	7215 Lake St
Opportunity Knocks	349 Ashland Ave
Panera LLC / Panera Bread #788	7349 Lake St
Popify LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Quest Food Management Services	7900 Division St
RDK Ventures Inc dba Circle K #4706790	7201 North Ave
River Forest Chocolates LLC	7769 Lake St
River Forest Kitchen LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Sodexo America	7400 Augusta St
Srikrishna Catering, Inc.	7400 Augusta St
Starbucks at Jewel Store #3223	7525 Lake St
Sunny Bakes dba Out of Neutral LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Sushi Avenue Inc.	7245 Lake St
Table and Lain	7577 Lake St
The Kitchenette Project	349 Ashland Ave
Whole Foods Market Group	7245 Lake St
Yolk-Oak Park/River Forest	7301 North Ave
Zazi Natural Foods LLC	349 Ashland Ave
Persimmon Kitchen LLC	349 Ashland Ave

Proposed changes to Title 6, Health and Sanitation, of the Village Code are as follows.

6-5-1: DEFINITIONS:

SELF-SERVICE STATION: An area dedicated to customers taking away single-use foodware and condiments.

SINGLE-USE FOODWARE: Any eating utensil or other item to be used as part of food or beverage service that is designed and intended by the manufacturer for only one usage before being discarded, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, chopsticks, other eating utensils, stirrers, drink stoppers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, napkins, wet-wipes, cup sleeves, beverage trays, disposable plates, and condiment packets. "Single-use foodware" does not include straws, beverage lids, or items used to contain or package food or beverages for delivery or take-out orders.

6-5-2.Q.: SINGLE-USE FOODWARE:

1. Requirements. In connection with any delivery or take-out order of food or beverage, a food establishment may only provide single-use foodware upon request from the customer or at a self-service station. Food establishments shall provide options for customers to affirmatively request single-use foodware when ordering food and beverages for delivery or take-out across all ordering or point of sale platforms, including internet enabled applications, digital platforms, phone orders, and in-person ordering. The Village Administrator is authorized to establish, by rule, a standard sign for use by food establishments in connection with this Subsection.
2. Exceptions. This Section shall not apply to:
 - a. Single-use foodware necessary to address safety concerns, such as lids, drink stoppers, beverage trays and cup sleeves for beverages served at an average temperature in excess of 170 degrees Fahrenheit;
 - b. A food vending machine, as defined in Section 6-6-1 of the Village Code;
 - c. Any single-use foodware that is prepackaged with or attached to any food or beverage products by the manufacturer prior to receipt by the food establishment;
 - d. Any charitable food establishment;
 - e. Single-use foodware provided in connection with any food or beverage order fulfilled at a drive-through facility; and
 - f. A food establishment granted a waiver by the Village Administrator. Any waiver granted by the Village Administrator shall be reported, in writing, to the Village President and Board of Trustees.

Anyone with questions regarding the proposed change or public meeting should contact Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst and Sustainability Commission Staff Liaison at sphyfer@vrf.us or 708-714-3521.

Sincerely,

Eric Simon, Sustainability Commission Chair

Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst and Sustainability Commission Staff Liaison



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Development Services

400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2022

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst

Subj: EV Readiness Program

Inspired by a program launched by ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Commission is asked to seek the EV Ready Community designation. As described by ComEd, EV Readiness is a program that prepares communities to meet the growing demand for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. Its intention is to remove barriers to EV adoption by guiding local governments to enact policies and practices that can accelerate safe and effective transportation electrification across the region.

Staff has completed the expression of interest form to join a cohort this fall to participate in the program. The Caucus is undergoing the second phase of the project, which includes providing resources, templates and sample language for municipalities to help them accomplish items on the EV Readiness Checklist and recognize them for EV Readiness achievements. The program also provides municipalities technical assistance and guidance with regard to funding opportunities.

At this time, there is no action needed from the Commission. However, Commissioners are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the available program information.

Resources:

- ComEd Press Release (Attached)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Program Website](#)

Contact: ComEd Media Relations
312-394-3500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ComEd, Metro Mayors Caucus Launch Program to Prepare Communities for Growing Demand for Electric Vehicles

EV Readiness Program will help communities prepare for EV implementation, compete for state & federal funding

CHICAGO – (May 3, 2022) – ComEd today joined the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) to announce a new initiative to help communities across northern Illinois prepare to meet growing demand for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Fueled by a \$225,000 commitment from ComEd, the [EV Readiness Program](#) will remove barriers to EV adoption by guiding local governments to enact policies and practices that can accelerate safe and effective transportation electrification across the region.

The EV Readiness Program will provide a broad range of support to communities as they develop and implement programs to promote EVs. Additionally, this program is designed to assist communities who may eventually seek state and federal funds earmarked for the development of EV charging infrastructure. These funds are set to be released later this year as part of a \$5 billion investment authorized by Congress to help states expand EV charging infrastructure and accelerate the adoption of EV technology. Federal funding will play a key role in helping advance Gov. Pritzker’s plan to put 1 million EVs on the road by 2030.

“As communities prepare to implement new clean energy technologies, ComEd stands ready to assist them to accelerate decarbonization and improve air quality for all residents,” **said ComEd CEO [Gil C. Quiniones](#)**. “We are thrilled to partner with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to deliver the EV Readiness Program, which will help our partners across the region advance the goals of the new clean energy law, CEJA, and help to create cleaner and safer communities for the future.”

Local governments will receive support on how to remove barriers to adoption, facilitate charging infrastructure, and expand markets for EVs. Municipalities and counties will earn designation as an EV Ready Community based on actions taken in several categories to influence EV adoption and deployment of EV charging infrastructure – including:

- Commit to EV Readiness
- Zoning and Planning
- Permitting
- Inspection and Safety
- Parking and Access
- New Construction
- EV Owner Rights
- Municipal Fleets
- Utility Engagement

- Community Engagement
- Market Development and Finance

The Caucus is developing the program with guidance from the EV Readiness Advisory Committee, a diverse group of more than 50 local transportation and sustainability experts representing public and private sectors. ComEd's investment in the EV Readiness Program will support program development, consulting and personnel costs to educate municipalities across the ComEd service region over the next two years.

"Working in collaboration with ComEd, we will support local governments across northern Illinois to build capacity and develop plans to successfully make the shift to electrified transportation," **said Kevin Burns, Mayor of the City of Geneva and Chairman of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee and EV Readiness Advisory Committee.** "We know that communities have been looking for guidance, and the EV Readiness Program will prepare them to move swiftly on new investments coming forward as a result of clean energy policy advancements made at the state and local levels."

The EV Readiness Program builds on the ongoing collaborative efforts by ComEd and the Caucus to support communities with integrating new clean energy technology. This includes a recently developed [EV toolkit](#), and competitive grant funding opportunities to accelerate EV infrastructure adoption. Through the Powering Communities grants initiative, [ComEd and the Caucus have supported over \\$1 million in public safety and electrification projects across the Chicago area](#), which has unlocked matching funds for these communities to help accelerate their EV growth.

"Mount Prospect received two Powering Safe Communities grants to install level two ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations located in our downtown for use by residents and visitors at Village Hall, Mount Prospect Public Library, restaurants, and local businesses," **said Village of Mount Prospect Mayor Paul Hoefert.** "The support we received from ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has been critical for bringing some of Mount Prospect's first EV charging stations online to help residents adopt electric vehicle technology and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions."

ComEd supports a menu of programs aimed at helping communities achieve the goals established by CEJA, the recently enacted clean energy legislation, which puts Illinois on a path to 40% renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040 and net-zero emissions by 2050. CEJA aligns with ComEd's own "Path to Clean" plan, which calls for 30 percent of its fleet to become clean by 2025, and 50 percent by 2030. CEJA also calls for 1 million EVs on the road by 2030. Currently, there are roughly 41,000 EVs registered with the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

Communities interested in becoming EV Ready can submit an expression of interest now, and applications will be reviewed for the first cohort slated to begin this fall. The program is available for communities across ComEd's service territory, including the 275 communities that comprise the Caucus' membership. For more information on how to apply, please visit [the Caucus' website](#).

###

ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC), a Fortune 200 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers – the largest number of customers in the U.S. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state’s population. For more information visit ComEd.com and connect with the company on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)

River Forest Sustainability Commission webpage revision
Discussion Draft, 4.3.22

Questions for Commission input at April meeting:

1. Comments on proposed goal and audience for commission webpage
2. General comments on proposed reorganization, including consensus to proceed on low hanging fruit and overall restructuring, with details to be worked out with staff
3. Ideas for better way to highlight Green Block parties, River Forest Tree Trails

Vision:

The goal of the Sustainability Commission webpage is to help residents figure out how to live more sustainably. The audience is all River Forest residents but the page design should consider that residents have varying degrees of existing motivation and knowledge about living sustainably. It is likely that those who voluntarily seek out the page have higher than average motivation and possibly knowledge. In an ideal world, the page content could be divided by “persona” and present basic vs. advanced knowledge to different potential users, but this would take a great deal of work. So for now, the content will focus on “how to” live sustainably but will also be written in simple action oriented language but information about the “why” will also be included.

Layout/organization:

Phase 1 of the website revision will focus on reorganizing the existing content based on the existing simple scrolling layout of text that is used on other village guide pages. However, for a later phase, a visual, graphically appealing layout will be more effective. A question for staff is whether the commission page can be reorganized visually with images like the home page of the village website.

Phase 1 will first fix some low hanging fruit issues like changing the name to “A Guide to Sustainable Living” and eliminating the right hand menu items which have grown like moss and do not match the scrolling content on the left.

Then content will be organized into two types of resources – time-specific sustainability activities, and those that can be done anytime. The landing page will operate as a table of contents that provides links to more specific information about each topic, either an external website or a dedicated behind the scenes page on the village website. This will make it easier to see “at a glance” what is on the landing page, although there will still be a fairly long list of topics. One question to discuss is where to feature actions that the village, as opposed to individual residents, has taken or can take – i.e. permeable alley pavers, electric charging station/vehicles.

The first section will be a very brief one that links to the village News page to find current sustainability events (i.e. Things To Do This Month). Examples of time-specific items that will

show up on Village News page include One Earth Film Fest, Bicycle Exchange, Holiday Lights Recycling/Sustainable Holidays, and Green Block Parties.

The second section will reorganize the current content into five categories of primarily “evergreen” information: Energy, Waste, Ecosystems, Water and Learning/Education (these were the original five categories when the commission was created and still capture most of the issues). It will be a simple list of topics that link to more detailed information so it’s easier to see most of the available resources without scrolling too much. The list will consist of active “how to” verbs or phrases rather than just a list of nouns.

See below for initial suggested organization and topics, with details to be worked out with staff. To keep the landing page easy to review “at a glance.” Some of the specifics will not appear on the landing page but will be incorporated on separate “behind the scenes” webpages reached via link.

1. HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

- a. Switch to Renewable Sources:
 - Rooftop solar
 - Community solar
 - Municipal aggregation

- b. Reduce Energy Usage
 - Participate in ComEd energy efficiency programs
 - Install LED lights - *link to ComEd discount products*
 - Install high-efficiency heat pump products
 - Possibly include “ten tips” on other options like eat less meat, ride your bike, take public transportation

- c. Electrify
 - i. Purchase an electric vehicle
 - ii. Heat home with high-efficiency electric heat pumps
 - iii. Install a heat pump water heater
 - iv. Purchase a high-efficiency induction stove
 - v. Purchase a heat-pump electric dryer

2. HOW TO WASTE LESS (*w/ tips/resources on how to do each*)

- a. Compost
 - i. Village compost program - *provide link*
 - ii. Backyard composting - *provide info*
 - iii. Countertop composting - *info on products*
 - iv. Vermiculture - *provide info*

- b. Reduce - *avoid single use plastics (i.e. single use plastic ordinance), purchase less, purchase second-hand*
- c. Reuse - *i.e. Repair Cafe, Bicycle exchange*
- d. Repurpose - *donation sites*
- e. Recycle - *link to Lakeshore Recycling web page*

3. HOW TO CREATE A GREEN ECOSYSTEM

- a. Grow a natural lawn - *Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family*
- b. Plant a native garden
- c. Get certified as a Wildlife habitat
- d. Take care of River Forest trees (Learn more about the River Forest Tree canopy - *include CO2 sequestration #s*)

4. HOW TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE WATER

- a. Install water-saving fixtures - *ComEd energy efficiency program*
- b. Check for leaks - *made easier by recently installed smart water meters*
- a. Order a rainbarrel
- b. Install a rain garden
- c. Install a permeable driveway

5. HOW RIVER FOREST IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- a. Commission strategic plan
- b. River Forest GHG inventory and goals
- c. Village initiatives (Bioswales, Permeable alleys, charging station, LEDS, upgrades at pumping station)
- d. Regional goals (Chicago Climate Charter, PlanItGreen)
- e. Village certifications (i.e. Municipal Arboretum, Tree City, Community Wildlife Habitat)
- f. Opportunities to learn and share among residents- Green block parties, River Forest Tree Trails – is there a better place to highlight these programs? Seasonally on the News page?