



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 – 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: sjansen@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: 816 4491 8569 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sjansen@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2026
4. Commissioner Updates
5. River Forest Milkweed Map
6. Nighthawk Monitoring Project
7. Sustainability Guides
 - a. ComEd Hourly Pricing
 - b. Green Building Materials and Practices
 - c. Weatherization
8. Communications and Staff Reports
 - a. Quarterly EV Report
 - b. Communications
 - c. Village Project Updates
 - i. Heritage Square Native Plants
 - ii. Public Works Garage Solar Panels
 - iii. Village Hall Permeable Pavers
9. Schedule Next Meeting – November 10, 2026
10. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 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 7:03 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon (arriving at 7:06), Commissioners Kadlec, Commissioner Beckman, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen, Co-Chair Charrette (attending virtually)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Kadlec made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Charrette, to approve the meeting minutes from August 13, 2026.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, and Commissioner Beckman

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Kadlec shared information about the Village of Franklin Park's annual Tree Preservation and Bee Board Seminar being held on October 17th, which maintains their Tree City and Bee City designations. Commissioner Kadlec shared information on what is on the agenda and stated it is an opportunity to connect with individuals involved in Sustainability in a neighboring community. Commissioner Kadlec indicated that Roosevelt Middle School students are starting a project where they map milkweed plants throughout the Village.

Commissioner Beckman stated that he met with an individual from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, who indicated he often speaks with various groups about stormwater issues and MWRD infrastructure and that MWRD offers tours of the Stickney Plant. Commissioner Beckman also inquired about ability for residents with driveway recycling collection to get larger recycling containers like other communities; Co-Chair Charrette suggested including it with the agenda discussion regarding the LRS contract proposal. Commissioner Beckman indicated they are updating and reviewing the nighthawk monitoring project data, which should be completed soon.

Co-Chair Charrette shared that Oak Park has a new sustainability dashboard on their website and suggested developing a similar feature for the Village website to share local data.

The Commission continued discussion of the MWRD as well as the Village's efforts to prevent stormwater from entering the combined sewer system and preventing basement backups.

Co-Chair Lennon shared the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus meeting on green roofs and living walls on Tuesday, September 15th, noting that Zoom and in-person meeting options are available, with the in-person meeting touring the green roof at the Old Post Office in Chicago following the formal meeting.

5. BIRD CITY ILLINOIS RESOLUTION

Mr. Jansen outlined the updated draft Bird City Illinois Proclamation, incorporating edits provided by Commissioners prior to the meeting. Co-Chair Charrette suggested one additional edit, adding "where birds thrive people prosper" into the first whereas clause within the proclamation. The Commission concurred with the addition and discussed the other recent edits. Mr. Jansen outlined the timing for Board approval, the formal application for Bird City designation, and future actions in between renewal cycles.

Commissioner Kadlec made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Charrette, to recommend the Village Board adopt a Resolution in support of the Village becoming certified by the Bird City Illinois program incorporating the further edits suggested by Co-Chair Charrette.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, and Commissioner Beckman

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaidler

Motion Passes.

6. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, GREENEST REGION COMPACT, AND COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Jansen introduced the next item stating that Commissioner Schaidler had inquired about Sustainability planning at last month's meeting after attending a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus event on the updates to the Greenest Region Compact. Mr. Jansen summarized the MMC's efforts to update the Greenest Region Compact action checklist, previous Sustainability plan-related items shared with the Commission, and the memo provided to the Commission. Mr. Jansen further noted that the coming Spring will mark the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the Sustainability Commission and that Co-Chair Charrette had previously discussed having a 10-year retrospective on the accomplishments of the Commission. Mr. Jansen suggested using the forthcoming updates to the MMC Greenest Region Compact checklist and tie it into the 10-year review to take stock of what has been accomplished and what can be done going forward. Co-Chair Charrette suggested dedicating a meeting this winter to reviewing the actions and plans of the Commission. Commissioner Beckman suggested and volunteered to create a video that ties into this project. Commissioner Kadlec has suggested a timeline highlighting the accomplishments of each year. The Commission continued discussion of previous sustainability plans and programs.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen noted that the UIC Climate plans developed for the Village included a recommendation of developing information resources on the benefits of ComEd's hourly pricing program. Mr. Jansen summarized the how program works and showed what the Public Works intern had developed over the course of the summer to highlight the financial and environmental benefits. Mr. Jansen shared the draft website and graphic for Commission feedback. Co-Chair Lennon noted that confusion can arise with the various other electricity options that are available to residents. The Commission discussed creating more information on what various programs are available. Co-Chair Lennon and Commissioner Kadlec both suggested a matrix of the various options, including hourly pricing, the community aggregation program, community solar, and rooftop solar, showing what is and is not part of each program, what would make a good fit, or what the benefits are. The Commission concluded they would revisit this at the next meeting.

Mr. Jansen provided information on what LRS had proposed and what had been shared with the Village Board regarding the extension of the Village's waste hauling program. Mr. Jansen answered Commissioner Beckman's initial questions regarding cart options within the existing contract and provided history of the Village's waste hauling contract. Commissioner Beckman expressed desire for larger carts; Mr. Jansen explained the operational limitations and indicated it is a frequent question from other residents as well. Mr. Jansen discussed the composting proposal from LRS, incorporating it into the base cost, as opposed to being an opt-in program. Mr. Jansen summarized what had been previously discussed and reviewed by the Commission with regard to universal composting and explained what LRS is proposing now as a universal composting option. Mr. Jansen noted that LRS's policy is to continue to have the compost carts be opt-in in nature to prevent confusion of delivering carts to people who did not request them. Commissioner Beckman asked further questions about LRS operations and the contract renewal process. Co-Chair Charrette shared her views regarding the existing contract and the collection process. Co-Chair Lennon suggests that provisions of the new contract be structured to promote waste diversion. Commissioner Beckman stated that it is difficult to recycle with the smaller container requirements. The Commission continued discussing the waste contract and collection operations. Co-Chair Lennon asked about the Village's per household waste tonnage and how that compares to other communities. Co-Chair Lennon inquired if there are any examples of other communities who have effectively reduced their landfill amount and increased waste diversion and if there can be any practices that could be copied.

Mr. Jansen outlined the planned upcoming Sustainability communications for the Village newsletter and social media. Commissioner Beckman asked Co-Chair Charrette about the proposed milkweed seed giveaway; Co-Chair Charrette indicated she would prepare and freeze the seeds over the Winter have the giveaway in the Spring. Mr. Jansen provided a brief update of ongoing Village projects related to sustainability. Co-Chair Charrette inquired about previous unlimited garbage/give-away days within the Village; Mr. Jansen indicated he looked into it but could not find any information about a Village run program. Mr. Jansen did share issues with the unlimited garbage days in other communities; Co-Chair Lennon suggested inquiring with LRS what constraints they've put on other community collection-days.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kadlec made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Lennon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, and
Commissioner Beckman

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary



Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

400 Park Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2026
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works
Subj: Quarterly Charging Station and Electric Vehicle Report

The below and attached report provides the following Charging and Electric Vehicle Metrics for Quarter 3: July through September 2026:

- EVs and hybrid vehicles registered within the Village
- EV charging station installation permits during the reporting quarter
- Usage data for the Village-owned EVCS, including:
 - o Number of charging sessions
 - o Number of unique users
 - o Energy used (in Kilowatt Hours)

Projects to install 5 additional Level 2 Charging Stations and 4 Direct Current Fast Charging stations were completed at the beginning and end of February, respectively. Because the fast chargers are capable of charging vehicles at a faster rate, and because the Village has shifted pricing structure, charging length is no longer a strong indicator for station usage, so this metric is no longer be tracked unless requested by the Commission. Instead, total kilowatt hours of energy usage will be tracked and reported.

River Forest Vehicle Registration

	12/25	3/26	6/26	9/26
Electric Vehicles	367	375	392	407
Hybrid Vehicles	795	839	863	897

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation Permits - By Quarter

Q2 - 25	3
Q3 - 25	3
Q4 - 25	2
Q1 - 26	12
Q2 - 26	2
Q3 - 26	2

Quarterly Metrics

Quarter	Sessions	Unique Drivers	Kilowatt Hours
Q2 - 2025	730	89	9,619
Q3 - 2025	866	78	12,585
Q4 - 2025	397	78	12,423
Q1 - 2026	493	115	14,764
Q2 - 2026	1235	179	33,829
Q3 - 2026	1542	172	49,748

Monthly Metrics

Month	Sessions	Unique Drivers	Kilowatt Hours
April	221	51	2,889
May	262	43	3,489
June	247	54	3,242
July	303	48	4,286
August	321	44	4,606
September	242	46	3,693
October	146	43	4,046
November	132	38	4,054
December	119	32	4,323
January	111	34	4,140
February	108	47	3,154
March	274	64	7,470
April	298	70	7,882
May	465	100	13,016
June	472	94	12,931
July	477	100	14,662
August	561	106	18,191
September	504	99	16,865

Attachment:

- Energy Usage by Station – Q3 2026

Energy Custom

