VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 10, 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, November 10, 2026.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2026
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2026
5. Commissioner Updates
    a. Bird City Illinois/Wild Things Conference
    b. Energy Matrix
6. LRS Discussion
7. Communications and Staff Reports
    a. Quarterly Waste Report
    b. Sustainability Guides
    c. Communications
    d. Village Project Updates
        i. Public Works Garage Solar Panels
        ii. Village Hall Permeable Pavers
8. Schedule Next Meeting – December 8, 2026
9. 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), Commissioner Kadlec, Commissioner Beckmann, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider
Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansenb

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 Beckmann
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 Beckmann 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 Beckmann 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 Beckmann 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, Commissioner Kadlec, and Commissioner Beckmann
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider
Motion Passes.

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

Mr. Jansen introduced the next item stating that Commissioner Schaider 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 Beckmann 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 matric 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 Beckmann's initial questions regarding cart options within the existing contract and provided history of the Village's waste hauling contract. Commissioner Beckmann 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 Beckmann 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 Beckmann 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 Beckmann 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, Commissioner Kadlec, and Commissioner Beckmann
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioners Hoyt and Schaider
Motion Passes.

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Seth Jansen, Secretary

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, October 13, 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 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chairs Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, Beckmann, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Commissioner Schaider
Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Charrette indicated the minutes did not accurately reflect her comments made at the previous meeting. Mr. Jansen requested that she send suggested edits. The Commission agreed to postpone approval of the September 8 meeting minutes until the November Commission meeting.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Lennon shared information on an event at Thatcher Woods regarding the impact of the proposed O'Hare Flyer train line on the Forest Preserve. Commissioner Hoyt expressed concern on the proposed trains' impact on the wildlife and habitats within Thatcher Woods. The Commission discussed the O'Hare Flyer project generally.

Commissioner Hoyt discussed Migratory Bird Day, peak October bird migration, and bird window collisions. Commissioner Hoyt shared window film that is used to prevent window collisions and indicated he would share the link for the product. Co-Chair Lennon suggested expanding on the Bird City webpage on the Village website to share these kinds of products and practices. The Commission agreed to incorporate the information into ongoing Commission communications.

Co-Chair Charrette discussed the Forest Preserve's previous use of Styrofoam takeout containers, the potential applicability of the Village ordinance the Forest Preserve as a part of county government, and the Forest Preserve's decision to voluntarily adhere to the ordinance.

Commissioner Kadlec shared information on the upcoming Village of Franklin Park Bee Board and Tree Board event as an opportunity to meet sustainability leaders in neighboring communities.

5. RIVER FOREST MILKWEEK MAP

Commissioner Kadlec shared the map noting the milkweed locations throughout the Village, as identified by Roosevelt Middle School students in September. Commissioner Kadlec noted there are 40 total observations, including public locations the Commission was already ware of but also some backyards that are not publicly visible. Commissioner Kadlec noted the milkweed species, plant stage, and condition of the plants were noted in many instances. The Commission discussed the project, location coordinates entry errors, plans for the project to continue with future classes each year, and ways to share the information and expand the project to the general public.

6. NIGHTHAWK MONITORING PROJECT

Commissioner Hoyt is waiting to hear back from the Wild Things Conference if the project submission was accepted. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would wait until he hears before taking any further action on further developing it in further detail on how the study can lay the grounds for future conservation action. Commissioner Hoyt explained that he has been in contact with D90 and is requesting that D90, in their reroofing project, solicit bids from gravel roof contractors along with other roofing contractors to at least get a cost comparison. Commissioner Hoyt indicated meeting the Sustainability Coordinator for the Village of Oak Park and stated Oak Park was beginning to develop a bird safe building ordinance. Commissioner Hoyt suggested further partnership with Oak Park as part of the nighthawk study going forward and suggested exploring other ways to expand the nighthawk study in the lead up to next spring's Migratory Bird Day. The Commission discussed Oak Park's and Chicago's proposed bird safe building ordinances and bird safe building materials generally.

7. SUSTAINABILITY GUIDES

Mr. Jansen introduced the google doc he had created and shared with the Commission to allow for Commissioners to make edits and additions to the proposed Energy Matrix and Green Building Guides. The Commission discussed aspects of the energy matrix and Commissioner Beckmann shared his draft proposals for the energy matrix. Mr. Jansen indicated he would share Commissioner Beckmann's pdf drafts with the Commission, and Commissioner Beckmann indicated he could share it as a spreadsheet with track changes. The Commission discussed the Village's electric aggregation program. Mr. Jansen further outlined the Green Building Guide drafts and solicited Commissioner edits to the drafts. Mr. Jansen indicated the intention to have the guides as permanent resources on the Village website and to periodically promote them throughout the newsletter and social media. Commissioner Hoyt suggested a guide for native landscaping as well; Co-Chair Charrette suggested edits to the existing induction stove guide, as an example, to provide less expensive options.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen summarized the quarterly electric vehicle report in the agenda packet and answered questions from the Commissioners regarding the EV charging information. The Commissioners discussed the varied usage by charging stations and ways to address the usage rate at the Metra parking lot. The Commission discussed the fees for EV charging and expressed intention to review the fee structure. The Commission discussed capabilities of the ChargePoint platform and the previously proposed charging stations at the Village lot on North Ave.

Mr. Jansen outlined upcoming planned communications. The commission agreed to have preliminary bird window collision information in a newsletter and social media post in November. The Commission discussed use of the community aggregation funds for purchase of bird-safe window film, potentially in a highly visible location like the Roosevelt Middle School gymnasium windows. Mr. Jansen summarized the ongoing sustainability-related projects throughout the Village and answered questions from the Commissioners regarding the projects.

Co-Chair Lennon stated that the Commission will discuss the Village's waste contract with LRS at the next meeting, stating the framework for the Commission's discussion will be ways to increase recycling, compost, and reuse. Co-Chair Lennon asked Commissioners to begin thinking about specific items that could be recommended to the Board in order to be incorporated into the contract to achieve those objectives. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested a community survey to gather general feedback from the community on potential gaps in recycling and reuse needs. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested developing information to encourage less consumption as an effective way to help reduce waste.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Beckmann made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Lennon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt and Beckmann
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Schaider
Motion Passes.

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Seth Jansen, Secretary

River Forest Sustainability Commission

(Organize to Reduce Trash Waste Draft Outline/Gary Lennon thoughts)

Immediate actions (for input to LRS April '27 contract extension):

1. **Identify practical ways to divert waste** from the landfill that LRS can help with. Build into the upcoming contract (need by our Feb '27 meeting).
    - **Increase LRS recycling**
        i. More regular (monthly, quarterly?) pickup and increase item acceptance
            - ✓ electronics?
            - ✓ plastics (polystyrene, toys, etc)?
            - ✓ small appliances and tools (vacuums, lawn equipment, drills, etc)?
            - ✓ large bulky household items now multi-stickered
            - ✓ Clothing/fabrics
            - ✓
    - **Increase LRS composting**
        i. Regular standard service for all covered by LRS contract?
            - ✓ Opt out?
            - ✓
    - **Increase reuse** (need LRS or other service?)
        - ✓ Community yard sales?
        - ✓ Community swap day?
        - ✓ Community pick-up/drop-off?
        - ✓
2. **Community survey** for input; short, easy-to-access, complete, and analyze

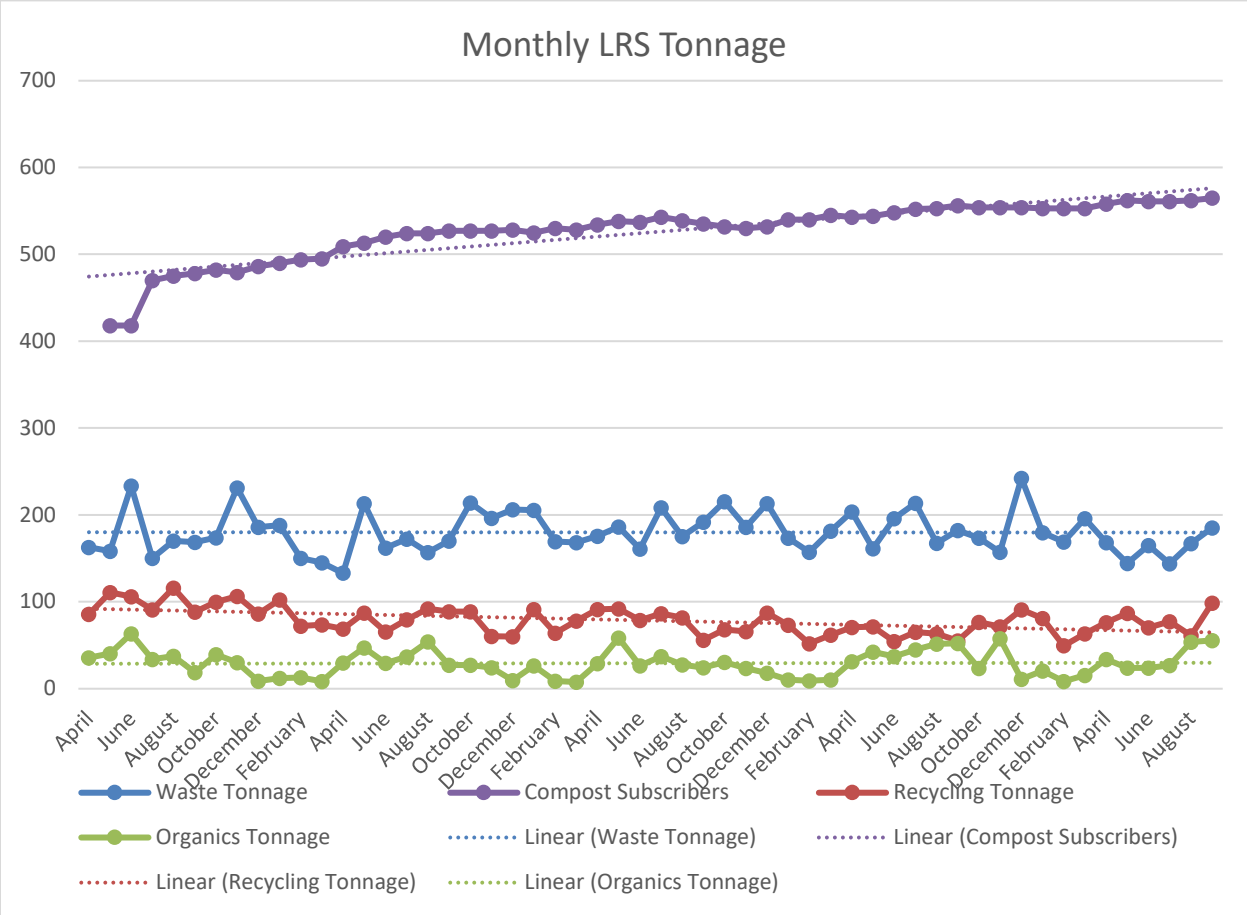
Longer-term actions:

1. **Ways to eliminate waste** (reduce consumption)
    - ✓ Promote?
    - ✓ Educate?
    - ✓

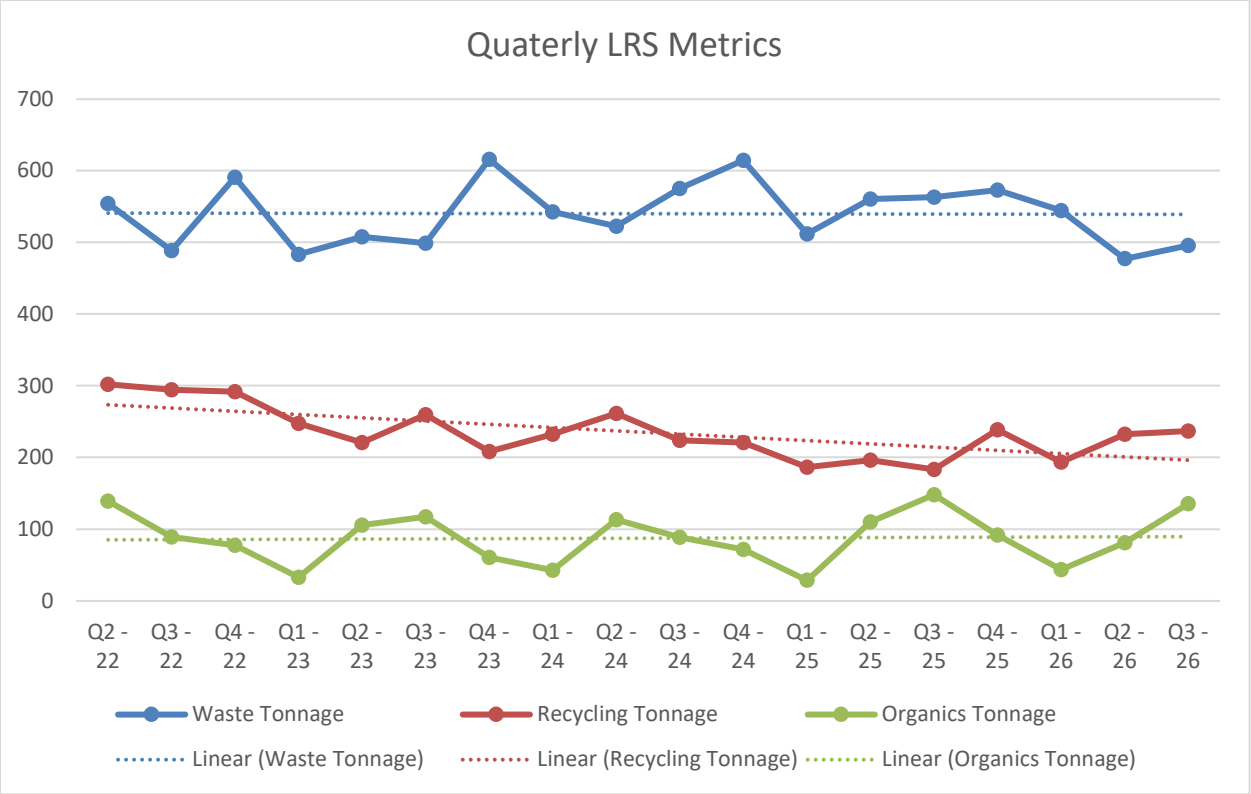
Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

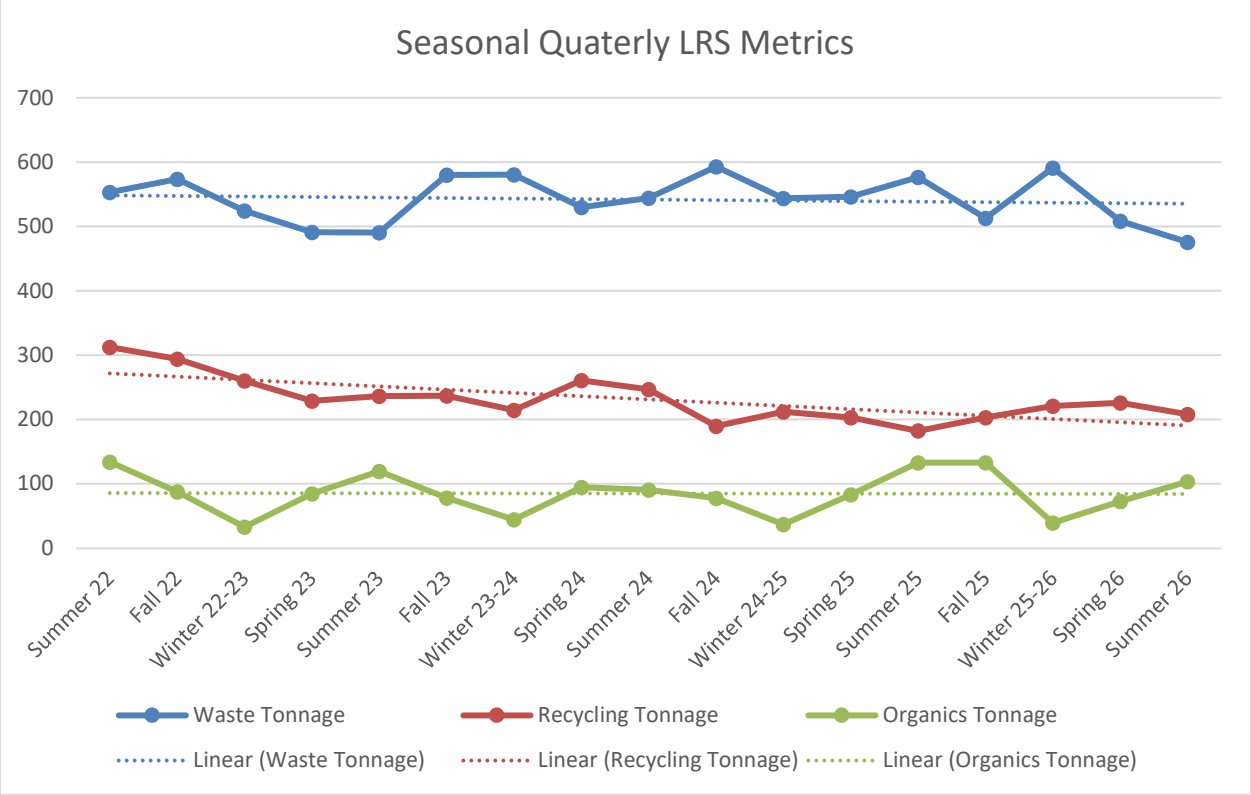
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2026
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works
Subj: Quarterly Waste Tonnage Report



The above includes monthly data from April 2022 to September 2026. The graph illustrates the monthly changes in Waste, Recycling, and Organics in Tons, along with linear trendlines. The graph also includes the total number of compost subscribers by month along with a linear trendline. The graphs on page two illustrate the Quarterly (Jan-Mar; Apr-Jun; Jul-Sept; Oct-Dec) and Seasonal (Spring: Mar-May; Summer: Jun-Aug; Fall: Sept-Nov; Winter: Dec-Feb) tonnage totals for the same time frame, also including linear trendlines.





Attachment: LRS Monthly Report, September 2026

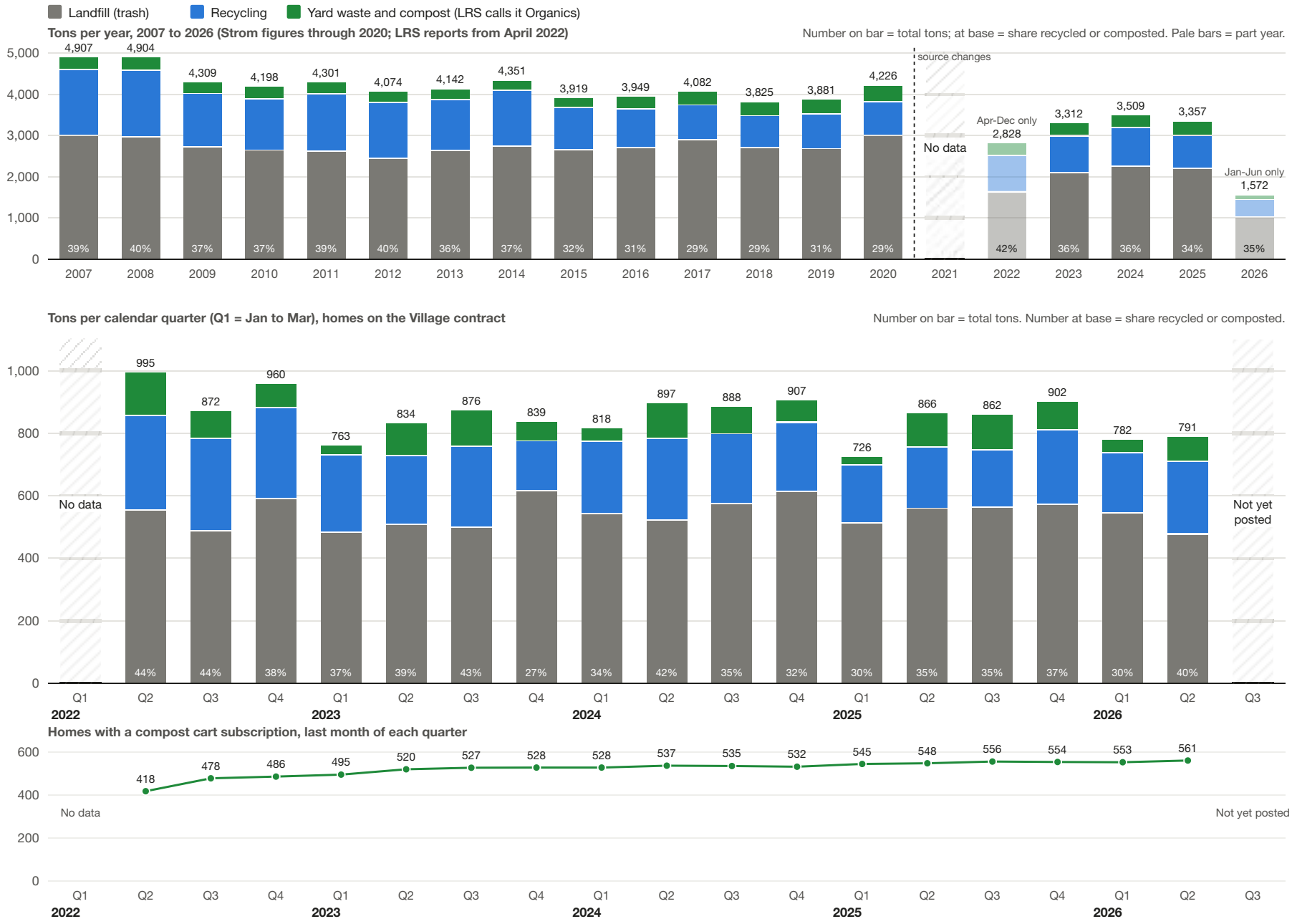
VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

Collection Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD TOTAL	AVG/MTH
Active Customers	2733	2733	2735	2735	2734	2735	2742	2741	2741				24629.00	2736
Compost Subscribers	553	553	553	558	562	561	561	562	565				5,028.00	559
Recycling Tons	80.85	49.35	63.12	75.99	86.54	69.93	77.28	60.98	98.39				662.43	73.60
Recycling lbs	161700	98700	126240	151980	173080	139860	154560	121960	196780				1324860	147206
2026 Recy lbs/Cust	59.17	36.11	46.16	55.57	63.31	51.14	56.37	44.49	71.79				484.10	53.79
Organics Tons	20.43	8.09	15.21	33.67	23.81	23.57	26.47	53.49	55.49				260.23	28.91
Organics lbs	40860	16180	30420	67340	47620	47140	52940	106980	110980				520460	57828
2026 Organics lbs/Cust	14.95	5.92	11.12	24.62	17.42	17.24	19.31	39.03	40.49				190.09	21.12
2026 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	36.05%	25.37%	28.57%	39.47%	43.34%	36.20%	41.91%	40.67%	45.42%				337.00%	37.44%
Trash Tons	179.68	168.99	195.81	168.19	144.28	164.77	143.79	166.99	184.93				1,517.43	168.60
Trash lbs	359360	337980	391620	336380	288560	329540	287580	333980	369860				3034860	337207
2026 Trash lbs/Cust	131.49	123.67	143.19	122.99	105.54	120.49	104.88	121.85	134.94				1,109.03	123.23
Total Tons	280.96	226.43	274.14	277.85	254.63	258.27	247.54	281.46	338.81				2,440.09	271.12
Total lbs	561920	452860	548280	555700	509260	516540	495080	562920	677620				4880180	542242
2026 Total lbs/Cust	205.61	165.70	200.47	203.18	186.27	188.86	180.55	205.37	247.22				1,783.23	198.14
2026 White Goods Count	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**				**7**	0.77
2026 Stickers Sold	**1,500**	**0**	**2,000**	**4,500**	**2,000**	**3,500**	**3,500**	**4,000**	**1,000**				**22,000**	2,444
2026 E-WASTE Event Tons	**0**	**0**	**1.28**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1.29**				**2.57**	0.28
2026 E-Waste Participation	**35**	**0**	**35**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**90**				**160**	17.77
2026 HHW Event Tons	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0845**	**0**	**0**	**0**				**0.0845**	0.0093

Yard Waste Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)
Recycling Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153), LRS HEARTLAND RECYCLING (6201 W. Canal Bank Road - Forest View, IL 60402)
RECYCLING PURCHASED BY	RESOURCED TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC BUYERS
Trash Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)

Waste collected from River Forest homes, 2007 to June 2026

Landfill, recycling and compost tons by year, then by quarter from April 2022, with the number of homes subscribed to compost



Waste collected from River Forest homes: notes and sources

What is missing. Quarterly figures start in April 2022, the first month in LRS's monthly reports to the Sustainability Commission. Village staff described the data for January 2021 through March 2022 as missing (Aug 2024) and not able to be located (Nov 2025). Shares on part-year bars (2022, 2026) are not comparable to full years, because recycling and compost vary by season. Before 2021 the hauler's figures shown here are yearly; staff also wrote that monthly figures exist, with gaps, back to 2015, but they are not in the Commission packets. LRS's July to September 2026 report was not yet posted when these charts were made (Nov 4, 2026). Compost cart counts before 2022 are yearly (staff chart, Nov 2025): 2015 165, 2016 196, 2017 233, 2018 274, 2019 300, 2020 354; the staff chart has no 2021 figure. Other published counts differ a little (for example 256 in the 2018 PlanItGreen report card), likely because they were taken at other times of year.

Reading across the break. The yearly figures through 2020 come from Strom's records and those from 2022 from LRS's reports. Both contracts cover the same kind of home (single-family and buildings of up to 3 units: the 2015 Strom contract as described in the Nov 22, 2021 Board packet, and the 2022 LRS contract), but neither tonnage source says exactly what it counts, so the step down in landfill tons between 2020 and 2023 should not be read as a change in what homes threw away. The PlanItGreen report cards give somewhat different totals for some years (for example 4,404 tons in 2012, against 4,074 here; PlanItGreen is the joint Oak Park-River Forest sustainability plan). Q4 2023 recycling (160 tons) is well below other quarters; it is shown as LRS reported it, with no reason given.

Households. LRS counted 2,735 active customers in June 2026, so the 561 compost subscribers were about 21% of them (about 19% of the 2,960 households the Village budget names; that budget figure has not changed since FY2015). LRS's own count dropped from 2,902 in December 2024 to 2,732 in January 2025, with no reason given in the reports.

Sources. 2007 to 2020: the Village's 2021 greenhouse gas inventory workbook (Summary Waste tab), hauler data from Roy Strom; fall leaves, listed separately from 2017, are left out, as in the LRS reports. From April 2022: LRS monthly reports attached to Sustainability Commission packets of Feb 21, 2023; Feb 13, 2024; Feb 11, 2025; Feb 10, 2026; and Aug 11, 2026 (the newest report for each year). Quarters are sums of months, and each category matches the report's own year-to-date total. Totals are the sum of the three categories, because LRS's 'Total Tons' row did not match its categories in the 2024 and 2025 reports. Totals may differ by 1 ton from rounding. LRS renamed its rows in 2024 (Waste to Trash; YW and Compost to Organics). Event e-waste and household hazardous waste (a few tons a year) are not included.