



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 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 14, 2023.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2023
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Working Group Reports
 - a. Sustainability Goals Stakeholder Outreach
6. Electric Vehicle Readiness Cohort Update
7. Communications
8. Other Business
 - a. LRS Meeting Request
 - b. Village Hall Charging Station Update
 - c. Nicor Information
9. Schedule Next Meeting – December 12, 2023
10. Adjournment

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

Monthly Reporting



SERVICES

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	
# COMPOST SUBSCRIBERS	490	494	495	509	513	520	524	524	527				
# OF STICKERS SOLD	0	1,500	500	1,000	5,000	4,500	2000	3500	0				

COLLECTION STATS

	Jan-23*	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	YTD totals
Waste Tons	187.97	150.05	145.06	133.06	213.04	161.76	172.02	156.76	170.06				1489.78
Recycling Tons	102.1	71.95	73.35	68.45	87.11	65.37	79.19	91.95	88.42				727.89
YW and Compost Tons	12	12.54	8.25	29.64	46.7	29.18	36.57	53.82	27.02				255.72
E-waste Event Tons	NA	NA	2.19	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.80	NA	NA	NA	
HHW Event Tons	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.07	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	
Total Tons	302.07	234.54	226.66	231.15	346.85	256.31	287.78	302.53	285.5	0	0	0	2473.39

Processing Facilities	Name & Location
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
RECYCLING PURCHASED BY	RESOURCED TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC BUYERS
Trash Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)



Assure Station Metrics Monthly Reporting

Village of River Forest IL - Monthly Report - September 2023

Company Id
153681

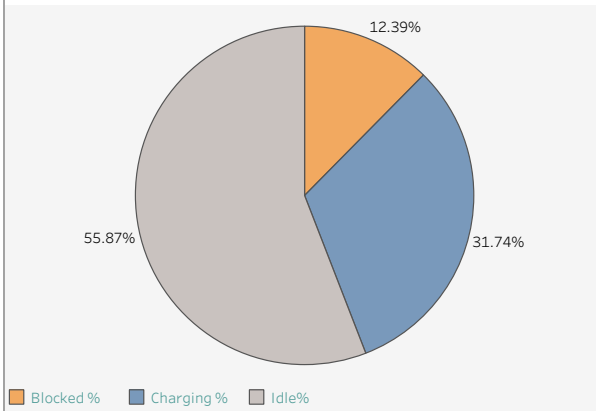
Port Level
All

Organization Name
All

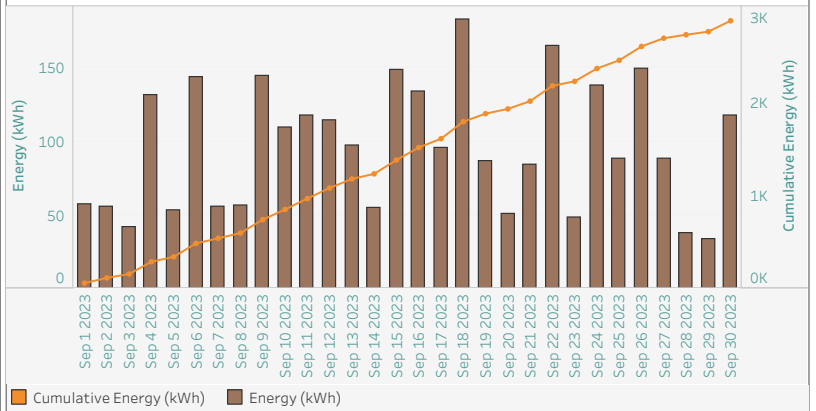
Month End Date
9/30/2023

Port Count	Station Count	Total Revenue (\$)	Energy (kWh)	GHG Savings (kg)	Gasoline Saved (Gal)	Unique Driver	Session Count
2	1	0	2,879	1,209	361	31	151

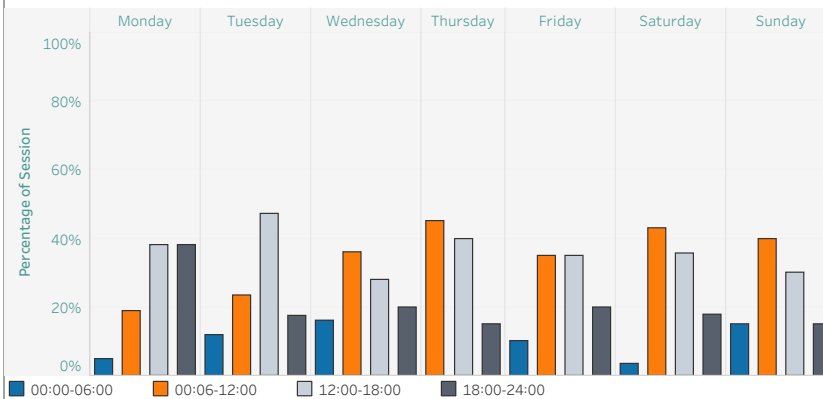
Port Utilization: 24 Hours



Energy Dispensed (kWh) by Day



Session Starts by Time of Day Month



Average Session Duration (Hours)

4.21

Average Session Charge Time (Hours)

3.03

Average Session Energy (kWh)

19.07

Average Session Revenue (\$)

0.00

Occupied Hours

635.4

Charging Hours

457.0

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 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 7:01 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Drury, Veazie, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt.

Absent: Commissioner Lennon

Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Jansen noted minutes changes suggested by Commissioner Lennon, concerning typos. Commissioner Charrette suggested additional changes regarding the name of a business named in the September meeting. Chairperson Charrette made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Veazie to approve the meeting minutes as amended from September 12, 2023.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Drury, Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Lennon

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Chairperson Simon began by recognizing Commissioner Cheng's time on the Commission and announcing that Commissioner Cheng would be stepping down by the end of the year. Commissioner Cheng discussed much of the work the Commission had achieved and recognized the present and past commissioners with whom she had worked.

Student Commissioner Stierwalt indicated he had reached out to the Roosevelt student who received honorable mention at the One Earth Film Festival but had not received a response back.

Commissioner Charrette provided an update from the most recent PlanIt Green meeting, noting a solar panel project occurring at Trinity High School and the electrification requirements for new buildings in Oak Park. She also spoke with David Hoyt from the Roosevelt Middle School Green4Good. Green4Good was wanting to see if the Village could host a Styrofoam recycling event in January. Green4Good is also hosting the annual pumpkin Smash at Roosevelt on November 4th, and they will be having a plant sale in the spring. Commissioner Charrette said they also discussed having a film festival for the Roosevelt Student awardees and submissions to the One Earth Film Festival. Green4Good will also begin tracking carbon absorption at the garden at Roosevelt. Commissioner Charrette also attended an electrification event sponsored by Oak Park Sustainability that was targeted toward building owners; but suggested the Village and Commission could help promote the various ComEd rebate programs and get the information out.

Commissioner Veazie noted that Commissioner Lennon had met with Mr. Jansen, and Mr. Jansen indicated he still needs to provide the renewable energy working group with some information.

Commissioner Drury noted that her son spoke with a member of the Park District Board and raised the topic of more recycling containers at the parks.

5. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Resident Volunteer Louise Mezzatesta has been working with Commissioner Charrette on the Electrification working group. She presented a detailed outline of the benefits and drawbacks of heat pumps. She advocated that the Commission use its role to educate residents about heat pumps. She suggested the Village look into a potential local incentive program. A heat pump can be used to fully replace an air conditioning and partially replace furnace usage. A heat pump can be used to fully replace the furnace when coupled with space heaters and mini splits. Ms. Mezzatesta suggested an advertising campaign to highlight the various options for heat pumps. Switching to heat pumps can be a strong first step to total electrification, reduce natural gas consumption, and, because of their efficiency, can reduce overall energy consumption. Ms. Mezzatesta noted the importance of working with a contractor who is familiar with heat pumps and that those experienced with heat pump installation can also assist with the various tax credits and rebates. Ms. Mezzatesta stated that even a nominal heat pump rebate would allow the Village to collect statistics on who is installing a heat pump. She noted the biggest drawback would be the cost to the Village and also noted issues with finding experienced HVAC contractors and navigating the paperwork for the rebates.

Chairperson Simon shared his experience with heat pumps, noting the efficiency, the cost, and the reduced size and noise of his furnace. The Commission discussed the usage of heat pumps locally, and the availability of experienced contractors. Commissioner Cheng suggested start by immediately getting the word out in the newsletter to raise awareness among residents. The Commission discussed how to encourage HVAC contractors to perform such work and any potential partnerships with Triton College, if they have a training program.

Mr. Jansen provided a brief update on his meeting with Commissioner Lennon regarding the focus of the Renewable Energy working group.

For the Waste working group, Commissioner Cheng noted the provision in the contract with LRS regarding annual meetings with the Commission concerning the composting program and requested that they be invited to a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Cheng mentioned wanting to see how the Village compares to other villages and how we could increase participation in the compost program. She noted it would be helpful for the Commission to know what the barriers are from LRS's perspective. Chairperson Simon discussed having questions ready for the in advance. Commissioner Charrette requested looking into how the Village could adopt a cost splitting program for the Village composting program, similar to Oak Park. Commissioner Veazie also stated he would be interested in visiting an LRS recycling plant.

Commissioner Drury inquired as to whether there was a cheat sheet for what can and cannot be recycled and potentially resharing that information to raise awareness. Mr. Jansen noted there are available infographics for both what can be recycled and what can be composted. Commissioner Charrette suggested adding it to the newsletter and having printed copies in the lobby at Village Hall. Student Commissioner Stierwalt also suggested linking to the LRS website with any communications, as he found it extremely helpful and easy to follow.

6. ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS COHORT UPDATE

Mr. Jansen provided an outline of the draft website and solicited input from the Commission on changes. Commissioner Cheng suggested specifically citing that the carbon data as being from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning. The Commission discussed the provision promoting EV installers be registered with the Illinois Commerce Commission and its potential effect in limiting the pool of installers. Commissioner Veazie noted that Level 1 chargers utilize the same outlet as household clothes dryers. Commissioner Charrette had suggested outreach to contractors who perform work and encouraging them to become registered. Commissioner Cheng suggested renaming "Consumer Resources" as "Thinking about Buying or Leasing an EV?" and moving it more toward the top near, after the introductory benefits of EV section. The Commission further discussed the outline of the website and how to present the information most effectively to residents and consumers.

Chairperson Simon inquired about establishing a time limit for charging at the current charging station at Village Hall, noting that most cars he's observed are fully charged and have been parked for hours. The Commission discussed the potential implementation of such a program.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen outlined recent newsletter topics and solicited input for upcoming newsletters. The Commission agreed to utilize the information Ms. Mezzatesta had compiled on heat pumps for the November Monthly newsletter. The commission suggested sharing the recycling and composting infographics as part of a weekly newsletter. Commissioner

Charrette suggested a weekly newsletter on the state bring your own container law as a weekly in December and combining it with information about the Refilleri in Humboldt Park for the January monthly. Mr. Jansen did note that the annual holiday lights program has been set for this year and information on that would be included in the weekly the weekend of Thanksgiving. Student Commissioner Stierwalt volunteered to write a weekly newsletter on recycling and donating coats.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen briefly provided a brief overview of the number of rooftop solar permits issued by the Village. Commissioner Charrette asked about the amount of electricity generated by each rooftop solar installation and inquired about updated numbers; Chairperson Simon shared the previous information last updated in 2020.

Mr. Jansen shared information regarding the Village electric aggregation program and the enrollment information he received back from MC2. Mr. Jansen also indicated he would share the 2022 Renewable Energy Credit report. The Commission discussed how the program works and how MC2 chooses accounts to enroll.

Commissioner Charrette again noted the state bring your own container law and a copy of the law included in the Commission Packet.

Mr. Jansen inquired with the Commission about hosting a C4 community engagement meeting. He noted similar meetings had been hosted in other C4 communities, with relatively strong turnout. The Commission inquired about what it all would consist of and how it would be structured. Mr. Jansen indicated he would get more information on how other events have been run and provide that information.

Commissioner Charrette plugged the date and time of this year's annual PlanIt Green Leadership Forum, specifically noting the afternoon time to accommodate attendance of high school students at the forum.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Simon to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Drury, Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Lennon

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Development Services

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2023

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: Electric Vehicle Readiness Cohort

In the summer of 2023, the Village of River Forest began participating in the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Electric Vehicle ("EV") Readiness Program to prepare to meet the growing demand for EVs and EV charging infrastructure. The EV Readiness cohort follows a pathway toward EV Ready Bronze, Silver or Gold by completing a number of actions presented in the EV Readiness Checklist. With guidance and resources assembled by the Caucus' EV Readiness Team, municipal leaders develop clear permitting for EV charging infrastructure, analyze zoning and parking codes to address barriers to EV infrastructure, engage the community, and participate in technical and safety training for staff. This memo provides updates of the most recent month's meeting topics and seeks the Sustainability Commissions feedback on the topics covered.

The Cohort held two meetings on the topic of zoning regulations on September 27th and October 11th. cohort meeting was the first of two meetings covering zoning regulations relating to EV charging stations. While the Village Code currently contains no specific language referencing electric vehicles (EVs) or electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS), assessment using forms provided by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) to cohort members identified several changes to incorporate EV charging-specific items into the zoning code. Outlined below are the specific items, by which designation level for which they are required, and the action the Village would need to take to achieve the points for that item.

Two zoning changes are required in order for the Village to receive Bronze designation. The item concerning accessory use states "When EV charging is not the primary use of the site, classify the EV charging station as an accessory use." This could be achieved by amending the Accessory Uses section of the Land Use Chart to offer greater clarity as to which zones public EVCS would be allowed. The other item, concerning parking minimums, states "Where minimum parking requirements exist, flex the number of required parking spaces to accommodate Level 2 and DCFC EVCS". Because different parking minimums are established in four separate sections of the Code and because other sections reference back to those sections, it would be most beneficial to develop a new section in the Exceptions and Modifications chapter of the Zoning title, in order to have a uniform level of flexibility in parking counts in order to accommodate the installation of EVCS.

Seven additional actions are required in order to receive Silver designation. Defining transportation electrification technologies (EVs, EVCSs) can be achieved by adding the MMC-provided definitions to the definitions section of the zoning code. Establishing new regulations for content and appearance of advertising on EVCSs would require an amendment to the Sign Regulations chapter. Similarly, establishing new regulations for whether and under what conditions EV charging stations are allowed in the right of way would require an amendment adding a new section on EVCSs in the public right of way to the chapter on Standards for Construction of Facilities on the Public Right-Of-Way. Silver designation also requires communities to “establish zoning regulations to facilitate EVCS installation, assuring it no more difficult to site EVCS than any other equipment or use, and clearly communicate rules” and “establish regulations for the appearance of public EVCSs”. This can be achieved by amending the Zoning Regulations of General Applicability Chapter to add a section on EVCS installation which includes appearance of public EVCS and establishes standards consistent with that of installation of other equipment. Lastly communities are required to “clearly and concisely communicate EVCS zoning regulations to the public”, which can be achieved through utilization of Village newsletters and the new EV Readiness landing page on the Village website.

Further, one item needed for gold designation requires a zoning change. The Parking Site Design requires participating cohorts seeking gold designation to “Design parking rules to safely and equitably allow access, while matching charging type, physical space, land use, occupancy type, and type of parking.” The existing language on Off Street Parking Dimension Regulations within the chapter on Zoning Regulations of General Applicability would need to be amended to incorporate specific rules relating to EVCS.

Lastly, several other items can be incorporated to achieve additional points. These are not required to achieve any designation level, and Village staff believe actions already taken by the Village have achieved the bonus points necessary to advance to each designation level once the required items are achieved. These items include establishing primary-use zoning as new classification to allow for retail EV charging facilities, updating zoning code to allow for primary-use sites in most or all districts, adapting the number of required parking spaces for parking areas with EV car sharing, and integrating ADA requirements to allow both disabled and non-disabled patrons to equitably access EV charging spaces. (currently extra points until federal and state guidance becomes available). The ADA requirements can be into Accessible Parking section of Village Code. The primary use zoning would an amendment to the Retail Trade section of the Land Use Chart. Given the incentives to install EVCSs at existing parking facilities; it is unclear the market for primary use commercial charging facilities at this time. The car sharing provision does not impact the Village, as there are no car sharing businesses or regulations in the current village code; this would require the Village to fully adopt regulations of car sharing businesses.

Further Cohort meetings were held on October 18th, on permitting, and November 8th, on new construction. The substance of these meetings requires further staff analysis and will be presented at a future commission meeting.

Attachments:

Zoning Assessment Spreadsheet

Zoning Elements And Actions

Bronze Actions

Accessory Use - When EV charging is not the primary use of the site, **ZP-2A**
classify the EV charging station as an **accessory use**.

Parking minimum - Where minimum parking requirements exist, flex **ZP-4**
the number of required parking spaces to accommodate Level 2 and
DCFC EVCS. (Conditional Points)

Silver Actions

Definitions - Define transportation electrification technologies (EVs, **ZP-3A**
EVCSs) to be considered.

Advertising - Establish new or articulate existing regulations for **ZP-3D**
content and appearance of advertising on EVSEs.

Right of Way Use - Establish new or articulate existing regulations for **ZP-3E**
whether and under what conditions EV charging stations are allowed
in the right of way.

Appearance - Establish new or articulate existing regulations for the **ZP-3F**
appearance of public EVCSs.

Zoning Actions

Communicate zoning - Clearly and concisely communicate EVCS **ZP-3G**
zoning regulations to the public.

Establish zoning - Establish zoning regulations to facilitate EVCS **ZP-3B**
installation.

No more difficult to site than other equipment or use - Establish **ZP-3B**
zoning regulations to facilitate EVCS installation, assuring it no more
difficult to site EVCS than any other equipment or use, and clearly
communicate rules.

Gold Actions

Parking site design - Design parking rules to safely and equitably **PK-4**
allow access, while matching charging type, physical space, land use,
occupancy type, and type of parking.

Extra Points Only

Primary use (extra points) - When EV charging is the primary use of the site, establish new classification of retail EV charging facility or articulate suitable existing classification. ZP-2B

Primary use (extra points) - For EV charging stations that are the primary use of the site, update zoning code to allow these in most or all districts. ZP-3C

Car sharing (extra points) - Adapt the number of required parking spaces for parking areas with EV car sharing. ZP-4A

ADA - Integrate ADA requirements to allow both disabled and non-disabled patrons to equitably access EV charging spaces. (formerly bronze action, currently extra points until federal and state guidance available) PK-1B

Other Sections of the EV Readiness Checklist Related to Zoning
Various point levels (bronze, silver, gold, extra points) for actions in these sections

	NC
New Construction	
Parking and Access	PK
Wayfinding & signage	PK-6
Permitting	PI

What does our code currently say?**Where is it in code?**

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-21-3](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

10-11-8, 10-12-8, 10-15-8, 10-16-9

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-3-1](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[4-5](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[5-14](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-7](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

N/A

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-7](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-7](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging

[10-7-4](#)

Code does not specifically address EV charging	10-21-3
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	10-21-3
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	N/A
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	9-2-17
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	Various provisions
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	9-2-17
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	4-5
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Code does not specifically address EV charging	4-3
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How do we fix it

Points

Add EV Charging to the Accessory Uses section of the Land Use Chart in Appendix A

Amend 10-20 to create another universal exception flexing the number of required parking spaces in all relevant zoning districts

Add definitions to Definitions section
Would need to articulate some form of regulation within the Sign Code

Amend the Standards for Construction of Facilities on the Public Right-Of-Way Chapter to add a section on EVCSs in the public right of way
Amend the Zoning Regulations of General Applicability Chapter to add a section on public EVCS appearance

Utilize newsletter and EV landing page to inform residents

Amend the Zoning Regulations of General Applicability Chapter to add a section on EVCS installation

Amend the Zoning Regulations of General Applicability Chapter to add a section on EVCS installation and ensure installation of EVCS is no more difficult than any other use or equipment installation

Amend the Off Street Parking Dimensions Regulation to incorporate rules for EVCS

Add EV Charging to the Retail Trade section of the Land Use Chart in Appendix A or include as part of "motor fuel service station"

Add EV Charging to the Retail Trade section of the Land Use Chart in Appendix A and establish it as a permitted use in most or all zoning districts

Currently no car sharing provisions in Village code. Would need to fully develop regulations for such a use

Incorporate EVCS language into Accessible Parking section of Village Code

Various provisions in the Village Code concern new construction. Any such regulations would likely need to be addressed in the specific chapters Title 10 - Zoning and Title 4 - Building Regulations

Incorporate EVCS language into Accessible Parking section of Village Code

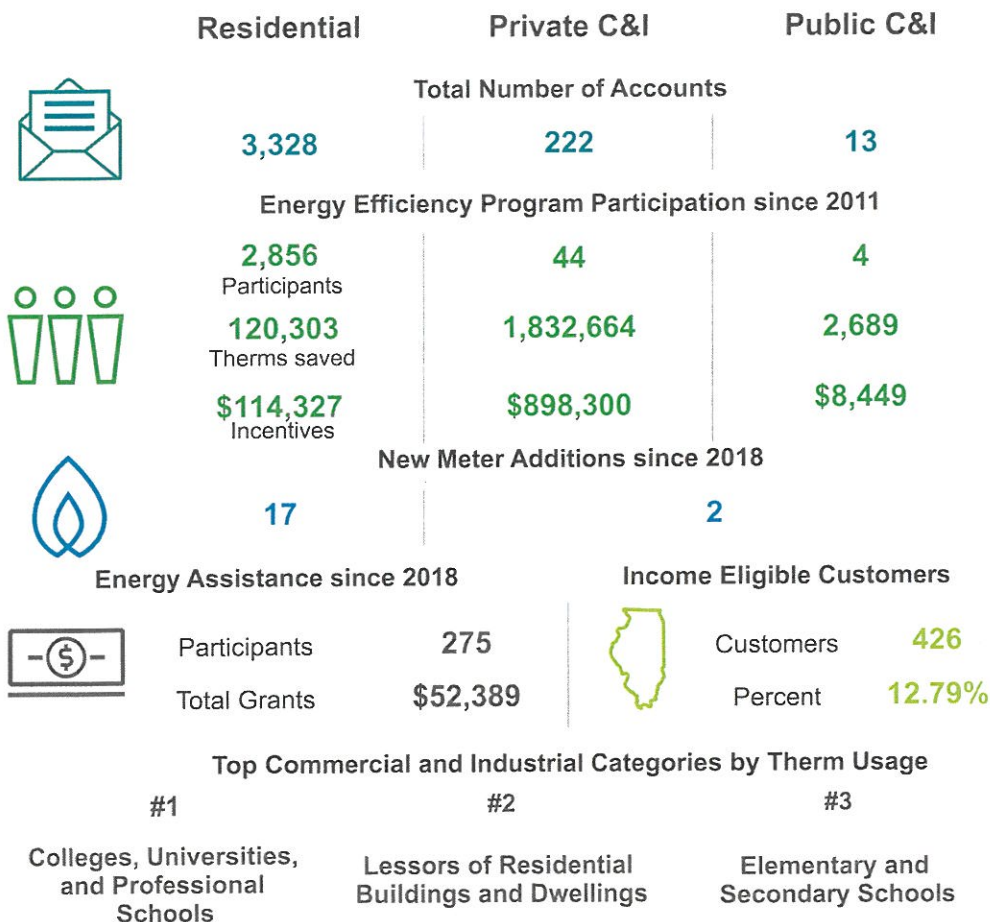
Amend Sign Code to articulate regulations on wayfinding and signage

Amend the Electrical Regulations Chapter for any items specifically needing reference to EVCS installation



Energy Efficiency Program

River Forest at-a-glance

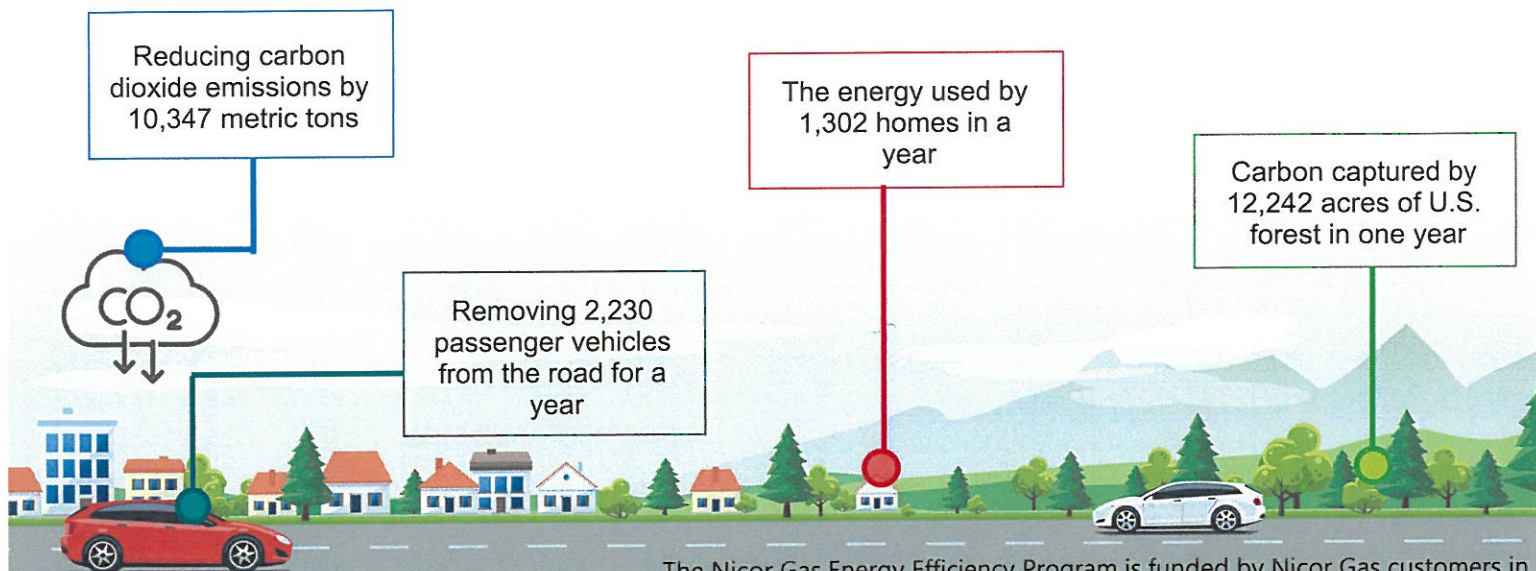


Since 2011, Nicor Gas has helped customers across residential, income eligible, multi-family, business and public sectors save more than 210 million therms and earn more than \$235 million in incentives.

The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program is anticipated to deliver a cumulative \$1.7 billion in new economic impact (direct, indirect and induced spending) and is forecasted to support 9,600 jobs through 2023.

Since 2018, Nicor Gas has installed 19 new meters in River Forest. Additionally, Nicor Gas has provided \$52,389 in energy assistance grants to 275 customers in River Forest.

The therm savings in River Forest are equivalent to:



*Carbon equivalencies from epa.gov

The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program is funded by Nicor Gas customers in compliance with state law.

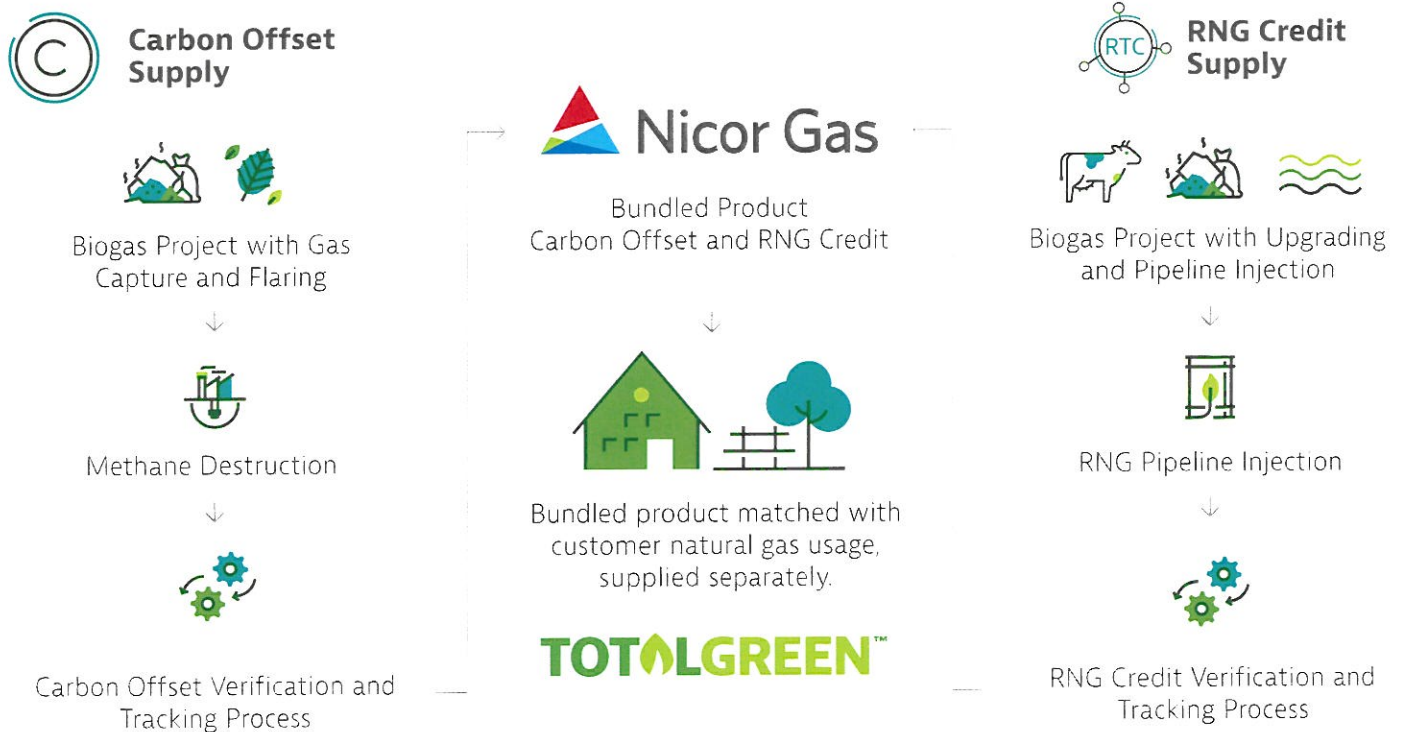
Live and work more sustainably with TotalGreen™



TotalGreen™ is our newest carbon footprint program that offers qualified customers **another way to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle**. It combines renewable natural gas (RNG) credits* with the purchase of carbon offsets to allow you to offset 100% of your amount of natural gas-based combustion emissions.

How it works:

Customers who choose to enroll will pay a per-therm premium on their bill each month. As a service offered by Nicor Gas to our customers, the company will procure carbon offsets and the environmental attributes from RNG projects on the participating customer's behalf.



The TotalGreen™ subscription options include:

- **TotalGreen™ Basic** - consists primarily of carbon offsets with low blends of RNG environmental attributes.
- **TotalGreen™ Premium** - delivers higher blends of RNG environmental attributes and supplements or offsets the remaining carbon emissions with carbon offsets.
- The TotalGreen™ program also makes it easy for commercial and industrial customers to make a **100% RNG purchase**.



To learn more, explore program details, and sign up, visit www.nicorgas.com/totalgreen.

*i.e., credits associated with the production of RNG, transferred to Nicor Gas in the form of Renewable Thermal Credits



Scan here to participate today!