



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 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, February 13, 2024.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024
4. Proposed EV Charging Station Overstay Fee Ordinance
5. Communications
 - a. Communications and Marketing Plan
6. Commissioner Updates
7. Working Group Reports
8. Other Business
 - a. UIC Planning Project
 - b. EV Readiness Cohort
9. Schedule Next Meeting – March 13, 2024
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 | 527 | 527 | 528 | |
| # OF STICKERS SOLD | 0 | 1,500 | 500 | 1,000 | 5,000 | 4,500 | 2,000 | 3,500 | 0 | 4,000 | 2,000 | 1,500 | |

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 | 213.75 | 196.05 | 206 | 2105.58 |
| Recycling Tons | 102.1 | 71.95 | 73.35 | 68.45 | 87.11 | 65.37 | 79.19 | 91.95 | 88.42 | 39.77 | 60.09 | 59.92 | 887.67 |
| YW and Compost Tons | 12 | 12.54 | 8.25 | 29.64 | 46.7 | 29.18 | 36.57 | 53.82 | 27.02 | 29.67 | 24.15 | 9.27 | 318.81 |
| E-waste Event Tons | NA | NA | 2.19 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1.80 | NA | NA | NA | |
| Total E-waste Participants | NA | NA | 34 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 40.00 | NA | NA | NA | |
| HHW Event Tons | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2.07 | NA | NA | NA | 0.31 | NA | NA | |
| Total HHW Participants | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 152.00 | NA | NA | NA | 120.00 | NA | NA | |
| Total Tons | 302.07 | 234.54 | 226.66 | 231.15 | 346.85 | 256.31 | 287.78 | 302.53 | 285.5 | 283.19 | 280.29 | 275.19 | 3312.06 |

| 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 - December 2023

Company Id
153681

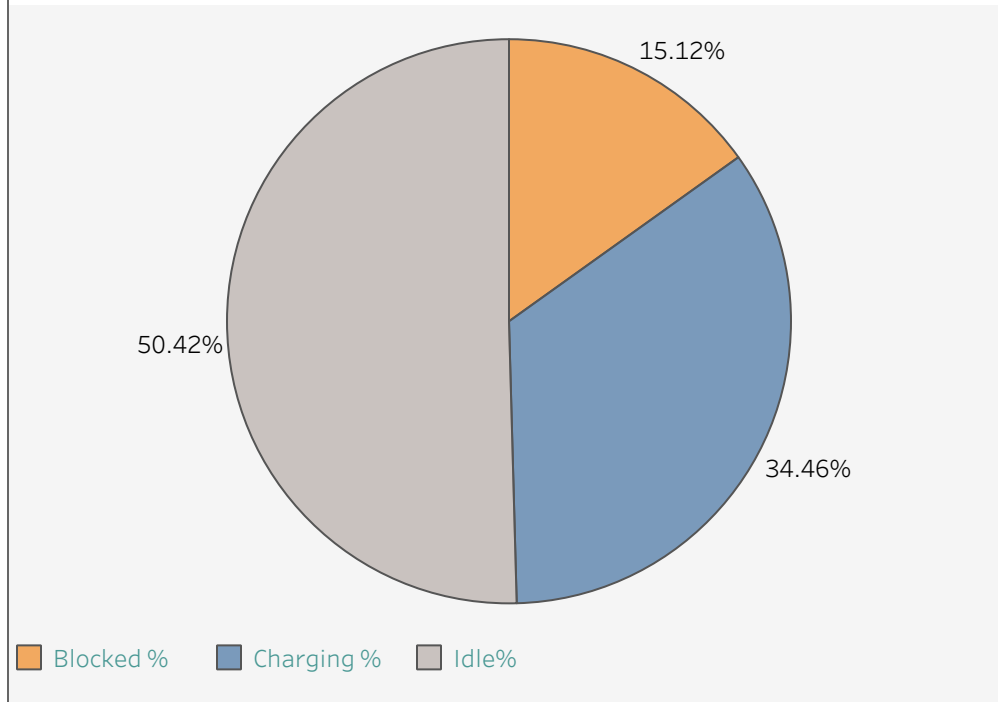
Port Level
All

Organization Name
All

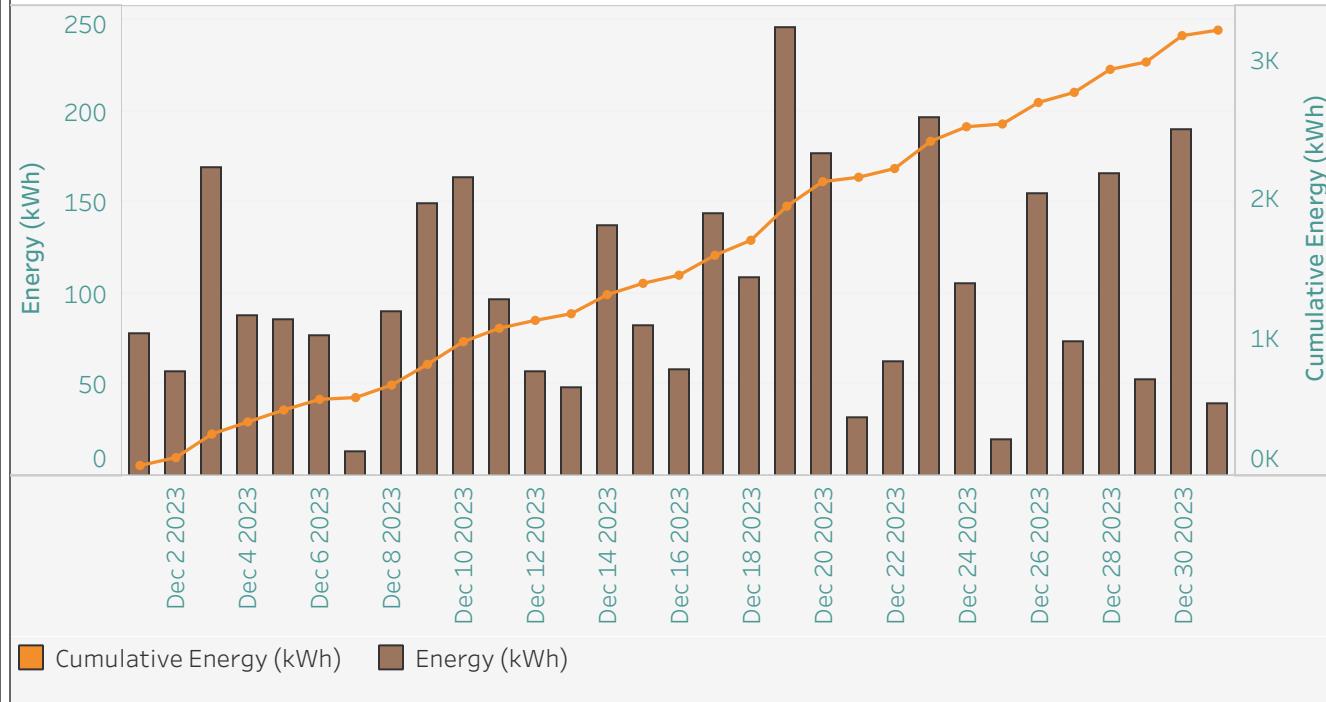
Month End Date
12/31/2023

| Port Count | Station Count | Total Revenue (\$) | Energy (kWh) | GHG Savings (kg) | Gasoline Saved (Gal) | Unique Driver | Session Count |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 3,216 | 1,351 | 404 | 33 | 145 |

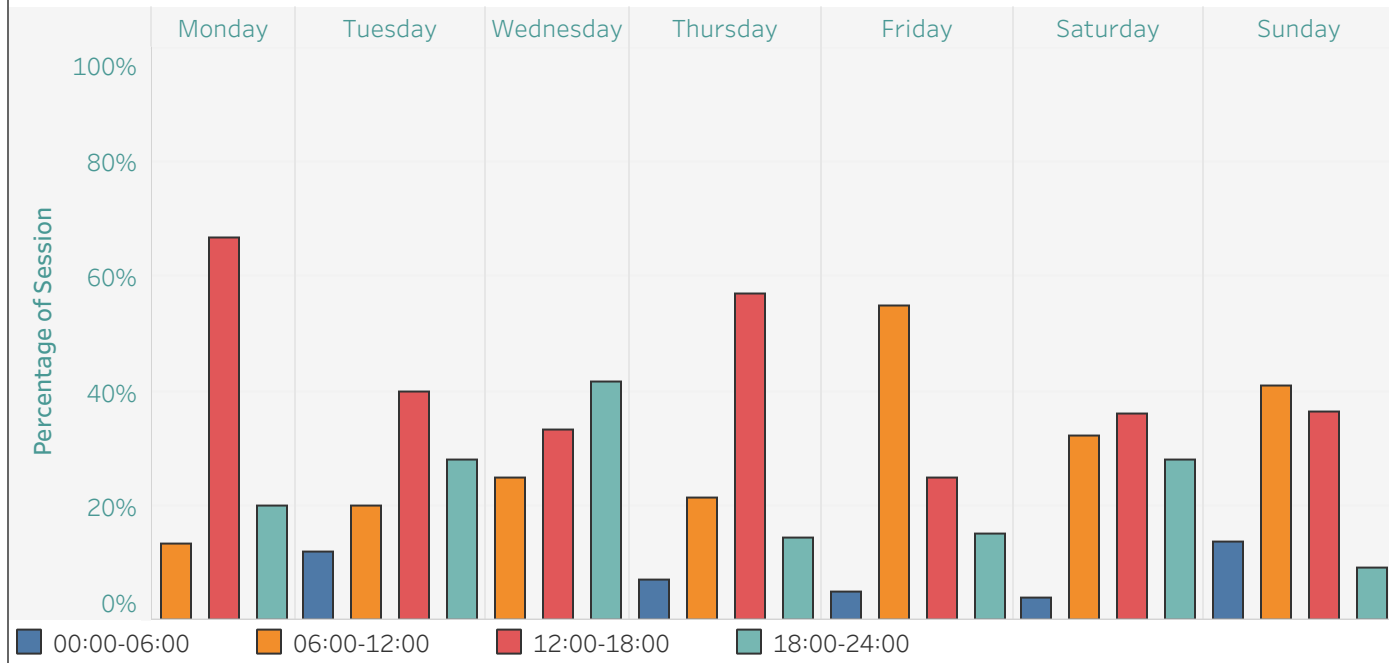
Port Utilization: 24 Hours



Energy Dispersed (kWh) by Day



Session Starts by Time of Day Month



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Average Session Duration (Hours) | 5.09 |
| Average Session Charge Time (Hours) | 3.54 |
| Average Session Energy (kWh) | 22.18 |
| Average Session Revenue (\$) | 0.00 |
| Occupied Hours | 737.8 |
| Charging Hours | 512.8 |



Assure Station Metrics Quarterly Reporting

Village of River Forest IL - Quarterly Report - 2023 Q4

Company Id
153681

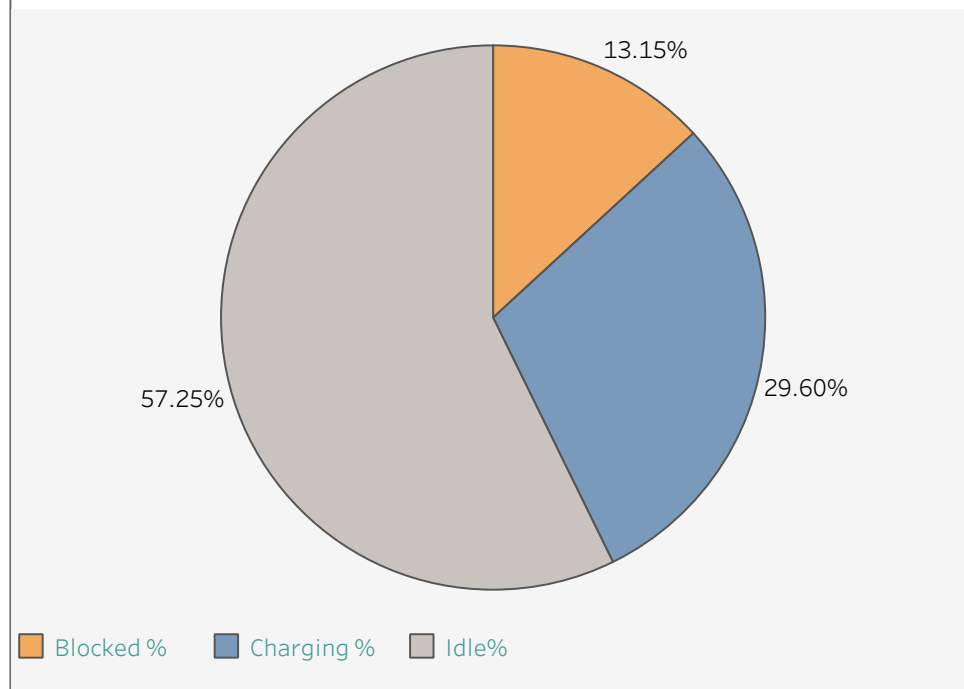
Port Level
All

Organization Name
All

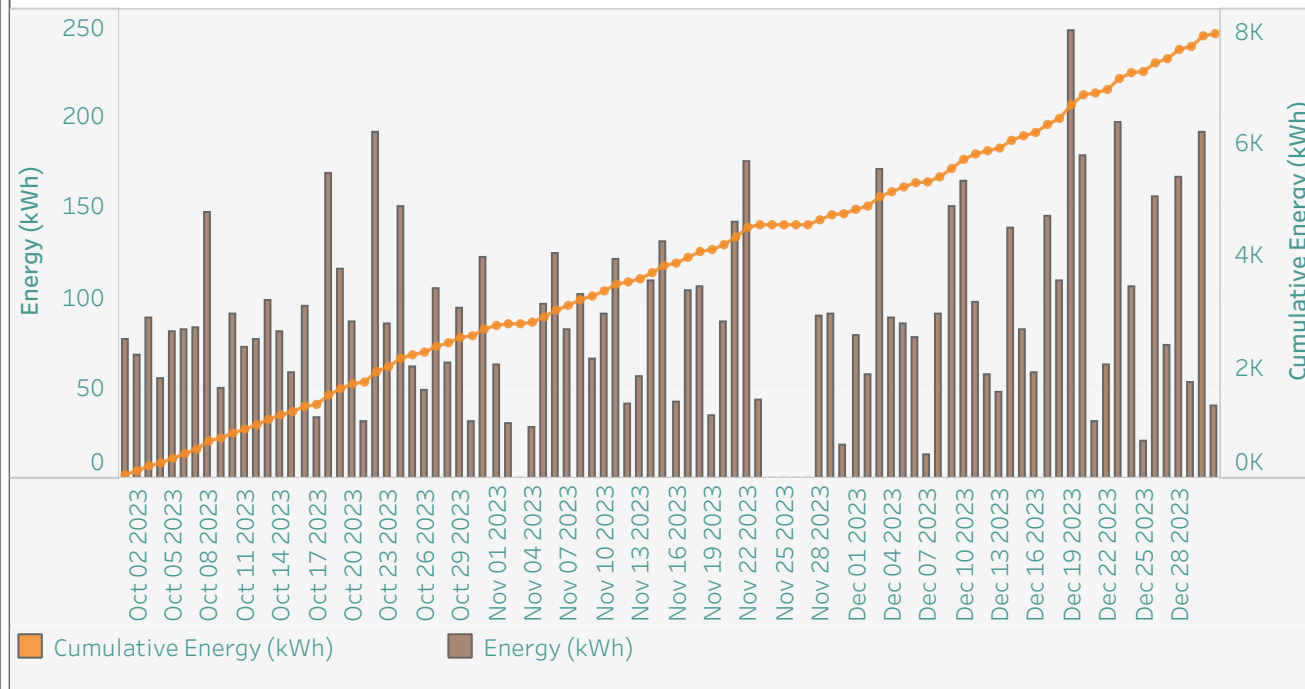
Quarter Year
12/31/2023

| Port Count | Station Count | Total Revenue (\$) | Energy (kWh) | GHG Savings (kg) | Gasoline Saved (Gal) | Unique Driver | Session Count |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 7,952 | 3,340 | 998 | 50 | 403 |

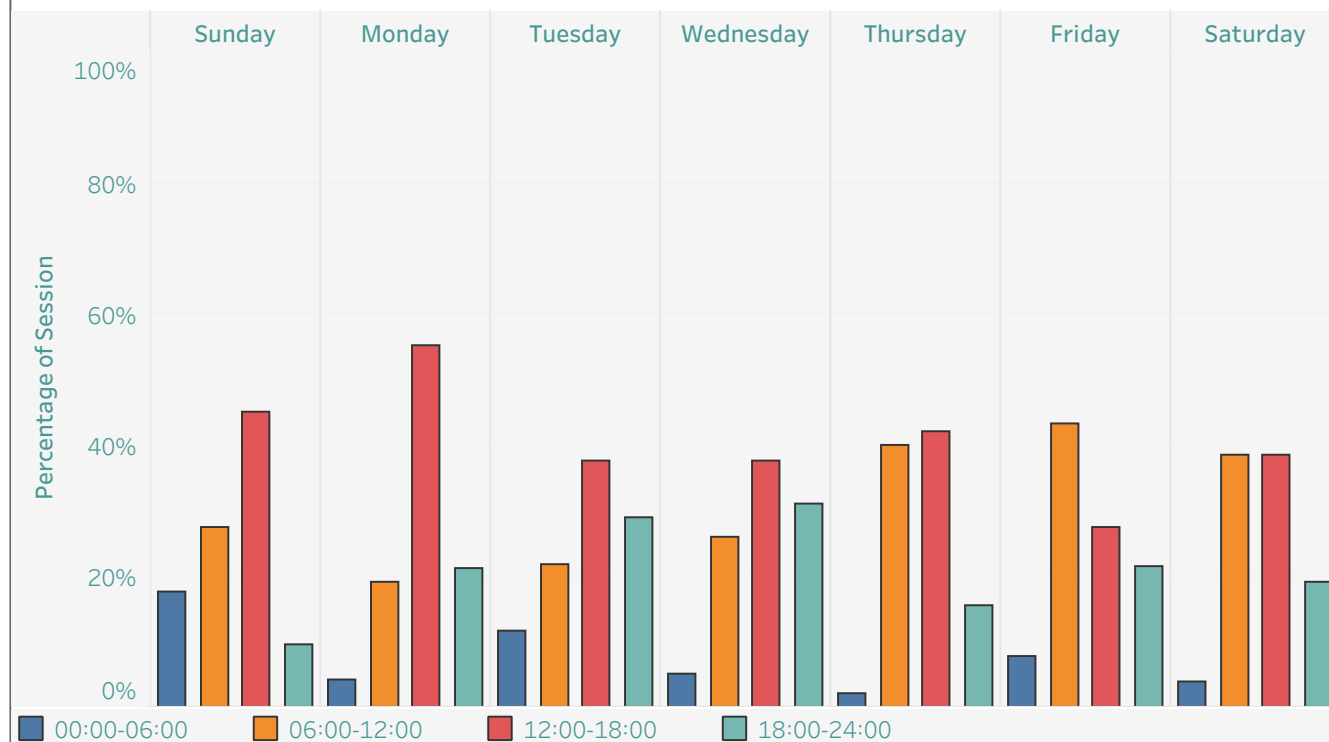
Port Utilization: 24 Hours



Energy Dispersed (kWh) by Day



Session Starts by Time of Day Quarter



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Average Session Duration (Hours) | 4.68 |
| Average Session Charge Time (Hours) | 3.24 |
| Average Session Energy (kWh) | 19.73 |
| Average Session Revenue (\$) | 0.00 |
| Occupied Hours | 1,888 |
| Charging Hours | 1,307 |

| Service Entitlement Status Breakdown of Assure Stations | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|---------|
| | Expired | 0-30 Days | 1-6 Months | 6-12 Months | 1+ Year |
| Assure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| SW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

- You dispensed more energy than 76.84 % of other Assure customers.
- You collected more fees than 0.00 % of other Assure customers.
- You fueled more unique drivers than 80.81 % of other Assure customers.
- Your 24 hour charging utilization was higher than 78.27 % of other Assure customers.

| Station Name | Total Energy (kWh) | Total Sessions | Total Fees (\$) | Gasoline Saved (Gal) | GHG Savings (kg) | Charging Hours | Occupied Hours | Uptime (%) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| RIVER FOREST VILLAGE HALL | 7,952 | 403 | \$ 0.00 | 998 | 3,340 | 1,307 | 1,888 | 100.00% |



Assure Station Metrics Reporting Appendix

Port Utilization Chart: This is a view of station utilization during common business hours.

You can use this information to determine if updates need to be made to pricing / access policies or if stations should be added.

Session Start Distribution Chart: This is a view (by day) of what times drivers start sessions.

You can use this information to fine tune time of day pricing policy rules.

Station / Port Count: In order to be counted, a station must have the "Assure" entitlement applied.

This is the number of stations / ports that currently have the "Assure" entitlement.

Total Revenue: This is the sum of session fees generated by your "Assure" stations minus the ChargePoint service fee (10%).

This is based on session dates (not transaction date which may differ). Your Flex Billing reports should be used for financial reporting.

Energy (kWh): All energy dispensed through your "Assure" stations.

This data point can be useful in reconciling station energy against energy bills.

GHG Savings (kg): All the green house gasses (95% CO2) that would have been released had the miles provided by your stations come from gasoline.

This data point can be useful in sustainability reporting.

Unique Drivers: The number of unique drivers that used your stations this month (a driver would be counted only once even if they used different RFID cards).

An understanding of the number of unique drivers visiting may be useful in creating station messaging / video ads.

Gasoline (Gal) Saved: All the gasoline that would have been burned had the miles provided by your stations come from gasoline.

This data point can be useful in sustainability reporting.

Uptime: Percentage of time that your ports were capable of dispensing power.

ChargePoint is committed to keeping your ports dispensing power 98% of the time or better.

Sessions: Total session count.

An understanding of the number of times your stations authorize a session can be useful creating station messaging / video ads.

Average Session Duration: Average amount of time drivers occupy your stations.

This data point can be useful in fine tuning length of stay pricing policy rules.

Average Charging Time: Average amount of time per session energy is flowing.

This data point can be useful in fine tuning length of stay pricing policy rules.

Average Session Energy: Average amount of energy dispensed.

This data point can be useful in fine tuning price per kW pricing policy rules.

Average Session Revenue: Average session fee - 10%.

This data point can be useful in fine tuning minimum & maximum values for pricing policy rules.

Total Hours Occupied: Sum of all session durations.

This is used in part to determine utilization.

Total Hours Charging: Sum of all session charging durations.

This is used in part to determine utilization.

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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 Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, Veazie (arriving at 7:03) and Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:04).

Absent: None

Also Present: Commissioners Charrette and Drury (both attending virtually, not voting pursuant to Open Meetings Act), Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS

Mr. Jansen briefly introduced Katie Neary from LRS. Ms. Neary introduced herself and provided an overview of LRS operations in River Forest. Ms. Neary answered pre-submitted questions from the Commission. Ms. Neary outlined LRS's focus on domestic recycling, the benefits of adoption of extended producer responsibility, and continued focus on new technologies and acquisitions related to both recycling and composting. LRS indicated they continue to work to identify materials that can be recycled and composted, including the addition of paper cups as a recyclable material. LRS also indicated that most further recycling opportunities for the Village are likely special drop off or collection events, rather than part of the curbside program, and noted that Flat Can Recycling is a company that specializes in drop-off collection events. When compared to neighboring communities, River Forest has a greater number of households, in terms of percentage of the community, participating in the curbside composting program.

Ms. Neary indicated that, anecdotally, community newsletters appear to be the most effective way to engage with the community and increase participation, especially if it is consistent in promoting the available programs and resources. Partnerships with local schools, businesses, and organizations to see how organizations can work together to promote programs. With regards to the Village's composting program, Ms. Neary suggested that backyard composting also be promoted and share the benefits of composting, including reductions to greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Neary also informed the Commission that the Village's contract with LRS includes a provision for an annual informational brochure to be mailed out to all residents; she suggested this provision be used to send out a postcard mailer

promoting specific information or programs available to residents. The Village could share successes by promoting the Village's waste statistics and sharing individual testimonials.

The largest contaminate in the recycling system is soft plastic, such as plastic bags, wrappers, films, and plastic tubes or hoses. Clothing, textiles, food waste, and compost bags are also frequent contaminants. Ms. Neary stated that consistent education towards residents makes a huge difference in raising awareness of programs and reducing contamination in compost and recycling programs.

In discussing ways to reduce waste reduction, total weight of waste is the best indicator for tracking waste diversion. Recycling and compost weight are not as reliable as recyclables weigh less and compost often includes yard waste. Ms. Neary also discussed ways LRS is seeking to save costs and stay up to date with new technologies in recycling and composting.

Chairperson Simon asked about how to communicate that recycling actually does divert items from the landfill using available data. Commissioner Charrette inquired about how to reduce landfill waste, asked what landfill waste is per capita, and what the most effective way would be to encourage residents to produce less waste. Commissioner Mezzatesta inquired about providing updated information and infographics for what can and cannot be recycled and also sharing the information with multifamily residential buildings that are not on the Village collection plan. Commissioner Lennon asked for further clarification on how participation rates and weights are not the best measures. Commissioner Charrette inquired about a potential extended producer responsibility law in Illinois.

Following Ms. Neary's presentation, the Commission discussed the information provided and what actions could be taken. Commissioner Mezzatesta suggested the Village and Commission focus on the weight of garbage collected and continue working to see a reduction in that information. Chairperson Simon stated that the Village and Commission should make sure to follow up with LRS; Mr. Jansen noted the informational mailer. The Commission suggested that the mailer include the annual waste and recycling collection events that will be held over the next year. The Commission discussed the need to market successes to the residents.

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie to approve the meeting minutes as amended from December 12, 2023.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, Veazie

Not Voting: Commissioners Charrette and Drury

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

5. PROPOSED EV CHARGING STATION OVERSTAY FEE ORDINANCE

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the memorandum prepared for the Commission and the various types of fees for which the ChargePoint system allows. The Commission discussed how the fee would be collected and how the ChargePoint system works. Chairperson Simon clarified that the problem this proposed ordinance is trying to address is that the cars remain parked after they have completed charging, especially given that this is the only publicly available charging station in the Village. Mr. Jansen outlined what a potential text ordinance would state and shared information regarding what other communities charge for use of their public charging stations. The Commissioners discussed what the fee should be for remaining parked too long at the charging station. Chairperson Simon indicated that a time-based fee would better address the issue than a fee starting upon completion of charge, as the latter could still result in longer charge times for some. The Commission discussed what time frame should be prior to the fee being levied and how much the fee should be. The Commission briefly discussed a fee structure that progressively increases; Mr. Jansen indicated he was unsure if such a fee structure could be implemented through the ChargePoint system. The Commission came to a consensus that a fee of five dollars per hour after two hours of free charging and a maximum amount of twenty dollars per charging session. The Commission indicated they'd like to review a draft ordinance at the next meeting before formally recommending to the Board.

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie to instruct staff to draft an ordinance establishing a fee for the electric vehicle charging station of five dollars per hour after the first two hours, with a maximum fee of twenty dollars.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, Veazie

Not Voting: Commissioners Charrette and Drury

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the upcoming planned newsletter and social media posts. Commissioner Mezzatesta had previously provided some suggested articles that would be utilized in the upcoming newsletters. Commissioner Mezzatesta suggested discussing the Commission providing letters to the editor of the Wednesday Journal at the next meeting; Chairperson Simon indicated it would be added to the next meeting's agenda.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen noted that the UIC graduate students in their planning program would be making a trip to the Village on Saturday January 27th as part of their plan making project for the Village.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Veazie made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, Veazie

Not Voting: Commissioners Charrette and Drury

Absent: None

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: February 13, 2024

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: Proposed Village Hall Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fee Ordinance

Following discussion at the January 9, 2024, Sustainability Commission Meeting, the attached proposed ordinance was drafted to address the issue of vehicles remaining parked at the Electric Vehicle (“EV”) Charging Station located at Village Hall after completion of charging. Input from the Commissioners resulted in a consensus that two hours of free charging, which can provide up to 50 miles of driving capability for an EV, is a sufficient amount of time for a vehicle to utilize the charging station. The Commission also agreed that a fee beyond this point will disincentivize individuals from remaining parked at the station after they have completed a charge.

Discussion at the previous Commission meeting included inquiries about a possible tiered fee system, with the price per hour increasing for longer charges. The system of the charging station manufacturer, ChargePoint, does not allow station owners to establish such a fee structure.

It was alternatively suggested by the Commission that a fee of five dollars per hour be established after the second hour and that this fee be capped at twenty dollars per charging session. These fee specifications can be established through the station owner dashboard on the ChargePoint website, allowing for efficient implementation of said fee. To assess such a fee, the Village of River Forest, as a non-home rule community, must adopt an ordinance specifying the fee in the Village Code.

Recommendation: Motion to recommend to the Village Board of Trustees to approve an ordinance establishing a fee for the Village’s Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Attachment: Draft Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) OF TITLE 9 (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) OF THE RIVER FOREST VILLAGE CODE REGARDING THE USE OF A VILLAGE-OWNED ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

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 installed one dual-port Electric Vehicle (“EV”) Charging Station located at Village Hall in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the charging station has been free for public use; and

WHEREAS, this is the only publicly available charging station currently located within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the average charging time at the station has been approximately 3 hours; and

WHEREAS, the average session time, in which an EV was utilizing a port, was approximately 4 hours and 26 minutes, leaving the ports to be blocked for an average of an additional hour and 26 minutes after a vehicle has finished charging; and

WHEREAS, the charging station ports have been blocked by a fully charged vehicle 9.9% of the time; and

WHEREAS, in calendar year 2023, the percentage of time the ports have been blocked has increased to 11.4% of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Village seeks to encourage equitable use of the EV Charging Station; and

WHEREAS, two hours of charging time can provide an EV with up to 50 miles of driving capability; and

WHEREAS, the Village’s Sustainability Commission considered the fees set forth in this Ordinance at meetings held on January 9, 2024 and February 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village find that limiting free charging to two hours will disincentives vehicles to remain parked after charging and encourage more equitable use of the charging station;

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: Code Amendment. That Section 20 (Village Parking Lots) of Chapter 2 (Traffic Regulations) of Title 9 (Traffic Regulations) of the Village Code is hereby amended to read, in part, as follows, with additions underlined:

“9-2-20: VILLAGE PARKING LOTS:

[. . .]

F. Restrictions:

1. No trucks shall be eligible to purchase an overnight parking permit.
2. No recreational vehicles shall be permitted.
3. Only vehicles displaying a current River Forest vehicle license and a valid parking permit as described in this section shall be allowed to use the Thatcher Avenue east lot, the park and lake lot, the twenty five designated spaces in the CVS lot; and the eight designated spaces in the 418 Franklin lot.
4. Only overnight parking permit holders who can provide evidence of a current monthly Metra commuter pass shall be eligible to make application for a daytime parking permit in the Thatcher east lot.
5. Only vehicles in operable condition may be parked in a Village parking lot.
6. No motor vehicle shall be parked in a Village parking lot between two o'clock A.M. and six o'clock A.M. of any day, except as expressly permitted by the Police Department or unless the motor vehicle has an overnight parking permit.
7. Parking in a Village parking lot shall be only in spaces striped for parking and it shall be unlawful to park in any area of a lot which is not striped for parking or which has signs prohibiting parking, or to park a vehicle in such a manner that incorporates the use of more than one designated parking stall. The use of "Village Hall lots" shall be limited to Village of River Forest employees and/or other authorized lot users.
8. Twenty spaces in the 418 Franklin lot shall be restricted to three hour parking.
9. The use of a Village-owned electric vehicle charging station and adjacent electric vehicle parking spaces shall be limited to electric vehicles connected to an electric vehicle charging station. There shall be no fee or charge for the first two hours of charging after connecting to a Village-owned electric vehicle charging station. After the two-hour period, the usage fee for electric vehicle charging shall be five dollars per sixty-minute interval, with a maximum fee of twenty dollars.

[. . .]”

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 February 26, 2024 by the Village President and Board of Trustees pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED by me this _____

Catherine Adduci, Village President

ATTEST:

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

I'd like to expand the scope of the audience we reach and build on the excellent existing communication channels of our e-newsletters and website content. I think some minor reorganization of sustainability related content on the village website would be beneficial as well.

Assess the Reach of Our Current Communications

- 1) What percentage of River Forest households subscribe to the village e-newsletters?
- 2) Do we distribute paper copies? (I ask this because I sometimes notice paper copies in the lobby of my condo building. I don't know if some kind soul in our building prints them off or if somebody from the village drops them off.)
- 3) Do we regularly submit dates for the green events to the Wednesday Journal's weekly calendar? If we do, perhaps we could brand them specifically as "green events". Is this prudent or do we feel that we would prefer not to solicit a wider audience for those events? Might we get more participation than would be practical?

Reorganize Sustainability Content on Village Website

- 1) Excellent content but could be reorganized in fewer layers
- 2) Rebrand the Sustainability homepage as the Sustainability Hub and add a link on the homepage of the village site (WHOSE PERMISSION DO WE NEED TO DO THIS?)
- 3) Put mission statement and seven strategies on the Hub page followed by links to all the other content including a link to the commission page
- 4) If possible, avoid having another layer of links under those links
 - a) Hub is "parent" page
 - b) Links are "daughter" pages
- 5) If we can't get a link on the VRF homepage, could we have a URL directly to the Hub that can be readily typed in so that it can be published in the newspaper, e.g. vrf.org/sustain? (I REALIZE THAT THE STRUCTURE AND NAMING CONVENTIONS OF THE SITE MAY NOT ALLOW FOR THIS)

Reach Out via the Wednesday Journal – "Green News You Can Use"

- 1) Introductory article
 - a) Who we are – what is our mission, the seven strategies
 - b) Where you can get information
- 2) Submit our monthly e-newsletter articles
- 3) Periodic (annual? Quarterly?) sustainability status reports
 - a) Tons of waste collected in the village by year

SUSTAINABILITY MARKETING PLAN

- b) Tons of green waste collected via compost program by year
 - c) Tons of recycling collected but with caveats as to interpretation of figures
(More recycling isn't necessarily the best outcome, more reuse is even better)
 - d) Any other stats? Do we know how many EVs or hybrids out of total number of registered vehicles?
- 4) Fun and interesting ideas, reports of what others around the country, world are doing, for example:
- a) Furoshiki – Japanese wrapping cloths
 - b) Rent-a-Christmas-tree in London
 - c) Growing mushrooms in old coffee grounds in Belgium
- 5) Articles geared to and highlighting youth activities
- a) School and/or scouting programs related to sustainability
 - b) DIY activities kids may be doing at home
 - c) Call out fact that we have a student commissioner – perhaps an interview with A.J. or an article by him
- 6) Highlight other activities around the area
- a) Concordia's sustainability efforts
 - b) (Is the RF Library doing something green with their new HVAC?)
 - c) Interviews with individuals – "man on the street" type of thing
 - d) Perhaps we could run a contest of some sort to collect such items – most creative reuse of (WHAT?)
- 7) (And of course) helpful hints, for example:
- a) Did you know that pop bottle caps only get recycled if you affix them to the bottles? Small loose stuff gets discarded.
 - b) Shredded documents – is there a way to recycle? (maybe LRS can tell us)
 - c) Recyclables in non-recyclable containers (plastic garbage bags) get discarded

APPENDIX

Article Idea: Heat Pumps, not just for single family homes

Write up extracts from Nova program where they are putting heat pumps in low-income rental units. Also write up extracts from NY Times article on window unit. Talk about improvements in technology that allow their use in extremely cold climates. Maybe interview HVAC expert. Are there any other unusual applications? Perhaps some local installations – interview happy customers? Testimonials?

Article Idea: We're now tracking contractors who install heat pumps

Once we change the contractor registration system to track who installs heat pumps, we should tell the public that the info is now available. Once the system is changed, how will we update the contractors who are already in the system? Can the public see the details of each contractor's registration in order to determine who installs heat pumps?

Article Idea: Report on our visit to a recycling facility

If Commission visits the facility, report on what we saw.

Article Idea: Interesting Green Ideas from Foreign Lands

The Sustainability Commission thought that they would pique your interest with a couple of unusual green ideas from our global neighbors in England and Japan.

A conundrum that faces many of us in December is whether to go with a real or fake tree. A fake tree seems like a more ecologically sound choice, but it's fake and where to store it? You could go with a real tree growing in a pot, but what do you do with it the other eleven months of the year? One company in London, England has the answer: Rent a tree! At londonchristmastreerental.com they advertise that "we offer you the opportunity to rent a pot grown Christmas Tree that can return to your home year after year". They go on to say that seven million trees wind up in the landfill every year but they offer the public the chance to rent a pot grown tree every year. The price is comparable to purchasing a real "cut" tree. Just rent, water, and return.

In Japan, they have an age-old custom that started more than 1200 years ago when cloths were used to wrap valuable items found in temples. Fast forward 600 years when a shogun, i.e., a military dictator, built a bathhouse and invited several of his high-ranking friends to join him. To avoid clothing mix-ups, his guests bundled their clothes in a furoshiki, a wrapping cloth, with their family crest on it. Eventually the custom spread to the common folks to carry all kinds of items as well as a way to wrap gifts. The idea is that you tie the cloth in an interesting fashion around the gift. When the gift is unwrapped, the furoshiki is returned to the gift-giver, to be used again.

SUSTAINABILITY MARKETING PLAN

While Christmas tree rentals might not catch on in this country, wrapping cloths are certainly a practical notion. Ribbon and many kinds of wrapping paper, such as foil paper, are not recyclable. Perhaps that remnant in your sewing box might do the trick. The Economy Shop in Oak Park has a wide selection of cloth in various colors, patterns, and sizes. The prices are typically less than the cost of wrapping paper and their sales benefit seven different worthy organizations.