



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 21, 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](mailto: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](mailto:sjansen@vrf.us) by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2022
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4)
6. Communications
  - a. Monthly/Weekly E-News
  - b. Draft Web Page
7. 2023 Commission Initiatives and Goals
8. Other Business
9. Schedule Next Meeting – March 14, 2023
10. Adjournment

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

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 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 7:04 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Cheng, Lennon, Charrette (arriving at 7:06 PM), and Student Commissioner Raidt  
Absent: Commissioners Roberts, Veazie  
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charrette indicated a misspelling of her name in the previous month's minutes. Commissioner Cheng made a motion to adopt, seconded by Commissioner Charrette to approve the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes with the corrections.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners, Cheng, Lennon, Charrette (arriving at 7:06)  
Absent: Commissioner Roberts, Veazie  
Nays: None  
Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners Lennon and Charrette had no reports. Commissioner Cheng briefly discussed municipal LEED certifications; stated the Village is pursuing enough certifications at the moment but thought it was interesting to note. Student Commissioner Raidt shared that she is attending an invasive species clean-up at Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve with the Oak Park and River Forest High School Environmental Club on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Simon provided a brief update of the planning for the GreenTown Event, which is seeking sponsors for the event in the summer. Commissioner Cheng asked for further information on what the event will consist of and what sponsorship entails. Chairperson Simon provided a general overview of the goals of the event, activities for the day, and

indicated he would share the sponsorship package with the Commissioners. Chairperson Simon discussed how it relates to the Cross Community Climate Collaborative ("C4"). Mr. Jansen noted that Wynton Jones from the Urban Efficiency Group was interested in attending the next month's meeting to discuss C4 and indicated C4 was interested in establishing a community listening session. Mr. Jansen provided an update on the holiday lights recycling and holiday tree collection programs.

## **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Jansen provided an overview of the draft webpage and plan to incorporate all of the commissioner updates to prepare to go live. Commissioner Cheng indicated her preference to go live with webpage sections that are readable and easy to digest with less content, then build out as needed. Chairperson Simon indicated he has completed his sections. Commissioner Cheng expressed having language be prescriptive rather than descriptive and consistent across each section. Commissioner Charrette indicated she needed to update her section by removing inactive and outdated programs. The Commission discussed specific edits to the webpage and plans Commissioners to make edits to the page text. Commissioner Lennon discussed focusing on essential points and actions residents can take. The Commission established a timeframe to have a built-out site for review at the next meeting and go live in early March.

Mr. Jansen outlined what content is needed for newsletters for the next month and what had been done during this timeframe last year. Chairperson Simon provided a quick update on information he is seeking regarding community solar subscription rates, marketing, and capacity. Student Commissioner Raidt volunteered to provide an updated article on green infrastructure for the next monthly newsletter. The Commission assigned weekly newsletter topics to members for the coming weeks.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cheng and Student Commissioner Raidt discussed a potential event with the OPRFHS Environmental Club. The Commission discussed potential structures, locations, dates, and times for the event. Student Commissioner Raidt outlined a potential open discussion format in which individuals can share their sustainability practices with each other. Commission members offered to provide assistance in helping set up the event.

Commissioner Cheng discussed a resident interest in the topic of light pollution and wanted to know if the Commission would be interested in hearing some information on the topic. The Commission indicated they would be interested in learning more but were quick to note any action taken would need to be initiated by the Village Board of Trustees. The Commission indicated interest in hearing a 15 minute presentation on the topic in the coming months.

Commissioner Charrette inquired about developing a plan for the Commission for the coming year. Chairperson Simon discussed the need for planning, goal setting, updating and building on previous plans and goals. The Commission discussed the need to fill the vacant positions on the Commission. Commissioner Cheng suggested on focusing on specific,

actionable items like increasing community solar and compost subscribers. Commissioner Charrette discussed the Commissioners working with their strengths. Chairperson Simon noted that the Commission should discuss goals at the next meeting and then work to update to the goals and plan at the following meeting.

**7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

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

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Lennon

Absent: Commissioners Roberts, Veazie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Seth Jansen, Secretary

# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

## Monthly Reporting



### SERVICES

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	
# COMPOST SUBSCRIBERS					418	418	470	475	478	482	479	486	
# OF STICKERS SOLD				1,000	0	1000	2000	3500	2500	0	2500	1500	

### COLLECTION STATS

	Jan-22*	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	YTD totals
Waste Tons				162.7	158.1	233.36	149.9	169.81	168.62	173.7	231.1	185.98	1633.27
Recycling Tons				85.61	110.61	105.96	90.58	115.85	88.01	99.61	106.22	86.01	888.46
YW and Compost Tons				35.48	40.3	63.27	33.50	37.31	18.44	39.28	29.83	8.60	306.01
E-waste Event Tons					1.91	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.91	NA	NA	
HHW Event Tons					NA	2.57	1.56	NA	NA	2.62	0.71	NA	
<b>Total Tons</b>	0	0	0	283.79	309.01	402.59	274	322.97	275.07	312.6	367.15	280.59	2827.74

\*The yard waste in January was Christmas Trees

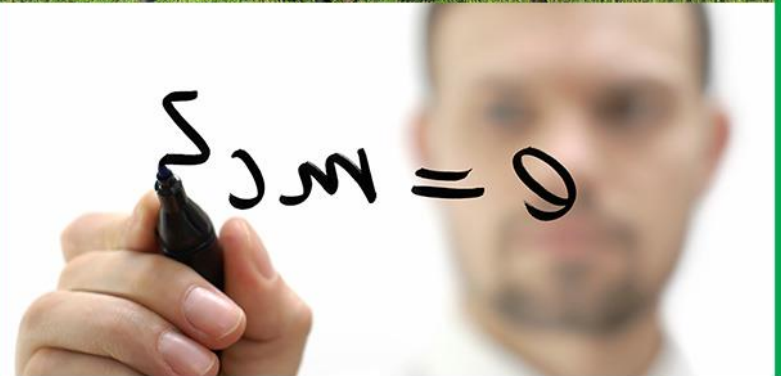
Processing Facilities	Name & Location
Yard Waste Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)
Recycling Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION ( 1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153),
RECYCLING PURCHASED BY	RESOURCED TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC BUYERS
Trash Facility	LRS MAYWOOD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



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# Community Solar Clearinghouse (CS<sup>2</sup>) Program Update



January 31, 2023



# Meeting Agenda

- Introductions – Meeting Goals & Objectives
  - MMC / Power Bureau / MC Squared Energy
  - DOE Sunny Awards for the CS2 Program
- Perspectives on the Electricity landscape in Illinois
- FEJA - Future Energy Jobs Act (2016)
- CEJA - Clean Equitable Jobs Act (2021)
- MMC Community Solar Clearinghouse (CS2)  
Program overview, process & results
- Initiatives & Opportunities for 2023 & 2024
- Q&A - Closing

# mc<sup>2</sup> - Company Overview



- Chicago, IL based electricity supplier
  - Licensed by Illinois Commerce Commission since 2009
  - Load-Serving entity within PJM & MISO Regional transmission markets
- Certified Green-e provider for Green Programs
- Servicing over 100,000 accounts
  - Class of trade includes mix of commercial, educational, health care and residential accounts via community choice aggregation
- Electricity supplier to 75+ municipal electricity aggregation programs over the last 10 years
- Community Solar subscription manager for developers and early adopter of the green programs in Illinois
- Highest customer satisfaction ranking on ICC's consumer site



# Historical Context Illinois Electricity Market



- In late 1990's after significant cost increases, Illinois was facing materially higher electricity prices compared to other Midwest states/national average
  - Traditional utility regulation policy model was failing in IL
- Consumer advocates and business organizations (IMA, IRMA, BOMA) sought legislative changes to a competitive market policy approach (deregulation)
  - Rate Relief Act passed in 1997 effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1999
  - Included competition and guaranteed savings to ratepayers
- ComEd (Unicom) negotiated the recovery of stranded legacy generation costs at book value
  - Collected the Customer Transition Charge (CTC)

# Electricity Rates (1997) Midwest States



- **Illinois – 7.71 cents/kWh (Highest in Region)**
- Michigan – 7.04
- Missouri – 6.09
- Iowa – 5.97
- Indiana – 5.29
- Wisconsin – 5.22
- Total US Avg. – 6.85 (Note - IL was 13% Higher vs. US Avg.)

Source Data – EIA Form 861 (State-wide averages)

# Electricity Rates (2021) Midwest States



- Michigan – 12.93 cents/kWh
- Wisconsin – 11.01
- Indiana – 10.36
- **Illinois – 10.14**
- Missouri – 9.85
- Iowa – 9.13
- Total US Avg. – 11.1 (Note – IL now 8.6% Less vs. US Avg.)

Source Data – EIA Form 861 (State-wide averages)

# % Change in Electricity Rates (1997 vs. 2021)



- Wisconsin – 111%
- Indiana – 96%
- Michigan – 84%
- Missouri – 62%
- Iowa – 53%
- **Illinois – 32% (Lowest increase!)**
- Total US Avg. – 62%

Source Data – EIA Form 861 (State-wide averages)

# Illinois Generation Mix 20-years (2001 vs. 2021)



<b>Generation Source</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Coal</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-20%</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Wind &amp; Solar</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Source Data - EIA / DOE

# Summary



- Competitive, contestable wholesale markets reduced costs in Illinois compared to other states in region
  - Lowest cost, more efficient generation resources dispatched, clearing market auction processes for capacity & energy supply
- Legacy coal generation plants retirements, replaced by new renewable resources and natural gas plants
- Market based price signals influence buying decisions
- Energy consumers have choices and opportunities to effectively manage risks (exposure to energy costs)
- Recent legislative (FEJA/CEJA) efforts to achieve 100% Carbon-free generation resources by 2045

# FEJA Overview



- Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)
- Senate Bill 2814 enacted Dec. 2016
- FEJA Goals included:
  - Supports development of new renewable resources through the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) funds
    - Requires 4.3 GW's of new renewable resources by 2030
    - Expansion of utility-scale wind farms
    - Solar programs – community solar, distributed generation, utility-scale
  - Increases funding for energy efficiency programs
  - Additional funding for job training programs
  - Expands the definition of “low income” beyond those that qualify for state assistance

# CEJA Overview



- Clean Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
- Senate Bill 2408 enacted Sept. 2021
- CEJA Goals included:
  - 100% Carbon-free electricity generation resources by 2045
  - Expansion of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) funds to increase renewable resource generation resources
    - Includes new equity programs to bring benefits to all communities
  - Implements tougher utility ethics standards
  - Expands funding for energy efficiency programs
  - Includes incentives for clean transportation (public & private)
  - Additional funding for job training program





# CS<sup>2</sup> Program Report

- Three years since initial pilot launch in Q4 – 2019
  - Most projects interconnected in Q1 & Q2 2021
- Six ComEd projects ~ 11,600,000 kW's of peak generating capacity
  - Two Ameren projects (downstate IL)
- 1,484 active residential subscribers at year-end
- Program statistics through Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2022
  - \$1,719,848 Community Solar generation credits realized
  - \$343,900 Net savings to CS<sup>2</sup> program subscribers (20%)
  - 21,328,926 kWh's generated
  - 9 low-income subscribers receiving 100 % retained savings

# CS<sup>2</sup> Program Stats



- Municipalities Currently Participating – 22
- Average Reservation List Participation – 2%
  - Response rate to marketing efforts (postcards)
- Average Enrollment Conversion Rate – 33%
  - Response rate to customized subscription offers
- Average Subscription Size – 6.0 kW
  - Represents mix of single-family & multi-family subscribers
- Average Annual Savings - \$162 or \$13.50 per month
  - Single-family subscribers ~ \$180 to \$300 annually
  - Multi-family subscribers ~ \$75 to \$150 annually

# CS<sup>2</sup> Program Process



- Municipality passes resolution to promote Program
- Municipality works with MMC on Program launch
- Community Solar promotional postcards mailed
- Residents join the Reservation List
- Post vetting, residents receive customized subscription offer via email
- Project construction completed and energized
- Account Enrolled with ComEd post Interconnection
- Residents Receive Community Solar Credits in 1 to 2 Bill Cycles

# Marketing Updates



- Effective June 1, 2022 - Subscribers receive the same community solar credit value regardless of their supplier choice or remaining on ComEd tariff supply
  - All generation credits provided by ComEd on monthly bills
- CS Marketing Materials require new disclosures:
  - You may choose a community solar offer from other Approved Vendors. For a complete list of your options, visit <https://illinoisshines.com/approved-vendor-info/>.
- MC2 should review all marketing materials including but not limited to websites, newsletters, press releases to confirm IPA compliance requirements

# Project Locations



Project Name	Project Address/Location	Project Capacity in kW
Dukane	13733 US Route 30, Plainfield, IL 60585	1,620
Mendota US Solar 1, LLC	582 E. IL Street Route 34, Mendota, IL 61342	2,000
Pontiac Solar LLC	15901 East 2000 North Road, Pontiac, IL 61764	1,980
Lena Solar 1 LLC	14375 US Route 20, Lena, IL 61048	2,000
Cortland Solar 2 LLC	517 E. North Ave, Cortland, IL 60112	2,000
Rockford Baxter Rd # 1	3749 Baxter Rd, Rockford, IL 61109	2,000

# Project Locations



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# Planning for 2023 & 2024



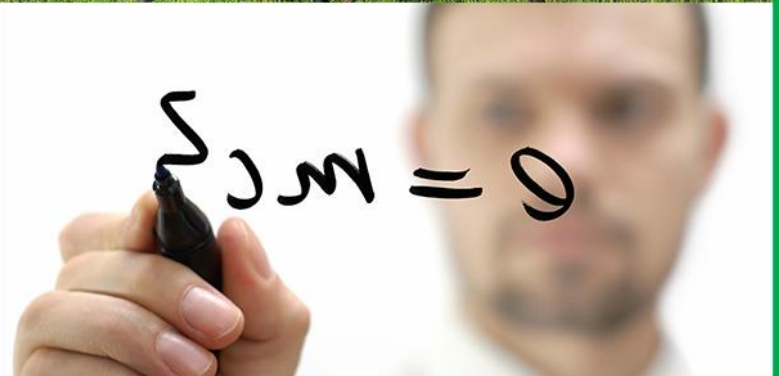
- Forecasting 3 to 6 new community solar projects to be built and interconnected Q4 '23 into Q1 '24
  - Potential to double program over the next eighteen months
  - Capacity for another 1,500 to 2,000 new subscribers
- Significant growth anticipated in 2024/2025 as new CEJA supported solar projects come on-line
- ComEd plans to add billing service in 2023 whereby the CS generation credits and subscription fees would be included on the same monthly ComEd statement
  - Eliminates the need for a separate invoice from MC2
  - Significantly easier for subscribers to see net benefits



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# Questions?





Town	Number of Post Cards Sent	Number of Accounts that joined the Waitlist (Cumulative)	Percentage of Total	Number of Enrollment Offers Sent from the Cumulative Waitlist	Number of Enrollment Offers Accepted	Enrollment Conversion Rate	Enrolled kW Subscriptions
River Forest	4,296	161	3.75%	139	48	35%	384.9

- 161 residents have joined the waitlist to date.
- Out of the 161 residents on the waitlist, 139 have received community solar offers.
- 48 completed the enrollment process and 91 did not.
- Currently there are 22 residents on the waitlist that are still waiting for a community solar offer or may not have been eligible.
- Potential reasons for why residents sent offers do not move forward:
  - Could think the email is spam and ignore it.
  - They may be put off with the 2-bill credit card payment.
- Offer notification process:
  - An enrollment offer email is sent when there is availability into a project.
  - When the community solar program initially launched, reminder emails were also sent.
  - With the current demand of community solar, have been sending one email.
  - Occasionally residents will reach out stating their link has expired.
    - Will resend if there if there is capacity available.