



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – 7:30 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, April 14, 2026.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2026
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Bird City Illinois and Migratory Birds
6. River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program
7. International Compost Awareness Week Proclamation
8. Green Building Guide
9. Communications and Staff Reports
  - a. Quarterly EV Report
  - b. Village Project Updates
  - c. Communications
10. Schedule Next Meeting – May 12, 2026
11. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

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

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:04)

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to allow Commissioner Avalos to participate remotely pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec and Hoyt

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Commissioner Avalos added to the roll.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Co-Chair Lennon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Kadlec and Hoyt

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about the status of filling the two vacant positions.

**5. COMMISSION PROJECTS**

Mr. Jansen introduced the proposed proclamations and upcoming World Migratory Bird Day events. Commissioner Hoyt indicated there will be a second event with the Forest Preserve, a guided bird walk the morning of May 19<sup>th</sup>. In total, there will be 3 events within the Village to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.

The Commission discussed the Proclamation drafts. Commissioner Hoyt offered to make edits prior to bringing to the Board. Co-Chair Charrette suggested edits and switches in order of the whereas provisions compared to how they were drafted in the sample template. Mr. Jansen did outline the revision made to the Lights Out proclamation to highlight the installation of street light diffusers and the Public Works Department's exploring into additional street lighting technology. The Commission discussed the technologies being implemented and explored by the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hoyt suggested adding language to the Lights Out proclamation encouraging other institutions to explore measures they could take to reduce light pollution. The Commission discussed developing a webpage specific to the Village's Bird City efforts and share various information, including the student-developed informational flyers, on the webpage. Co-Chair Lennon suggested the Roosevelt Environmental Club members create flyers for other sustainability efforts as well. The Commission agreed to incorporate Commissioner Hoyt's forthcoming edits into the Proclamations.

Co-Chair Lennon made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Charrette, to approve recommend the Village Board approve Proclamations recognizing May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day and supporting Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration, incorporating the pending edits from Commissioner Hoyt.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Kadlec and Hoyt

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

Commissioner Hoyt provided more information regarding the Bird Walk at Thatcher Woods occurring on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hoyt discussed other Thatcher Woods efforts that can be incorporated into the Bird City Illinois application. Commissioner Hoyt and Student Commissioner Stierwalt discussed the meeting of the OPRF Environmental Club on the topic and indicated high school student interest in the nighthawk monitoring project. Commissioner Hoyt also indicated there is a date to observe the rooftop at Roosevelt Middle School to look for nighthawk nests. The Commission discussed how the nighthawk observation process will work, observation will be at dusk to listen for nighthawk calls, which will be supplemented with limited rooftop observations looking for nesting sites. Co-Chair Lennon suggested observations occur at targeted locations that may be most suitable for nighthawks.

Commissioner Hoyt had requested assistance in recordkeeping for the Bird City designation process to ensure the proper documentation is being kept track of and what actions have been achieved or need to be completed prior to applying.

## **6. RIVER FOREST MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Jansen introduced and outlined the history of the Electric Aggregation Program, set to expire in September 2026 and summarized the extension offers from MC2 for the program. The Village may elect to extend the program by 12 or 24 months and may elect to receive Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") equal to 10% of the total energy used by those within

the program or receive a civic contribution of \$1,250 per month for the length of the term. Co-Chair Lennon asked if the civic contribution could go toward sustainability efforts. Mr. Jansen indicated that, in discussion with sustainability staff members in other communities, most communities take the civic contribution, rather than the RECs. Co-Chair Charrette asked if there was a competitor to MC2 for aggregation programs; Mr. Jansen indicated that MC2 is the only provider in the Chicago region. Commissioner Hoyt asked about community solar vs community aggregation; Mr. Jansen indicated the two do not impact each other and residents may participate in both. Mr. Jansen discussed how the program operates and answered questions from the Commission on how the program works. The Commission discussed how RECs work. The Commission discussed the differences between an opt-in community solar program and the opt-out community aggregation program. Co-Chair Charrette also mentioned ComEd hourly pricing and the green benefits of utilizing hourly pricing.

The Commission weighed potential risks and benefits of the 12- and 24-month terms, agreeing the 24-month term would likely be more beneficial. The Commission discussed what the civic contribution could be applied toward. Co-Chair Lennon stated it should go toward public-facing sustainability projects based on recommendations of the Commission. Before making a formal recommendation to the Board, the Commission requested questions be asked of MC2. Co-Chair Charrette requested staff ask how the civic contribution amount is determined with regard to the enrollment in the program and the financial gain for MC2 relative to the civic contribution. The Commission also suggested a broader regional push for more transparent terms for community aggregation programs for communities in the region.

## **7. GREEN BUILDING GUIDE**

Mr. Jansen indicated that Commissioner Avalos had reached out to Trustee Gillis suggesting a voluntary guidance document for green buildings and electrification. Trustee Gillis had requested this be added to the Commission Agenda. Commissioner Avalos briefly introduced his vision of what the guide would look like. Commissioner Avalos envisioned a one-page document focused on electrification of appliances and the financial and environmental benefits of converting to electric appliances. Commissioner Avalos had this suggested this be shared with residents when building permits are issued and volunteered to begin drafting a document. Commissioner Hoyt suggested a recommendation or guideline for sustainable building materials and incorporate health aspects of building materials and processes. The Commission agreed to further discuss the concepts and keep it as a discussion item over the next few months.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Jansen provided brief updates on the rooftop solar project at the Public Works Garage, the EV Charging Station Project, and the proposed native planting sites for the ComEd/Openlands Grant. Commissioner Hoyt requested the Commission have input on what may take place at the planting sites. Mr. Jansen indicated there will be another Earth Month collection through EcoShip. Mr. Jansen outlined the planned social media posts and newsletter articles and indicated there will be two weeks of corrugated plastic yard sign collections following the primary election.

**9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – APRIL 14, 2026**

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos and Hoyt

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

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Seth Jansen, Secretary



**Village of River Forest  
Public Works and Engineering**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 14, 2026  
To: Sustainability Commission  
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works  
Subj: Extension of the Municipal Aggregation Program

At the March meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission, the Commission discussed the Village's Electric Aggregation Program, which automatically enrolls residents to receive electric supply from MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (MC2), unless you choose to opt out. As of March 3, 2026, there are 2031 accounts within the Village that are enrolled in the aggregation program. As with all previous agreements, those in the program would continue to be billed by ComEd and charged the ComEd rate. They may opt out or leave at any time with no termination fees. MC2 is the only contractor which offers an aggregation program in the Chicagoland region. The Village's current contract with MC2 expires this September.

The Village has received an offer to extend the Municipal Aggregation program beyond its current expiration later this year. There are two options and two term lengths which the Sustainability Commission is being asked to consider. The term lengths offered by MCSquared are 12 months (September 2026 – September 2027) or 24 months (September 2026 – September 2028). Additionally, MCSquared is offering two potential options for the Village: 10% Green Wind RECs (based on the annual residential power load within River Forest) or \$1,250 per month Civic Grant (\$15,000 Annually).

Following discussion at the March meeting, the Commission indicated a general preference toward taking the Civic Grant for a period of 24 months. However, the Commission did raise questions, which they asked staff to relay to MC2. The Commission wanted to know how the amount of the contribution was determined, specifically with regard to how the civic contribution relates to the number of enrolled accounts, the total energy consumed by those in the program, and the revenue/profit generated for MC2 because of the Village's participation in the program. MC2 provided the following response:

The civic value provided by MC2 to the community under the aggregation program is based on a forecasted or anticipated net annualized value to MC2 serving the aggregation program. Each community is unique in terms of the load characteristics and the costs to serve the community although the civic value provided typically represents 20-25% of the anticipated value. MC2 commits to the civic value for the term of the agreement in advance of serving the community.

Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a “guaranteed margin” associated with serving the electricity loads of the community for the supplier because there is risk and volatility associated with serving residential electricity customers, especially during the extreme winter and summer periods due to weather events when the wholesale cost for electricity supply on the grid can be significantly higher than the forecast which means there is potentially no realized margin (or a net loss) derived from the program for the supplier.

In addition to the questions raised by the Commission, the Commission expressed desire to establish a caveat that the funding received from the Civic Grant go toward public-facing sustainability projects in order to show the Village’s continued commitment to sustainability.

**Motion:** Recommend that the Village Board approve an ordinance extending the term of the Master Power Supply Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC with the Civic Grant for a term length of 24 months and recommend to the Village Board that such funds raised through the Civic Grant go toward public-facing sustainability projects within the community.

**Attachment:** Village of River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program Renewal Offer



where **energy** comes from

500 West Madison Street, Suite 1470  
Chicago, IL 60661  
(877) 622-7697 toll free  
(877) 281-1279 fax  
[www.mc2energyservices.com](http://www.mc2energyservices.com)

Offer Date: February 20, 2026

**Village of River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program – Renewal Offer**

Price-To-Compare Rate (ComEd Tariff Match)

Available Terms:

- 12 Month Term (September 2026 – September 2027)
- 24 Month Term (September 2026 – September 2028)

Option 1: 10% Green Wind RECs (based on the annual residential power load within River Forest)

**OR**

Option 2: \$1,250 per month Civic Grant (\$15,000 Annual)

\*The Village of River Forest may accept either option but not both combined.



**Village of River Forest  
Public Works and Engineering**

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

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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 14, 2026  
To: Sustainability Commission  
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works  
Subj: Compost Awareness Week Proclamation

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The Village of River Forest is a member of the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition (IFSCC), a not-for-profit organization advancing diversion and composting of all organics in Illinois. As part of IFSCC's efforts, they are contacting and encouraging member communities and organizations to adopt proclamations recognizing the first full week of May as Compost Awareness Week. The draft resolution language is taken from the template provided by IFSCC. In sharing the template, IFSCC indicate that communities are free to edit it in any way necessary. Commission feedback is sought with regards to any edits to the draft resolution.

**Recommendation:** Motion to Recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation recognizing the first full week in May as Compost Awareness Week in the Village of River Forest.

**Attachment:** Compost Awareness Week Proclamation



## PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 3 – 9, 2026 AS COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

**WHEREAS**, the Village of River Forest has declared the first full week of May to be the annual Compost Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS**, composting is a way of returning organic resources to the soil to restore the health of the soil and enable its essential function in the carbon cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, applying finished compost is a proven method of growing healthy food, conserving water during extreme drought, providing resiliency during flooding conditions, reducing water consumption and non-point pollution, decreasing the dependence on chemical fertilizers, decreasing erosion, carbon sequestration and remediating fire damaged lands; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to recognize composting as an effective form of resource recovery, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and pollution reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, materials such as yard trimmings, fruit and vegetable cuttings, acceptable food scraps and organics, are all able to be composted and processed into a beneficial product known as compost; and

**WHEREAS**, communities, through their local governments, highway departments, soil conservation service and extension offices, and public works professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil, climate resiliency and landfill diversion by using compost for projects at all scales; and

**WHEREAS**, International Compost Awareness Week is a publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use; and

**WHEREAS**, composting creates green jobs and infrastructure for cities and states who implement composting programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme is **Compost: Feed the Soil that Feeds Us**. The 2026 theme was chosen with the goal of highlighting the benefits of composting in agriculture and food production, and its role in supporting healthy, nutritious food, and by extension, healthy people and communities. Beyond responsible waste management, composting recognizes the interconnectedness between every person who eats and the earth that provides all of our food, as well as our agency in feeding the earth our scraps so that the soil may continue to provide for us abundantly. Compost grows healthy soil, healthy food, and a healthy Illinois.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI**, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim, in recognition of the efforts of the Compost Research & Education Foundation and Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition, as well as extension agents, soil conservation stewards, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, gardeners, and plant growers everywhere, does hereby proclaim the first full week of May as "Compost Awareness Week" in the Village of River Forest.

**IN WITNESS, THEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this \_\_ day of April, 2026.

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Catherine Adduci, Village President



**Village of River Forest  
Public Works and Engineering**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 14, 2026  
 To: Sustainability Commission  
 From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works  
 Subj: Quarterly Charging Station and Electric Vehicle Report

The below and attached report provides the following Charging and Electric Vehicle Metrics for Quarter 1: January through March 2026:

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

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

**River Forest Vehicle Registration**

	12/25	3/26
Electric Vehicles	367	375
Hybrid Vehicles	795	839

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installation Permits - By Quarter**

Q2 - 25	3
Q3 - 25	3
Q4 - 25	2
<b>Q1 - 26</b>	<b>12</b>

**Quarterly Metrics**

Quarter	Sessions	Unique Drivers	Kilowatt Hours
Q2 - 2025	730	89	9,619
Q3 - 2025	866	78	12,585
Q4 - 2025	397	78	12,423
<b>Q1 - 2026</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>14,764</b>

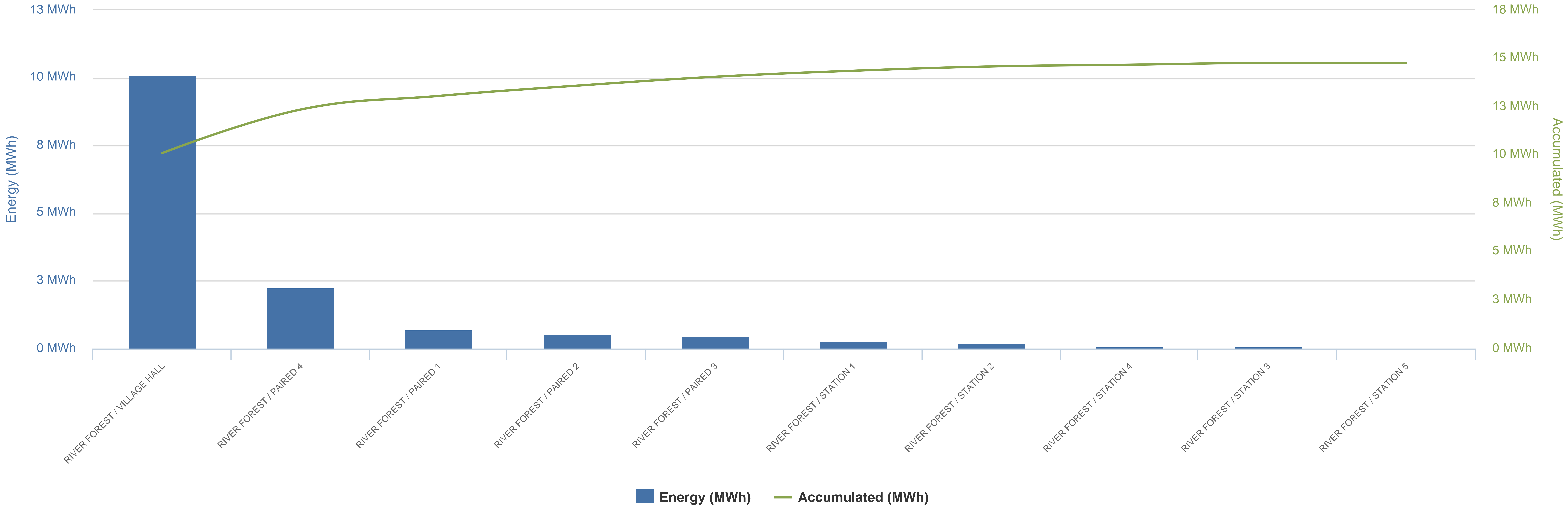
### Monthly Metrics

Month	Sessions	Unique Drivers	Kilowatt Hours
April	221	51	2,889
May	262	43	3,489
June	247	54	3,242
July	303	48	4,286
August	321	44	4,606
September	242	46	3,693
October	146	43	4,046
November	132	38	4,054
December	119	32	4,323
<b>January</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4,140</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3,154</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>7,470</b>

### Attachment:

- Energy Usage by Station – Q1 2026
- Energy Usage by Station – March 2026

# Energy Custom



# Energy Custom

