



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 – 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, August 12, 2025.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2025
4. Commissioner Updates
5. EV Charging Station Fee Review and Discussion
6. Solar Energy Communications and Resources for Residents
7. River Forest Sustainability Scorecard Discussion
8. Other Business
 - a. Communications
 - b. Quarterly Waste Report
9. Schedule Next Meeting – September 9, 2025
10. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Hayley, Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt, Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Hick of Forest Ave. spoke in support of the proposed gas leaf blower ban and encouraged a shorter timeframe for implementation of a full ban.

Peter Chien of Oak Ave. stated support for the previous comments and stated the Village has an opportunity to shorten the timeframe because of Oak Park's recently adopted full ban.

Prior to adoption of the meeting minutes, Mr. Jansen and Co-Chair Charrette introduced the newly appointed Commissioner Hoyt.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Avalos made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from May 13, 2025 and June 10, 2025.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Hayley, Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt
Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Avalos encouraged participation in Plastic Free July, encouraging reusable bags to avoid contributing to the 1 billion bags begin thrown away. Commissioner Avalos stated that there are plastic bag collection points at the entrance of Oak Park and River Forest High School, any bags donated will be used to help make benches. Commissioner Avalos also shared upcoming clean up and planting events.

Commissioner Hoyt noted that plastic bag collection locations also accept plastic wrap and plastic mailing bags in addition to plastic grocery bags.

Co-Chair Charrette noted Commission attendance of the CN Railway and America In Bloom tree planting event with the Village.

Commissioner Hayley stated she is still working on a survey or information guide for businesses

5. RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hayley began creating a starburst graphic for the community scorecard as a design option. Instead of a grid format, the actions topics are color sorted in an inner ring with the actions in an outer ring. Commissioner Hayley indicated points could be added and the actions could include links to resource guides. Commissioner Hayley sought feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Kadlec stated that he liked the direction of the format and likes that it would be visually appealing when it is posted on the website. Commissioner Hoyt inquired about and Commissioner Kadlec explained the work that has been done developing the resource guide/scorecard. Co-Chair Lennon expressed desire for simplifying and narrowing the guide, removing the points, and making sure people remain engaged with the program/guide. Commissioner Avalos stated the points may not go with the new design but expressed support for the simplicity and the visual appeal of the starburst design. The Commission discussed the potential format and ways to refine the design.

6. SOLAR ENERGY COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

Commissioner Hayley began putting together a guide for residents or the community solar program. The current guide is a 6 slide PowerPoint, but Commissioner Hayley expressed the need to shorten and simplify it. Commissioner Hoyt recommended images and videos instead of text as much as possible. The Commission discussed making a short, social-media video or series of videos to promote the community solar program.

Mr. Jansen explained the direction the Board had provided about developing information to explain the difference of the various solar energy programs, as well as the community aggregation program. Mr. Jansen shared a draft webpage with table format for the guide, indicating he believed his draft is too wordy and solicited feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Kadlec suggested developing it into a flow chart to help guide residents through the various programs. The Commission suggested explaining the steps involved for each and the benefits to each program. The Commission had inquired about updating the website more broadly to consolidate and simplify the information already on the website relating to these programs. Commissioner Hoyt volunteered to provide feedback and suggested updates to the website and the draft solar guide. Commissioner Hoyt suggested developing some social media strategies to promote the various programs. The Commission discussed reaching out to ComEd to see if they have any metrics on residents enrolled in community solar programs. The Commission discussed posting metrics and savings for the Village's pump station and street lighting accounts and their participation in the community solar program.

7. EV CHARGING STATION FEE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen outlined the memo he provided to the Commission for the new proposed EV charging rate. Mr. Jansen described some of the capabilities and limitations of the ChargePoint software. The Commission discussed ways to factor in a limited overstay fee and ways to ensure the fee captures the cost of electricity, anticipating rising cost of electricity. The Commission discussed how the rates will be adjusted in the future to ensure costs are being captured. Co-Chair Lennon suggested exploring a way to ensure the electricity rate is captured and allowing the Village's finance staff to adjust the charging rate with the changes to the electricity rate. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested clarifying the difference between parking spots and charging spots. The Commission discussed if there should be special consideration for the Level 2 chargers at the Metra Station. Co-Chair Lennon stated that they should also be considered charging spot, as opposed to a parking spots. Commissioner Kadlec stated he felt 10 hours was too long of a period prior to the overstay fee taking effect; Co-Chair Charrette raised concerns of a hypothetical case where an individual parks in one of these spots, getting very little charge but blocking the spot each day with no fee. Commissioner Hoyt stated that he anticipated it is unlikely that park and ride residents will need to utilize the charging stations while at work if they are also charging at home. The Commission came to an agreement that the spots at the Metra Station should be considered the same as any other charging spot and should not be given an extended period before an overstay fee takes effect. Mr. Jansen summarized the feedback provided by the Commission and stated he would bring back a revised draft for consideration at the next month's Commission meeting. The Commission discussed ways to share the information on the fee change to ensure residents and users are notified

8. CHEDULE NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hoyt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta

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: August 12, 2025

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fees Ordinance Consideration

At the July 2025 meeting of the Sustainability Commission, the Commission discussed and provided feedback for proposed changes to the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging fee at Village-owned EV Charging Stations (EVCS). This is in anticipation of the forthcoming installation of 13 additional Village-owned EVCS, including 8 Direct Current Fast Charging Stations.

As discussed at last month's meeting, a \$0.25 per kWh charging rate would cover the cost of electricity, plus the annualized cost of operations and maintenance, assuming an average usage of 20,000 kWh per station annually. One concern raised by the Commission was ensuring the rate captures the actual cost of electricity, which is anticipated to rise. While there is not mechanism providing authority to automatically or unilaterally adjust the rate, staff will be able to monitor both the usage and the electricity cost and will be able to include any fee adjustments in the standard fee scale that is adopted as part of the Board's budget process.

As drafted now, adoption of the proposed ordinance would shift the Village to a fee structure which charges \$0.25 per kWh at any charging station until a vehicle reaches full charge. As discussed last month, and based on the feedback from the commission, all stations will begin charging an overstay fee shortly after reaching full charge. As drafted, this fee would be \$10 per hour and would be assessed starting 15 minutes after full charge at all Direct Current Fast Charging Stations and 30 minutes after full charge for the Level 2 EVCS. The current overstay fee, which begins after two hours of free charging, is also \$10 per hour but is capped at \$30 maximum per charging session.

Because the ChargePoint system only allows for a maximum fee to be established for the entire charging session, and there is no mechanism to allow only the overstay fee to be capped, further consideration and feedback is sought from the Commission as to whether a fee cap should be put in place and at what price.

If no fee is put into place, a fee of \$10 per hour would be assessed until the individual disconnects the vehicle from the charging station. If a fee were to be put into place, a total dollar amount would need to be established. The kWh size of batteries ranges widely. Smaller model vehicles can have batteries as few as 21.3 kWh, while the largest batteries currently on the market are 246 kWh batteries. The average battery size is 70.5 kWh with many typical high-end EVs at 118 kWh. Should the board choose to recommend a fee maximum, it would likely need to factor in the cost of charge a certain battery size from empty and then add on a fee maximum for the overstay fee beyond that. This may result in higher overstay fees for smaller battery cars vs larger battery cars left at the station for the same or a longer time.

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

Attachment: Draft Ordinance Language

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 ten dollars (\$10.00) per sixty minute interval, with a maximum fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00). A fee of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy dispensed shall be paid by a user of any of the Village's publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations. Vehicles who remain at an electric vehicle parking space after completion of charging shall be charged an additional overstay fee of thirty dollars (\$10.00) per sixty-minute interval as follows:~~
 - a. For Village-owned Direct Current Fast Charging Stations, the overstay fee shall take effect 15 minutes after completion of charging.
 - b. For Village-owned Level 2 Chargers, the overstay fee shall take effect 30 minutes after completion of charging.

The overall usage fee for a charging session shall not exceed



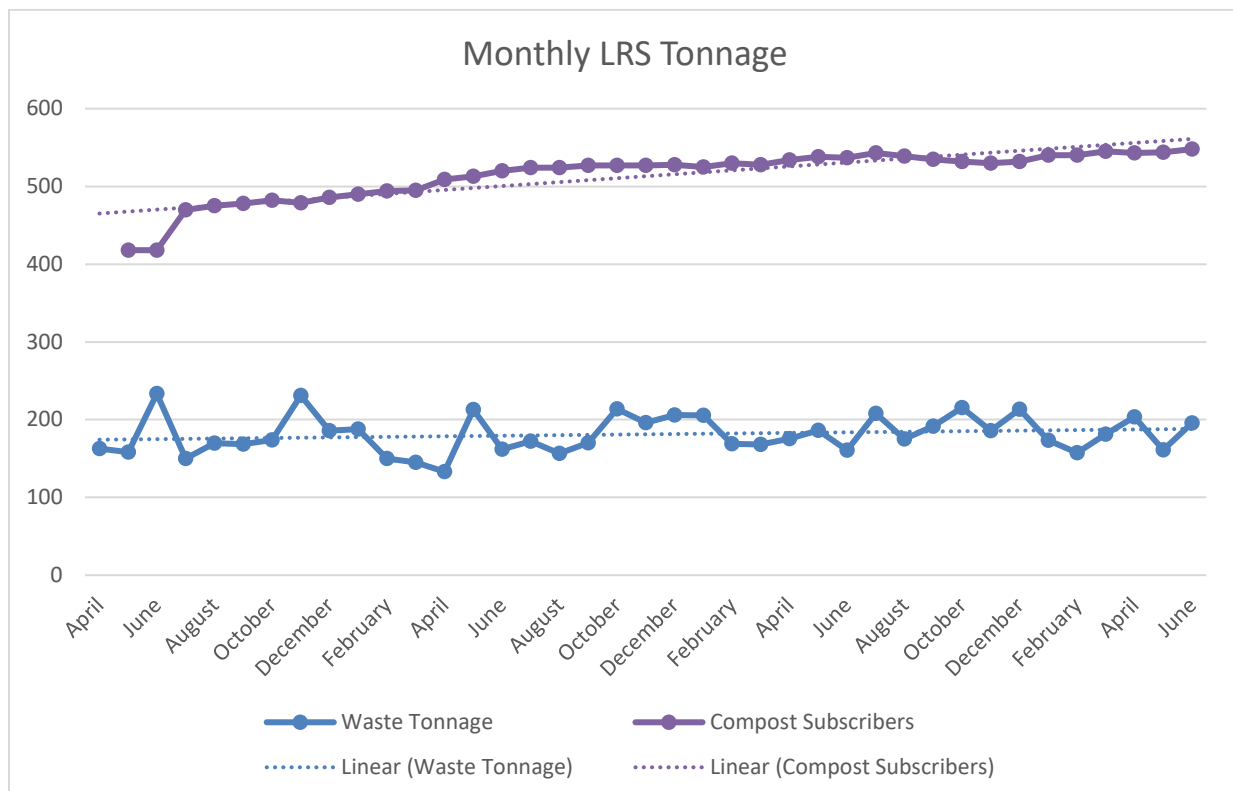
Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

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

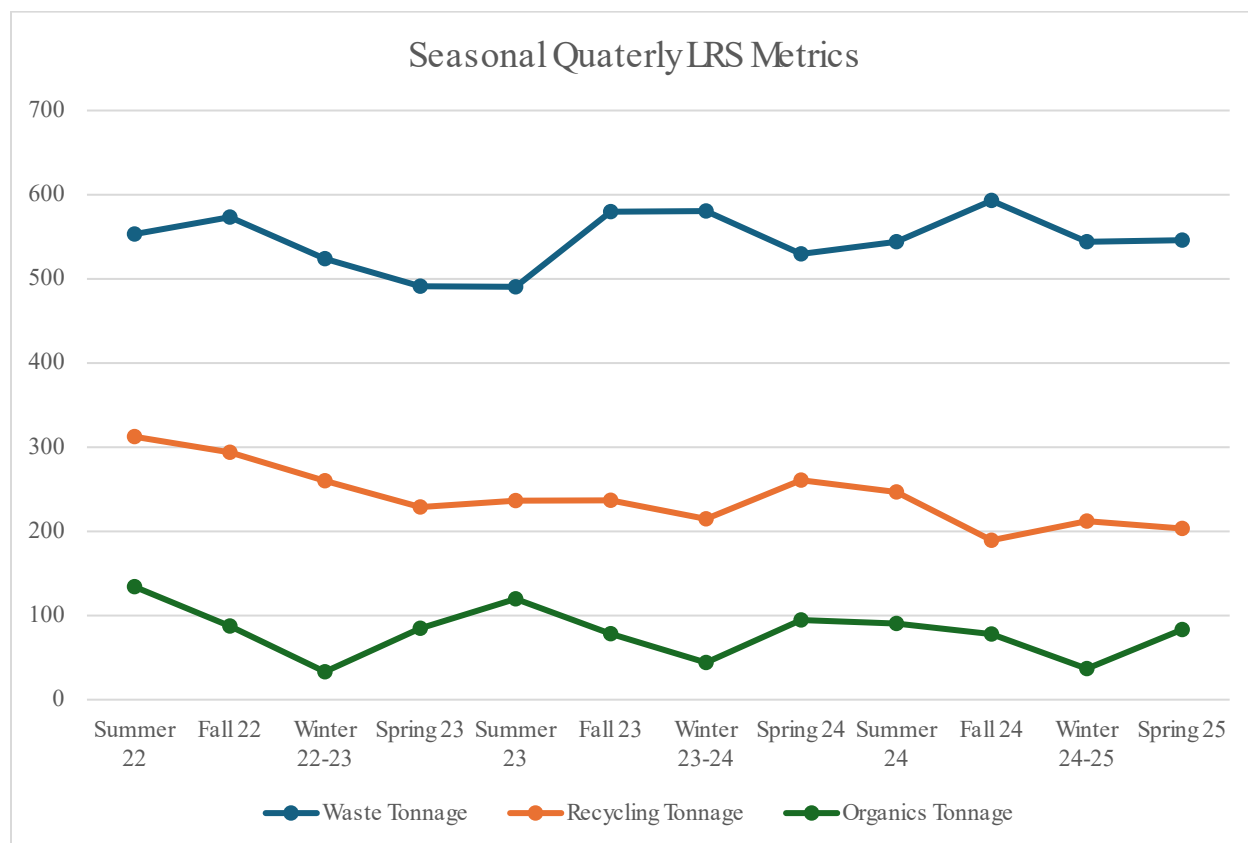
MEMORANDUM

Date: September 12, 2025
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst
Subj: Quarterly Waste Tonnage Report

Following discussion at the May 2024 meeting, the Commission has decided to receive quarterly reports on the LRS Tonnage Metrics. The Commission felt it was most prudent to highlight two specific metrics moving forward within the quarterly reports: the number of compost subscribers and the waste tonnage. Reduction in waste tonnage is the driving metric at reducing landfill tonnage whether it be through diversion or reduced consumption. A goal of the Commission is to expand composting generally to help prevent organic waste from being landfilled. Currently only 6 households are participating in the compost sharing program, with two additional households utilizing the option starting in June 2025. The chart below illustrates the waste tonnage and compost subscribers, with linear trend lines.



In previously quarterly memos found, analysis of seasonal months produced seasonally correlated fluctuation between waste and organics. The data continues to find a weak negative correlation between seasonal quarterly organics tonnage and waste tonnage, with waste tonnage decreasing as organics tonnage increases. The chart below illustrates the seasonal quarterly data for waste, recycling, and organics. This focused on full seasonal quarters since the beginning of the LRS contract (Summer 2022 through fall 2024).



Attachment: LRS Monthly Report, June 2025

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST



Collection Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD TOTAL	AVG/MTH
Active Customers	2732	2731	2735	2738	2738	2739							16413.00	2735.5
Compost Subscribers	540	540	545	543	544	548							3260.00	543
Recycling Tons	73.09	51.70	61.49	70.44	71.25	54.36							382.33	63.72
Recycling lbs	146180	103400	122980	103400	122980	140880							739820	123303
2025 Recy lbs/Cust	53.51	37.86	44.97	37.86	44.97	37.76							256.93	42.82
Organics Tons	9.96	8.11	10.00	31.01	42.17	36.95							138.20	23.03
Organics lbs	19920	16220	20000	62020	84340	73900							276400.00	46066.66
2025 Organics lbs/Cust	7.29	5.94	7.31	5.94	7.31	22.65							56.45	9.41
2025 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	32.39%	27.56%	28.28%	27.56%	28.28%	46.74%							190.80%	31.80%
Trash Tons	173.35	157.24	181.33	203.44	161.11	195.76							1,072.23	178.71
Trash lbs	346700	314480	362660	314480	362660	406880							2107860	351310
2025 Trash lbs/Cust	126.90	115.15	132.60	115.15	132.60	114.86							737.26	122.88
Total Tons	256.40	217.05	252.82	217.05	252.82	304.89							1,501.03	250.17
Total lbs	512800	434100	505640	434100	505640	479900							2872180	471063
2025 Total lbs/Cust	187.70	158.95	184.88	158.95	184.88	158.55							1,033.91	172.32
2025 White Goods Count	0	1	0	0	0	1							2	0.33
2025 Stickers Sold	0	0	1,500	6,000	3,000	2,500							13,000	2,167
2025 E-WASTE Event Tons	0	0	1.5	0	0	0							1.5	0.25
2025 E-Waste Participation	0	0	23	0	0	0							23	4.6
2025 HHW Event Tons	0	0	0	0	0	0.479							0.479	0.0798

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