



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Welcome Student Commissioner
4. Commissioner Reports Updates
5. Go Green-Oak Park-Preemption Resolutions
6. Review New Goal Matrix with Village Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculation
7. Commissioner Assignments in Goal Area
8. Announcements
 - a. Working with GreenSchools on Food Waste Awareness
 - b. Waste Exhibit at RF Library
 - c. Beyond the Bin Update
 - d. Clean Energy Lobby Day – Oct. 29th
 - e. Oct. 17th Interfaith Green Network Breakfast
 - f. Pumpkin Smash Nov. 2nd at Roosevelt
 - g. Nov. 7th Green America Article Published
 - h. Dec. 10th PlanItGreen Institutional Forum Breakfast
9. Schedule Next Meeting – November 15, 2019

<https://greenamerica.org/story/pollinator-home-sites-available>
10. Adjournment

Mission

The Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission ("RFSC") serves as an adviser and resource to the Village regarding sustainability, environmental, and conservation issues. The RFSC acts as a subject matter expert and provides recommendations regarding Village programs, initiatives, and policy. The Commission's goals are to advocate sustainability, increase government and residential awareness of environmental issues, and to enhance and promote environmental education for River Forest residents.

Regular Programs

- Sort It Out: Zero-waste sorting stations are available for residents to check out and are supplied to Green Block Party participants.
- Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Campaign: This program asks residents to pledge to not use synthetic chemicals on their lawns and gardens.
- Parkways for Pollinators: Residents who sign up for a Green Block Party can receive a free pollinator garden on their block's parkway and learn about native plants and pollinators.
- Curbside Compost: Composting is available as an opt-in program through the Village's waste service contractor.
- Recycling Extravaganza: This is an annual recycling event; collection includes electronics, scrap metal, household items, bikes, school supplies, light bulbs and much more.
- Green Block Parties: Residents who sign up for a Green Block Party are supplied with the Sort It Out stations and tips for "greening" their party. Each year there is also an activity that is provided at no cost. Previous activities include a honey tasting and compost presentations with a raffle for a free compost subscription. For the past two years it has been the Parkways for Pollinators program.

Accomplishments by Goal Area

Open Spaces/Eco Systems

- Parkway for Pollinator Program: 15 gardens were installed on resident parkways in 2018 in collaboration with the Deep Roots Project and as part of River Forest's Green Block Party Program. In 2019, 20 gardens will be planted and existing gardens will receive maintenance help. PlanItGreen provided grant funding for 2019 gardens and the 2020 program will continue through a grant from Openlands.
- Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family: Green Block Parties also include the "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family" campaign. Approximately 200 residents have pledged to keep their lawns chemical free in River Forest. The Park District and Village have also pledged to be chemical free.

Garden Initiatives

- In conjunction with Deep Roots, four inspirational native plant gardens, which include vegetables, were installed at public locations in River Forest. This project won a Big Idea grant from the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.

- Native gardens were installed along the train tracks in River Forest. This reduces the need for water, chemical use, and maintenance on public lands; supports the ecosystem; and creates a more welcoming environment for butterflies and other pollinators. River Forest also incorporated native plantings into the Lake Street Business District garden beds.
- Through a partnership with Green America, the Village placed all its native plant gardens on the Climate Victory Garden map. These gardens will also be mapped on the Village's GIS Community Portal. Over 26,000 square feet of gardens have been planted in River Forest.
- The Sustainability Commission successfully lobbied against federal legislation that would preempt local pesticide protections and prevent the Village from having local restrictions. Commissioners researched the issues, met with elected officials and environmental groups, and drafted a letter signed by the Village President. The final version of the bill passed without the language.
- The Village created a contractor license application form for pesticide applicators that requires them to submit their State license. This ensures applicators are trained in proper procedures to apply chemicals to lawns and gardens.

Waste

- 2019 marked the 7th annual Recycling Extravaganza. The event's partners included Roy Strom & Co., Future Philanthropists, Oak Park Youth Services, Citizen Corps, SCARCE, Working Bikes, the Epilepsy Foundation, and the River Forest Police Department. 659 households were served and collection included: 48,000 pounds of electronics, 1,800 pounds of batteries, 5,280 pounds of scrap metal, 1,821 pounds of clothing, 70 pounds of prescription medications, and 99 bikes and helmets.
- Curbside Composting Program: The Village was the second municipality in the State to have a curbside composting program and now has nearly 300 households participating. Public schools, the park district, Community Center and several businesses also participate in the composting program.
- Electronics Pick Up: In 2018, the Village started a year-round curbside electronics pick-up service for residents, which is charged to residents through the Village's waste contractor.
- Other Waste Diversion Service: Village Hall hosts collection bins for prescription medications and batteries year-round, and holiday lights are collected for recycling from December through February. Last year the Village partnered with Green Team at Roosevelt Middle School for the "great pumpkin smash," which kept methane-producing pumpkins out of the landfill and reduced the cost of leaf-pickup for residents.

Single-Use Plastics

- In July 2019, RFSC and the Village held a meeting with local retailers including Walgreens, Jewel, and Fresh Thyme to discuss ways to reduce the amount of single-use plastics in River Forest. The Commission is currently working with retailers on an individual basis to implement strategies.

Educational Programs

- Over 30 residents attended the inaugural River Forest Tree Tour in May 2019. Hosted in partnership with Morton Arboretum, attendees learned about the trees in the Village.
- For its third year, the RFSC led eighth graders on a Sustainability Tour of the Village. The students learn about LED streetlights, permeable paver parking lots, and solar powered residences.
- In April 2019, the River Forest Library screened winning films from the One Earth Film Festival Young Filmmakers Contest, and the Village recognized the three River Forest winners at a Village Board of Trustees meeting.
- The RFSC presented on the Parkways for Pollinators program at the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation's Lunch and Learn session in May 2019.
- The River Forest Police Department assisted a Girl Scout working on her Gold Award with handing out information on bicycle safety at the annual Food Truck Rally.
- In September 2019, the RFSC welcomed its first Student Commissioner, a freshman at OPRF.

Energy

- In 2019, the Village was awarded the SolSmart Bronze designation. This program, sponsored by the Department of Energy, trains communities to make it simpler to participate in renewable energy.
- The Village is partnering with Oak Park to complete a plan with National Renewable Energy Lab. The plan is a roadmap to renewable energy and strives to meet goals set by the Chicago Climate Agreement.

Other

- Led by RFSC and the Biking Task Force, the Village developed and adopted its first Bicycle Plan. The Village's traffic consultant surveyed more than 300 residents over two years to make the plan as inclusive as possible. Funded by a grant through the Cook County Department of Transportation, the plan includes connecting River Forest to bicycle paths in the region and maps the best locations for bicycle facilities.

Grants

- Openlands awarded the Village a \$5,000 grant to help fund the Parkways for Pollinators program for its third year in 2020.
- PlanItGreen and the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation awarded the Village \$12,000 (over two years) to fund Green Block Party activities, including Parkways for Pollinators.
- The RFSC was awarded a \$1,000 State grant to purchase its "Sort It Out" Zero Waste Stations. They are available at no cost to residents for use at Green Block Parties and various Village-sponsored events.

Awards

- Green Quality Achievement Award from the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency
- Sol Smart Bronze Designation

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

2020 Plan Matrix

September 2019_v2

Per the Chicago Climate Charter Agreement signed by President Adduci, Dec. 2017 at the Chicago Climate Summit and in support of the US commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, River Forest pledges to decrease emissions by 25% by the year 2030. This will set RF back to pre 2005 levels and put us on the road to be carbon neutral by 2050. (I need to refine this once I know what the emissions are)

<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/mayor/Press%20Room/Press%20Releases/2017/December/2017ChicagoClimateCharter.pdf>

Strategies	Outreach, Education & Activation				
	Residents	Institutions	Businesses	Places of Worship	Government
Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy	NREL Planning				
	Aggregation		Aggregation	Aggregation	
					SolSmart Bronze SolSmart Silver
		Community Solar		Community Solar	Community Solar
	Individual Solar	Individual Solar	Individual Solar	Individual Solar	Individual Solar
Expand green transportation & mobility options	Village Bike Plan Implementation				
	Village Walkability Plan				
	Village Public Transportation Plan				
Protect water sources and reduce waste & consumption	Expansion and Maintenance of Village Permeable Surfaces				
	Rainwater Reclamation				
Reduce waste and increase diversion	Backyard/Vermiculture Composting	Institutional Composting			
	Curbside Composting				
	Municipal Recycling/Special recycling Pick Up Program	Onsite Recycling Centers			
	Elimination of Single-Use Plastic				

	River Forest Green Directory				
	Ordinance for x amount of C&D construction to be recycled				
	SIO Stations for Special Events	Zero Waste Stations in Food Service Spaces Unused Food Distribution SIO Stations for Special Events	Zero Waste Stations in Food Service Spaces Unused Food Distribution SIO Stations for Special Events	Zero Waste Stations in Food Service Spaces SIO Stations for Special Events	Zero Waste Stations in Food Service Spaces SIO Stations for Special Events
Carbon sequestration and support for eco-systems	P4P (Native Plantings/Edible Gardens)	P4P (Native Plantings/Edible Gardens)	Native Plantings/Edible Gardens	P4P (Native Plantings/Edible Gardens)	Native Plantings/Edible Gardens
	HL / HF Program	IPM	IPM	IPM	IPM
	Climate Victory Garden Map	Climate Victory Garden Map			Climate Victory Garden Map
	Community Gardens				
	Village Tree Map / Annual Tree Tour				
Measure our success	Quantify, track and publicly report				

Key:

- Green = Maintain**
- Blue = Activate**
- Purple = Evolve**
- Red = Sunset**

Strategy:

Strategies	Outreach, Education & Activation				
	Residents	Institutions D90 / Grace Lutheran / Trinity / St. Luke's / St. Vincent's / Dominican University / Concordia University	Businesses See attached list	Places of Worship St. Vincent / St. Luke / Grace Lutheran / West Suburban Temple Har Zion / River Forest United Methodist / First Presbyterian / Christ Church Episcopal	Government Police / Fire Department / Park District / Public Works / Village Hall
Enhance our tree canopy & green space	P4P	P4P		P4P	
	Inspiration Edible Gardens	D90 School Gardens		Inspiration Edible Gardens	Inspiration Edible Gardens
	HL / HF Program	Concordia / Dominican / Trinity IPM	River Forest Town Center IPM	St. Vincent / St. Luke / Grace Lutheran IPM	Public Works IPM Park District IPM
	Climate Victory Garden Map	Climate Victory Garden Map			Climate Victory Garden Map
	Community Gardens				
	Village Tree Map / Annual Tree Tour				

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