



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Comments
5. Matrix Final Comments and Highlight points for 2/24/20 Village Board Meeting
6. One Earth Film Festival
7. Earth Day
8. Schedule Next Meeting – March 10, 2020
9. Adjournment

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
2020 Plan

February 2020

The Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC) is comprised of the following members for the 2020 calendar year. John Anderson, River Forest Director of Public Works, supports us.

Sustainability Commission Members		
Name	Role	Term Expires
Julie Moller	Chair	4/30/21
Eric Simon	Commissioner	4/30/21
Lisa Gillis	Commissioner	4/30/21
Shannon Roberts	Commissioner	4/30/23
Beth Cheng	Commissioner	4/30/23
Andrew Basney	Commissioner	4/30/23
Susan Charrette	Commissioner	4/30/21
Eleanor (Ellie) Raidt	Student Commissioner	N/A
John Anderson	Administrator	Village of River Forest Director Public Works

All members of the RFSC have key areas of responsibility and primary organizations across the community to connect with as well as co-ownership of projects. Ideally, co-ownership on a project-by-project basis is ideally shared with an employee of the Village of River Forest Government as well as a resident of the Village of River Forest who wants to get involved in our mission.

We see the 2020 calendar year as a year of transition and a culmination of the grass roots work implemented for the last eight years. Now is the time for a formal transition into the everyday functions of the Village as a whole. Toward this end, we have spent much time documenting what we do and how we do it.

What follows is a document comprised of five sections:

1. Mission and Goals
2. Contact Matrix
3. Passion Matrix
4. Project Summaries
5. Impact

We thank you for your time in reading this document and providing input such that it truly reflects the ideals and aspirations of the Village of River Forest.

Thank you.

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission**RFSC Mission and 2020 Goals**

February 2020

The **Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission's** purpose is to enhance the quality of life of its residents through the study and promotion of **sustainable** practices that conserve natural resources and protect the environment. The following matrix lists strategies to enable the Village, residents and institutions to protect the environment by reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions we are producing and that are the source of Climate Change.

Focus	Strategies	Outreach, Education & Activation				
		Residents	Institutions	Businesses	Places of Worship	Government
Energy	Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy	Renewables	Renewables	Renewables	Renewables	Renewables
Transportation	Expand green transportation & mobility options					<i>Public Transportation</i>
						<i>Walkability</i>
						Biking
						<i>Parking</i>
Water	Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption					Permeable Surfaces
		Rainwater Reclamation	Rainwater Reclamation		Rainwater Reclamation	Rainwater Reclamation
Waste	Reduce waste & increase waste diversion	Composting	Composting	Composting	Composting	Composting
		Recycling	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling	Recycling
		Reducing	Reducing	Reducing		
		Education	Education	Education	Education	
Green Ecosystem	Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems	Gardens	Gardens	Gardens	Gardens	Gardens
		Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)	Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)		Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)	Integrated Pest Mgmt. (IPM)
		Trees	Trees		Trees	Trees
Impact	Measure our success	Quantify, Track and Report				

Key:

Type = RFSC 2020 Initiative

Type = Project of the Village of River Forest

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Contact Matrix

February 2020

The RFSC works with many organizations in River Forest and the surrounding communities. To ensure that we optimize these connections and minimize confusion that might result from too many connection points, we have assigned each commissioner the responsibility to cultivate meaningful, mutually beneficial working relationships with these organizations as summarized in the table below. It is expected that someone from the RFSC connect with each contact at least once per year. These liaison functions do not replace individual project working relationships; rather, their focus is on issue / opportunity identification and activation.

Organization	Contact (Email)	Julie Moller	Ellie Raidt	Lisa Gillis	Eric Simon	Andy Basney	Beth Cheng	Susan Charrette	Shannon Roberts
Concordia University									
D90 -- Green4Good Parent Group	Alexis Murphy (alexis_murphy@hotmail.com)						X		
D90 -- Lincoln Green4 Good Kids Faculty Lead	Lori Suzuki (suzukil@district90.org) Pamela Moriarty (moriartyp@district90.org)	X							
D90 -- Roosevelt Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead	Anna Daly (dalya@district90.org)	X							
D90 -- Willard Green Team Faculty Lead	Val Smart (smartv@district90.org)						X		
Dominican University	Ellen McManus (emcmanus@dom.edu) Monica Halloran (mhallora@dom.edu)	X				X			
Grace Lutheran									
Green America	Jes Walton (JWalton@greenamerica.org)			X					
Green Interfaith Network	Jim Babcock (jlbabck@sbcglobal.net)							X	
Houseal Lavigne Associates	John Houseal, FAICP (JHouseal@hlplanning.com) (312) 372-1008 x101								
Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. (www.kloainc.com)	Eric D. Russell 847) 518-9990 office (847) 997-9886 cell erussell@kloainc.com					X			
Mayor's Caucus Environmental Committee	Edith Makra emakra@mayorscaucus.org	X							
Midwest Grows Green	Ryan Anderson (randerson@ipminstitute.org)			X					
Morten Arboretum (for Tree Tours)	Emily Okallau (eokallau@mortonarb.org)					X			
Morten Arboretum (for ArbNet)	Sue Paist (arbnet@mortonarb.org)					X			
NREL (Nat'l Renewable Energy Lab)					X				
One Earth Film Festival and Green Community Connections	Anna Garcia-Doyle (ana@oneearthfilmfest.org)	X							
OPRF High School			X						

PlantItGreen	Gary Cuneen (gary@sevengenerationsahead.org)	X						X	
River Forest Library	Sue Quinn(squinn@rflib.org)	X							
Roy Strom	George Strom (gstrom@roystrom.com)	X							
St. Luke’s									
St. Vincent’s									
Sugarbeet Schoolhouse	Cheryl Munoz Cheryl@sugarbeetschoolhouse.org	X							
The Deep Roots Project	David Murphy (djmurphy1967@gmail.com)			X					
Trinity High School	Susan Bedell (sbedell@trinityhs.org)			X					
Trailside/Forest Preserve									
Village of River Forest Public Works	Mark Janopoulos (mjanop@vrf.us) John Anderson (janderson@vrf.us)	X							
Village of River Forest Park District	Mike Sletten (msletten@rfparks.com)	X		X					

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Passion Matrix

February 2020

The members of the RFSC come from diverse backgrounds in terms of personal, academic and professional lives. We all have varied areas of expertise, interests and personal networks. To ensure that we are consistently bringing forth passion and appropriate knowledge to each initiative and action, we have summarized our knowledge in the chart below.

We envision using this matrix to ensure that we are tapping into the right people for the right things with an eye toward excellence in leadership, from project planning through execution and optimization as well as we casting speaking engagements.

	Julie Moller	Ellie Raidt	Lisa Gillis	Eric Simon	Andy Basney	Beth Cheng	Susan Charrette	Shannon Roberts
Bees					X			
Biking					X			
Edible Gardens			X					
Measurement						X		X
Native Gardens			X				X	
Single Use Plastics	X							
Research						X		
Renewable Power	X			X				
Trees		X			X			
Waste – Composting	X						X	
Waste – Recycling	X							
Water	X							

Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Project Summaries

February 2020

Focus	Strategy	Project Type	Project
Energy	Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy	Renewables	Rooftop Solar
			Community Choice Aggregation
			Community Solar
			SolSmart Certification
Transportation	Expand green transportation & mobility options	Public Transportation	<i>Public Transportation Plan</i>
		Walkability	<i>VRF Walkability Plan</i>
		Biking	The Bicycle Plan for the VRF
		Parking	<i>Parking Plan</i>
Water	Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption	Permeable Surfaces	Green Alleys
		Rainwater Reclamation	Rain Barrel Sales through MWRD
Waste	Reduce waste & increase waste diversion	Composting	Residential Curbside
			Institutional Curbside
			Pumpkin Smash
		Reducing	Single Use Plastics
		Recycling	Residential Curbside & Special Pick-up
			Onsite Commercial
			Holiday Lights Collection
			Recycling Extravaganza
			<i>C&D Construction Materials</i>
		Education	SIO Stations
			Zero Waste Stations
			Green Block Parties
			Beyond the Bin
			Village of River Forest Green Directory
		RFSC Participation @ Community Events	
Green Ecosystem	Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems	Gardens	Parkways for Pollinators (P4P)
			Inspirational Edible Gardens
			Natives
			Community
		Integrated Pest Mgmt.	Healthy Lawn / Healthy Family
			Midwest Grows Green
		Trees	Tree <Location> Map
			Annual Tree Tour
Impact	Measure our success	Quantify, Track & Report	Program KPIs
			RFSC Mission KPIs

Key:

Type = RFSC 2020 Initiative

Type = Project of the Village of River Forest

ENERGY

Action Matrix Goals 8.24,25,27,28,29,30,38

Renewables -- Rooftop Solar

Owner(s):	Eric Simon, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)
Strategy:	Increase the use of solar on residential, public and commercial rooftops in River Forest through the dissemination of information and education. Use rooftop solar, where applicable, as one of the tools towards building a renewable energy portfolio for Village residents, institutions and commercial properties.
Tactics:	Reduce complexity of and obstacles for obtaining solar installations through expanded informational resources. Attend relevant meetings and stay abreast of grant opportunities for solar installation. Create system to share information with residents and businesses in meaningful way.
Status:	Achieved Bronze certification of the SolSmart Program and are tracking existing solar installations.
2020 Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Create vrf.us Solar webpage to include useful tools and resources to simplify the process required to understand and move forward with solar projects.▪ Apply for Silver certification of the SolSmart Program (https://www.solsmart.org). (SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets; it is funded by U.S. Department of Energy)▪ Continue to collect information on the latest opportunities for local renewable options and attend meetings regarding renewable energy, including, but not limited to the Mayor's Metropolitan Caucus and PlanItGreen meetings.▪ Continue to track solar installations in the Village.▪ Work with Development Commission on incentives for developers to use renewable energy

ENERGY

Renewables – Community Choice Aggregation

- Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
- Objective: Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)
- Strategy: Replace current energy contract with Commonwealth Edison using “brown” energy with a contract that uses a renewable energy source. Use aggregation as a “bridge” until community solar rooftop or other local renewable sources can be put into place. CCA is just one source and one tool towards building a renewable energy portfolio for Village residents, institutions and commercial businesses
- Tactics: Find an energy partner that can provide aggregation that meets current ComEd rate and switch residential energy to an opt-out renewable energy plan.
- Status: John Anderson has contacted Mark Pruitt from Mayor’s Caucus to explore procedural steps to exploring contract but without success. Julie Moller to contact MC2 and report back.
- 2020 Action:
- Find a contractor who can supply an aggregation plan for the Village that meets or beats the current ComEd energy rate for residents.
 - Consider and energy auction.
 - Create a platform for educating residents about Community Choice Aggregation.
 - Explore partnerships with other municipalities for aggregation agreements.

Resources: <https://solstice.us/solstice-blog/community-choice-aggregation/>

ENERGY

Renewables – Community Solar

Owner(s):	Eric Simon, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Decrease carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy sources and honor the PlanItGreen Letter of Intent in pursuing 100% renewable energy and the Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community (Appendix B&C)
Strategy:	Stay current on Community Solar opportunities through PlanITGreen, Mayor's Caucus and Illinois Environmental Council and share with local institutions and residents.
Tactics:	Create a system for informing interested institutions, future developments and residents on opportunities as they arise.
Status:	Nothing to report.

2020 Action:

- Provide explanation on Village website about Community Solar and how it fits into the renewable energy resources that are being offered.
- Attend relevant meetings and/or notify institutions to attend meetings that may offer information/opportunities to participate in Community Solar programs
- Assess what RF institutions may be interested in Community Solar and monitor their progress
- Work with Development Commission on incentives for developers to use renewable energy

Notes:

Community Solar is a solar energy collection array that delivers electricity to a distribution system -- ComEd for the Village of River Forest (VRF) and allocates output to subscribers to the program. This is advantageous to customers who don't have the space and/or ability to host a solar array.

TRANSPORTATION

Action Matrix Goals 4:08.09; 5:06, 07,10; 6:06; 7:20,21; 8:09,10, 11

Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest – Plan Creation

Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Expand green transportation & mobility options.

Strategy: Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.

Tactics:

- **Bicycle Plan Funding.** The Bicycle Plan was funded by a grant from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. The Village of River Forest would like to acknowledge the leadership of Cook County Board Commissioner Pete Silvestri (9th District) for his support in securing the grant.
- **Overview of the Plan**
 - The bicycle system in the Village of River Forest is in the initial stages of development. This bicycle plan provides a framework for the design and implementation of a comprehensive network of bicycle facilities that connects with the Village's major destinations, including its Village Center, schools, parks, transit stations, civic facilities, houses of worship, and commercial centers, and the nearby forest preserves, regional trails, and bicycle facilities in adjoining communities.
 - The plan responds to the comments received from the online resident bicycling survey, which indicated that a high percentage of residents are already bicycling in the Village. The recommended bicycle facilities in this plan are intended to provide a greater level of comfort for these riders and create a heightened level of awareness that bicyclists are sharing the road with motorists all without removing street parking that is so valued by local businesses and residents.
 - The bicycle plan also identifies policies and programs to support, encourage and promote increased bicycle use in the Village, particularly for short utilitarian trips. The bicycle facility projects, policies and programs have been prioritized into a three-phase implementation program (near-term, mid-term, long-term) based on necessary advanced planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. Lastly, sources of funding assistance and design guidance have been provided for reference.
- **Implementation Phasing.** Implementation of the recommended bicycle facilities, policies and programs will likely occur over differing time periods based on planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. In recognition of this, the recommendations have been prioritized into three phases: near-term, mid-term and long-term, which may assist Village staff in budgeting, programming and coordination efforts. One of the first tasks in implementing these recommendations would be the assignment of each to a responsible Village Commission, Task Force, Department or staff position.
- **Near-Term Phase.** These corridors are currently comfortable for bicycling but can be enhanced into the bicycle network with low-cost signage and way finding guidance. The near-term projects consist of all signed posted routes, which are on local streets controlled by the Village. A small degree of advanced planning is required prior to implementation, generally involving the determination of sign type and placement locations, sign messaging and fabrication, plan preparation, and

bidding/contracting. Many of the bicycle-friendly policies and programs can also be adopted or implemented in the near-term phase. Timelines are generally less than 2 years.

- **Mid-Term Phase.** These corridors consist of the marked shared lane and bicycle lane projects that are on streets controlled by the Village. These projects require a higher degree of planning prior to implementation and more moderate construction budgets for the additional costs associated with pavement markings, pavement marking removals or seal-coating, and potential supplemental measures (ex. curb extensions). As such, the Village may elect to pursue grant funding to defray a portion of the costs. Timelines generally range from 2-5 years.
- **Long-Term Phase.** These corridors consist of the marked shared lane, bicycle lane and side path projects that are on streets controlled by IDOT and may also have impacts to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and private landowners. These projects require a high degree of planning prior to implementation, higher construction budgets, and coordination/approval by other agencies. There may be needs for utility relocations, sidewalk replacement, and landscape/streetscape modifications. The Village may elect to pursue grant funding to defray a portion of the costs for these projects as well. Timelines can exceed 5 years.
- **Policies and Programs:**
 - Policies
 - Complete Streets Policy
 - Safe Routes to School Policy
 - Bicycle Parking Policy
 - Educational Programs
 - Bicycle Safety Materials
 - Bicycle Educators/Ambassadors
 - Bikes on Public Transit
 - Operation Chill
 - Basics of Bicycle Repair
 - Encouragement Programs
 - Bicycle System Map
 - Community Bike Rides
 - Bicycling Tab on Village Website
 - Bicycle Parking at Community Events
 - Bike Friendly Businesses
 - Bike to Work Challenges
 - University Programs
 - Enforcement Programs
 - Police Department Bike Patrol
 - Bicycle Registration
 - Monitoring Crash Data

Status: The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.

2020 Action: Be an advocate for the plan when appropriate. Continue meetings with KLOA and Bicycle Task Force as needed.

TRANSPORTATION

Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest Near-Term

Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Expand green transportation and mobility options.

Strategy: Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.

Tactics: Implementation of the recommended bicycle facilities, policies and programs will likely occur over differing time periods based on planning efforts, cost, funding sources, and need for approval by other agencies. In recognition of this, the recommendations have been prioritized into three phases: near-term, mid-term and long-term, which may assist Village staff in budgeting, programming and coordination efforts. One of the first tasks in implementing these recommendations would be the assignment of each to a responsible Village Commission, Task Force, Department or staff position.

Status: The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest (VRF) is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.

Bike Fix It Station Installed near train station, thanks to Wheel and Sprocket of Oak Park.

- 2020 Action:
 - Move forward with implementation of the Bicycle plan for all non-IDOT streets within the Village. This would exclude North Avenue, Harlem Avenue, Lake Street, and Madison Street as well as all of Thatcher Avenue this year due to any potential conflicts with the Des Plaines River Trail, which may be placed here in the future. The budget number from KLOA who is doing this next phase of the implementation plan is \$238,380 for all striping and signage installations. This has been approved and adopted into the budget.
 - Review near-term goals to identify next projects and possible funding.

TRANSPORTATION

Biking – The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest Policy and Program Implementation

Owner(s):	Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Expand green transportation and mobility options.
Strategy:	Make it easier and safer for residents and guests to use a bicycle as a means of transport.
Tactics:	Policy and Program Implementation Phasing – see plan in Appendix A
Status:	The plan for The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest (VRF) is complete and has been approved by the VRF Board of Trustees.
2020 Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review plan and identify partners that can assist with programming. For example contact schools and assess what bicycle safety is being taught if any.▪ Work with police department to ensure bike helmet safety.▪ Develop relationship with Traffic and Safety Commission to develop programs and policies.▪ Organize an inauguration of the Bike Fix It Station.▪ Table at One Earth Film Festival transportation events.▪ Continue work with the Bicycle Task Force▪ Consider having a bike fix-it class during Summer in the Park events.

TRANSPORTATION

Biking – Village of River Forest Certification

Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Expand green transportation & mobility options.

Strategy: Achieve official designation for the Village of River Forest (VRF) as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists. The award program has six tiers (Honorable Mention, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond) based on an assessment of the community’s efforts with respect to engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation and planning.

Tactics: Actions to be pursued towards achieving a BFC designation include:

- Adopting this Bicycle Plan
- Naming a Bicycle Coordinator
- Formalizing the Village’s Bicycle Task Force into a Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Adopting a Complete Streets policy
- Adopting a bicycle parking ordinance
- Installing the bicycle facilities in this plan, particularly the bicycle lane and side path projects on the higher speed roadways
- Implementing at least two of the Education programs, especially those in the schools
- Organize Bike to Work events and other Encouragement programs
- Implementing at least one of the Enforcement programs

Status:

- Bicycle Plan is approved.
- In FY2019, a fix-it bike repair station was installed in November 2019 by the entrance to the River Forest Depot Metra Station.
 - The Chris Kegel Foundation in partnership with Wheel & Sprocket donated the station itself and maintenance to the Village.
 - John Anderson and I worked with Eric Krzystofiak, General Manager of the store, Wheel and Sprocket, in Oak Park.
 - The cement slab for the station was installed by Public Works.

2020 Action: Continue plan implementation

WATER

Action Matrix Goals 4:12, 5:11

Permeable Surfaces – Green Alleys

Owner(s):	John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Continue to replace alleyways with permeable pavers to reduce help reduce area flooding.
Strategy:	Continue to Identify alleyways for repaving where permeable surfaces can be used to reduce flooding and allow water to infiltrate into the soil.
Tactics:	Continue to apply for State funding and place work request in fiscal plans.
Status:	Right now twelve of the 29 River Forest alleyways have permeable pavers. When funding permits alleys scheduled for resurfacing will receive priority and be reworked with permeable pavers. A schedule for alleys with permeable pavers will also be maintained.
2020 Action:	Schedule work for one permeable alley Coordinate design engineering for an additional three alleyways Apply for funding for the following year.

WATER

Permeable Surfaces – Parking Lots

Owner(s):	Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission John Anderson Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Protect water sources and help reduce flooding.
Strategy:	Create more permeable surfaces so that water is allowed to permeate the soil rather than run off into storm sewer during regular and heavy rainfall events.
Tactics:	Replace impermeable surfaces with permeable ones.
Status:	In 2016 Commuter parking lot at Thatcher commuter lot was repaved with permeable pavers and saves approximately 81,000 gallons of storm water from entering sewers annually helping decrease flooding and pollutant run-off.
2020 Action:	Work with Public works to identify any surfaces that are ready for resurfacing. If projects are ready, asses whether they can be permeable pavers, if so submit cost for 2021 budget.

WATER

Water Consumption – Rain Barrel Purchase through Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Owner(s):	Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission Jonathan Pape, Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator
Objective:	Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption.
Strategy:	Provide education to residents on water consumption and capturing rainwater.
Tactics:	Let residents know they can purchase rain barrels from the Water Reclamation District at a reduced cost.
Status:	The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District offers rain barrels to all Cook County residents at the cost of \$45.78. This includes flexible connecting elbow to attach rain barrel to your downspout.
2020 Action:	Ensure information on the website is up to date. Post information on the website of the benefits of rain barrels and the proper installation.

WASTE

Action Plan Matrix Goal #8:26,34, 35

Composting – Residential Curbside

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Offer progressive, future forward curbside composting services to Village of River Forest residents as part of standard garbage collection program

Tactics: Assist with promoting, monitoring and community education of the standard curbside composting program maintained by the VRF through its contract with waste hauler, Roy Strom and offered to all VRF residents as part of the standard garbage collection program at incremental cost

- Ensure that the program remains amongst the best in the country
- Educate Village of River Forest residents about proper composting through the maintenance and distribution of composting tips and tricks on the VRF Website working in partnership with Roy Strom

Status:

- Program was launched in May 2015. It was the second curbside compost program in the state of Illinois behind Oak Park at that time.
- Current program in place is opt-In with those residents who want to participate paying for the service; at YE 2019, there were 300 out of 2,576 VRF Single Family Homes and Multi-Family Buildings of 3 or less units participating in the program

River Forest Municipal Composting – Residential pounds of organic waste – Last Five Years

	2015	2016	2017 (*)	2018 (*)	2019 (*)
Single Family Home	242	304	821	2162	2229
Multi-Unit Residential Buildings of 3 or Less					

(*) Note: Pounds of Waste include leaves that are picked up by the VRF in the fall and composted

2020 Action:

- Explore the feasibility of moving from an Opt-In to Opt-Out approach for program participation
- Explore options to reduce the cost of the program including residential sharing of one bin for pick-up
- Share finished compost at no cost to all residents once per year (April)

WASTE

Composting – Institutional Curbside

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Increase the amount of institutions participating in the curbside-composting program offered by Roy Strom and Company.

Tactics:

- Inform institutions about the composting program by showcasing current participants such as Trinity High School or the Library; let them know about the program and how it helps with waste diversion
- Continue to inform institutions, especially private schools and their congregations, of the benefits of composting
 - Connect them with organizations such as Seven Generations and the RFSC that can help them set up a program
 - Work with Roy Strom to meet with high organic use organizations such as restaurants and private schools

Status:

- Currently all District 90 schools -- Lincoln, Willard, Roosevelt Middle School, River Forest Community Center, River Forest Tennis Club, River Forest Library, VRF Park District, Trinity High School, River Forest Chocolates and Good Earth are composting via the curbside composting program offered by the VRF through its waste hauler, Roy Strom Company.
- In addition, Concordia and Dominican University compost their kitchens only via this method.

2020 Action: Begin by contacting private schools to assess interest in composting, with priority focus on Grace Lutheran, St. Luke's, and St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Elementary.

WASTE

Composting – Pumpkin Smash

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Anna Daly, Roosevelt Middle School, Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead
Joanthan Pape, Village of River Forest Assistant to the Village Administrator

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so

- Specifically, share information about the VRF Residential Composting Program
- Keep pumpkins out of the street after Halloween

Tactics: Support the Roosevelt Middle School Eco-Warriors with the execution of the *Pumpkin Smash* each year following Halloween to turn old pumpkins into compost rather than leave them in the street with the leaves as follows:

- Eco-Warriors Faculty Lead works with Roy Strom to secure the dumpster and report back on total pounds composted
- Paper to ensure that the event is promoted on the VRF website and social feeds
- RFSC provides advice / guidance and acts as escalation for issues and opportunities

Status: The **Pumpkin Smash** is in its 2nd year

Waste Diversion Statistics River Forest Pumpkin Smash
Composted Waste – Since Program Inception

	2018	2019
Number of Pumpkins Composted	486	512
Pounds of Pumpkin Composted	4820 lbs.	4860 lbs.

2020 Action: Continue to support the Pumpkin Smash as indicated above with D90 resources liaising directly with Roy Strom to secure the dumpster and with VRF to promote the event on the VRF website and social feeds

WASTE

Single-Use Plastic

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste and consumption of single use plastics.

Strategy: Reduce the amount single use plastics being used at retailers, restaurants and events across the Village of River Forest.

Tactics:

- Educate residents on the harm single use plastic has on the environment.
- Inform residents of alternatives to single use plastics.
- Work with business to reduce single use plastics.
- Work with students who have expressed concern to Village on single use plastic use.

Status:

- Resident Education: RFSC has made several presentations about micro-plastics across River Forest in 2019
 - 7th grade Science Class at Roosevelt Middle School, 2019 and 2020
 - RF Library Coffee Monday
 - PlanItGreen Institutional Leaders Breakfast
 - Triton College Science Lecture Series (2)
 - Dominican University Caritas Veritas (2)
 - Dominican University King Scholar Teen Conference
- Retailer Outreach: met with local retailers at VRF Village Hall on July 9, 2019.
- Village Hall is no longer offering drinks in single use plastics
- Retailers are showing interest in changing and working with the RFSC, especially Jewel, Walgreens, Fresh Thyme and La Parillita restaurant
- Several students have approached the VRF and asked them to enforce a bag tax and eliminate straws

2020 Action:

- Work with the biggest users of plastic bags (Jewel, Walgreens) to offer a credit for those who bring their own bags.
- Continue to educate residents through presentations and student outreach
- Work with students at high school and middle school to reach residents

Note: The Village is unable to place a tax on plastic bags because the non-home rule status. There is no legal authority for an Illinois non-home rule municipality to adopt a plastic bag tax. In order for a non-home rule municipality, like the Village, to adopt a tax, there must be specific statutory language allowing the Village to do so. There is no State law that allows the Village to tax plastic bags. There have been efforts at the State level to tax and regulate plastic bags, but none have passed (see e.g. SB 1240). Several Illinois home rule municipalities have adopted plastic bag taxes, including Oak Park, Evanston, Woodstock and Edwardsville.

If the Village were a home rule municipality, it could pursue a plastic bag tax. To become a home rule municipality, the Village needs either 25,000 population or for a referendum allowing for home rule to pass.

There is no legal mechanism for a “targeted” referendum to allow the Village to specifically tax or ban plastic bags, but a successful referendum to become a home rule municipality would allow the Village to tax or ban them

WASTE

Recycling – Residential Curbside & Special Pick-Up

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Offer progressive, future forward curbside recycling products and services to Village of River Forest residents as part of standard VRF garbage collection program.

Tactics:

- Oversee the standard curbside recycling program maintained by the VRF through its contract with Waste Hauler Roy Strom and offered to all VRF residents as part of the standard garbage collection program
 - Ensure that the program remains amongst the best in the country with advances in residential recycling incorporated into the program in a timely manner
 - Educate VRF residents about proper recycling through the maintenance and distribution of recycling tips and tricks on the Village of River Forest Website working in partnership with Roy Strom (<https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/recyclable-materials-list.pdf>)
- Push for expanded Special Pick-Up Services to cover hard to recycle items like electronics, latex paint, etc.

Status:

- There are currently 2,576 Single Family Homes and Multi-Family Buildings of 3 or less units are serviced by the River Forest waste contract with Roy Strom
- This VRF curbside recycling program remains one of the best in the country with much opportunity to improve Special Pick-up Services; the challenge with expansion is cost
River Forest is unique in that carts are not rolled out to curb for pick up but left at the top of the drive to be emptied by waste hauler.

2020 Action:

- Work with Roy Strom to improve education on proper curbside recycling.
- Provide opportunities for pick up or drop off for items not collected in the recycling bin.
- Make sure website information up to date and accurate.
- Continue to serve on the Illinois Recycling Task Force to obtain current information.
- Keep abreast of current bills that effect waste collection.

WASTE

Recycling – Onsite Commercial

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate, encourage and enforce recycling amongst commercial properties and multi-unit buildings of 3 or more units across the Village of River Forest.

Tactics:

- Ensure that the management of multi-unit buildings offer recycling services to residents and report the diversion.
- Encourage commercial properties to offer proper recycling per their individual waste contract.
- Collect data on waste haulers for multi-unit buildings and ensure that they are following the ordinance for reporting .
- For commercial properties offer education materials and support for recycling on their premises.

Status:

- There is no ordinance to date that requires commercial properties to recycle.
- Multi-unit residential buildings of 3 or more are required to offer waste, recycling and yard waste pick up.
 - Currently there is no oversight to make sure that Commercial Properties are recycling their waste and it is unclear whether the Multi-Unit Residential Buildings are reporting waste statistics to the VRF as is required in Village Ordinances and Codifications 6:3-4 Private Waste Disposal.

2020 Action:

- Contact all VRF Multi-Unit Residential Buildings to ensure that each individual waste contract and pick-up includes recycling and reporting.
- Educate and offer support to VRF Commercial Properties to ensure a consistent and unified message to all VRF residents and businesses.
- Improve measurement and reporting.

WASTE

Recycling – Holiday Lights Collection

Owner(s): Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so

Tactics: Support the VRF with execution of Holidays Lights Collection each year from December 1 through January 15 as follows:

- VRF Public Works to liaise with Elgin Recycling to secure the dumpster and report back on total pounds collected
- VRF Public Works to ensure that the event is promoted on the VRF website and social feeds
- RFSC provides oversight and acts as escalation for issues and opportunities

Status: Holiday Lights Collection is in its 7th year

2020 Action:

- Continue collection of holiday lights.
- Make sure signage is out and sight clearly marked on Hawthorne Avenue behind Village Hall.
- Advertise with local retailers, schools, and announce on Village website and newsletter.

WASTE

Recycling – Recycling Extravaganza

Owner(s):	Julie Moller, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission John Anderson , Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
Objective:	Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.
Strategy:	Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.
Tactics:	Execute the one-of-a-kind, tremendously successful River Forest Recycling Extravaganza to encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-use through donations to local charities (e.g., old bikes and bike helmets to Working Bikes, school supplies to Scarce, pet supplies to Animal Care League, clothing / household goods to Epilepsy Foundation)• Recycling of electronics, scrap metal, batteries.• Proper disposal of items that cannot be re-used or recycled (e.g., old florescent lights batteries and medications)
Status:	The River Forest Recycling Extravaganza celebrated in its 7th year in 2019 During 2012-2016 the event was organized by Julie Moller as part of the Green4Good Committee at District 90. After five years the program stopped due to lack of a market for electronics recycling and liability for the Green4Good committee. After a year, the event returned and was organized again by Ms. Moller under the Sustainability Commission. While the program is successful the amount of consumer electronics is beyond the capacity of a one-day event and beyond the volunteer capabilities to process the amount of materials. (Appendix E charts the materials collected each year)
2020 Action:	Re-evaluate program to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition oversight and execution of the annual River Forest Recycling Extravaganza from RFSC to some combination of Roy Strom and the VRF Public Works and make available to RF residents only.• Consider a special pick up program with Roy Strom that would eliminate the need of the event and allow residents to recycle/repurpose non recycling bin items at their convenience through a at your door pick up.

WASTE

Education – Sort It Out (SIO) Stations

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.

Tactics: Oversee the Sort-It-Out Station (SIO Station) Program implemented by the VRF; this program makes SIO Stations available to VRF residents upon request to encourage waste sorting best practices at private events

- Ensure ongoing relevancy and efficacy of the SIO Stations online information and digital / paper application forms (<https://www.vrf.us/guides/guide/7#zerowaste>)
- Track use of SIO Stations in support of Block Parties and resident special events
- Ensure that signage in support of "build your own" SIO Stations is up to date and available online via the Village of River Forest website in the event that SIO Stations are not available upon request
- Recommend changes to the program as necessary

Status:

- The Village of River Forest now has five (5) SIO Stations available for loan via online application
- With these five (5) SIO Stations, the Village of River Forest is able to fulfill most resident requests

2020 Action:

- Request that the Village of River Forest purchase three (3) more **SIO Stations** to ensure that we can meet demand for the SIO Stations loan program 100% of the time
 - This brings the total number of **SIO Stations** owned by the VRF and available for the loan program to eight (8)
- Update the SIO Station instructions on the VRF website including the container labels for "make your own" SIO Stations
- Post copy of sorting labels on the website for residents to print if they choose

WASTE

Education – Zero Waste Stations

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste and increase waste diversion.

Strategy: Educate the residents of the Village of River Forest (VRF) on effective and efficient waste diversion, and then make it easy to do so.

Tactics:

- Work with the VRF Public Works and VRF Park District to ensure that **Zero Waste Stations** are set-up and staffed at all large-scale VRF events, complete with compostable bags and signage
- Identify the large-scale VRF events (e.g., Food Truck Rally, Memorial Day Parade Celebration in Keystone Park, Concerts in the Park, etc.)
- Solicit volunteers from across the VRF to staff the Zero Waste Stations
- Create a one-page training document to ensure “one voice” across volunteers as they dialogue with event attendees to evangelize how to sort their waste properly

Status: Zero Waste Stations are now present at most large-scale VRF events with compostable bags; however, the program has some room for improvement:

- Signage – there is very little
- Volunteers – there are few because they are recruited on an event-by-event basis
- Measurement – it is not consistent

Food Truck Rally, Party in the Park, Makin Traks, Memorial Day Parade,
Work with Library and Park District

2020 Action: Elevate and expand the Zero Waste Station Program as follows:

- Create a calendar of large-scale VRF events where the Zero Waste Stations should be present
- Identify and train a cadre of VRF resident volunteers to ensure the effective and efficient execution of the program at each and every large-scale VRF event; as they say, many hands make light work
 - Consider a partnership with the Oak Park River Forest “It’s Out Future” student organization or a similar student organization at Dominican University or Concordia University focused on sustainability
- Consistently measure impact through creation of a results log maintained by the VRF Public Works that keeps track of pounds of waste:
 - Composted
 - Recycled
 - Put in landfill

WASTE

Education -- Beyond the Bin

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste & increase waste diversion

Strategy: To reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill by diverting to recyclers and repurposing

Tactic: Inform people where they can take items, which cannot be recycled through the Village of River Forest's (VRF) curbside recycling program.

Status:

- "Beyond the Bin: Recycling Opportunities in Oak Park and River Forest" document was first published by the Village of Oak Park
 - River Forest and Oak Park collaborated on two updated versions of this document in 2013 and June 2016
 - It is available online via the Village of River Forest website:
<https://www.vrf.us/uploads/cms/documents/departments/4/beyond-the-bin-recycling-resource-guide.pdf>
 - The resource in Oak Park with whom we collaborated has retired
- This document is an easy to use reference guide about how to recycle items not accepted in the VRF's curbside collection program.
- This document includes a comprehensive list of common items and materials that are recyclable and the local and regional businesses that will accept these items from residents for either recycling or reuse.

2020 Action:

- Update and expand the "Beyond the Bin: Recycling Opportunities in Oak Park and River Forest" document now on the Village's website to create a standalone document owned exclusively by the VRF, separate and distinct from Oak Park
 - Quicker and easier to maintain
 - Have increased flexibility to update format and include items of particular interest VRF residents; for example:
 - While Resale Shops and Thrift Stores are included in the current document list by type of item to be recycled, it would also be helpful to add a new section that highlights Resale Shops and Thrift Stores in the community with a description of items that can be donated to each one
- Increase awareness and access to this guide amongst VRF residents
 - Include in standard River Forest Sustainability Commission Tabling Materials
 - Feature regularly in VRF resident communications via email and Facebook (e.g., Spring Cleaning message)

EDUCATION

River Forest Green Directory

Owner(s): Susan Charrette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Reduce waste & increase waste diversion

Strategy: Increase communication and collaboration amongst all those working on green objectives across the Village of River Forest in order to accelerate and expand impact

Tactics: Create a directory containing contact information for all the different sustainability initiatives across the Village of River Forest and the surrounding communities

Status: This document does not yet exist

2020 Action:

- Identify all of the green initiatives currently ongoing across the Village of River Forest and the surrounding communities
- Obtain the names and contact information of the leaders of these initiatives
- Create a directory of this information in order to connect RFSC, Village of River Forest, District 90, Green4Good, the private schools and colleges, Interfaith Green Network, businesses, etc.
- Develop a plan to facilitate communication amongst all those included in the directory

EDUCATION

River Forest Sustainability Participation at Community Events

Owner(s): Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission assigned per availability

Objective: Educate residents and greater community of Sustainability Programs and create community partnerships

Strategy: Educate Village of River Forest residents as well as residents in the surrounding communities about the River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC) point of view on sustainability, its sustainability agenda and its programs as well as its key partnerships

Tactics:

- Participate in sustainability meetings and events across the Chicagoland area as much as possible
 - Ideally, in a speaking role
 - At the very least, being present to distribute news and information in a formal setting
- Ensure “one voice” in the sharing of information about the RFSC point of view on sustainability, its sustainability agenda and its programs as well as key partnerships through the development of standard presentations and formal “tabling instructions”

Status:

- RFSC has been participating in a variety of community events over a number of years including but not limited to:

Organization	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019
Dominican University	Caritas Veritas Symposium			X	X
	Farm to Table Sustainability Program			X	X
	Honey Extraction Workshop			X	
One Earth Film Festival	Annual Film Festival Movie Screenings	X	X	X	X
	Young Filmmakers Contest Winner Screening	X	X	X	X
	Beye PTO Green Team Film Screening				X
Lemonaid Stand			X	X	X
Midwest Grows Green	Chicago Grows Green Week Celebration Fundraiser				X
Green Community Connections	Forum on Sustainability		X		
District 90	Sustainability Tour		X	X	X
PlanItGreen	Institutional Leaders Forum	X	X	X	X
Park District	Party in the Park	X	X		
River Forest Library	Des Plaines River Clean Up			X	
	Touch a Truck			X	
	Green Energy Forum				X
	Coffee Monday				

- In 2019, we crafted a formal RFSC Tabling Materials List and Instruction Documentation to ensure that there is consistency in RFSC presence regardless of the person representing the RFSC

Impact: RFSC members, particularly the RFSC Chair Julie Moller, are valued participants in many events focused on sustainability across the Chicagoland area

2020 Action:

- Develop an annual calendar of community events that the RFSC will participate in and assign a RFSC well before the event
- Update all RFSC Tabling Materials
- Create a library of formal presentation materials on key topics so that they are readily available for use by any member of the RFSC

EDUCATION

Green Block Parties

- Owner(s):** Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk
- Objective:** Increase awareness and educate residents on sustainability programs in Village.
- Strategy:** Offer a fun interactive program for all ages that highlights sustainability and is easily presented during a block party.
- Tactics:** Continue to offer new, or enhance existing, programming for each block party season. Work closely with Village staff to update information on website in April and communicate program. Provide oversight during season to ensure program running smoothly.
- Status:** The Green Block Party is in its 8th year.

The Green Block Party was the idea of former Sustainability Commissioner Sue Crothers, while she served on the Park District Foundation. The first Green Block party was introduced in 2012 as an education piece for waste reduction. With a grant from the OPRF Community Foundation the Park District Foundation created a forum in which each block received a free compost Earth Machine and caddie to raffle off after a presentation on waste diversion and or native plantings. This program ran for three years and included employing an intern from Dominican University.

The Green Block Party includes fun education tools such as local honey tastings, a blender bike that uses your own power to mix up a healthy drink. Through the GBP we have collaborated with Dominican University, Midwest Grows Green, Sugarbeet Schoolhouse, Roy Strom and Company, Deep Roots, Wild Ones, local beekeepers and gardeners.

2012, 2013 –Theme was backyard composting/waste diversion-offered free backyard composter to one attendee (Funding through OPRF Community Foundation)

2014-Rain barrel giveaway and native plants

2015 Curbside Composting offered free year of curbside composting subscription to one attendee, support from Roy Strom and Company.

2016, 2017 Healthy, Lawn Healthy Family Campaign along with compost education also began the Sort It Stations Loan program through grant from Keep Illinois Beautiful. Funding provided by commission and

2018, 2019 Parkway for Pollinators program along with information on the HLHF campaign. Funding Grant from PlanItGreen and Openlands.

- Impact:** Block Parties are a large part of the River Forest Community. Every season there are approximately 30-35 block parties and 75% are usually green. Through programming and interaction at the block parties we have increased awareness on pollinators, native plants, pesticides and waste diversion mainly composting. Each year we reach 1500+ residents at block parties.

- 2020 Action:** Continue the Parkway for Pollinators program. Test a pilot program on the theme of trees in River Forest to be rolled out for the 2021 block party season. Look for grants to support the program.

ECOSYSTEMS

Action Plan Goals 4:07,14; 8:23,25,26, 33; 9:16

Gardens -- Parkways for Pollinators (P4P)

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk

Objective: Sequester carbon and enhance support for eco-systems especially pollinators. Provide habitat for Monarch butterflies per the Monarch pledge (Appendix D)

Strategy: Increase the square footage of native plantings throughout the Village of River Forest (VRF) to support pollinators and decrease flooding through the use of native plants.

Tactics:

- Plant sun and shade gardens composed exclusively of native species on village-owned parkways to attract native pollinators and butterflies
- Encourage residents to participate by offering these gardens at no cost as an activity for children as part of a Green Block Party
- Offer gardens to schools throughout the village at no cost as an activity for Green Groups (e.g., Green4Good, Trinity HS Horticulture Club, etc.)
- Hire The Deep Roots Project to do the garden prep, planting, spring clean-up and mulching; depend upon the resident garden host to water, weed and maintain the garden throughout the summer and fall
- Work with the VRF staff to add / modify / remove the request for a P4P garden on the Block Party Request Form and provide instruction in the Block Party Permit Approval and Instruction Email to residents
- Create and maintain informational material on the VRF website
- Input the gardens on the Green America Climate Victory Garden map as well as on the VRF map

Status: The program is funded for three years through grants from PlanItGreen and the ComEd Openlands Program from 2018 through 2020

Impact: 2,200 square feet of new native planting at a total cost of \$22,200

Year	Funding Source / Amount	# of Gardens	Total Square Footage	Budget
2018	OPRF Community Fndn/ \$6,500	15	600	\$6,500
2019	PlanItGreen / \$7,500 VRF / \$350	20	800	\$7,850
2020	PlanItGreen / \$5,000 ComEd Openlands / \$5,000	20	800	\$10,000

2020 Action:

- Submit Annual Program Reports
 - To PlanItGreen in 2019
 - To PlanItGreen and ComEd Openlands in 2020
- Increase the FY2020 budget to cover increased costs for:
 - Mulching almost twice as many gardens (35 in 2020 vs. 15 in 2019 vs. 0 in 2018)

- Adding a second garden examination once the plants are in bloom to ensure garden quality with action take at additional cost
 - In 2019, we “spruced up” three shade gardens planted in 2018 at an incremental cost of \$500; these gardens had been damaged due to lack of water and deer
- Evolve program execution to make it easier for The Deep Roots Project to deliver
 - Explore new methods for garden preparation to reduce labor as well as the amount of turf being composted
 - Limit the planting season to August and September
 - Over 75% of block parties requesting P4P Gardens in 2019 took place during this time period.
 - Limit the number of gardens that are planted in any one day during the planting season to no more than two (2).
 - Offer gardens to residents outside of Block Parties through an online application available via the Village of River Forest website.
- Expand the program by offering sun and shade gardens to Institutions and Places of Worship in 2020
- Close out the program in 2020 but continue maintenance through 2021 and monitor gardens.

ECOSYSTEMS

Gardens – Inspirational Edible Garden Program

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Sequester carbon; enhance support for eco-systems and health education on growing your own food.

Strategy: Encourage the growing of edible gardens across the Village of River Forest (VRF) on private property.

Tactics:

- Pilot a partnership with The Deep Roots Project to offer institutions six (6) Edible Gardens throughout the village at no cost via a \$6,000 grant received from Green America100 with the following conditions:
 - Gardens must be in view of the public
 - Some, if not all, of the produce grown in the garden must be donated to a local food pantry
- Educate Village of River Forest residents about the positive benefits of growing edible gardens
 - Grow food that can be eaten by the grower and/or be given away to food pantries for distribution to under-privileged people who do not have access to and/or cannot afford to purchase freshly grown produce
 - Exercise through planting, mulching, weeding and harvesting

Status:

- Five (5) of the six (6) Inspiration Edible Garden Project Gardens have been installed and planted by The Deep Roots Project in partnership with the garden owner during the pilot program; current locations are:

Garden Number	Garden Owner	Location
1	Little Bits	411 Park Ave, RF
2	Trinity High School	7574 Division St, RF
3	West Suburban Temple Har Zion Synagogue	1040 N Harlem Ave, RF
4	Trailside Museum of Natural History	738 Thatcher Ave, RF
5	Private Residence -- Handicapped Children's Garden -- Karyn Kurrie	7613 Vine Street, RF
6	TBD	TBD

Impact: To date, the Inspiration Edible Gardens sourced from the VRF have donated over 150 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries and other organizations supplying fresh food to those in need

2020 Action:

- Find another Institution to install and maintain the sixth and final Inspiration Edible Garden available through the pilot program; it was given to Dominican University in 2018, but this institution is having trouble determining placement
 - Consider Places of Worship to ensure year-round care for the garden, prioritizing those with schools
- Consider the purchase of additional Inspiration Edible Gardens for installation and planting from The Deep Roots Project at \$1,000 per garden
- Encourage Village of River Forest residents to add their privately maintained Edible Gardens that qualify to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>

ECOSYSTEMS

Gardens – Natives

- Owner(s): Susan Charette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Mary Massella, Village of River Forest Resident (former Sustainability Commissioner)
Mark Janopoulos, Village of River Forest Public Works Department
- Objective: Sequester carbon and enhance support for eco-systems.
- Strategy: Encourage the growing of native plants across the Village of River Forest (VRF) on public land in place of turf and flowerbeds comprised of annual flowers and greenery
- Tactics: Work with Village of River Forest Public Works to design gardens that use native plants on VRF property
- Status: The RFSC has much success in the replacement of turf and annual gardens with native plantings with the following native plantings installed to date:

Garden Name	Garden Size (Square Feet)	Garden Location
Forest and Iowa Triangle Wildflower Garden	3,000	Forest & Iowa
Franklin and Hawthorne NW Native Garden	235	Franklin & Hawthorne
Keystone Sled Hill Wildflower Garden	7,250	Keystone & Hawthorne
Keystone Tennis Court Wildflower Garden	600	500 Forest Avenue
Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 1	100	Lake & Monroe NW
Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 2	100	Lake & Jackson NE
Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 3	100	Lake & Jackson NW
Memorial Parkway Butterfly Garden 4	100	Lake & Lathrop NE
Priory Park Wildflower Garden	4,000	Berkshire & William
Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Forest	603	Chicago & Forest NE
Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Jackson	513	Chicago & Jackson NE
Rain Garden @ NE Corner of Chicago and Keystone	468	Chicago & Keystone NE
Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Forest	792	Chicago & Forest NW
Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Jackson	513	Chicago & Jackson NW
Rain Garden @ NW Corner of Chicago and Keystone	477	Chicago & Keystone NW
Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Bonnie Brae	513	Chicago & Bonnie Brae SE
Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Forest	774	Chicago & Forest SE
Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Jackson	504	Chicago & Jackson SE
Rain Garden @ SE Corner of Chicago and Keystone	513	Chicago & Keystone SE
Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Bonnie Brae	513	Chicago & Bonnie Brae SW
Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Forest	738	Chicago & Forest SW
Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Jackson	513	Chicago & Jackson SW
Rain Garden @ SW Corner of Chicago and Keystone	513	Chicago & Keystone SW
River Forest Butterfly Garden	320	Hawthorne & Central
River Forest Depot Wildflower Garden	400	407 Thatcher Avenue
Washington Square Wildflower Garden	800	7901 Washington Blvd
TOTAL	24,952	

ADD D90 GARDENS

Impact: VRF has almost 25,000 square feet of native plantings on public land. All of these gardens have been input to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>

2020 Action:

- Continue to work with RF Park District to monitor and increase native plantings
- Continue to work with Village of River Forest Public Works to design gardens that use native plants on VRF property
 - Create a master plan for the village to add native plants along each side of the train tracks, along Central and Hawthorne
 - Redesign the native plantings at the Waller Gates at Auvergne and Lake which were damaged by a car accident and subsequent repair work
- Input new native gardens installed on VRF lands that qualify to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>
-

ECOSYSTEMS

Gardens – Community

- Owner(s):** Susan Charette, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Mary Massella, Village of River Forest Resident (former Sustainability Commissioner)
Mike Sletten, Village of River Forest Park District
- Objective:** Sequester carbon, enhance support for eco-systems and create a community project.
- Strategy:** Partner with the VRF Park District and VRF Public Works to provide organic gardening opportunities and create a sense of community for residents who do not have their own green space
- Tactics:**
- The VRF Park District and VRF Public Works jointly maintain a Community Herb Garden at the corner of Keystone and Augusta
 - The VRF Park District also offers 22 garden plots, a flower garden and herb garden next to the Pumping Station at Jackson Avenue and Berkshire Street for rent at \$25.00 per season plus a \$50.00 deposit
 - The VRF Park District handles all administrative aspects of the program including advertising and registration
 - Previous year gardeners have first option to renew the following season; there is no limit on the number of times you can renew
 - At registration, gardeners sign an agreement to maintain the garden in accordance with rules and regulations established by the RFSC, VRF Park District and VRF Public Works, including not using chemicals and keeping the plot watered, tidy and clean
 - The RFSC hosts two to three community gatherings per season to ensure success of gardens; the social aspect has been shown to be essential for success of community gardens
 - Time and weather permitting, the gatherings include one to plan how to grow an organic garden with an expert speaker; a community planting session; and a barbeque to enjoy fruits of the harvest
 - RFSC also provides a garden manager who is the point of contact for garden management including addressing any issues that may arise in a timely manner (e.g., over- watering, destructive animals, etc.)
 - The garden manager, RFSC, VRF Park District and VRF Public Works collectively monitor the gardens; as issues are identified, they are shared and an action plan defined to resolve the issue
 - VRF Public Works maintains the water supply to the garden site
 - All Community Gardens have been input to the Victory Climate Garden Map @ <https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens/commitment-grow-climate-victory-garden>
- Impact:**
- Almost 1,200 square feet of community gardens that are edible now exist across the VRF, including:
 - 880 square feet of community organic garden plots -- 22 gardens plots @ 40 square feet per plot
 - 56.52 square feet of community resident gardener planted beds – one for flowers and another for herbs -- @ 28.26 square feet per bed
 - 246 square foot Community Herb Garden planted and maintained by the VRF Park District.
 - Each resident gardener harvested enough organic produce from their rented garden plot(s) to supply plentiful fresh vegetables and herbs for their own tables, with one gardener donating 100

pounds of produce to Ascension Community Garden who in turn donated to St. Martin's Food Pantry in the Austin neighborhood.

- The Community Gardens promote good nutrition, physical activity, support of the local ecosystem, and social interaction with residents with similar interests.

2020 Action:

- Continue offering and supporting 22 community garden plots for rent to VRF residents at the Pumping Station, commencing with a meeting with previous year gardeners to discuss improvements to the program for the upcoming year.
- Explore the possibility of another location to expand community gardening opportunities with VRF Park District and VRF Public Works.

ECOSYSTEMS

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) -- Healthy Lawns / Healthy Family (HL/HF)

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Joan Espana, Village of River Forest Clerk

Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems

Strategy: Encourage residents to stop using chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers when caring for their lawns and gardens

Tactics:

- Incorporate the HL/HF program into the Green Block Party: explain the HL/HF program, distribute instructions on natural lawn care, ask residents to take the HL/HF pledge, give all residents who take the pledge a lawn sign
- Work with the Village of River Forest staff to create and maintain an online application for the HL/HF program
- Distribute HL / HF lawn signs to all residents who take the online HL/HF pledge
- Keep the HL/HF program participant list up to date (e.g., remove individuals who no longer adhere to the tenets of the pledge, who have moved away from River Forest)
 - Distribute an email each spring to all participants in the HL/HF program to confirm their ongoing participation in the program and to remind them to put out their lawn sign

Status: The HL/HF program was started in 2015 and is now in its fifth year

Impact: 2019 HL/HF program participation is summarized below.

Category	Count as of June 16	Count as of July 9	Count as of September 1
# of Unique Residential Households that Pledged from 2015-2018	137	137	137
# of 2019 Online Pledges	0	3	6
# of 2019 Block Party Pledges	0	0	0
Total # of Original Pledges	137	140	143
# of RF Institutions in Program (Schools & Parks)	13	13	13
# of Households Who Pledged but Have Subsequently Moved Out of Town	3	3	4
# of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 & Reconfirmed Their Ongoing Participation	32	52	66
# of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 & Informed RFSC that They No Longer Adhere to	0	7	7
# of Households with No / Bad Email	23	24	23
# of Households that Pledged in 2015-2018 Who Have Not Replied to the Reconfirmation Email	79	51	37

2020 Action:

- Remove the HL/HF program from the Green Block Party as most block party participants have already heard the presentation
- Continue the HL/HF online program application process as it yields the most qualified program participants – they seek out the program online and complete the online form
- Evangelize integrated pest management amongst Village of River Forest residents through seminars on Natural Lawn Care targeted toward young parents at the Village of River Forest Library
- Continue to monitor permitting process for lawn care providers

ECOSYSTEMS

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Midwest Grows Green

Owner(s): Lisa Gillis, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Mark Janopoulos, Village of River Forest Public Works Department
Mike Sletten, Village of River Forest Park District

Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems

Strategy: Join forces with Midwest Grows Green in advocating for eco-friendly lawns and gardens across the Village of River Forest (VRF)

Tactics:

- Build relationship with Ryan Anderson, key contact at Midwest Grows Green (randerson@ipminstitute.org)
- Attend Midwest Grows Green webinars, have a presence at their events and support their activities
- Work with both the VRF Park District and the VRF Forest Public Works to adopt integrated pest management best practices in the maintenance of all green space under their respective purviews including all D90 grounds and the River Forest Public Library

Status: The VRF Park District and VRF Forest Public Works have been applying integrated pest management best practices to the maintenance of green space under their respective purviews since April 2016.

Impact: As of September 2019, over 32.6 acres of green space across the VRF are maintained using integrated pest management best practices with occasional spot treatment of stubborn weeds and damaging insects (e.g., grubs).

2020 Action:

- Expand the partnership with Midwest Grows Green in order to:
 - Showcase the fact that the VRF is one of only a handful of communities in the Chicagoland area using integrated pest management practices to manage public lands; see this link: <http://midwestgrowsgreen.org/midwest-grows-green-4-year-review/>
 - Secure funding for expanded IPM through Midwest Grows Green partnerships with Patagonia and Stonyfield Organics
- Work with Institutions, Businesses and Places of Worship to adopt integrated pest management best practices in the maintenance of all green space under their purview; FY2020 priorities are as follows:

Organization Type	Organization Name	Organization Address	Organization Key Contact(s)
Institution	Concordia University	7400 Augusta St, RF	
Institution	Dominican University	7900 Division St, RF	
Institution	Grace Lutheran School	7300 Division St, RF	
Institution	St. Luke's Parish School	519 Ashland Ave, RF	
Institution	St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Elementary School	1515 Lathrop Ave, RF	
Institution	Trinity High School	7574 Division St, RF	

Other	Little Bits	411 Park Ave, RF	Lilita Forsyth
Other	Sugar Beet Schoolhouse	349 Ashland Ave, RF	Cheryl Munoz
Place of Worship	Chicago Center of Self-Realization Fellowship	946 N Harlem Ave, RF	
Place of Worship	Christ Church Episcopal Church	515 Franklin Ave, RF	
Place of Worship	First Presbyterian Church of River Forest	7551 Quick Ave, RF	
Place of Worship	Grace Lutheran Church	7300 Division St, RF	
Place of Worship	River Forest United Methodist Church	7970 W. Lake St, RF	
Place of Worship	St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church	7600 W Lake St, RF	
Place of Worship	St. Vincent Ferrer Church	1530 Jackson Ave, RF	
Place of Worship	West Suburban Temple Har Zion Synagogue	1040 N Harlem Ave, RF	

ECOSYSTEMS

Trees – Tree Location Map

- Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works
- Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems.
- Strategy: Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.
- Tactics: Create and maintain a **Tree <Location> Map** for the VRF
- VRF Forestry Division maintains over 8,000 trees (and over 90 species) in Village rights-of-way or the area commonly known as "the parkway." The Village inspects, monitors, trims, removes, plants, and inoculates parkway trees (only Ash) throughout the Village, throughout the year.
 - As part of its community involvement and education initiative, the Village Forestry Division has completed a tree species location mapping across the Village. As part of the tree location map, tree information that is provided for each tree planted along the Village parkway includes common name, diameter, height, spread and inventory/planting date.
- Status: The **Tree <Location> Map** has been created and is now accessible to the public via the Village of River Forest website
(<https://www.gisconsortium.org/WebApps/CommunityPortalWebMaps/VRF/TreeMap/index.html>)
- 2020 Action:
- Publicize the availability of the Village tree location map
 - Consider signage/app mapping technologies throughout the Village's park system
 - Consider signage to highlight significant trees across the Village of River Forest (e.g. the oldest tree, the rarest tree, etc.)

ECOSYSTEMS

Trees – Annual Tree Tour

Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission

Objective: Sequester carbon; enhance support for eco-systems and education residents.

Strategy: Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.

Tactics:

- Educate residents about trees by taking them on an Annual Tree Tour
 - Teach VRF residents why they are an important part of our eco-system and how to care for them to ensure their long-term viability.
 - This knowledge enables participants to take a more active role in managing River Forest's landscape starting with their own backyard.
 - Understanding what makes a tree healthy is a first step in this direction.
- Invite Village of River Forest residents and visitors on a 1 to 2-mile walking tour across the Village.
- While on the tour, participants learn about trees; specifically, how to identify trees, how they are managed, why they are so important, and why they need our help.
- The tour also helps with residential tree selection and considerations for maintaining tree diversity in our Village neighborhoods.

Status: The Annual Tree Tour is offered on an annual basis. Emily Okallau, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum, leads the tour. See event details here: https://vrf.us/events/event/1578?fbclid=IwAR03_4dS_hnq79L-pDFaW20k95Twp1qhOu9lx8mb1ytOfgqJz-GAmz4XAr8

2020 Action:

- Implement the annual Tree Tour in May 2020
- Consider a bike tour option

ECOSYSTEMS

Trees – ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation

Owner(s): Andy Basney, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
John Anderson, Village of River Forest Director of Public Works

Objective: Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems.

Strategy: Safeguard the many trees that comprise the tree canopy of the Village of River Forest (VRF), making it a truly spectacular place to live.

Tactics: Secure a third-party endorsement of the Village of River Forest's robust commitment to its tree canopy – the **ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation**. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is designed to:

- Recognize standard of excellence in tree-focused communities;
- Foster professionalism in maintaining landscapes that are devoted to trees (i.e. arboreta);
- Enable conservation, collections, and scientific collaborations; and
- Advance the planning, study and conservation of trees.

Status: Submitted paperwork for accreditation.
We have agreed to pursue a third-party endorsement of the VRF's robust commitment to its tree canopy -- the **ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation**.

- The Village of River Forest will apply for accreditation by evaluating and submitting documentation on the level of achievement (Levels I-IV) of specified standard below:

	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III	LEVEL IV
Arboretum plan	■	■	■	■
Organizational or governance group	■	■	■	■
Labeled tree and woody plant taxa				
25+	■			
100+		■		
500+			■	■
Staff or volunteer support				
Volunteer or paid	■			
Paid management		■	■	■
Curator			■	■
Scientific or conservation staff				■

	LEVEL I	LEVEL II	LEVEL III	LEVEL IV
Public dimension				
Public access and at least one event per year	■	■	■	■
Enhanced public and educational programs		■	■	■
Substantial educational programming			■	■
Collections policy		■	■	■
Collaboration with other arboreta			■	■
Collections data sharing with networked collections			■	■
Agenda for tree science, planting, and conservation			■	■
Collections conservation				■
Conservation role in Global Trees Campaign				■

- For comparison purposes, the Village of Oak Park Arboretum is a Level II Accredited Arboretum; we expect that the Village of River Forest could achieve this same level of accreditation.
- Note that the program provides members with open-access resources and would also provide the Village with access to an international network of tree-focused professionals (i.e., ask tree-related questions of fellow community members).

2020 Action:

- Apply for Level I accreditation as foundation for Level II accreditation in 2021
- Collaborate with community members as the opportunity arises to advance the VRF current arboretum (e.g., tree canopy)

QUANTIFY, TRACK And REPORT

Owner(s): Shannon Roberts, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Beth Cheng, Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
Village of River Forest Board Of Trustees

Objective: Measure the success of Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission.

Strategy: Implement a set of standard key performance indicators (KPIs) for all RFSC programs to track progress against our overarching goal of reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions that all VRF residents, institutions, businesses, places of worship and governmental bodies producing with those KPIs aligned with those commonly used at the global, federal and state levels

Tactics:

- Define KPIs for greenhouse emissions tied to each of the RFSC strategies:
 - Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy
 - Expand green transportation & mobility options
 - Protect water sources as well as reduce water consumption
 - Reduce waste & increase waste diversion
 - Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems
- Determine measurable goals that ladder up to these KPIs for each of project by strategy working with the project owners
- Ensure that the project owners measure their programs on a consistent basis
- Gather all project measures
- Calculate each KPI on an annual basis as part of annual planning

Status: Conducted an initial baseline measurement River Forest's greenhouse gas inventory using the ICLEI US Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting Greenhouse Gases.

2020 Action:

Define KPIs for three of the six RFSC core strategies and work with the project owners to define measurable goals that ladder up to the KPIs

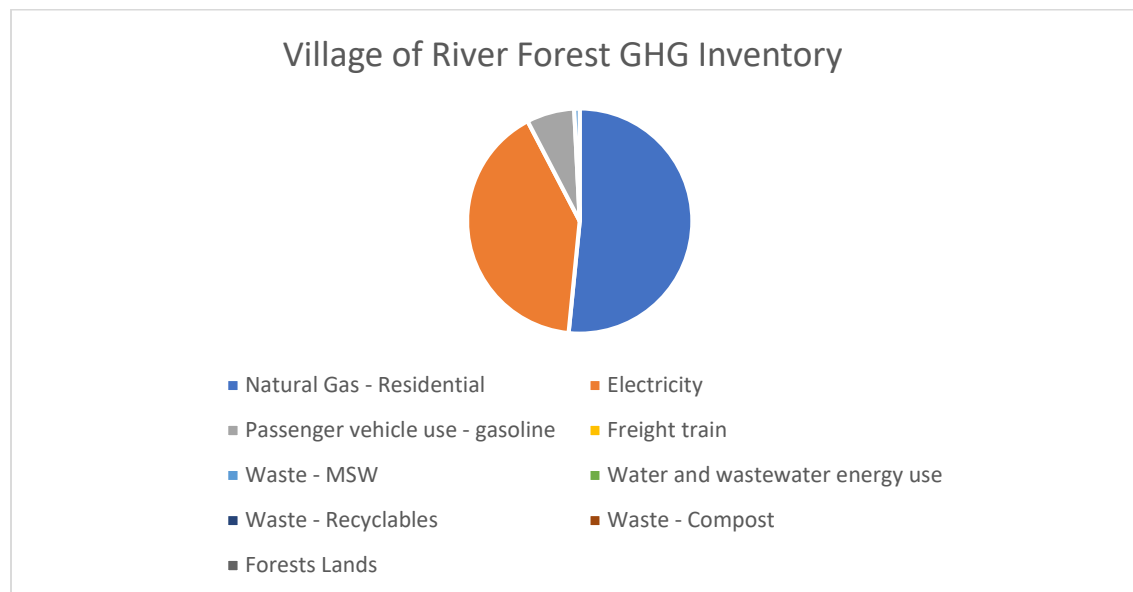
- Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy
- Reduce waste & increase waste diversion
- Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems

Continue to refine and update the greenhouse gas inventory. Identify initiative impacts on inventory to continue to track year over year change.

Impact

River Forest Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Sources	2018 MT CO2e	
	Generated	Diverted
Natural Gas - Residential	62,863.89	
Electricity	49,683.85	
Passenger vehicle use - gasoline	8,375.84	
Freight train		
Waste - MSW	955.84	
Water and wastewater energy use		
Waste - Recyclables		(2,189.35)
Waste - Compost		(349.72)
Forests Lands		
Inventory	121,879.42	(2,539.07)
Total	119,340.35	



Next Steps

- 2019 data needs
 - Natural gas
 - Electricity
 - VMT per household
 - Water use
 - Waste data - MSW, recyclables, compost
- Other opportunities to further refine
 - Is natural gas the only fuel combusted in RF? Any diesel or other?
 - Is there a regional travel model for RF?
 - Did we want to include emissions from freight trains through RF?
 - What landfill and waste facilities does our waste go to?
 - What is our water treatment facility? Is it possible to source numbers from the village if not available publicly?
 - What is the acreage of forest in RF? Or should we use web modeling?

MISC

- Owner(s): Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission
- Objective: Explore other ideas and continue to enhance the existing plan
- Strategy: This document should continue to be updated and used by the SC. In the future it could be used to develop a full sustainability comprehensive plan in addition to serving as a history for future commissioners, other commissions, staff and the Village Board members.
- Tactics: All commissioner members should acknowledge their responsibilities and update information as necessary.
- Status: Plan will be presented on February 24 to the Village Board of Trustees.
- 2020 Action: For record keeping we would like to explore and expand on the following ideas:
- Identify how to implement the use of volunteers on the commission
 - Explore electric charging stations and electric fleet
 - Support policy preemption regarding pesticide use
 - Develop ways to work with other commissions
 - Consider the application of commercial design guidelines for all developments in the Villages
 - Continue engaging students and incorporate requests when possible
 - Continue Student Commissioner and refine responsibilities

Appendices

- A) The Bicycle Plan for the Village of River Forest
- B)Chicago Agreement on Climate and Community
- C) PlanItGreen 100% Renewable Energy Pledge
- D) Monarch Pledge
- E) Recycling Extravaganza Chart
- F) Sample Impact Report – City of Evanston