



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: sjansen@vrf.us
You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 816 4491 8569 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sjansen@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2024
4. Commissioner Updates
5. UIC Plan Recommendations and Community Survey Feedback
 - a. Transportation Items
 - b. Communications and Resident Resources
6. Topics for 2025 and Outstanding Items
7. Schedule Next Meeting – January 14, 2025
8. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos to approve the meeting minutes from October 8, 2024, with typo corrections indicated by Co-Chair Charrette.

Roll Call:

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

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Avalos stated that the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP 29, had begun and the Superintendent of Oak Park and River Forest High School and two OPRFHS students are attending the conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. Commissioner Avalos shared the link to the stream Youth Voices forum at COP 29, which the students will be participating in and stated there will be an in-person screening at the Triton College Library at 10:00 AM on Thursday the 14th. Commissioner Avalos stated he had attended a previous COP event in Egypt as part of the same group.

Commissioner Mezzatesta stated that she and Commissioners Kadlec and Avalos had a meeting with the Director of the River Forest Library on some programs, events, and displays

that could be ways for the Commission to partner with the Library. Commissioner Mezzatesta indicated that discussions and potential opportunities would continue going forward.

5. TRITON COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Commissioner Kadlec provided a presentation on the sustainability efforts underway at Triton College, where he serves as Sustainability Coordinator. Triton is part of the Illinois Green Economy Network, which is partnerships of Illinois community colleges to collaborate and seek grant funds related to environmental sustainability. Triton has installed 5 dual-port level 2 EV charging stations at various locations across campus. The charging rate is below market rate, and students and faculty are offered a discount rate. Triton has a school an office supply Re-Use It Room to reduce waste. Triton has also installed LED lighting to the exterior of buildings and in the campus parking lots; there are plans to upgrade indoor lights to LED beginning next year. Triton has also installed bioswales to absorb stormwater runoff; the impact has been beneficial because of the large parking lots on the campus. Triton also has a stormwater management tool to manage sewer and stormwater and prevent backups. The Triton Hospitality Industry Administration lab composts all food scraps produced by the lab and are exploring ways to expand composting on campus. Triton is a certified Tree Campus and Bee Campus. Two gardens on campus are also monarch waystations with plants like milkweed which are essential for monarch butterflies. These gardens are also designated as pollinator habitats. Triton also recently completed a project where students in an Introduction to Biology documented milkweed plants observed on campus. Triton has also partnered with the Forest Preserve, which sponsors the Greater Maywood Paddling program, where organizations can get trained and certified to then take a kayak trip along the Des Plaines River from Maywood to Riverside. Triton has taken two trips earlier this year: one for students and one for faculty and staff. Triton also hosts monthly trash clean ups at the section of Fullerton woods adjacent to campus.

Co-Chair Lennon asked Commissioner Kadlec, of the programs put in place at Triton, which he would like to see in River Forest. Commissioner Kadlec noted the Bee City designation would be something to pursue. Commissioner Kadlec also noted his work at community events to expose people to sustainability topics and do in-person, hands-on things to inspire people to take action, such as hosting events with the Library, sharing reading lists, and developing sustainability crafts that can be done with kids. Co-Chair Charrette indicated that the Commission and the Library could also work with the Roosevelt Middle School Go Green group. Co-Chair Lennon suggested further pursuing the Bee City designation and the monarch waystations and expressed support for the Commission becoming involved in community events. The Commission discussed more ways to be involved in community events.

Commissioner Avalos shared that Triton College has just started an Environmental Club, of which he serves as Vice President. Commissioner Avalos introduced the club president Eva Carson who provided brief remarks on the plans for the Triton Environmental Club, which had just been official approved and were beginning to develop a plan, structure, and ways to partner with other clubs at Triton. Co-Chair Charrette had suggested connecting Triton with

a local resident who has developed his lawn into a native prairie and has provided seeds from his plants to local residents. The Commission discussed this as a potential partnership with the Triton Environmental Club and Horticulture Club.

6. WASTE AND LRS DISCUSSION

Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioner Mezzatesta, and Commissioner Avalos discussed their trip and explained the process as shown in the pictures and videos provided by Commissioner Hayley. Co-Chair Charrette discussed ways to share information about how to improve recycling rates, like leaving caps on bottles; Co-Chair Charrette also noted that 80% of the materials that make it to the sorting facility with much of the rest being unrecyclable material or scraps too small to be recycled. Co-Chair Charrette noted that the Commission should work to put out further information and educational resources to keep improving recycling rates and use this trip to help inform residents. The Commissioners shared their thoughts on the trip and their takeaways of how to share this with residents to promote the correct ways to recycle.

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about an update regarding Opt-Out Composting; Mr. Jansen shared what LRS stated would be the pricing and needs, including moving to only one cart size, \$12 per month fee for all residents, even those who opt-out, and the need for a 3-year contract extension in order to recoup the cost of the additional truck that would be needed. The Commission discussed the Village composting program. Mr. Jansen outlined the quarterly waste reports.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen stated that this week's weekly newsletter will promote the compost sharing program. Mr. Jansen inquired about having the LRS trip as the article in the next month's newsletter. After some Commission discussion, Commissioner Mezzatesta's holiday sustainability article will be the monthly newsletter, and the LRS trip will be discussed as part of the future communications discussion planned for next month.

8. CONTINUED LEAF BLOWER DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen briefly provided feedback from the Village Board regarding the Commission's recommendation. Mr. Jansen shared what other communities had done and the feedback he had received when speaking with staff at one community. Mr. Jansen shared what C4's Green Landscape Technology working group has been working on and that they are still in the early stages of developing a policy toolkit; they did share that Riverside is considering a 2-month seasonal ban to take effect in 2026. The Commission discussed some of the challenges with developing a seasonal ban and noted some of the feedback from the Board. Co-Chair Lennon stated that the Commission needs to figure out the "when" of when a seasonal leaf blower mandate should take effect. The Commission discussed resident feedback and inquiries and complaints that have come in from residents regarding leaf blower use. The Commission discussed the impacts of season bans in other communities and the practices of landscape contactors during summer months.

9. CONTINUED REVIEW OF UIC CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

Mr. Jansen briefly shared there is a tree preservation ordinance within the zoning code but it only applies to commercial, government, and institutional properties over a specified square footage. He indicated he was working with staff to identify tree species and sizes with staff. Mr. Jansen also indicated he would look into ways to further incorporate climate plan recommendations into any potential ordinance.

Mr. Jansen shared the draft River Forest Trees webpage within the Guide to Sustainable Living section of the Village website.

Mr. Jansen stated that the Transportation issues original set for this month would be discussed at the start of next month's meeting

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Veazie made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mezzatesta, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chairs Charrette and Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Avalos

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: UIC Climate Action Plan – Transportation Recommendations

At the request of the Commission, this memorandum is to provide an overview of the Transportation-related action items recommended by the two UIC Climate Action reports.

The Lopez Garcia class section made the following recommendations relating to Land Use and Transportation:

- Ensure access to safe modes of transit
 - Improving the signage for the bicycle lanes in River Forest
 - Mobilize the biking community in River Forest to hold fundraising events to purchase weatherized bike parking
- Improve public transportation ridership experience
 - Work with PACE to install bus shelters and concrete pads
- Reform land use to encourage alternative modes of transportation
 - Zone more areas for mixed-use, allowing more commercial in proximity to residential
 - Zone for higher density near train stations. Provide density bonuses for multi-family housing near transit through adjustments to zoning codes
- Increase EV Charging Capability
 - Identify and develop EV charging stations across the community
 - Facilitate a coordinated strategy of electric vehicle charging across C4 communities.

The Tilahun class section made the following recommendations relating to Transportation:

- Road Conversion and Implementation of Complete streets Network
 - Implement road conversions to create streets designed for the safety of all users, increasing spaces for walking, cycling, rolling, and reducing vehicular space on selected streets.
- Ensuring Adequate, Secure Bike Parking Facilities are Available throughout the Village

- Locate investments at existing destinations in need of additional and improved bike parking infrastructure, especially transit stations, bus stops, public and Village-owned property (e.g. parks, libraries), and retail and commercial centers.
- Convert spaces in Village-owned right-of-way currently over-allocated to cars (e.g. on-street parking spaces, wide travel lanes) into bike secure parking facilities.
- Update building codes to mandate new commercial and multi-family developments in River Forest to provide for secure bike parking facilities
- Bring Bike, E-Bike, and Scooter Sharing Programs to the Village
 - Issue a request for proposals for bikeshare providers, with the goals of implementing a comprehensive network of bike, e-bike, and e-scooter sharing stations.
 - Work with the selected provider and the community to locate and install docking stations, ensuring connectivity between key destinations, especially transit stations, bus stops, universities, K-12 schools, libraries, parks, and cultural and retail centers.
 - Create and monitor performance measures based on ridership data and resident surveys to adjust and improve the service.
- Public EV Charging
 - Conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and projected EV adoption rates and charging infrastructure needs.
 - Identify suitable locations for public EV charging stations, considering population density, transportation corridors, and proximity to amenities.
 - Secure necessary permits and approvals for charger installation from regulatory authorities.
 - Select appropriate charging technologies and models to accommodate various types of electric vehicles and charging needs.
 - Procure charging infrastructure and contractors to install charging stations at selected public sites.
 - Implement robust maintenance and monitoring protocols to ensure the reliability and functionality of public charging stations.
- EV Charging for Homes and Businesses
 - Develop building codes or ordinances to mandate the inclusion of EV charging infrastructure in new constructions and renovations.
 - Mandate new developments to install wiring and electrical panels that support EV charging stations.
 - Establish minimum requirements for the number and type of chargers, based on building size and occupancy.
 - Provide guidance and technical assistance to developers, architects, and contractors to ensure compliance with EV charging requirements. Create standardized EV charging infrastructure designs to facilitate installation.
 - Work jointly with utility companies to assess electrical grid capacity and upgrade infrastructure to support increased demand for EV charging.
 - Team up with regulatory agencies, developers, and utility providers to ensure compliance and assess electrical grid capacity.

In previous reviews of the Plans, Village staff provided the following recommendations

- Because the Zoning Board and Village Board recently voted against a similar proposal, staff recommends against promoting more mixed-use development and denser residential development near public transit.
- Village Staff identified the below as unlikely to warrant a significant amount of interest at this time:
 - o Mobilize the biking community in River Forest to hold fundraising events to purchase weatherized bike parking.
 - o Locating investments at existing destinations in need of additional and improved bike parking infrastructure, especially transit stations, bus stops, public and Village-owned property (e.g. parks, libraries), and retail and commercial centers.
 - o Converting spaces in Village-owned right-of-way currently over-allocated to cars (e.g. on-street parking spaces, wide travel lanes) into bike secure parking facilities.
 - o Updating building codes to mandate new commercial and multi-family developments in River Forest to provide for secure bike parking facilities.
 - o Bring bike, e-bike, and scooter sharing programs to the Village.
- The Tilahun report made several recommendations which Village staff view as either beyond the scope of Village government functions or a significant undertaking which would be difficult to implement. Therefore, Staff had recommended against the following:
 - o Implementing road conversions to create streets designed for the safety of all users, increasing spaces for walking, cycling, rolling, and reducing vehicular space on selected streets.
 - o Providing guidance and technical assistance to developers, architects, and contractors to ensure compliance with EV charging requirements and creating standardized EV charging infrastructure designs to facilitate installation. *NOTE: Individual technical assistance is not recommended, however a checklist information on EV Charging Station Permits is already shared on the Village website.*
- The Lopez-Garcia report recommended improving the signage for the bicycle lanes in River Forest. The most recent Village Bike Plan has been implemented to the fullest extent possible outside of IDOT-owned roads. Much of the current biking focus is on the forthcoming Des Plaines River Trail which will go along Thatcher Ave. Beyond this, if bike lane striping or signage gaps are identified these can be addressed administratively on an ad hoc basis through requests submitted to the Village Public Works Department.
- The Lopez-Garcia report further suggested working with PACE to install bus shelters and concrete pads. PACE has an existing shelter request program whereby communities and individuals can request a shelter. PACE ultimately decides if ridership levels warrant installation and would maintain the shelter, if built. No formal action is needed unless the Commission wished to submit such a request to PACE.
- Both the Lopez-Garcia report and the Tilahun report made recommendations on the topic of increasing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging capabilities. The Tilahun report outlined several processes for public EV charging that the Village has already undertaken (e.g. conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and projected EV

adoption rates and charging infrastructure needs; identify suitable locations for public EV charging stations, considering population density, transportation corridors, and proximity to amenities). The Tilahun report also made several recommendations on EV charging at homes and businesses that are either required by state law or will be addressed with the pending zoning amendment on EV charging (eg. develop building codes or ordinances to mandate the inclusion of EV charging infrastructure in new constructions and renovations; mandate new developments to install wiring and electrical panels that support EV charging stations; establish minimum requirements for the number and type of chargers, based on building size and occupancy). The Lopez Garcia report recommended specific locations for future charging stations, specifically the Thatcher Woods parking lot and the River Forest Public Library for Level 2 chargers, Town Center for Direct Current Fast Chargers, and Lake Street for pole-mounted Level 2 chargers to serve the higher concentration of multi-family homes. Village staff view the library as a potential partner for future EV charging expansion and believe pole mounted charging along Lake St. is worth considering further before any final decision made.

- Additionally, the Lopez-Garcia report recommended a coordinated strategy of electric vehicle charging across C4 communities. Continued staff participation in C4 allows for continued collaboration and sharing of best practices and potential obstacles with EV charging expansion.

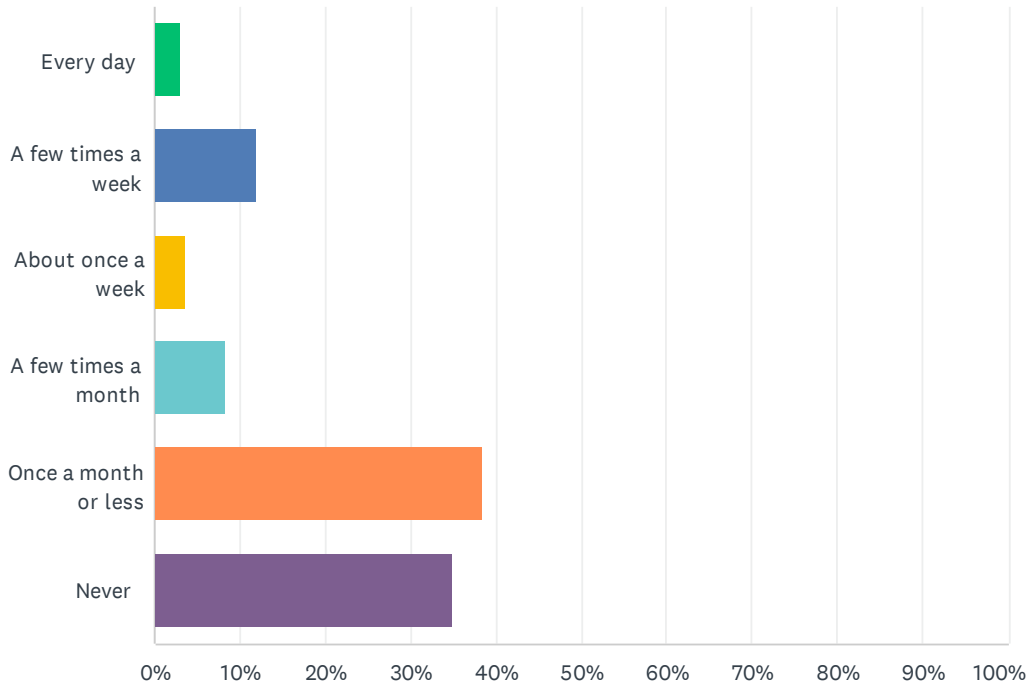
It is at the discretion of the Commission to consider any of the action items put forward in the plans and can consider any staff recommendation they wish. The Commission may adjust or amend any recommendations they see fit and may also put forward other items for consideration.

The Commission had also survey residents on various transport, specifically on use of public transportation and electric vehicles. The attached is the most up to date survey response data on the transportation-specific questions.

Attachment: Sustainability Commission Survey Responses – Transportation Questions

Q5 How often do you use public transportation?

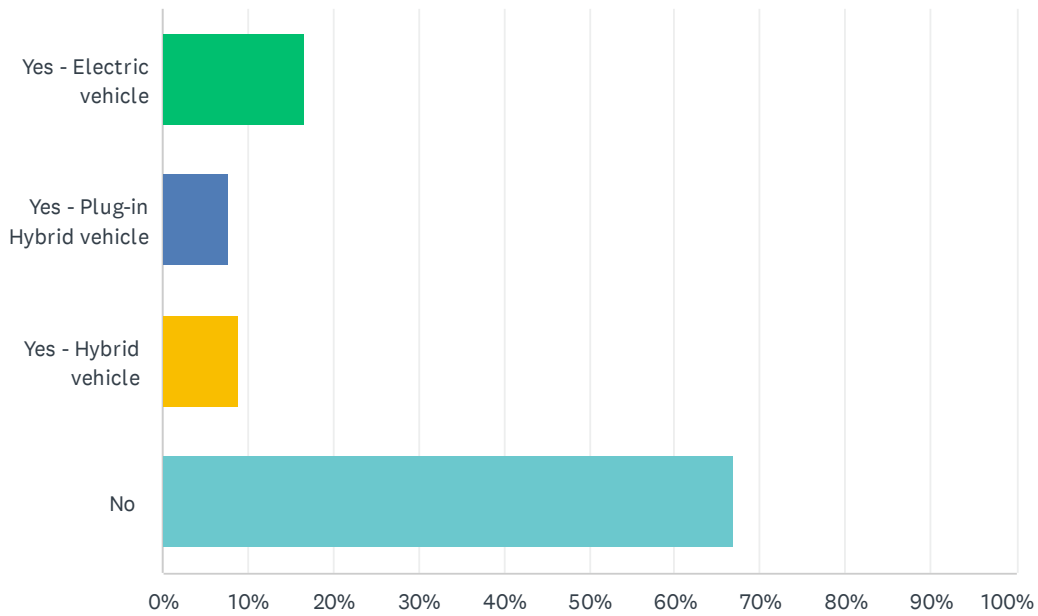
Answered: 169 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	2.96%	5
A few times a week	11.83%	20
About once a week	3.55%	6
A few times a month	8.28%	14
Once a month or less	38.46%	65
Never	34.91%	59
TOTAL		169

Q6 Do you drive an electric or hybrid vehicle?

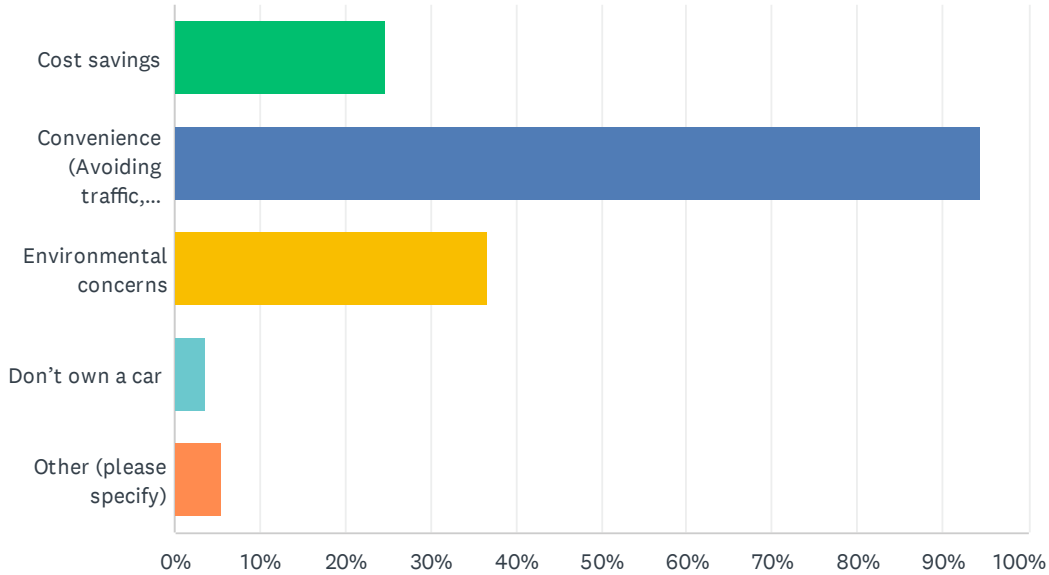
Answered: 169 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - Electric vehicle	16.57%	28
Yes - Plug-in Hybrid vehicle	7.69%	13
Yes - Hybrid vehicle	8.88%	15
No	66.86%	113
TOTAL		169

Q7 What are the main reasons you use public transportation? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 109 Skipped: 60

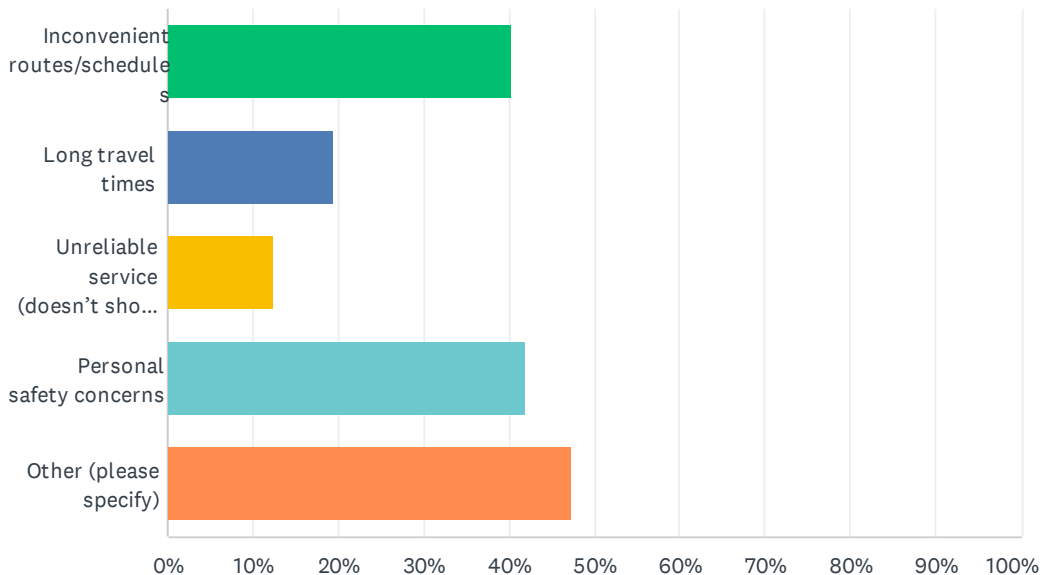


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Cost savings	24.77% 27
Convenience (Avoiding traffic, parking issues, etc.)	94.50% 103
Environmental concerns	36.70% 40
Don't own a car	3.67% 4
Other (please specify)	5.50% 6
Total Respondents: 109	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Entertaining my grand children.	11/2/2024 11:19 AM
2	It's not available for where I am going to.	11/2/2024 9:09 AM
3	It's quicker to downtown	11/1/2024 7:03 PM
4	Not applicable	11/1/2024 6:44 PM
5	Metra to work	9/30/2024 11:37 PM
6	Loan my car to a family member	9/19/2024 5:57 PM

Q8 What are the main reasons you don't use public transportation? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 57 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Inconvenient routes/schedules	40.35% 23
Long travel times	19.30% 11
Unreliable service (doesn't show up on time, unexpected delays, etc)	12.28% 7
Personal safety concerns	42.11% 24
Other (please specify)	47.37% 27
Total Respondents: 57	

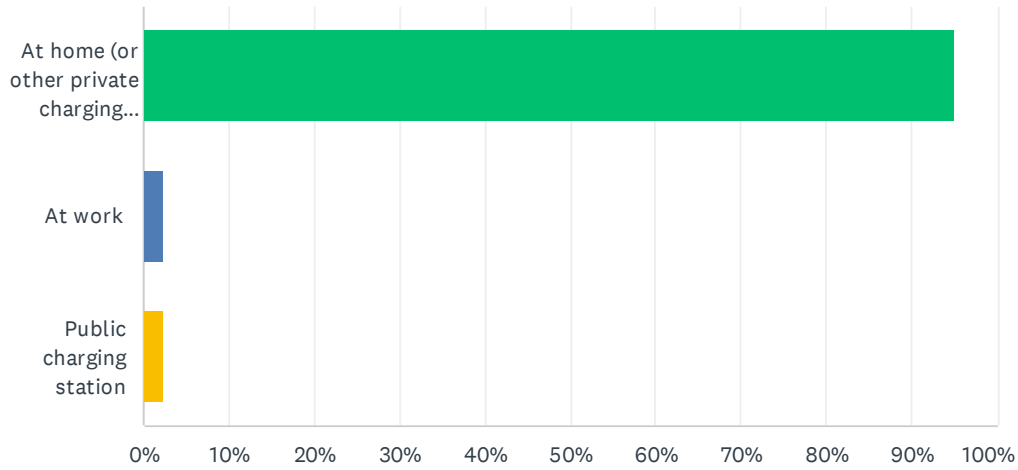
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	retired	11/2/2024 11:20 AM
2	👴 89 yrs old. Cant access, + not able to get real id.	11/2/2024 7:57 AM
3	Used to use frequently before retirement.	11/1/2024 8:12 PM
4	age	11/1/2024 5:16 PM
5	Don't need	10/12/2024 7:40 PM
6	I don't travel to easily accessible areas	10/12/2024 6:35 PM
7	Sanitary issues	10/12/2024 12:26 PM
8	Not practical for my job.	10/12/2024 8:33 AM
9	We are retired and don't need it	10/8/2024 4:46 PM
10	I carry several hundreds of pounds of materials with me.	10/7/2024 8:16 PM

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11	Doesn't match my needs	10/5/2024 11:56 AM
12	I don't commute to work - public transportation isn't an option for the errands I do.	10/5/2024 8:49 AM
13	my routines are mostly local. I walk daily,	10/4/2024 8:42 AM
14	Absolutely no need for me to use it	10/3/2024 10:35 PM
15	Don't need it	10/3/2024 8:47 PM
16	There is no route that goes from my home to my work.	10/3/2024 8:19 PM
17	My job is 10-15 minutes away. I have to carry a tote bag during my job as a substitute teacher. It is much easier to put all of my gear into my car.	9/30/2024 1:33 AM
18	do not go to work/retired	9/28/2024 5:20 PM
19	Work from home	9/27/2024 10:24 PM
20	unable to physically get on bus.	9/23/2024 11:05 PM
21	Rarely travel	9/23/2024 9:33 AM
22	No direct route to work at odd hours	9/22/2024 11:03 AM
23	We are retired seniors!	9/21/2024 6:01 PM
24	It's too inconvenient for where I want to go	9/21/2024 2:51 PM
25	Dont need to	9/20/2024 9:30 AM
26	No options for the routes I take	9/19/2024 7:59 PM
27	Hauling cargo and tools that could not be accomadated on public transportation.	9/19/2024 7:39 PM

Q9 Where do you usually charge your vehicle?

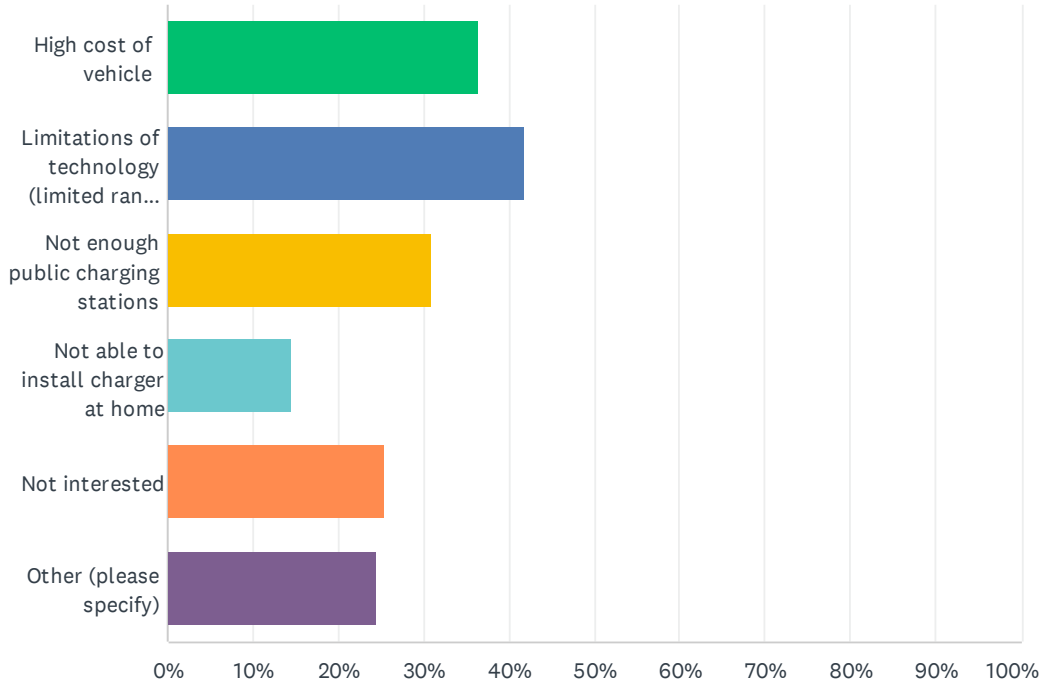
Answered: 41 Skipped: 128



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At home (or other private charging station)	95.12%	39
At work	2.44%	1
Public charging station	2.44%	1
TOTAL		41

Q10 Are there any issues which keep you from considering an electric or hybrid vehicle (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 110 Skipped: 59



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
High cost of vehicle	36.36%	40
Limitations of technology (limited range, long charging times, etc.)	41.82%	46
Not enough public charging stations	30.91%	34
Not able to install charger at home	14.55%	16
Not interested	25.45%	28
Other (please specify)	24.55%	27
Total Respondents: 110		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Would consider a hybrid vehicle.	11/4/2024 12:37 AM
2	I keep my cars about 10 years. My next new car will be a hybrid. I would love an all electric vehicle but my building won't install chargers.	11/2/2024 12:39 PM
3	Stopped driving 10 yrs ago.	11/2/2024 7:57 AM
4	Can't hear it running; otherwise, I'd love one.	11/1/2024 6:44 PM
5	Space for my family of 6	11/1/2024 5:55 PM
6	Medical professional, need car for work, basically 34/7. Can't afford charging time.	11/1/2024 5:17 PM

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7	Safety issues in accidents, car completely stops working, technology just isn't fully developed yet	10/12/2024 12:26 PM
8	not ready for a new car yet	10/12/2024 9:12 AM
9	Ensuring batteries and technology are vetted	10/12/2024 7:40 AM
10	We don't plan to change our current cars	10/8/2024 4:46 PM
11	difficulty of installing a charging station in a detached garage	10/8/2024 7:10 AM
12	The type of driving I do makes it impossible	10/7/2024 8:16 PM
13	Our next cars will be ev	10/5/2024 11:56 AM
14	Not buying a new car anytime soon	10/5/2024 1:04 AM
15	spouse has a hybrid that we use for distance travel	10/4/2024 8:42 AM
16	Logistics of getting a charger	10/3/2024 10:20 PM
17	Can't go long distances	10/3/2024 9:45 PM
18	Im planning on purchasing one	10/3/2024 8:42 PM
19	Not time for a new car.	10/3/2024 2:19 PM
20	Technology advancing rapidly, just like PC's and Laptops.	9/30/2024 11:37 PM
21	Im not ready to buy a new car but now that you mention it I will consider buying one in the near future.	9/30/2024 1:33 AM
22	Need charger at home. Probably electrical service change, more amperage. Excessive cost.	9/26/2024 3:21 PM
23	I don't believe that the manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles is better for the environment. the vehicles don't last as long as gas powered and they are heavier on the roads leading to the need for more road maintenance.	9/23/2024 8:20 AM
24	Dangerous - too heavy and cause catastrophic crashes	9/22/2024 8:00 AM
25	Not sure I want to be sitting on a battery	9/21/2024 2:51 PM
26	don't want one, prefer what I have	9/20/2024 10:18 AM
27	Concerns about sustainability of current batteries. Waiting for technological improvements.	9/20/2024 5:50 AM

Q11 In a few words, indicate what additional information might help you to consider the purchase of an electric or hybrid vehicle.

Answered: 50 Skipped: 119

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Our next vehicle will almost certainly be a hybrid or electric vehicle. More public charging stations would be needed for full electric vehicles.	11/4/2024 11:17 AM
2	More high speed charging stations at RF Town Center, Jewel, Fresh Thyme, and other locations with large parking lots where shoppers spend 30 mins or more.	11/2/2024 12:39 PM
3	Nothing at this time. I am retired and don't use my car a lot.	11/2/2024 9:09 AM
4	🙄!	11/2/2024 7:57 AM
5	Longer range.	11/2/2024 3:41 AM
6	Hybrids are fine, had a Prius previously. Would buy another one....	11/1/2024 5:17 PM
7	none	11/1/2024 5:16 PM
8	None	10/12/2024 12:26 PM
9	I'm ready, but need to wait a few more years for my gas-powered car to be older	10/12/2024 9:12 AM
10	My next one will be, I'm riding out my paid off car til i can't!	10/12/2024 9:05 AM
11	Tax savings. Long term benefits	10/12/2024 7:40 AM
12	None as our ComEd won't be able to handle the loads.	10/8/2024 4:50 PM
13	I would like to know more about the reliability of electric cars vs traditional cars. Would be more interested if hybrid cars cost less than gas cars.	10/7/2024 9:06 PM
14	We had a hybrid that was totalled a few years back, during the Covid car shortage. We were unable to get another hybrid at the time	10/5/2024 1:04 AM
15	waiting for my 2013 car reach end of lifespan before buying a hybrid	10/4/2024 8:42 AM
16	We are educated on it, just does not make sense for our family.	10/3/2024 11:33 PM
17	Perhaps as soon as we can drive from here to California without having to stop to charge the darn cars, or worry that it will need charging in an area where there are no charging stations. I'll stick with my wonderful non-electric car, thank you!	10/3/2024 10:35 PM
18	Any kind of financial support	10/3/2024 10:20 PM
19	not interested	10/3/2024 9:45 PM
20	Last time we shopped for a vehicle, the hybrids were 10-15K more. We'd need a program to bring that differential down to 2K (such as a rebate).	10/3/2024 9:01 PM
21	The end of the life cycle of my current car.	10/3/2024 7:34 PM
22	Information about tax credits	10/3/2024 2:19 PM
23	None really, electricity is limited	10/2/2024 12:19 PM
24	Cost of Solar and home battery technology expense	9/30/2024 11:37 PM
25	Don't tell me what to do/ shame me into something	9/30/2024 12:26 PM
26	None	9/30/2024 12:16 PM
27	lower cost and charger capability	9/30/2024 11:51 AM

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28	More public infrastructure to charge the car, parking spaces to do so in public lots.	9/30/2024 11:16 AM
29	I would like to know whether there is a recycling program for batteries used by electric cars.	9/30/2024 1:33 AM
30	none	9/28/2024 5:20 PM
31	I don't need more info. The electricity fir charging has to come from something. Electric cars are not the environmental saviors they are made out to be.	9/26/2024 3:21 PM
32	need more charging stations	9/24/2024 8:37 AM
33	Not able to spend the money while I have a good car that runs on gas.	9/23/2024 11:05 PM
34	More chargers. That's all. Otherwise I'm sold on EV's.	9/23/2024 9:33 AM
35	I would like to see more sustainable battery manufacturing.	9/23/2024 8:20 AM
36	Not in the market for different vehicle at this time	9/22/2024 6:10 PM
37	None. Don't believe they are any net improvements over ICE	9/22/2024 11:03 AM
38	None. My mind is made up.	9/22/2024 8:00 AM
39	Will not purchase an electric vehicle. They are way too expensive. Not reliable a fir us totally unnecessary. We are retired and no longer travel back and forth to wirk.	9/21/2024 6:01 PM
40	We likely will once they can handle longer ranges.	9/20/2024 1:11 PM
41	I'm really not interested at this time. Limited range and cold weather charging concerns will keep me out of the category for a while.	9/20/2024 12:24 PM
42	don't want one, prefer what I have.	9/20/2024 10:18 AM
43	Detailed cost versus regular car	9/20/2024 9:30 AM
44	more charging stations	9/20/2024 7:02 AM
45	See above.	9/20/2024 5:50 AM
46	When current cars die	9/19/2024 8:07 PM
47	At my age, my vehicle will probably outlast my need for personal transportation.	9/19/2024 7:39 PM
48	Lower prices and more public chargeribg stations	9/19/2024 7:32 PM
49	Improvements in range and battery technology, studies on the impacts of increasing electrical demands and power plant source materials, e.g. shifts to coal or nuclear source material.	9/19/2024 5:57 PM
50	discounts for installing charging stations at home or more throughout the community	9/19/2024 5:52 PM



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: UIC Climate Action Plan – Resources and Communications

This memorandum is to provide an overview of the action items recommended by the two UIC Climate Action reports that involve education and outreach to the public. These recommendations can all be incorporated into the existing communications: run in weekly and monthly newsletters, posted on social media, and published in the Guide to Sustainable Living on the Village website. Some recommendations also include in-person events or programs that could be led or hosted by the Commission. Recommended strategies include the following:

- Educate the general public on the benefits of planting native vegetation.
- Reimagine the “River Forest Trees” section of the website to include more educational information on trees.
- Incentivize the installation of solar panels on homes *NOTE: The Lopez-Garcia report specifically recommends spreading awareness of Inflation Reduction Act tax credits for solar panel installation.*
- Increase community solar participation and follow through.
- Inform and encourage residents to improve their home’s energy efficiency and reduce their own emissions via weatherization techniques and funding.
- Encourage reuse of furniture, clothing, electronics, and other goods.
- Connect residents with the resources to install rain barrels on their properties.
- Develop in-person and online community education programs on a recurring basis to teach residents how to prepare houses for seasonal efficiency upgrades.
- Educate homeowners on the substantial cost-saving and environmental benefits of installing and using electric temperature regulating appliances.
- Create a resource hub for local best practices in battery and solar installations.
- Encourage hourly pricing plans for electric utilities. *NOTE: The Tilahun Report recommended it be part of the aggregation program. While this is not feasible, the overall goal can be achieved by sharing information on ComEd Hourly Pricing program and potential benefits as part of Commission communications. Please note residents who enroll in the Hourly Pricing plan will be opting out of the community aggregation plan.*

- Develop a tree planting guide for homeowners in order to educate community members on best practices for tree planting and maintenance.
- River Forest should partner with West Cook Wild Ones to host a yearly “Native Garden Walk” where neighbors can learn from one another about restoring native prairie and increasing soil biodiversity featuring garden awards to homes with healthiest soil.
- Encourage the planting of adaptive understory and multiple levels of vegetation in Village landscape planning.
- Create a central hub for community climate action programs and engagement.
- Implement innovative climate-focused community programs.
- Equitably provide accessible climate change education materials for residents.
- Increase the Village’s capacity for pickup of specialized materials - partner with or promote volunteer driven collection events and share drop off/collection locations and resources

Additionally, the Tilahun report recommended conducting a Village-wide survey to collect a baseline of resident knowledge on climate change topics. The Commission had developed such a survey which was shared with residents this fall. The survey asked residents about their interest in various sustainability topics and resources. The attached is the most up to date survey response data on these questions.

As the Commissions sees fit, the recommendations made by the Climate Plans and the interests expressed by the residents, can be utilized to draft a communications plan for forthcoming weekly and monthly newsletters

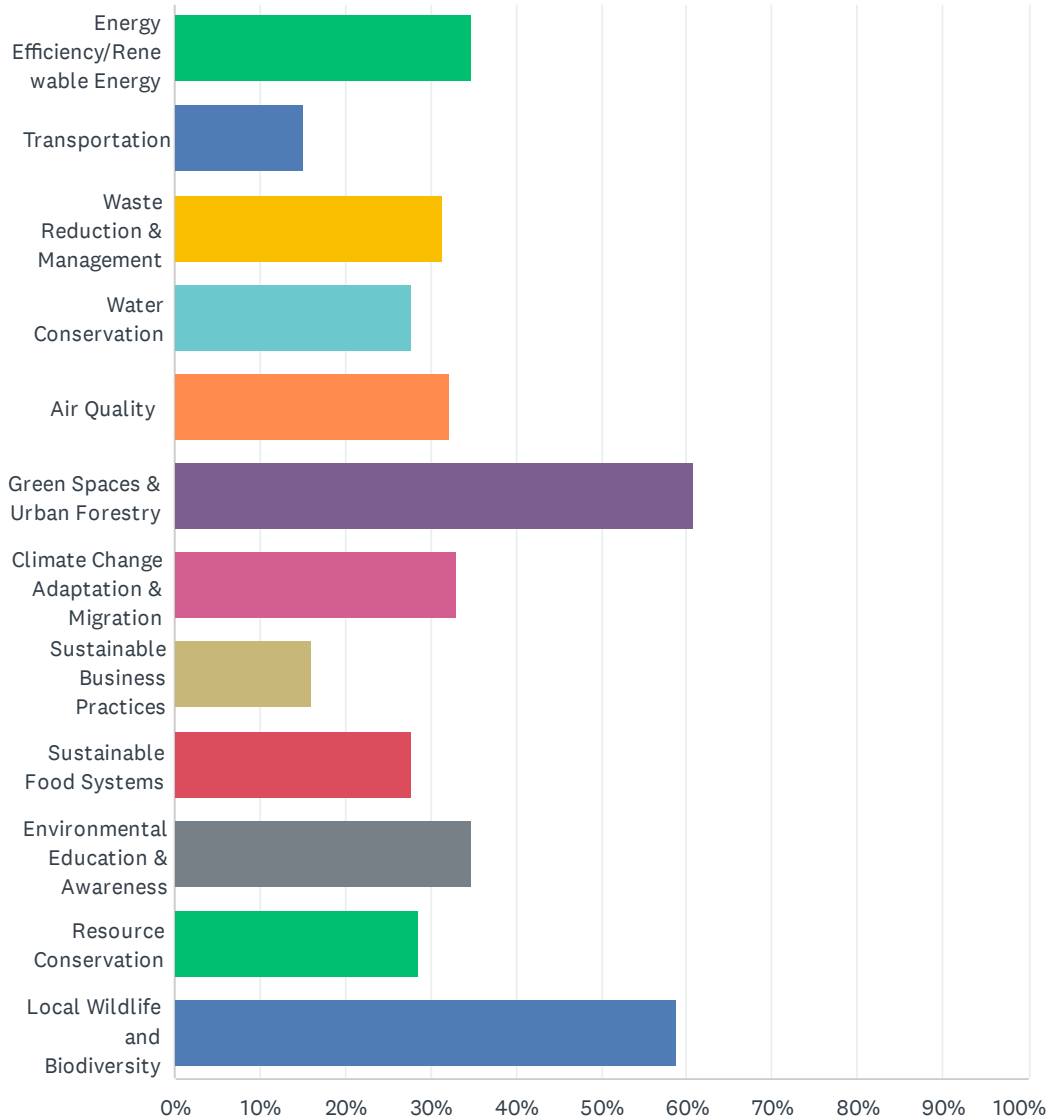
Attachment:

- Sustainability Commission Survey Responses – Questions on Interests and Resources
- Draft 2025 Communications Calendar

	January	February	March	April
Monthly (First Friday)	1/3	2/7	3/7/2025 (E-Waste Sign-Up for Social Media)	4/4/2025 - Earth Month and Upcoming Events?
Weekly 1	1/10/2025 - Holiday Lights	2/14	3/14	4/11/2025 - Bike Exchange?
Weekly 2	1/17	2/21	3/21	4/18/2025 - Earth Day
Weekly 3	1/24/2025 - Holiday Greens	2/28	3/28	4/25/2025 - Arbor Day
Weekly 4	1/31	N/A	N/A	N/A
	May	June	July	August
Monthly (First Friday)	5/2/2025 Bike Month or Comp	6/6	7/3/2025 - Plastic Free July?	8/1
Weekly 1	5/9	6/13	7/11	8/8
Weekly 2	5/16	6/20	7/18	8/15
Weekly 3	5/23/2025 - HHW Sign Up	6/27	7/25	8/22
Weekly 4	5/30	N/A	N/A	8/29
	September	October	November	December
Monthly (First Friday)	9/5/2025(E-Waste Sign-Up for	10/3	11/7	12/5
Weekly 1	9/12	10/10	11/14	12/12
Weekly 2	9/19	10/17	11/21	12/19
Weekly 3	9/26/2025 - HHW Sign Up	10/24	11/26/2025 - Holiday Lights	12/26/2025 - Holiday Greens
Weekly 4	N/A	10/31/2025 - Pumpkin Smash	N/A	N/A

Q26 Are there any other topics that you would like to learn more about? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 112 Skipped: 57



Sustainability Commission Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy	34.82%	39
Transportation	15.18%	17
Waste Reduction & Management	31.25%	35
Water Conservation	27.68%	31
Air Quality	32.14%	36
Green Spaces & Urban Forestry	60.71%	68
Climate Change Adaptation & Migration	33.04%	37
Sustainable Business Practices	16.07%	18
Sustainable Food Systems	27.68%	31
Environmental Education & Awareness	34.82%	39
Resource Conservation	28.57%	32
Local Wildlife and Biodiversity	58.93%	66
Total Respondents: 112		

Q27 Please provide any additional suggestions or comments that you wish to share with the Sustainability Commission

Answered: 44 Skipped: 125

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	What are the commissions short and long term goals	11/18/2024 6:44 PM
2	Let's get rid of gas powered leaf blowers ASAP	11/4/2024 11:20 AM
3	I'm intrigued by citizen science projects and wonder if there is a RF project the community could rally around.	11/2/2024 12:45 PM
4	Electric blowers are about as noisy as gas blowers, and gas blowers are a drop in the bucket in terms of emissions. Why impose significant additional costs on small businesses for such little benefit. This cause is a fad and the village should focus its energies on regulations that will have a real impact on legitimate environmental concerns. If an individual homeowner is concerned about gas blowers, they should not use them and/or find a lawn care service willing to use electric equipment.	11/2/2024 11:30 AM
5	👉 Please dont even think about oak park's leaf bagging mandate. !! 🙄	11/2/2024 8:06 AM
6	The deer are eating our forest to death, and having a huge negative impact on biodiversity. I believe you had an expert in to confirm this, but his comments went unheeded.	11/1/2024 8:18 PM
7	The village streetlights on residential streets are ineffective at lighting the street, waste energy, and excessively contribute to light pollution.	10/19/2024 3:33 PM
8	A big concern of mine is the continued volcanoing of trees with mulch. We are already losing established trees due to disease and insects, we don't need to shorten the lifespan of our existing trees due to ignorance of the negative effects of mulch build up around trees. I think the village should enact some sort of program that holds homeowners and landscape services accountable for such destructive behavior. Especially on parkway trees!	10/13/2024 4:24 PM
9	I'm concerned about Excessive use of road salt Commuter bike support Loss of tree canopy	10/12/2024 6:44 PM
10	Great work sustainability commission!	10/8/2024 7:19 PM
11	I would like a push for education around night time flood lights. LED lights have made it very inexpensive to leave unneeded lightning on and it's not only intrusive to neighbors it's terrible for birds and pollinators and outer wildlife. I wish we had restrictions on how much lighting someone can have on their property	10/5/2024 12:02 PM
12	Need for bicycle safety. Stop bump outs which are dangerous to riders!	10/5/2024 10:31 AM
13	Keep up the good work!	10/4/2024 2:51 PM
14	Need better information about what items are compostable vs should be recycled. Labels on bins say different things.	10/4/2024 9:37 AM
15	We need to work with Com Ed to ensure that they can handle the increased demand for electricity brought on by heat pumps, EVs, etc.	10/4/2024 8:05 AM
16	For us it's all about cost. Sustainability aligns with our values but it's a privilege to achieve	10/3/2024 10:30 PM
17	We really could use public recycling bins and trash receptacles in all parks.	10/3/2024 8:54 PM
18	Keep up the good work!	10/3/2024 7:37 PM
19	I am grateful that our village helps to educate residents on sustainability practices. Thank you.	10/3/2024 4:20 AM
20	Bamboo is a highly sustainable plant with many uses and could significantly reduce our reliance on plastics. I would encourage an educational session on its viability in our community as an alternative to plastics.	9/30/2024 11:46 PM

Sustainability Commission Community Survey

21	The only electric vehicle charging stations I used were removed when the Marion parking lot was redone. Will these be replaced? We should be installing more, not fewer.	9/30/2024 2:38 PM
22	We should make clothes lines legal.	9/30/2024 12:14 PM
23	Improved infrastructure for biking and pedestrians	9/30/2024 11:18 AM
24	I think telling residents about replacing their Kentucky Blue Grass lawns with White Clover and Fescue grasses will greatly improve the negative environmental impacts of traditional grass lawns. A combination of white clover and Fescue Tall Grass (it's really not tall) has positive impacts and are more suitable to Illinois's climate. They are drought and grub resistant, help pollinate gardens, conserve water. Clover attracts parasitoid wasps that feed on aphids, scales and whiteflies. These wasps are tiny and harmless. Clover never needs fertilizer. Grass that is intermixed with clover will be healthier and greener. Clover never needs herbicides. Clover out competes weeds. The herbicide industry will not like the use of clover and Fescue, but it's time they start changing their ways. Maybe these companies could start selling clover and fescue seeds. The chemicals people use on their Kentucky blue grass lawns are bad for people, wildlife and the environment. Clover is immune to dog patches too. Lastly, Kentucky Bluegrass has shallow roots that make it more susceptible to heat and drought. At a recent condo meeting I introduced the use of clover and Tall Fescue in an area damaged by grubs. There was no interest. It would be helpful if the Village told residents about the benefits of these two plants. One more thing. Does the Village have to spray for Mosquitoes? Why can't people use Off? I do all the time when gardening. Our property had some Lightning Bugs this summer but after the Village sprayed, these cute and beneficial insects were wiped out.	9/30/2024 2:19 AM
25	Sustainability does not mean all electric. An all electric infrastructure, or an all anything infrastructure is a fragile system. Much better to have diversified energy sources and infrastructure.	9/26/2024 3:31 PM
26	Let's get after it. We should be an example for the Chicago-area in terms of sustainability and I feel like we're in the middle of the pack. Communities have already banned gas leaf blowers and have significantly more public charging options--we have two. Let's go!	9/26/2024 2:35 PM
27	get the trains to stop idling on the tracks for hours. Has been a problem since living here from 1985!!!	9/24/2024 8:41 AM
28	some way to dispose of material(cloth) products that are no longer wearable or rugs,etc . that are worn out.	9/23/2024 11:22 PM
29	Lots. Need more time and space.	9/23/2024 9:38 AM
30	I said that I don't support a ban on leaf blowers, the nuance there is that I do. but not in the current conditions until there are solid commercial options for contractors which will happen - but it isn't there yet.	9/23/2024 5:00 AM
31	Go away	9/22/2024 11:05 AM
32	I would love to install some rain barrels, and know I can get them for reduced cost through water reclam district, but the thing that's stopping me is that I don't know of a knowledgeable handy person who could install them with all the important bells & whistles..like making them high enough to make gravity help out, how to make overflows, how to make them easy to disconnect in the winter, etc. For example, if a person who's super knowledgeable about all the installation options could do so for - say - \$25 per barrel, that would be a cool service to have. That's the main thing that has kept me from installing several around the house...though I also wish there were more decorating options so the barrels would look attractive with whatever house color/style you have. I spend a lot of time and money on my gardens, and I'd like rain barrels that complement that.	9/21/2024 3:01 PM
33	Work with the RF grocery stores to have a special section in the grocery store focused on packing kids waste free lunches.	9/20/2024 1:16 PM
34	Why is the electronic recycling program limited to personal electronic items, like computers and monitors? What do I do with the an old toaster for example?	9/20/2024 12:31 PM
35	Programs should be encouraged and voluntary not mandated. Consider switching leaf pickup to Spring as there are positive to keeping leaves in gardens for the winter but then you would be stuck bagging and paying separately. Additional options are nice.	9/20/2024 11:39 AM
36	Get R.Forest Park district to promote folks from throwing tennis balls on to property next to	9/20/2024 10:33 AM

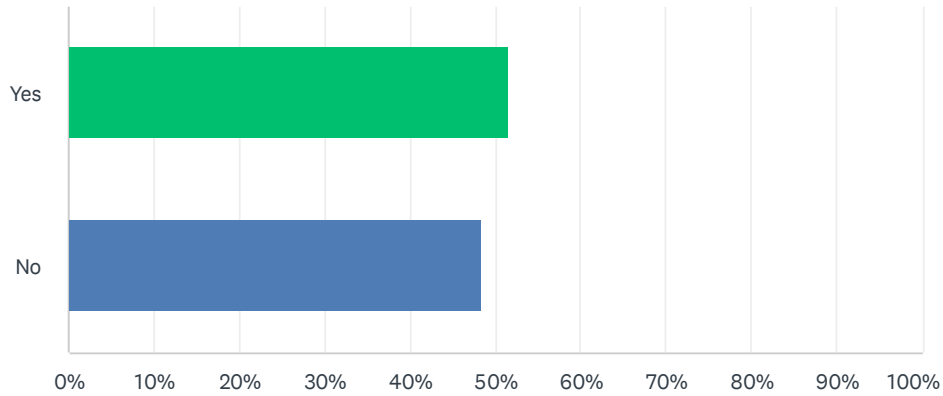
Sustainability Commission Community Survey

tennis outside courts. Players/workers throw tennis balls on to land near courts-litter! Pass an ordinance that plastic bottle littering is not allowed in River Forest. Tell residences and lawn service firms their workers should not litter their empty plastic bottles in our village.

37	The commercial lawn care companies are a public nuisance. Really gone overboard with their use of loud, toxic gas-powered equipment.	9/20/2024 7:27 AM
38	Would like to see compost service offered to all residents as part of regular waste service package	9/20/2024 5:55 AM
39	Oak Park also has eco efforts that we might be able to join like opcan.org I think resources on making older homes more eco friendly and how to do things like a home energy assessment. Thank you for asking about this. I do try to read these types of resources.	9/20/2024 12:39 AM
40	i run early in the morning and the large amount of sprinklers going is just obnoxious. i personally view it as just plain waste, it's like we are so rich we like wasting perfectly good drinking water so our grass is a bit greener than my neighbor. can't we just do a bit where it's not allowed i mean if we are really serious about sustainability this would be the lowest hanging fruit	9/19/2024 8:30 PM
41	I share curbside composting with my daughter who lives close by in Oak park.	9/19/2024 7:56 PM
42	Can the village pick-up paint? The recycling day for household hazardous waste is really a dud otherwise.	9/19/2024 7:32 PM
43	Look into why other cities recycle more than we do; focus on water use of underground lawn sprinklers; investigate impact on increasing electric loads from all your suggested changes, focus on reducing gasoline use in vehicles instead of in lawn blowers.	9/19/2024 6:27 PM
44	more native growing spaces/parkway opportunities for residents	9/19/2024 5:55 PM

Q16 Would you be interested in attending workshops and/or receiving information on how to improve recycling best practices?

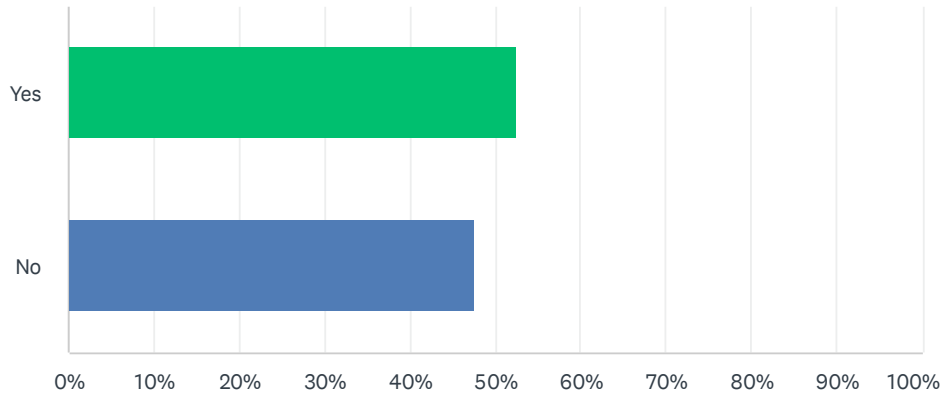
Answered: 161 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.55%	83
No	48.45%	78
TOTAL		161

Q21 Would you be interested to learn about the Village's compost pick-up services?

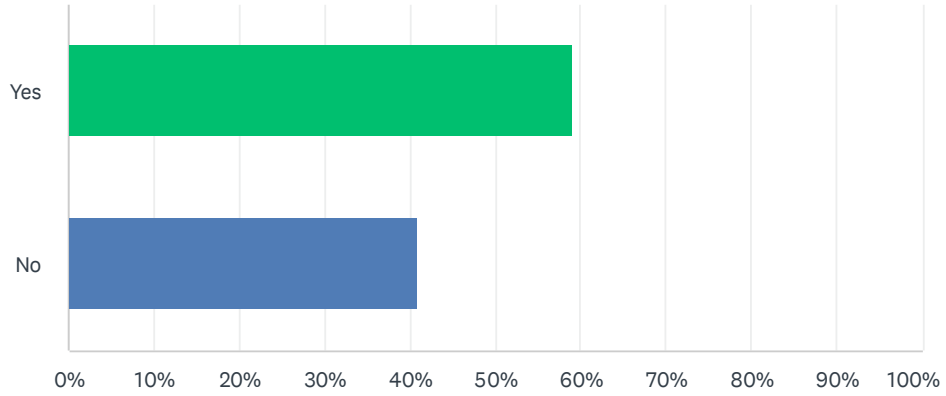
Answered: 61 Skipped: 108



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.46%	32
No	47.54%	29
TOTAL		61

Q22 Would you be willing to compost if resources and support were provided (e.g., workshops, compost bins, etc.)?

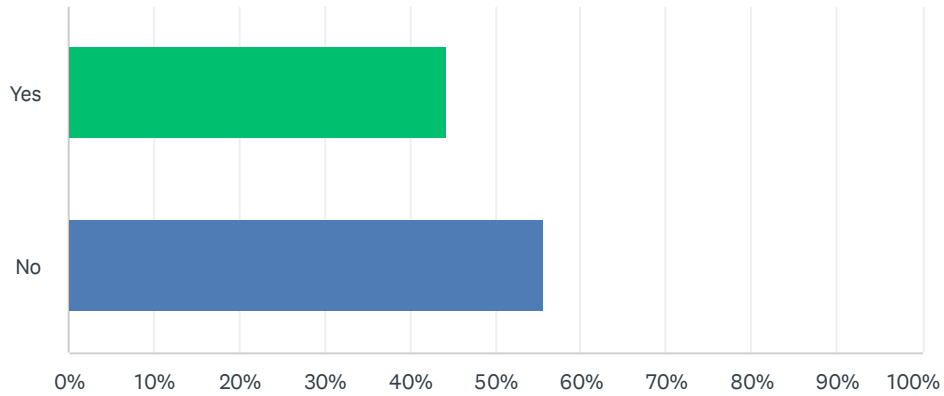
Answered: 61 Skipped: 108



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.02%	36
No	40.98%	25
TOTAL		61

Q23 Would you be interested to learn about vermiculture (composting with worms) and how to start a worm bin?

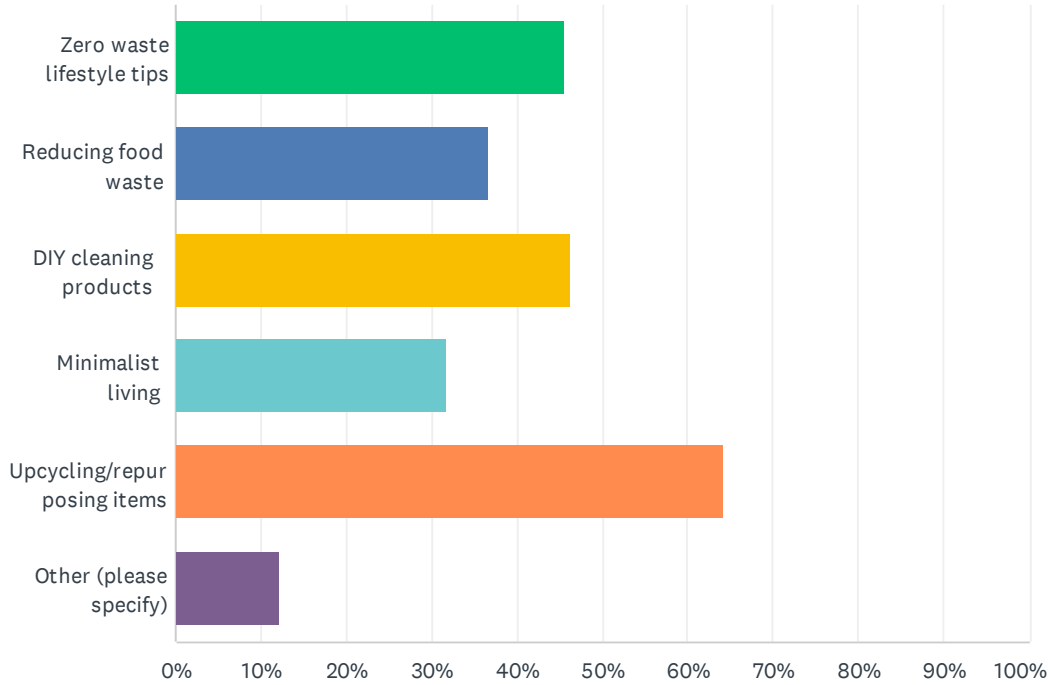
Answered: 36 Skipped: 133



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.44%	16
No	55.56%	20
TOTAL		36

Q18 What waste reduction practices would you be interested in learning more about? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 123 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Zero waste lifestyle tips	45.53% 56
Reducing food waste	36.59% 45
DIY cleaning products	46.34% 57
Minimalist living	31.71% 39
Upcycling/repurposing items	64.23% 79
Other (please specify)	12.20% 15
Total Respondents: 123	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	11/2/2024 8:01 AM
2	I	11/1/2024 7:04 PM
3	Composting	10/12/2024 9:06 AM
4	community or state level changes - making sure our recycling gets recycled, reducing packaging in mail order items, encouraging local stores to participate in reducing plastic and donating food to pantries. (Cermak Market on North Ave has good produce at good prices. They dont recycle plastic and use the worst kind of plastic for produce bags! Would also be interested in how to maintain a vegetable garden despite overpopulation of deer in neighborhood.	10/4/2024 8:51 AM

Sustainability Commission Community Survey

5	Reduced waste lifestyle tips (zero is too hard)	10/3/2024 9:07 PM
6	Bamboo usage should be better promoted	9/30/2024 11:41 PM
7	Compost bins for an 11-unit condo building, compost facilities for weeds and leaves. I do try to put some in garden beds though. I have to ask our landscaper if he uses a compost area off site.	9/30/2024 1:47 AM
8	already do alot	9/28/2024 5:23 PM
9	Information on best choices on products that have less environmental impact.	9/24/2024 1:05 PM
10	none	9/23/2024 11:14 PM
11	It is almost impossible to buy anything that does not have plastic in some fashion. I would like the pressure to be on mfr's to stop using plastic.	9/23/2024 8:23 AM
12	Not interested.	9/21/2024 6:03 PM
13	I'd like to know if there are recycling options for certain things that I currently throw away (though with compost and recycling, I don't actually put out much garbage (it would be nice to have a lower fee for my garbage service, come to think of it! lol)	9/21/2024 2:56 PM
14	Current effectiveness of recycling	9/20/2024 11:33 AM
15	Recycling more materials, explanation of newer terms for older practices	9/19/2024 6:13 PM



Village of River Forest
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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: UIC Climate Action Plan – Future Topics for Consideration

The memorandum is to provide an overview of the topics by which each of the various action items recommended by the two UIC Climate Action reports are categorized.

The Lopez-Garcia class section grouped their 22 action items into 3 opportunity areas each with 2 to 5 Goals. They are as follows:

- Natural Environment
 - Support biodiversity through native vegetation installations
 - Grow and manage tree canopy
- Land Use and Transportation
 - Ensure access to safe modes of transit
 - Improve public transportation ridership experience
 - Reform land use to encourage alternative modes of transportation
- Resilience and Resource Management
 - Transition to 70% energy use from renewable energy
 - Improve Energy Efficiency
 - Improve Waste Diversion
 - Mitigate flooding and stormwater events
 - Increase EV Charging Capability

The Tilahun class section grouped their 53 action items into 4 topics each with 2 to 5 overarching actions. They are as follows:

- Buildings and energy
 - Weatherization
 - Electrification
 - On-site Electricity Generation
 - Energy Usage Optimization
- Transportation
 - Road Conversions and Complete Streets

- Bicycle Parking
- Bike and Scooter Sharing
- EV Charging Ecosystem
- Resilience
 - Tree Protection
 - Soil Health
 - Stormwater Management
 - Biodiversity
 - Climate Data
- Community Engagement
 - Personal Climate Action
 - Build and Foster Partnerships

This month, the Commission will discuss the Transportation related items from both reports as well as items that can be incorporated into communications. Additionally, there are a few items which have been discussed by the Commission in recent months and will be revisited, specifically: leaf blowers, forestry and tree protection recommendations from the reports, and SolSmart designation.

Commission input is sought regarding which topic areas should be focused on or discussed in the coming months.