



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 13, 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, August 13, 2024.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for July 9, 2024
4. Continued Proposed Leaf Blower Ordinance Discussion
5. UIC Climate Action Plans Review
6. Proposed Community Survey
7. Communications and Other Business
8. Schedule Next Meeting – September 10, 2024
9. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 9, 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, Hayley, Mezzatesta, and Kadlec

Absent: Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Also Present: Commissioner Avalos (attending virtually); Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Commission Co-Chair Eric Simon provided remarks about his time on the Commission and the work the Commission has accomplished. Eric offered his help with the transition and on-boarding of new members. Co-Chair Charrette thanked Eric for his service on the Commission and explained the changes to the Commission make-up over the past 7 years. The Commissioners thanked Eric for his work on the Commission.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie to approve the meeting minutes from June 11, 2024, with a typo correction identified by the Co-Chair Charrette.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Not Voting: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.

4. PROPOSED LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the comments provided by the survey sent to the landscape contractors regarding the proposed ordinance. Co-Chair Charrette stated that we should not assume these companies are making the transition already because of Oak Park's ordinance and that the Village should act independently. Co-Chair Charrette suggested a slower adoption timeline and providing incentives to landscape contractors, rather than a punitive

approach. Co-Chair Charrette suggested waiving the annual contractor license fee and promoting companies who use electric leaf blowers on the Village website. Co-Chair Charrette further suggested that the Commission and the Village should look at further ways to help promote adoption of new battery powered technologies and continue to revisit the issue.

Commissioner Mezzatesta expressed desire to explore other issues raised by the landscapers last month. Co-Chair Lennon agreed with taking a different approach but stated that some of the ways to address the issues raised should come from the landscapers. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested taking a seasonal approach initially, while still allowing gas-powered blowers in the spring and fall clean up times. Commissioner Hayley says the Commission and the Village should take into consideration the need to dispose of the batteries in the future.

Commissioner Veazie stated an incremental approach should be taken and tangible progress should be made before further revisiting. Co-Chair Lennon said this could be helpful in learning from early adopts but that a set date should be established for revisiting it. The Commission further discussed the noise issues related to gas-powered leaf blower use. The Commission discussed a potential revised draft to include a license fee waiver for voluntary transition and incorporating in a seasonal ban. The Commission agreed on desire to recognize those who switch to electronic and suggested reaching out to locally based contractors for feedback. Co-Chair Lennon stated the need for further clarity before the Commission votes on it and offered to meet with staff to discuss what the language should state in the ordinance. The Commission discussed getting further feedback from landscape contractors but also discussed getting feedback from residents. Co-Chair Charrette suggested that a survey of residents should also include other sustainability items.

5. UIC CLIMATE ACTION PLANS REVIEW

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined previous discussions and the spreadsheet he had shared with the staff. Commissioner Mezzatesta liked the focus on engagement and education and express support for exploring ways to take those recommendations from the report and incorporate them into communications and community events, potentially partnering with other local groups, such as the library. Commissioner Hayley supported the bus shelter suggestion in one of the reports as a potential way to bolster use of public transportation. Commissioner Hayley suggested that the bike parking suggestion would likely not be utilized as similar existing structures in Oak Park are not regularly utilized. Commissioner Mezzatesta suggested incorporating a public transportation question to the potential survey. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested getting public feedback through a survey to help guide what items to take from the reports and how to best go about engaging with residents on sustainability practices.

Commissioner Hayley offered to draft a survey for the Commission to review further. The Commission discussed potential questions for such a survey, suggestions included use of heat pumps and convection ovens, average miles driven for EV owners, and the previously mentioned leaf blower usage, potential topics of interest for newsletters and communications. The Commission making sure the questions are targeted so that the results

can produce actionable items and results for the issues residents care most about. The Commission discussed ways to engage with other groups and across a diverse age range, including potentially with the universities and the high school environmental club. The Commission inquired about how the survey can be constructed and distributed. Co-Chair Charrette asked about getting feedback from Village staff about what can and can't be implemented from the UIC reports and using that feedback to further narrow the focus of the actions the Commission should take.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen outlined the planned communications calendar for the coming month. Commissioner Mezzatesta said she would continue to provide sustainability articles tied to various national recognition days. Co-Chair Charrette suggested resharing the LRS postcard on social media or in the newsletter.

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about compostable cups and similar materials not being accepted in the Village composting program and requested information be put out for residents explaining which types are and are not accepted. Co-Chair Charrette further inquired about how potential contamination is further processed out at compost facilities.

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the new quarterly EV report he provided to the Commission. The Commission inquired about the overstay fees at the charging station and about further feedback from the public.

Co-Chair Charrette discussed the composting issues raised by the Village Board and wanted to emphasize that cost and cart sharing is a way to further reduce costs and participation when the Village transitions to universal composting. The Commission discussed potential cost estimates for universal composting.

Commissioner Hayley said she had reached out to LRS and has two potential dates for tours of an LRS facility and will email the rest of the Commissioners with those dates.

Co-Chair Charrette introduced the newly appointed Commission Kadlec who briefly provided some background about himself.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 13, 2024

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette 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, Hayley, Mezzatesta,
and Kadlec

Absent: None

Nays: None

Not Voting: Commissioner Avalos

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: August 13, 2024

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst

Subj: Proposed Leaf Blower Ordinance

Following feedback received at the June Sustainability Commission meeting and further discussion at the July Commission meeting, a revised draft ordinance (attached) has been prepared for the Commission. Commissioner input is sought before this will be shared with stakeholders and the public for any further feedback.

The draft ordinance contains two provisions. First, existing language in the Village Code regulating Lawn Maintenance Contractors is amended to establish definitions and regulations on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. It also creates a license fee reimbursement program for those contractors who commit to transitioning to electric leaf blower uses year-round. The second provision creates a new section to the Village Code establishing general regulations around leaf blower usage that would apply to anyone operating a leaf blower in the Village. This provision creates a seasonal ban on gas-powered leaf blowers from the beginning of June through the beginning of October. Both of these provisions contain a phased in approach for 2025, by which the gas-powered leaf blowers may be used at half-speed during these months and the reimbursement may be claimed through only seasonal use of electric leaf blowers.

Following any revisions and feedback from the Commission, the draft will be shared with both the public and landscape contractors licensed with the Village for any final feedback to be reviewed and discussed at next month's meeting.

Attachment: Revised Draft Ordinance

3-3-5: LAWN MAINTENANCE/LANDSCAPING:

- A. Definitions Definition: For the purpose of this section, certain words and phrases are defined as follows:

LAWN MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR: ~~the term "lawn maintenance contractor" is hereby defined to mean~~ any person who makes a business of mowing, trimming, raking or fertilizing lawns, or other landscape work, and who employs two or more persons in the business, and shall include a landscape contractor.

ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER: A leaf blower which is powered by an electric motor.

GAS-POWERED LEAFBLOWER: A leaf blower which is powered by gasoline or propane, including an electric leaf blower powered by stand-alone fossil fuel powered generators or generators powered by vehicle engines.

B. Removal Of Wastes: Any person conducting the business of lawn maintenance shall, upon completion of each job, remove and legally dispose off site all clippings, trimmings or other yard refuse and materials or shall ensure that the materials are properly bagged, tagged, and placed for collection by the Village's waste disposal contractor or otherwise removed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and local environmental laws, rules and regulations. Such yard refuse shall not be allowed to accumulate on site nor shall it be placed on vacant lots, streets or alleys.

C. Beginning January 1, 2025, a lawn maintenance contractor who commits to using only electric leaf blowers between June 1 and October 1 of that calendar year shall receive a reimbursement of one hundred twenty-five dollars for the fees set forth in section 3-3-2. A lawn maintenance contractor who makes said commitment and is found to be using a gas-powered leaf blower between June 1 and October 1, 2025, shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars per instance.

D. Beginning January 1, 2026 and for each subsequent year thereafter, a lawn maintenance contractor who commits to using only electric leaf blowers year-round shall receive a reimbursement of one hundred twenty-five dollars for the fees set forth in section 3-3-2. A lawn maintenance contractor who makes said commitment and is found to be using a gas-powered leaf blower shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars per instance.

NEW SECTION

LEAF BLOWER USE:

- A. Definition. For the purposes of this section, the term "gas-powered leaf blower" shall mean: A leaf blower that is powered by gasoline or propane, including an electric leaf blower powered by stand-alone fossil fuel powered generators or generators powered by vehicle engines.
- B. Gas-powered leaf blower shall only be permitted to be operated at half speed in the Village between June 1, 2025 and October 1, 2025, except as provided below.
- C. Beginning in 2026 and in each subsequent year thereafter, no gas-powered leaf blower shall be permitted to be operated in the Village between the dates of June 1 and October 1, except as provided below.
- D. The use of portable generators to power electric leaf blowers or to recharge batteries used in leaf blowers is prohibited in the Village on or after June 1, 2025, except as provided below.
- E. Exceptions: Gas-powered leaf blowers shall be permitted to be operated as at the direction of Police or Fire Department sworn personnel of the Village for the purpose of:
- responding to an emergency, or in order to restore, preserve, protect or save lives or property from imminent danger of loss or harm; or
 - clearing fallen trees for the purpose of providing emergency clearance for public safety.

- F. Conflict with State Law: If any provision of this section conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with a provision of state law, the more stringent or restrictive provision shall prevail and shall be enforced by the Village.

DRAFT



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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2024
To: Sustainability Commission
From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst
Subj: UIC Climate Action Plan

At the request of the Commission, this memorandum is to provide an overview of the feasibility of the action items recommended by the two UIC Climate Action reports from an administrative perspective. The two plans will be referred to throughout this memo by the names of the professors for the two respective class sections (Lopez-Garcia and Tilahun). This memo will first outline the items which can easily be incorporated into the Commission's ongoing communications. Additional items which are viewed as not administratively feasible from the perspective of the Village staff will then be noted. Further, several recommendations are already part of the standard practice of Village operations and are noted below. Lastly, remaining items will be addressed individually or in conjunction with related recommendations.

Communications

Several recommendations from both reports involve education and outreach to the general public, providing residents with resources to take action themselves. 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.

Two recommended strategies would generally fall into this category but are notable for expanded discussion. The Tilahun report recommended conducting a Village-wide survey to collect a baseline of resident knowledge on climate change topics. This recommendation is akin to that being currently developed by the Commission. The Lopez-Garcia report recommended increasing the Village’s capacity for pickup of specialized materials. In the longer term, this could be incorporated, to the furthest extent possible, in the next Village waste hauling contract. In the interim, the Commission can look to partner with or promote volunteer driven collection events (eg. Green4Good Styrofoam recycling event) and share drop off/collection locations and resources through Commission communications.

Strategies not recommended

There are several recommendations in both reports that the Village staff would recommend against pursuing at this time.

- Both reports make recommendations on promoting more mixed-use development and denser residential development near public transit. Because the Zoning Board and Village Board recently voted against a similar proposal, these recommendations are not recommended for Commission consideration.
- Several subsidy programs for residents are recommended. These include an abatement program to subsidize eco-friendly plantings, subsidies to assist residents in private tree planting in residential areas, subsidizing energy assessments for River Forest homes to determine the best customized alternative for energy use, and reducing the financial burdens for heat pump installations through subsidies. The Village does not wish to establish a precedent of creating subsidy programs for improvements to private

property. While the Village does have existing subsidies, these are limited to private water and sewer infrastructure which directly connect to Village-owned infrastructure.

- Both reports make several recommendations centered around strategies Village staff feel would not warrant a significant amount of interest for such an investment. Therefore, staff further recommend against the following:
 - Mobilize the biking community in River Forest to hold fundraising events to purchase weatherized bike parking.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Updating 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.
- Lastly, 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 further recommend against the following:
 - Developing a community hub for easy access to acquire materials and borrow equipment required to implement seasonal upgrades.
 - 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.
 - 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.*
 - Developing a municipal soil health index based on current conditions and ensure that all municipal and privately-owned soil is improved to meet the minimum index.
 - Exploring the concept of “Street Rivers” to intentionally allow certain streets to convey and store stormwater during extreme events.
 - Planting mini-forests in urban sites by allocating ~1000 square feet plots of land to a high density woodland, with as many as 100x the number of trees found in natural forest stands.
 - Conducting a Village-wide climate change impact survey for parks and natural spaces that can be updated in a centralized database.
 - Encouraging biodiversity with community participation in measuring and managing a biodiversity index of River Forest.
 - Obtain local government support to expand climate change curriculum in River Forest libraries, forest preserves and school districts along with an emphasis on

local universities to lead this initiative. *NOTE do not recommend except for events as part of Commission communications and outreach strategy.*

Existing operations and easy implementation changes

Several strategies recommended are already part of existing Village operations, already have a defined process, or can easily be incorporated on an ad hoc basis.

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.

The Tilahun report recommended updating building codes to efficiency metrics at or above recommended standards for the IECC Climate Zone 519 and requiring permitted home improvement projects to meet these metrics. However, this is already a requirement of the Village's current building codes.

The Tilahun report recommended promoting permeable pavers and de-paving when possible, and the Lopez-Garcia report suggested utilizing permeable pavers as a replacement for trafficked impervious surfaces. Specifically, the Lopez-Garcia report recommended a focus on Village-owned lots and as a requirement through the planned development process when such proposals exceed the maximum lot coverage requirements. While the former has been performed in Village alleys and some Village-owned lots, specifically the west Thatcher commuter lot, Village staff feel this can be more formally incorporated into the Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) process. The latter recommendation can also easily be incorporated into the technical review aspects of the planned development process.

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. Continued staff participation in C4 and PlanIt Green also address to recommendations from the Tilahun report: work with the other C4 leaders to create new shared goals reflective of Bright Climate Future 2035 and re-adopt methods of community engagement used in Oak Park River Forest Sustainability Plan.

For Commission consideration

Lastly, there are several recommendations in both reports which are feasible but will require work and deliberation from the Sustainability Commission. Staff have noted that many of these recommendations can be adjusted to focus on Village facilities, which is the strong preference in some cases. These recommendations broadly fall into 3 categories: solar energy, building energy efficiency, and green ecosystems.

With regards to solar energy, the Lopez-Garcia report recommended streamlining the installation of solar panels on homes. The Tilahun report recommended reducing permitting and financing burdens for solar installations and working with commercial and non-residential building owners to identify spaces and financing options for solar installations. For the Lopez-Garcia recommendation and the former of the two Tilahun recommendations, this could be achieved through pursuit of SolSmart Gold or Platinum designation. For the latter Tilahun recommendation, staff recommend a focus instead be placed on Village-owned facilities for local solar expansion.

With regards to building energy efficiency, staff feel many of the recommendations made can be focused toward Village-owned facilities as a first priority. The Lopez-Garcia report recommended creating transparency over the ongoing energy use of buildings by making available and encouraging voluntary Energy Performance Labels (EPLs) on all non-residential buildings and real estate transactions. The Tilahun report recommended benchmarking of energy and/or water usage across Village for non-residential structures and encouraging efficient large-scale HVAC systems and natural CO2 refrigerant systems. Village staff believe that these would be a significant undertaking. The Sustainability Commission would need to dedicate time to better understand and develop recommendations which could then be incorporated into the CIP process for facility improvements.

Also relating to building energy usage, the Tilahun report recommended adopting a requirement for new buildings to use fully electric appliances. Oak Park has adopted a similar

requirement which would warrant review, and the Village would need to understand authority limitations as a non-home rule community.

Several recommendations were made with regards to green ecosystems. Should the Commission wish to explore these further, Village staff recommend consideration of these items at one time before proceeding with any recommendations to the board, either via ordinance adoption or otherwise.

The Lopez-Garcia report made three recommendations:

- Update the landscaping code to incentivize and require a percentage of total landscaping area dedicated to native plants for new land developments.
- Update Ordinances to grow the tree canopy by 25% in 10 years.
- Create a Heritage Tree designation in the landscaping ordinance.

These would all require an ordinance changing the Village code.

The Tilahun report made four recommendations:

- Amend the current tree cutting ordinance to reflect updated best practices on tree planting and maintenance.
- Maintain the tree count that the village already completes, considering which trees are most resilient for future climate projections.
- Expanding bioswales along roads and sidewalks to capture and temporarily store stormwater runoff.
- Implement a planning regulation that requires new or refurbished buildings in non-residential zones of the Village to replace the whole footprint or floor plate coverage of a building with green space, through the addition of green roofs, green walls and green balconies.

The first two recommendations have largely been adopted through the most recent changes to the Tree and Shrub chapter of the Village code but could be further expanded upon should the Commission wish to pursue the code changes concerning trees recommended in the Lopez-Garcia report. The third recommendation can be reviewed to incorporate into the CIP process for future projects. The fourth recommendation can be undertaken along with the native planting recommendation of the other report to create a new requirement for the planned development process.

The River Forest Sustainability Commission is interested in your opinion to help direct our energies and focus on topics important to our community. These questions should help gather comprehensive information on the community's energy, transportation, waste management practices and interests in sustainability initiatives.

Please answer the following questions surrounding sustainability topics.

General Information:

How long have you resided in the Village of River Forest?

- < 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- > 5 years
- I would rather not say

Do you own or rent your residence?

- Own
- Rent
- I would rather not say

How much do you think about sustainability initiatives and the impact to your daily life?

- Never
- Fairly Often
- Often
- Always

How do you obtain your VRF information?

- Newsletters
- Facebook/Instagram
- VRF Website
- Other

Energy:

1. *Electric Leaf blower Mandate*

Have you experienced any issues with gasoline leaf blowers in your neighborhood? (Select all that apply)

- Noise pollution
- Air pollution
- Odor
- Health concerns (e.g., allergies, respiratory issues)
- None
- Other (please specify): _____

How concerned are you about the environmental impact of gasoline leaf blowers?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned

- Neutral
- Not very concerned
- Not concerned at all

What factors would influence your decision to switch to an electric or battery powered leaf blower?
(Select all that apply)

- Cost of the electric blower
- Availability of incentives/rebates
- Performance of electric blowers compared to gasoline blowers
- Environmental benefits
- Noise reduction
- Ease of use
- Other (please specify): _____

Would you support a community-wide ban on gasoline leaf blowers?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the use of leaf blowers in our community?

2. *Electrification Adoption*

Have you considered switching any of your home appliances to electric alternatives? (Select all that apply)

- Heat pump (for heating/cooling)
- Electrical induction stove
- Electric water heater
- Electric clothes dryer
- Solar panels
- Other (please specify): _____
- None

What are the main barriers preventing you from adopting electric appliances in your home? (Select all that apply)

- High initial cost
- Lack of information on benefits
- Concern about performance
- Installation challenges
- No perceived need to switch
- Other (please specify): _____

How likely would you be to adopt the following electric appliances within the next 5 years?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Neutral
- Unlikely

Very unlikely

Transportation

1. *Public Transportation*

How often do you use public transportation (buses, trains, etc.)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Rarely
- Never

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

- Cost savings
- Convenience
- Environmental concerns
- Avoiding traffic
- Lack of personal vehicle
- Other (please specify): _____

If you do not use public transportation regularly, what are the barriers preventing you from doing so? (Select all that apply)

- Inconvenient routes/schedules
- Long travel times
- Lack of information
- Personal safety concerns
- Poor service reliability
- Prefer personal vehicle
- Other (please specify): _____

2. *Electric Vehicle (EV) Usage*

Do you currently own or lease an electric vehicle (EV)?

- Yes
- No

If you own an EV, what type do you have?

- Battery electric vehicle (BEV)
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)
- Other (please specify): _____

If you do not own an EV, have you considered purchasing one in the next 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

What are the main reasons you are considering an EV? (Select all that apply)

Environmental benefits
Cost savings on fuel
Government incentives
Technological interest
Improved range and charging infrastructure
Other (please specify): _____

What are the main barriers preventing you from purchasing an EV? (Select all that apply)

High initial cost
Limited range
Lack of charging infrastructure
Long charging times
Uncertainty about technology
Lack of information
Other (please specify): _____

If you own an EV, what is your average monthly mileage?

Less than 500 miles
500-1000 miles
1000-1500 miles
More than 1500 miles

Where do you primarily charge your EV? (Select all that apply)

At home
At work
Public charging stations
Other (please specify): _____

What additional resources or information would help you consider an EV purchase? (Select all that apply)

Detailed cost comparisons
Information on government incentives
Charging infrastructure maps
Testimonials from current EV owners
Other (please specify): _____

Waste

1. Backyard Composting and Vermiculture

Do you currently practice backyard composting?

Yes
No

If no, what are the main reasons you do not practice backyard composting? (Select all that apply)

Lack of knowledge on how to compost
Concerns about pests or odors

Lack of space
Time constraints
Not interested
Other (please specify): _____

Would you be interested in starting backyard composting if resources and support were provided (e.g., workshops, compost bins)?

Yes
No

Would you be interested in learning more about vermiculture (composting with worms) and how to start a worm bin?

Yes
No

Would you be interested in learning more about LRS compost pick-up services?

Yes
No

2. *Recycling*

What barriers prevent you from recycling more? (Select all that apply)

Lack of knowledge on what can be recycled
Inconvenience
Insufficient recycling bins
Doubts about the effectiveness of recycling programs
Other (please specify): _____

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

Yes
No

3. *Waste Reduction*

What waste reduction practices do you currently implement in your household? (Select all that apply)

Using reusable shopping bags
Using reusable water bottles and coffee cups
Avoiding single-use plastics
Buying in bulk to reduce packaging
Repairing items instead of discarding them
Other (please specify): _____

What additional waste reduction measures would you be interested in learning more about or implementing? (Select all that apply)

Zero waste lifestyle tips
Reducing food waste
DIY cleaning products

Minimalist living
Upcycling and repurposing items
Other (please specify): _____

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding waste management and reduction in our community?

Other

Would you be interested in the following sustainability topics? (Select all that apply)

DRAFT



Village of River Forest
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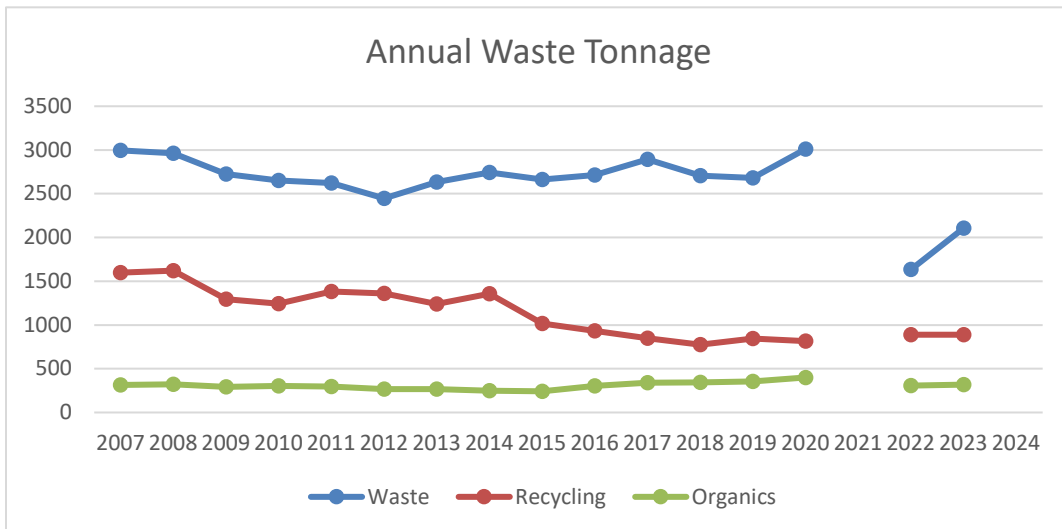
MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2024
 To: Sustainability Commission
 From: Seth Jansen, Management Analyst
 Subj: Quarterly Waste Tonnage Report

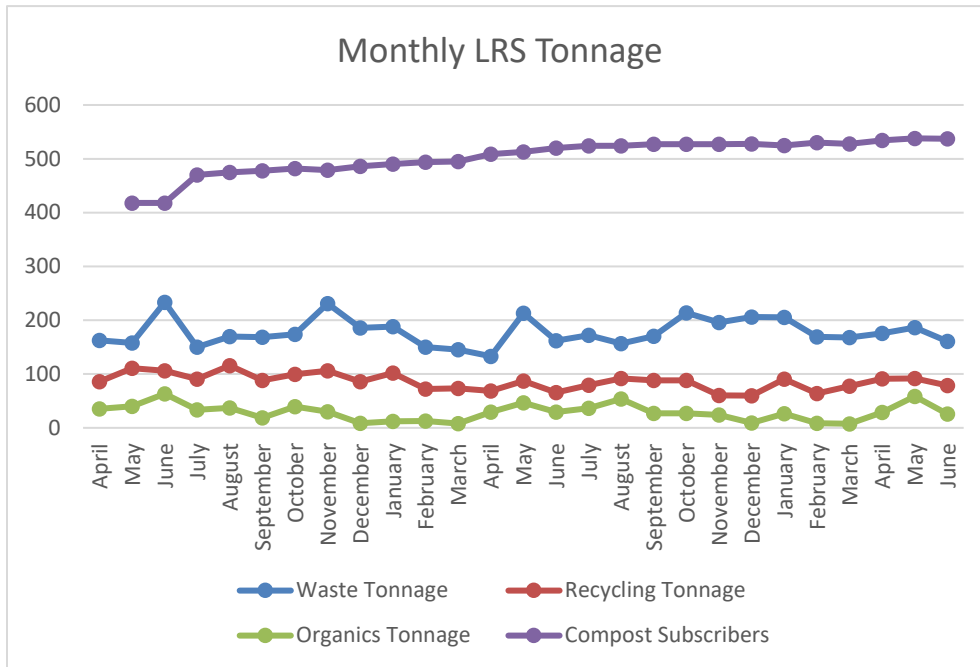
Following discussion at the May 2024 meeting, the Commission has decided to receive quarterly reports on the LRS Tonnage Metrics. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide further information on the data provided in the attached LRS monthly report, along with historic data available with regards to Village waste, recycling, and compost tonnage.

Village Staff were able to find annual waste metrics going back to 2007. This includes every year except for 2021. Further, the 2022 metrics only contain data from April forward. Monthly data was also available, intermittently, going back to 2015. In addition to the missing data from January 2021 through March 2022, no data is available for June through December of 2016.

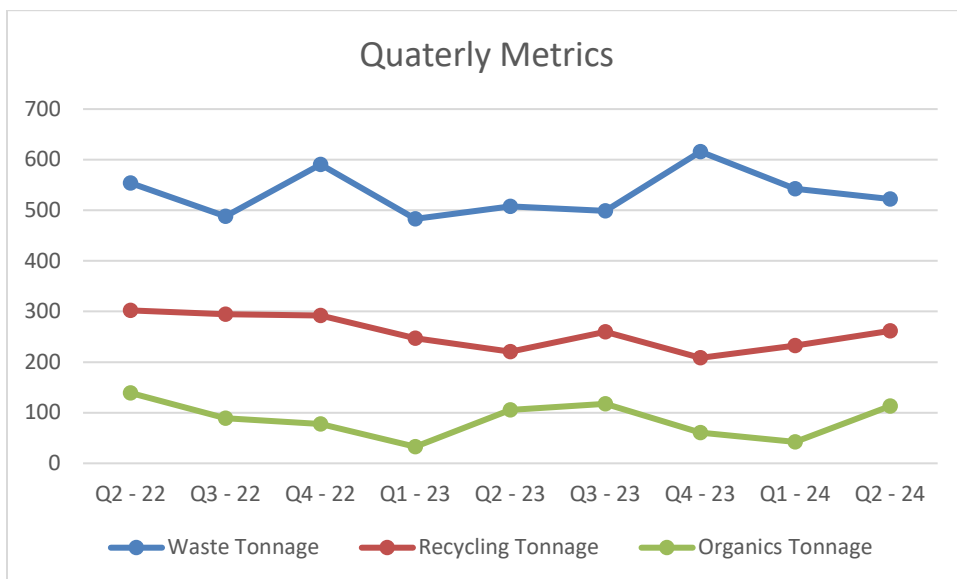
The annual data is plotted on the below chart. Analysis of this data showed weak positive correlations between waste tonnage and recycling tonnage and between waste tonnage and organics tonnage, meaning years with greater amounts of yard waste or recycling generally saw greater amounts of waste tonnage as well.



Monthly data since the start of the LRS contract is also plotted below. This chart also includes a count of compost subscribers, which was not available in previous Strom data. At the monthly level showed weak positive correlations, meaning more waste was generated in months where more recycling or compost was generated. Analysis of previously available months also indicated positive correlations.



At the request of the Commission, quarterly data was also compiled. This again focused on the time since the beginning of the LRS contract. This found very weak negative correlations to waste tonnage for both recycling and organics. It is unclear if these are due to seasonal fluctuations, but staff will continue to monitor quarterly data going forward.



Given the results of this data, along with previous input provided by the Commission, staff feel it is most prudent to focus on two metrics moving forward with quarterly reports: the number of compost subscribers, specifically the impact of the cart sharing program rollout, and the waste tonnage, as reduction in waste tonnage is the driving metric at reducing landfill tonnage whether it be through diversion or reduced consumption.

Attachment: LRS Monthly Report, June 2024

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST



Collection Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD TOTAL	AVG/MTH
Active Customers	2,890	2,890	2,891	2,905	2,900	2,900							17,376	2896
Compost Subscribers	525	530	528	534	538	537							3,192	532
Recycling Tons	90.92	63.75	77.83	91.17	91.68	78.71							494.06	82.34
Recycling lbs	181840	127500	155660	182340	183360	157420							988120	164686
2024 Recy lbs/Cust	62.92	44.12	53.84	62.77	63.23	54.28							341.16	56.86
Organics Tons	26.33	8.56	7.62	28.69	58.43	26.09							155.72	25.95
Organics lbs	52660	17,120.00	15,240.00	57,380.00	116,860.00	57,380.00							316,640.00	52773.333
2024 Organics lbs/Cust	18.22	5.92	5.27	19.75	40.30	19.79							109.25	18.21
2024 Recycle & Organics Diversion %	36.33%	29.96%	33.72%	40.59%	44.63%	35.49%							220.72%	36.79%
Trash Tons	205.49	169.08	167.96	175.40	186.25	160.70							1,064.88	177.48
Trash lbs	410980	338160	335920	350800	372500	350800							2159160	359860
2024 Trash lbs/Cust	142.21	117.01	116.20	120.76	128.45	120.97							745.58	124.26
Total Tons	322.74	241.39	253.41	295.26	336.36	295.26							1,744.42	290.74
Total lbs	645480	482,780	506,820	590,520	672,720	590,520							3,488,840	581473
2024 Total lbs/Cust	223.35	167.05	175.31	203.28	231.97	203.63							1,204.59	200.76
2024 White Goods Count	0	0	0	0	0	0							0	0
2024 Stickers Sold	0	0	1,500	1,500	7,000	1,500							11500	1917
2024 E-WASTE Event Tons	0	0	1.7	0	0	0							1.7	0.28
2024 E-Waste Participation	0	0	4	0	0	0							4	0.66
2024 HHW Event Tons	0	0	0	0	0	0.23							0.23	0.04
2024 HHW Event Participation	0	0	0	0	0	136							136	22.67

Yard Waste Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)
Recycling Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153), LRS HEARTLAND
RECYCLING PURCHASED BY	RESOURCED TO VARIOUS DOMESTIC BUYERS
Trash Facility	LRS MAYWOOD TRANSFER STATION (1201 Greenwood Ave, Maywood, IL 60153)