

Village adopts comprehensive climate plan

Oak Park may be only 4.5 square miles, but local leaders recognize that the actions and choices made by individual citizens and communities can help lay the groundwork for large-scale change.

This summer the Village Board adopted *Climate Ready Oak Park*, a comprehensive and long-range plan developed in response to the global climate crisis. The plan offers an ambitious vision, concrete commitments and actions that can be undertaken by all community members and organizations.

Key takeaways from *Climate Ready Oak Park* include:

- Most greenhouse gases in Oak Park are due to residential and commercial building energy use, and personal vehicles.
- The plan's climate hazard and social vulnerability assessment indicates that environmental and socioeconomic conditions are not equally distributed across the community.
- There are actions for eight impact areas: 1) Energy Use in Buildings & Housing, 2) Transportation, 3)



Extreme Weather & Resiliency, 4) Community Health & Environmental Quality, 5) Sustainable Economic Development, 6) Healthy & Sustainable Food, 7) Waste Reduction, and 8) Parks, Plants & Biodiversity.

Climate change is serious, which is why the Village Board also took the step of declaring a climate emergency at the same time it adopted the *Climate Ready Oak Park* plan. But climate change also offers new opportunities to create a more equitable Oak Park, restore the natural environment, boost local businesses, and foster community connection.

Climate Ready Oak Park is a community-wide plan, and to be successful it will require cooperation among intergovernmental partners, local institutions, community-based organizations, local businesses and individual members of the community.

Visit www.oak-park.us/climateplan for an in-depth look at the *Climate Ready Oak Park* plan.



Inside this newsletter

Page 2: Find information about composting, electric vehicles and solar energy — all ways Oak Parkers can take action to reduce the impacts of climate change.



The Climate Ready Oak Park plan includes the following goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations and community activities by 60 percent by 2030, relative to 2019 emissions levels, and to net zero by 2050.
- Establish 30 percent of municipal and community land as green infrastructure or enhanced management for native plants, wildlife and people by 2030.
- Direct 40 percent of public climate and sustainability dollars to the most vulnerable and climate-impacted community members.
- Partner with frontline organizations and the most impacted community members to create climate and sustainability policies and programs.
- Meet the energy needs of Village facilities with 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 without the use of renewable energy credits.
- Achieve a carbon neutral community by no later than 2050, and seek opportunities to achieve carbon neutrality by an earlier date.

Compost program diverts waste from landfills

The Village offers a food scrap composting collection program for residential households of up to five units. Participants receive a gray 96-gallon cart for weekly collection of organics, a three-gallon food scrap kitchen pail and a sample of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart, eliminating the need to purchase yard waste stickers. Bags for food scraps must be labeled compostable and meet the ASTM 6400 standards. An organic cart subscription costs \$15.68 per month, which is about the cost of one yard waste sticker and one yard waste bag per week. Residents can share an organic cart with one other neighbor to reduce the monthly cost. More information and an online registration form is available at www.oak-park.us/compostable.

Options for apartment dwellers...Residents who live in multifamily buildings too large to participate in the Village collection program but still wish to compost may leave food scraps in the clearly labeled carts at one of four locations in the Village:

- **102 N. Lombard Ave.** – Adjacent to Central Water Pump Station
- **1125 Ontario Ave.** – Holley Court Parking Garage near east entrance/exit
- **720 North Blvd.** – Avenue Parking garage near main entrance
- **1010 N. Ridgeland Ave.** – North Water Pump Station near corner of Ridgeland and Berkshire

Scraps may be stored in ASTM 6400 standard compostable bags or wrapped in newspaper. Consider freezing scraps to ease transportation to the site. Plastic bags or other non-organic material placed into the cart will cause contamination requiring the cart contents be sent to the landfill. Any large multifamily or condo association can also contract independently with the Village's contractor LRS or another provider for composting service. If contracting with LRS, large buildings will receive the Village's negotiated rate. Building owners and condo associations can contact publicworks@oak-park.us for assistance with the compost contracting process.

Electric vehicles key to reaching climate goals

Investing in electric vehicle transportation and infrastructure is a key strategy to reducing emissions and supporting a clean future in Oak Park. Officials say more than a quarter of Oak Park's greenhouse gas emissions are due to conventional cars and trucks, making gas-powered vehicles the Village's second-largest driver of climate change behind building energy usage. Electric vehicle driving ranges are increasing, with some models able to drive more than 300 miles on a single charge. While charging an electric vehicle battery does require energy, experts say the total greenhouse gas emissions associated with driving them are still much less than those for gasoline cars, especially if the electricity is generated from renewable energy sources. The Village supports residents and businesses in transitioning to electric vehicle transportation. Permits are required for the installation of electric vehicle charging systems. For information about permitting, email permits@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/electricvehicles. The page will also be updated with information about any ongoing incentives to purchase an electric vehicle such as state or federal rebate programs.



Go solar without the panels

Oak Park residents can have a portion of the electricity generated at a solar farm credited to their monthly ComEd bill by participating in the community solar program. Community solar is ideal for households and businesses that can't install solar panels because their roofs can't handle the additional weight, are shaded, or, as a renter, don't own the roof. Oak Park's program does not have upfront costs, will not lock residents into a long-term contract and guarantees savings if the subscriber follows a few simple steps. Opportunities to subscribe are still available — visit www.oak-park.us/communitysolarsignup for more information and to sign up.

Free paper shredding event Sept. 24

Oak Parkers are invited to safely dispose of sensitive documents at a free paper shredding event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 24 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted. For more information on about recycling in Oak Park, email publicworks@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.



Health Department monitoring Monkeypox (MPV)

This summer, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the State of Illinois declared Monkeypox (MPV) a Public Health Emergency. The Oak Park Health Department has resources and information to keep you and your family informed and safe when it comes to MPV. This virus typically presents first with flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, sore throat, cough, swollen lymph nodes, or exhaustion. Within three to five days, a rash that can look like pimples or blisters appears. These lesions will usually scab over before healing. MPV can spread from person-to-person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or bodily fluids. To protect against contracting MPV, avoid close contact, including hugging, with people with confirmed or suspected MPV infections, and wear long sleeves and pants when traveling on a plane or public transit where it may not be possible to social distance. There is a vaccine available to prevent the spread of MPV. Contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us for information about obtaining the vaccine. Learn more about MPV signs, symptoms, the vaccine and treatment at www.oak-park.us/communicable-diseases.

Fire Department marks Fire Prevention Week

The Oak Park Fire Department is urging residents to practice a fire escape plan as part of National Fire Prevention Week. Fire officials say you may have as little as two minutes or less to safely escape a home fire from the time a smoke alarm sounds. Advance planning is crucial to a safe escape. Oct. 9–15 marks the 100th anniversary of National Fire Prevention Week, observed in October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire. Always on call, the Oak Park Fire Department maintains three shifts of more than 20 trained professionals ready to provide around-the-clock protection to residents. All Village firefighters also are paramedics, since delivering emergency medical services is an integral part of the Fire Department mission.

CPR/AED, first aid training...The Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes, including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held at the main fire station and fees are based on the class offered and residency. Visit www.oak-park.us/cpr for a registration form and list of class dates.

Child safety seat inspections...The Fire Department has child safety seat technicians available to check your seat for safety and proper installation. To schedule a free safety inspection, email carseat@oak-park.us.

More information about the Oak Park Fire Department is posted online at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Farmers' Market News



Vote for the Farmers' Market...

From now until Sept. 19, supporters can cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers' Market as part of a \$10,000 grant giveaway organized by the American Farmland Trust and the Farmers Market Coalition. Market officials say the grant funding would be used to help with the smooth operation of the Market, which is now in its 47th year. Visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket for the link to vote.

Pie Bake-Off set for Sept. 17...The Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual Pie Bake-Off is scheduled to take place from about 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Sept. 17. A panel of judges will choose a first, second and third place winner from this year's entrants. To top it off, slices of pie will be given away to Market visitors after the contest on a first-come, first-served basis.

Stone Soup marks ends of season...The Oak Park Farmers' Market season comes to a close with stone soup served to patrons at the final Market on Oct. 29. The tradition of serving stone soup at the last market of the season was inspired by a European folk tale that has, for hundreds of years, called on people to live generously, even in times of need. Residents are invited to read a popular version of the stone soup tale at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup.

When and where...The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot on Lake Street, just west of Ridgeland Avenue. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Don't miss Convivencia Hispanic Heritage Month festival

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the inaugural Convivencia festival from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Taylor Park, 400 Division St. Organized by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, Convivencia will include Latin American foods, live music, cultural dance, face painting and information about community resources. For more information, contact info@oprhc.org or visit www.oprhc.org/convivencia.

Health Department News

Vaccination urged as flu season approaches...As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than six months. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurance and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Residents can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5480 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot. For more information from the CDC about the flu vaccine and preventing seasonal flu, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent.

COVID-19 vaccines for young children...The Oak Park Health Department is planning to wrap up its program to provide COVID vaccinations for children 6 months to 5 years this fall. The last opportunity to get the first dose of the vaccine for this age group will be at the Health Department's Sept. 27 clinic at Cheney Mansion. Registration information can be found on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/vaccine. Contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

COVID-19 information...Find the latest information about Oak Park's COVID-19 response at www.oak-park.us/covid19. The page includes the Health Department's weekly status report bulletins with local case updates and links to information about local testing clinics.



Vaccines for children...The Health Department is administering a Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which provides free vaccines to children who qualify, starting in fall of 2022. Children are eligible if they are 18 years old or younger and satisfy any of the following: Qualify for Medicaid; Don't have insurance; Are American Indian or Alaskan Native. For more information, contact the Health Department's nursing staff at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Township News

Home energy assistance...Income-eligible residents can apply for help paying their utility bills through the *Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program* (LIHEAP). For more information about LIHEAP and other programs related to weatherization and payment of water bills, contact an Oak Park Township counselor at 708.383.8005.

Memory café...Individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers have a safe online space to connect, and enjoy recreational and educational opportunities at The Memory Café. Online gatherings are set for 2 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. Call 708.383.8060 or email memorycafe@oakparktownship.org for more information or to register. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

Caregiver support...Those caring for individuals age 60 and older or with disabilities can find help via a support group that meets twice per month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 22, Oct. 13 and Oct. 27. One-on-one counseling is also available. Contact 708.383.8060 ext. 116 or email dandrews@oakparktownship.org for more information.

Rules of the road class...Older adults interested in brushing up on their knowledge of driving rules are invited to a rules-of-the-road class scheduled for 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 12 at the Township Senior Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Call 708.383.8060 to register.

Housing News

Home rehab assistance available...Helping Oak Park homeowners pay for needed repairs they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford is what the Village's single-family rehab loan program is all about. The rehab program offers loans of up to \$25,000 to correct health and safety issues and building code violations, such as broken pipes or a leaking roof. Eligibility is determined by federal income limits. For example, a family of four with a total household income below \$83,350 and a family of two with a household income below \$66,700, would qualify for assistance. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/housing, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.

Handyman help available for seniors...Oak Park residents ages 60 and older can get help with simple home maintenance repairs through North West Housing Partnership, an agreement supported in part by the Village of Oak Park, Village of River Forest and the Oak Park and River Forest Townships. Call 847.969.0561 or email michellehill@nwHP.net for more information. For more information about housing programs in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/housing, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.

Pick Oak Park by supporting local businesses

Oak Park is home to more 1,000 businesses owned by neighbors and friends who care about their customers and are invested in the well-being of the community. Pick Oak Park is a Village-wide campaign to support local businesses that call the Village home. Visit www.pickoakpark.com and follow Pick Oak Park on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about Oak Park's dynamic business community. The Pick Oak Park website also includes a directory of the 180+ new businesses that have opened in the community during the past two years.

Nominations sought for community awards

Nominations are being sought for the 2022 Historic Preservation, Cavalcade of Pride and Sustainability Awards that recognize efforts made by organizations, individuals and businesses who have played roles in improving the community.

Historic Preservation... Nomination categories include restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, additions/new construction, stewardship, detail and design. Nominations need not be in a historic district and interior work may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15. More details and a link to the online nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

Cavalcade of Pride... These awards recognize property owners who have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. Nomination categories include residential, multi-family, garden, commercial and sign. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15. More details and an online nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/cavalcadeofpride.

Sustainability... Green Awards recognize community members and organizations, local businesses and nonprofits, institutions, and collaborative projects and initiatives that demonstrate leadership in advancing equity-centered climate action, climate resilience, and sustainability. There are dedicated awards in the categories of Community Organization, Local Business, and Collaborative Initiative for nominations that link with Oak Park's community climate and sustainability plan, Climate Ready Oak Park. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15. More information and a nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/greenawards.

Village fills key leadership positions

New Chief DEI Officer... The Village's commitment to racial equity took a significant step forward when Danielle Walker, Ph.D., assumed the newly created position of Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer in August. Dr. Walker will be responsible for collaboratively developing and driving the Village's organization-wide equity and inclusion strategies, including the development of a racial equity action plan, and the implementation of the Village's racial equity toolkit. She comes to Oak Park after serving in a similar capacity for the City and County of Denver—City Attorney's Office. Dr. Walker earned her doctoral degree in philosophy with a concentration on critical social issues in education from the University of Colorado—Denver. Her education background includes a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Missouri, where she also earned her bachelor of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies. Some of Dr. Walker's accomplishments include being the founder of the Racism Lives Here initiative for higher education and receiving the 47th NAACP Image Chairman's Award for activism.



New Public Works Director... Rob Sproule was promoted to Director of the Village's Public Works Department in July. Sproule has worked as a public



servant for more than a decade, including the past eight years with the Village in varying Public Works leadership positions. Sproule came aboard at the Village in 2014 when he was hired as Forestry Superintendent and tasked with administering Oak Park's urban forestry management program. In 2020, Sproule was promoted to the position of Assistant Public Works Director and began sharing in management responsibility for all Public Works services and activities. A Board Certified Master Arborist, Sproule is one of only 77 public works professionals in the United

States and Canada to earn certification as a Public Works Professional in Management through the American Public Works Association. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fordham University and a Master of Forestry Degree from the University of Maine.

Trick-or-treat hours

Each year, the Village Board sets the official hour for Halloween trick or treating. Typically, the hours are 4 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31. Parents are urged to accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Other safety tips include:

- Use make-up instead of masks
- Choose flame-retardant costumes
- Wear light-colored clothing or add reflective tape to dark colored costumes
- Give and accept only wrapped and packaged candy
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay
- Stay within your neighborhood and visit only homes you know

For information on Halloween safety, email fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/halloween.



View with a smartphone camera.



Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees

Susan Buchanan Lucia Robinson

Chibuike Enyia Jim Taglia

Ravi Parakkat

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters
Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Presort
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL
Postal Carrier

Annual fall leaf collection set to begin

The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for Oct. 31 – Dec. 9 with six pickups planned for each section of the Village. Residents should rake leaves into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Leaves raked into the street will be pushed into piles by Public Works crews during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars. The piles of leaves are then collected the following day. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Sweepers will be scheduled to run at the end of the collection program to clean up residue. Cooperation is essential to the success of this operation, so please follow these simple rules:

- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
 - Rake leaves out the day before the scheduled pickup date.
 - Leaves only — do not add brush, grass clippings or yard waste.
 - Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal operations. Heat from a car also could ignite the leaves.
 - Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible. Try to avoid major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
 - Do not rake leaves into or close to cul de sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
 - Do not rake leaves into or close to bus shelters or bicycle racks.
 - Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
 - Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
 - Obey all parking restrictions. Regulations will be strictly enforced.
 - Dampen piles after raking to avoid leaves being blown by the wind.
 - Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.
- Note that crews will create safe work zones and close intersections for a few minutes while removing large leaf piles.

For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE		EAST AVE	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		
Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30 Dec. 7			Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24F Dec. 1 Dec. 8				
HARLEM AVE	SOUTH BLVD		EAST AVE	TUESDAY		MONDAY	
	Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29 Dec. 6			Oct. 31 Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5			
Roosevelt Rd		Austin Blvd					

Village Hall to host early voting

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the 2022 Gubernatorial Election from Oct. 24 through Nov. 7 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Village Hall hours for early voting will be as follows:

- Monday, Oct. 24 – Saturday, Oct. 29: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 30: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 31 – Saturday, Nov. 5: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 6: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 7: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Village Hall also will offer grace-period registration during early voting hours for those individuals who missed the registration deadline. Valid identification is required to register during the grace period and a vote must be cast immediately after registration. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill with the current address. **Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day, Nov. 8.** Residents who don't vote early must cast ballots on Election Day at their designated polling place. Visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections for Election Day polling place locations by address and more information about the 2022 Gubernatorial Election.