



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation
COMMUNITYWORKS

October 16, 2019

Ed Condon
River Forest - District 90
7776 Lake St
River Forest, IL 60305

Dear Ed,

As part of our collective commitment to achieve the goals established within the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest, we are asking Communityworks Advisory Board members, including taxing bodies and institutions within Oak Park and River Forest to sign a “**Letter of Commitment**” to achieve 100% renewable energy in accordance with the timeline and projections established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which are referenced in the attached letter.

This public statement of commitment is part of our broader collective efforts to do our part to address the global climate crisis. We are hoping that this stake in the ground will support ongoing planning and implementation to achieve our goals, and that it will shine a light on the leadership that our two communities are exhibiting and provide an example for other communities within our region.

We are planning on announcing the “early adopters” at our December 10th annual PlanItGreen Leaders Forum at Cheney Mansion from 7:30-9:30am, and will continue to secure commitments leading into the new year.

As such, please sign the attached letter of commitment and send it to Elizabeth Chadri at echadri@oprfcf.org or at the address below. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your commitment to achieving a sustainable Oak Park and River Forest.

Sincerely,

David Pope
CWAB Co-Chair

John Housel
CWAB Co-Chair

Tony Martinez
President & CEO OPRFCF



Letter of Commitment to Join the PlanItGreen Initiative in Pursuing 100% Renewable Energy

The purpose of this Letter of Commitment, signed by _____ on this _____ day of _____, 2019, is to affirm _____ (Name of Organization) commitment to join other stakeholders in the PlanItGreen initiative in pursuing on-site solar installations and/or renewable energy purchasing toward the goal of achieving 100% renewable energy use.

The Stakeholders recognize that the impacts of climate change, which may include severe weather events, flooding, warmer and shorter winters, hotter and drier summers, drought, and other impacts, threaten the natural environment, historic water cycles, economic and recreational resources, and public health and safety of our region.

The Stakeholders have articulated a shared vision for Oak Park and River Forest to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with the recommended targets set forth in the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest, dated June 2011, and updated goal targets that align with the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Reports to stay below a 1.5 degree Celsius increase from pre-industrial levels (i.e., 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050). This letter of Intent makes a commitment to collaborate on creating a vibrant, low-carbon regional economy by transforming energy systems, buildings, transportation, waste management, and through coordinated education and outreach strategies.

By reaffirming its commitment to the PlanItGreen goal targets and strategies, _____ (Name of Organization) commits to cooperate with other PlanItGreen stakeholders in initiatives designed to meet Oak Park and River Forest greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Key Activities

- Measurement and metrics data and analysis that may be collected from time to time, such as information on institutional energy use and GHG emissions.
- Participation in Energy Road Mapping initiative designed to move the entire communities of Oak Park and River Forest toward 100% renewable energy usage.
- Exploration of on-site solar panel installation capacity.
- Participation in Power Purchase Agreements or other energy purchasing that enables procurement of newly developed solar and wind energy in Illinois.

- Development and ratification of policies that support the above-mentioned greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- Education and outreach to constituents about renewable energy and efficiency actions
- Engagement with utility-run, private sector and non-profit energy efficiency programs toward the goal of implementing efficiency upgrades that reduce energy use.

Benefits and Deliverables

A) Inclusion and recognition in on-going public relations and education and outreach campaigns in both digital and print media. Inclusion in relevant press releases, media events, and other community engagement opportunities to share positive stories about successful accomplishments that support PlanItGreen goals and recommendations.

B) Decision input providing direction on proposed PlanItGreen strategies, programs and policies. Each Stakeholder will have a “seat at the table” to provide guidance, give feedback, set recommendations, and determine the most effective and efficient means to leverage programs and resources for maximum impact. Each Stakeholder will have a vote on all decisions affecting strategy, policies, programs, and annual budgets.

C) Technical assistance, training, and best practice information sharing opportunities will be available to each Stakeholder as may be developed and/or expanded through PlanItGreen and partner entities and/or contractors.

D) Access to financial incentives and grant funding will be provided to Stakeholders as it may be available. Regional collaboration and cooperation of the Stakeholders makes a powerful case to prospective funding partners including philanthropic foundations, individual donors, and other entities that provide financial assistance toward proactive coordinated climate action implementation.

Non-Binding – This Letter of Commitment represents the signatory’s intent to collaborate for the purposes stated herein. This Letter of Intent shall have no legal effect, impose no legally binding obligation enforceable in any court of law or other tribunal of any sort, and will not change, influence or create new legal relationships among the Stakeholders.

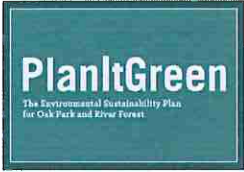
By: _____

Printed name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Oak Park River Forest Sustainability Plan

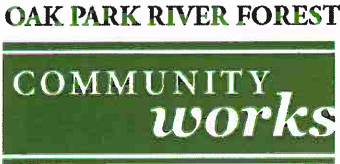


June 2011



Prepared for:

Prepared by:



II. ENERGY

Energy ranked as the second highest community concern in the survey results and had the most strategies (three) ranked among the ten most important strategies. The Energy goals, metrics and strategies outline below include two main approaches. The consensus expressed in the survey and community forums is that PlanItGreen should first reduce consumption and increase energy efficiency in the commercial, institutional and residential buildings of OPRF. After that, it should encourage the use of renewable sources of energy. Efficiency comes first because wasting energy should be discouraged whether it is fossil fuels or renewables. These two approaches are reflected in the first two Energy goals. The third goal was added to tie the implementation of the first two goals and the strategies that support them back to the larger goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The 10-year 30% reduction target for energy consumption in buildings established in Goal #1 mirrors the goal established in the Chicago Climate Action Plan, while Goal #2's 25% targeted increase in renewable energy use mirrors the State of Illinois Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, but seeks to accomplish it by 2020 rather than 2024. This more aggressive goal seems possible because of the recent approval of Oak Park's ballot initiative to enable the community as a whole to negotiate a power purchase agreement for the community with providers that have competitive prices and high proportions of renewable energy in their portfolio. The greenhouse gas emission reduction target in Goal #3 mirrors both the Chicago Climate Action Plan and the goals set by the Kyoto Protocol.

Goals and Metrics

Goal #1: Increase energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption in all buildings and homes in the community an average of 3% per year for a total of 30% over 10 years.

Metric: Reduction in total kilowatt-hour (KwH) and Therm usage in buildings and homes.

Strategies:
1. Establish a one-stop shop that also has a robust online presence and regular public promotions that educates the public about energy efficiency, including the most cost effective options, resources, incentives, aggregation opportunities, qualified contractors, products, operations and maintenance requirements, and success stories.
2. Access existing and develop new incentives and financing tools for residents and small businesses to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.

3. Update energy codes to require greater energy efficiency and zoning codes to support distributed renewable energy production. Codes should encourage projects that go beyond the new standards.
4. Add energy efficiency metrics to the Multiple Listing Service and require energy audits of buildings before sale.
5. Create campaigns for key audiences that promote a culture of sharing information and measurement over time and to encourage voluntary certifications such as a green home, green block, green vehicle, green business, etc., with stickers, publicity, etc. Perhaps there should be a “Biggest Loser” contest each year to recognize the most improved. Success stories need to be shared to motivate others.
6. Identify public source funding to establish a funding pool for business energy efficiency and renewable energy installations within specific business corridors.
7. Take advantage of tools and resources available on a regional or countywide basis that support these goal and strategies.
8. Proactively implement 300 free energy audits annually for residential homeowners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide general recommendations for priority strategies. • Seek funding to purchase energy audit equipment. • Finance labor costs through permit fees for renovation projects.
9. Provide real estate transfer tax percentage reduction for homes that demonstrate a certain percentage of energy efficiency increase. Indicate lower transfer tax in the Multiple Listing Service.
10. Require owners of multi-family properties to disclose information on energy consumption and per unit energy cost to potential tenants.
11. Ensure condominium and multi-family access to energy efficiency programs, including free energy audits and educational programming with retrofit payback or access regional energy efficiency loan fund and market directly to OP and RF residents and business owners.
12. Develop a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits in residences and small businesses with loan payback coinciding with retrofit payback.

Goal #2: Increase renewable energy procurement for use in buildings and homes an average of 2.5% per year for a total of 25% over 10 years.

Metric: Percentage of kilowatt-hour (KwH) and Therm usage in buildings and homes that comes from renewable sources.

Strategies:
1. Access existing and develop new incentives and financing tools for residents and small businesses to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. (R)
2. Update energy codes to require greater energy efficiency and zoning codes to support distributed renewable energy production. Codes should encourage projects that go beyond the new standards. (R)
3. Aggregate the purchasing power of small businesses and homeowners to reduce the cost and increase the green components in their buildings.

4. Create campaigns for key audiences that promote a culture of sharing information and measurement over time and to encourage voluntary certifications such as a green home, green block, green vehicle, green business, etc., with stickers, publicity, etc. Perhaps there should be a “Biggest Loser” contest each year to recognize the most improved. Success stories need to be shared to motivate others. (R)
5. Identify public source funding to establish a funding pool for business energy efficiency and renewable energy installations within specific business corridors. (R)
6. Encourage and support energy-related businesses that increase efficiency and encourage cost effective renewable energy use. (R)
7. Take advantage of tools and resources available on a regional or countywide basis that support these goal and strategies. (R)
8. Develop a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits in residences and small businesses with loan payback coinciding with retrofit payback. (R)

Goal #3: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to energy use in buildings and homes an average of 3% per year for a total of 30% over 10 years.

Metric: Greenhouse gas emission reduction due to increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.

Strategies:
1. Establish a one-stop shop that also has a robust online presence and regular public promotions that educates the public about energy efficiency, including the most cost effective options, resources, incentives, aggregation opportunities, qualified contractors, products, operations and maintenance requirements, and success stories.(R)
2. Access existing and develop new incentives and financing tools for residents and small businesses to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. (R)
3. Update energy codes to require greater energy efficiency and zoning codes to support distributed renewable energy production. Codes should encourage projects that go beyond the new standards. (R)
4. Aggregate the purchasing power of small businesses and homeowners to reduce the cost and increase the green components in their buildings. (R)
5. Add energy efficiency metrics to the Multiple Listing Service and require energy audits of buildings before sale. (R)
6. Support the implementation of Oak Park’s initiative to aggregate energy purchasing within the community for bid to providers with competitive prices and significant renewable energy sources. (R)
7. Create campaigns for key audiences that promote a culture of sharing information and measurement over time and to encourage voluntary certifications such as a green home, green block, green vehicle, green business, etc., with stickers, publicity, etc. Perhaps there should be a “Biggest Loser” contest each year to recognize the most improved. Success stories need to be shared to motivate others. (R)

8. Encourage and support energy-related businesses that increase efficiency and encourage cost effective renewable energy use. (R)
9. Take advantage of tools and resources available on a regional or countywide basis that support these goal and strategies. (R)
10. Proactively implement 300 free energy audits annually for residential homeowners. (R) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide general recommendations for priority strategies. • Seek funding to purchase energy audit equipment. • Finance labor costs through permit fees for renovation projects.
11. Provide real estate transfer tax percentage reduction for homes that demonstrate a certain percentage of energy efficiency increase. Indicate lower transfer tax in the Multiple Listing Service. (R)
12. Require owners of multi-family properties to disclose information on energy consumption and per unit energy cost to potential tenants. (R)
13. Ensure condominium and multi-family access to energy efficiency programs, including free energy audits and educational programming with retrofit payback or access regional energy efficiency loan fund and market directly to OP and RF residents and business owners. (R)
14. Develop a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits in residences and small businesses with loan payback coinciding with retrofit payback. (R)

Resources and Funding Sources

- [Energy Savers](#): Comprehensive website of resources around energy use, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- [Illinois Clean Energy Foundation](#): Funding organization that provides grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Illinois.
- [IL Energy Efficiency Grants](#): Grants from the state of Illinois for energy efficiency projects.
- [IL Renewable Energy Grants](#): Grants from the state of Illinois for renewable energy projects.
- [Building Energy Codes Program](#): Department of Energy website with resources and information around building energy codes.
- [Cook County Energy Efficiency Program](#): Free energy audits and funding and loans for energy efficiency projects through Cook County.
- [ICLEI](#): Non-profit with a variety of tools and resources for local governments interested in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

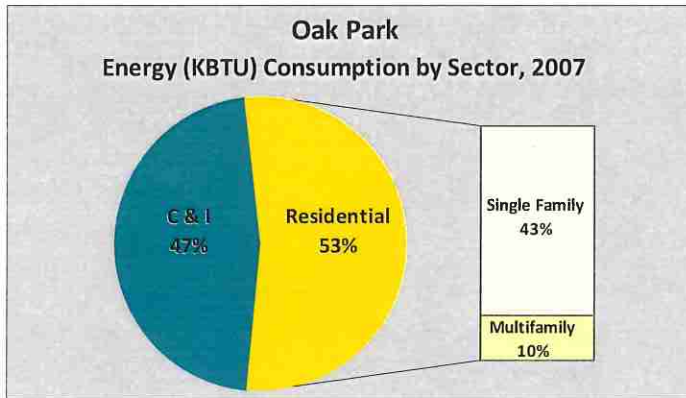
Baseline Metrics

Oak Park

Total energy consumption includes 2007 village-wide electricity and natural consumption. Total energy consumption is measured in KBTU (Kilo British Thermal Unit). Electricity (kWh) and natural gas (therms) are converted into KBTU, which allows for comparison between electricity and natural gas consumption.

The table to the right is a summary of 2007 total energy (electricity and natural gas) consumption in Oak Park measured in KBTU, analyzed by the residential sector and the commercial/industrial (C & I) sector. In 2007, Oak Park consumed a total of 4.6 billion KBTU.

Oak Park Total Energy Consumption, 2007	
	Total KBTU
Residential	2,437,626,759
C & I	2,204,905,272
Total	4,642,532,030



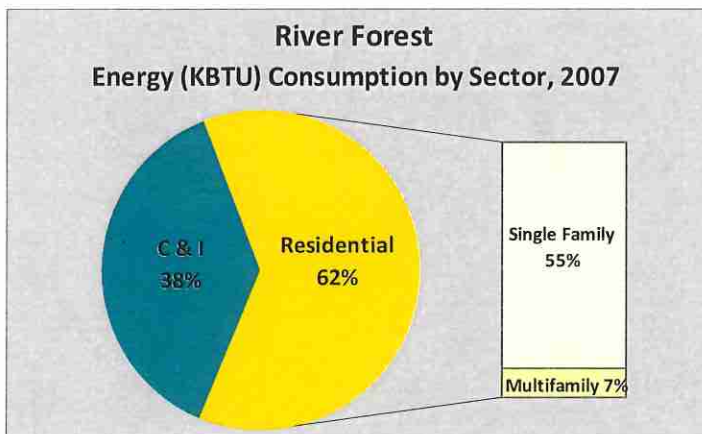
The figure to the left illustrates that 53 percent of energy consumed in buildings in 2007 occurred in the residential sector, with the remaining 47 percent consumed in the commercial/industrial sector. Furthermore, of the 53 percent of energy consumed in the residential sector, 43 percent was consumed in the single family sector and 10 percent in the multifamily sector.

River Forest

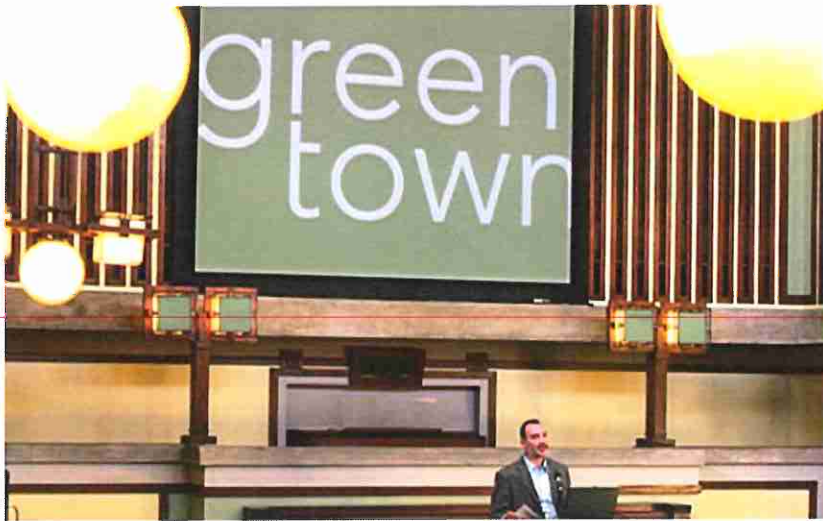
Total energy consumption includes 2007 village wide electricity and natural consumption in buildings including outdoor lighting. Total energy consumption is measured in KBTU. Electricity (kWh) and natural gas (therms) are converted into KBTU to provide the same measurement, which allows for comparison between electricity and natural gas consumption.

This table is a summary of 2007 total energy (electricity and natural gas) consumption in River Forest measured in KBTU, analyzed by the residential sector and the commercial/industrial (C & I) sector. In 2007, River Forest consumed a total of 1.2 billion KBTU.

River Forest Total Energy Consumption, 2007	
	Total KBTU
Residential	765,327,632
C & I	461,432,885
Total	1,226,760,517



This figure illustrates that 62 percent of energy consumed in buildings occurred in the residential sector, with the remaining 38 percent consumed in the commercial/industrial (C & I) sector. Residential energy consumption is further analyzed; of the 62 percent, 55 percent was consumed in the single family sector and 7 percent in the multifamily sector.



Communityworks Fund

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Communityworks provides a coordinated, systems-based approach towards the achievement of community aspirations.



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[\(/images/PDF/Connections_fall2018-website-version.pdf\)](#) the most recent Communityworks Update contained within our most recent Community Connections newsletter.



[\(/cw-programs\)](#) Learn more [\(/cw-programs\)](#) about programs powered

by the Communityworks Fund.

Communityworks History

In 2005, the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation was one of eighteen initial foundations in Illinois to be chosen for a Communityworks grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation.

Phase I of Communityworks provided general operating support allowing the Community Foundation to add staff, share knowledge through a learning network, and gain expertise in community problem solving. Additionally, Phase I established our endowment fund for Communityworks. Phase II required the Community Foundation to raise \$225,000 for the new fund, which was matched dollar for dollar by the Grand Victoria Foundation. Area donors rose to the challenge, exceeding the goal and strengthening the Communityworks Endowment Fund.

In 2008, the Foundation received another challenge match from the Grand Victoria Foundation. The Community Foundation raised \$2 million in contributions from area donors which was matched dollar for dollar by the Grand Victoria Foundation increasing the Communityworks endowment fund to \$4.5 million.

Communityworks Today

Communityworks is both an Advisory Board of members who lead community institutions and an Endowed Fund of financial resources to provide grants to organizations and institutions whose efforts further the vision of a sustainable community in select priority areas.

The overall purpose of Communityworks is to provide a coordinated, systems-based approach towards the achievement of community aspirations. By building a sustainable framework, Communityworks supports the long-term health and vibrancy of the Oak Park and River Forest communities.

Communityworks is advised by a board comprised of institutional and civic leaders. With their guidance the Communityworks Endowment Fund provides grants to organizations and institutions whose efforts further the Board's vision of a sustainable community in select focus areas. Presently, these areas are: environmental sustainability community leadership development and success of all youth. The Fund supports the environmental sustainability plan for both Villages (PlantGreen), Leadership Lab at the Foundation and Success of All Youth, a community collaborative empowering every youth in our community to reach his or her full potential.

Role of the Advisory Board

The Communityworks Advisory Board is responsible for overall fiduciary oversight and direction setting of Communityworks priority areas; the performance and effectiveness of the priority areas; and for maintaining alignment of grant distribution with the overall purpose of Communityworks. The Communityworks Advisory Board holds itself accountable and in service to the Oak Park-River Forest community.

The Communityworks Advisory Board determines priority areas and also sets annual goals and granting target areas for each. The Communityworks Advisory Board manages the grant process, selects grant recipients for the Community Foundation Board to ratify, and monitors the performance of the priority areas.

Current Advisory Board Co-Chairs: **John Houseal** and **David Pope**

Current Advisory Board members include:

Anan Abu-Taleb
President, Village of Oak Park

Jan Arnold
Executive Director,
Park District of Oak Park

Catherine (Cathy) Adduci
President, Village of River Forest

John Borrero
Executive Director,
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Denise Burns
Board Representative,
OPRF Community Foundation

Dr. Donna Carroll
President, Dominican University

Ed Condon
Superintendent,
River Forest District 90

Gary Cuneen
Executive Director,
Seven Generations Ahead

Lisa DeVivo
Executive Director,
Community Mental Health Board, Oak
Park Township

Bruce Elegant
President, Rush Oak Park Hospital

Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard
President, Concordia University

Janet Hanley
Board Representative,
OPRF Community Foundation

Liz Holt
Executive Director,
OPRF Chamber of Commerce

John A. Houseal, AICP
Board Representative,
OPRF Community Foundation

Phillip Jimenez
President & CEO,
West Cook YMCA

Communityworks Goals

- i. Create systemic change in selected priority areas.
- ii. Build and sustain an endowment to provide a permanent source of funding.

Objectives:

- a. Leverage an expanded number and quantity of resources
- b. Develop and demonstrate outcome based measurements to evaluate community impact for each priority area.
- c. Increase community awareness of selected priority areas through education.
- d. Increase community engagement and capacity to address selected priority areas.
- e. Enhance cross-sector collaborations.
- f. Support a responsive and sustainable community that is able to adjust to emerging needs in the community.

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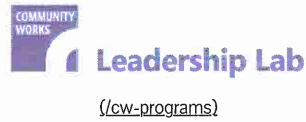


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Learn about these programs powered by the Communityworks fund

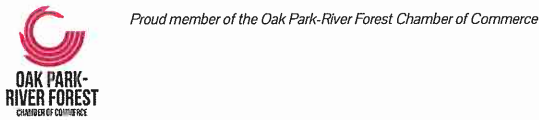


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1049 Lake Street, Suite 204, Oak Park, IL 60301
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powered by the
Communityworks Fund

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**Success of
All Youth**

<http://www.sayoprf.org>

Success of All Youth (SAY) *Community Care from Cradle to Career*

What We Do: Engage, Align, Empower

SAY unifies the priorities, efforts and resources of our partners which enables them to increase the impact of their services to children and young people in our community. The SAY partnership addresses three areas of child development:

- Social & Emotional
- Health & Safety
- Cognitive & Academic

Why is SAY Crucial for Children & Families in Oak Park & River Forest?



Leadership Lab

[\(/leadership-lab\)](/leadership-lab)

Build Leadership Skills. Grow Your Network. Lead Our Community.

Leadership Lab, a program of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, brings together committed citizens and emerging and current leaders, to build and practice transferable, valuable leadership skills, and to explore and assess the strengths and opportunities in our community, in a unique, hands-on curriculum. Learn the state of our community now, who is doing what, what the emerging issues of our time are, and how you can be engaged to address them. Together, we will gain valuable insights into how our community works and will create stronger, more engaged leaders in a thriving and vibrant community.



PlanItGreen

<https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/green>

Environmental Sustainability

Communityworks gave rise to the creation and implementation of an environmental sustainability plan for Oak Park and River Forest. Communityworks commissioned PlanItGreen, and funded [Seven Generations Ahead](https://sevendgenerationsahead.org/sustainability/planit-green) to do this work. PlanItGreen engages local and regional organizations and the communities of Oak Park and River Forest in developing and implementing a 10-year environmental sustainability plan. Communityworks resources toward environmental sustainability have also supported:

Green Community Connections for the

The challenges we face today cannot be solved working in silos. The villages of Oak Park and River Forest offer a range of resources for children and families: three public school districts, philanthropic and faith-based organizations, social services agencies, business and civic leadership, park districts, public libraries – as well as the children and their families. These groups and individuals are our partners in finding and implementing solutions to our biggest challenges as we work to insure that ALL kids are empowered to reach their full potential; particularly those who are historically marginalized.

Measurable, Adaptable, Accountable

The partnership has established measures as benchmarks for the three areas of childhood development. SAY measures these benchmarks as they relate to each initiative in order to determine our progress and drive improvement of the systems that serve our kids.

SAY's stakeholders aim to help our communities meet the diverse developmental needs of our children - from infancy to young adulthood.

Visit our [website \(http://www.sayopr.org/\)](http://www.sayopr.org/) and [Facebook page \(https://www.facebook.com/SAYopr/\)](https://www.facebook.com/SAYopr/) for information about SAY initiatives, partners, and community resources.

Mentor-guided community panels, comprised of experts and leaders from local businesses, nonprofits, and village government, will offer their unique perspective on the current successes and challenges we face as a community. Professional moderators and speakers will challenge participants to identify and refine the priorities heard throughout the day, and to discover and envision solutions. The Course Mentor will guide participants through this learning process, will inspire participants to THINK BIG about their effect in our community, and will help participants develop a personal plan for making a difference.

As an important experiential learning tool of the program, participants will work in small groups "in-the-field," such as community tours and volunteer work, and will collaborate on group presentations. Small group work aims to broaden and deepen the leadership experience, utilizing skills such as visioning, motivational and collaborative skills, public speaking, goal setting, and innovative problem solving. Presentations will demonstrate the participants' understanding of a community issue, with well-formulated ideas on how to tackle the problem. Final presentations will be presented at graduation to a public audience.



[\(//presentations\)](#)

[Learn more \(/leadership-lab\)](#) about Leadership Lab and how to apply.

Energy, waste and water campaign for Oak Park and River Forest as well as for the Resilient Community & Youth Sustainability Leadership Program

Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest for the "New Home for History" capital campaign

Oak Park Development Corporation for its Green Business Project and for OPDC's "Cooperative Marketing Campaign" to promote businesses that participated in the Communityworks funded "Growing Green: Green Business Program"

Oak Park District 97 Irving's "School Yard" project

River Forest Parks Foundation for the Natural Lawn Care Residential Campaign

Triton College BizzItGreen - Business Green Certification program

Village of Oak Park providing rebates and incentives for the Residential Energy and Efficiency Program and Residential Water Efficiency Program, offering rebates to single family or condominium homeowners for low flow and distribute additional shower head/aerator kits.

West Cook Wild Ones for the establishment of a wildlife corridor of native gardens, plants and insects connecting Columbus Park to Thatcher Woods.

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