



**RIVER
FOREST
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

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River Forest, Illinois
60305
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MEMO

To: Dr. Condon

From: Anthony Cozzi

RE: Pursuing 100% Renewable Electricity

Date: December 9, 2019

Currently, District 90 is a member of the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) to supply both natural gas and electricity. We have two separate contracts as part of the consortium, one with Constellation NewEnergy for natural gas and one with NextEra for electricity, both expiring on June 30, 2020. We have reached out to several vendors for information about procuring renewable electricity, including the IEC, all of which indicate that they have a cost reduction alternative. In addition, if we pursue a renewable electricity contract outside of the consortium, it will not affect our natural gas pricing with the IEC.

We are bringing forth for Board consideration a Letter of Intent to Join the PlanItGreen Initiative in Pursuing 100% Renewable Electricity. PlanItGreen's hope is District 90's participation will help move Oak Park and River Forest forward to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2050; and increase renewable energy use by 67%.

Since the letter of intent contains a Non-Binding clause and imposes no legally enforceable obligation, we recommend approving the letter of intent at the December Board meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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
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