



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

The purpose of this Letter of Commitment, signed by _____ on this _____ day of _____, 2019, is to affirm the District 97 Board of Education's 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 electricity 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, District 97 Board of Education 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 electricity 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: _____