

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 201

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Lisa Boone, Emily Neumann, Tejas Shah, Darryl Baker

Commission Members Absent: Madisyn Burke, Ramona Blaber, Carly Provost-Rizor, Cassandra West

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Sustainability Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:17 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, they were unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
4. **Urban Forestry Management Plan:** Village Forester, Grant Jones, presented on the Village's draft Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). Grant Jones explained that the plan will be a working document that will be reviewed and updated approximately every other year. Presentation slides are attached with these meeting minutes. Discussion included the following:
 - Grant Jones explained that tree equity involves equitable distribution of trees in the community and making sure that trees survive.
 - Grant Jones explained that the Village has tree protection requirements for any underground work, including lead service line replacement projects.
 - The UFMP includes a plan for species diversity. Grant Jones explained that the Village uses approximately 70% native tree species, with the remaining 30% non-native to help protect against diseases.
 - EEC members were interested in increasing tree cover to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Grant Jones explained that the Village's tree planting spaces are 99% stocked, and the current focus is to promote growth of the trees in place. The Village is also looking into a program to encourage tree planting on private property.
 - The UFMP includes a projected budget for the Forestry Division. The budget for the next five years is the same as the 2023 budget. Removal

cost will remain as it is currently. The pruning program is being reviewed to consider a 4-year cycle instead of a 3-year cycle.

- Grant Jones talked about partnerships with nearby communities. The Village has previously partnered with Park District of Oak Park on obtaining contractors. The Village also coordinates wood waste disposal with the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Commissioner Shah suggested coordination with the Forest Preserves of Cook County about wildfire response planning.
- Commissioner Lukehart suggested including smaller canopy trees in spaces between larger canopy trees. Grant Jones explained that large canopy trees are prioritized, but smaller canopy trees are chosen when there is limited space.
- Grant Jones explained that iTree calculations were completed for the UFMP, and they could be performed regularly moving forward. The calculations include the amount carbon sequestration, pollution removal, and water uptake.
- Commissioner Nuemann recommended that rooftop space is used for green roofs, particularly on public buildings. The Village has a sedum green roof on the Public Works Center, and they are looking into improving it with a more intensive green roof.

5. **One Year In: Progress on Climate Ready Oak Park:** Staff Liaison, Abby Zielinski, presented on the community-wide progress of Climate Ready Oak Park in the last year since its adoption in August 2022. Liaison Zielinski shared the feedback from the community listening session. She also shared charts showing the progress of various sustainability metrics. Presentation slides are attached with these meeting minutes. Discussion included the following:

- Commissioner Shah suggested that the Village show data on the percentage of buildings with rooftop solar over time, solicit feedback from Oak Park residents on their rooftop solar installations, and provide information on Electric Vehicle charging stations in Oak Park online.
- Commissioner Neumann recommended that the Village tracks metrics related to preparedness for the climate crisis. Commissioner Neumann emphasized that the Village is currently facing climate hazards such as extreme heat and flooding, and it is important to focus on resilience to the climate crisis. Commissioners Neumann and Shah would like to understand how many climate migrants are in the Village of Oak Park and what services could be offered to them. Some community conversations related to this topic included improved flood mitigation infrastructure, use of native plants, and increasing tree canopy.
- Chair Lukehart recommended that the Village tracks metrics related to community outreach to understand what means of communication have been successful in implementing Climate Ready Oak Park.

6. **2024 EEC Work Planning:** Commissioners discussed their goals and priorities for 2024 work planning. Discussion included the following:
 - Chair Lukehart recommended that the EEC limit their 2024 goals to 2 or 3 main projects, that the selected projects have an impact Village-wide, and that the EEC focus on projects that would best benefit from the EEC's unique position as a commission. Subtasks associated with the main projects could be assigned to working pairs. Chair Lukehart also suggested that the EEC reviews Climate Ready Oak Park before the November meeting, in preparation for work planning.
 - Work plan focus areas suggested for 2024 included composting, addressing climate hazards and assisting climate migrants, introducing an electric shuttle, and increasing funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.
7. **Waste Rate Recommendations:** Chair Lukehart will create a memo to the Board that will explain the EEC's recommendations related to waste rates and composting. The EEC would like to recommend a waste rate study and help with the outreach plan.
8. **New Business:** No new business was discussed.
9. **Adjourn:** At 8:40 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

VOP's Urban Forest Management Plan

A photograph of a tree-lined path in a park. The path is paved and runs through a lush green area with many large, mature trees. Two people are walking away from the camera on the right side of the path. The scene is bright and sunny, with dappled sunlight on the ground.

Grant Jones
Village of Oak Park

Urban Forest Management Plan

- Document Current Practices
- Plan for the Next 10-20 Years

Organization of UFMP

- Overview
- Mission Statement
- Goals
- Strategic Partnerships
- Personnel
- State of the Urban Forest
 - iTree Eco/Urban Canopy Assessment
- Tree Equity

Organization of UFMP Cont'd

- Future of the Urban Forest
 - Species Composition
 - Trees and Climate Change
 - Tree Removals
 - Tree Planting
 - Tree Pruning
 - Other General Maintenance
 - Tree Preservation and Management During Construction
 - Tree Risk Assessment

Organization of UFMP Cont'd

- Projected Budget
- Conclusions
- Appendix

Timeline

- Receive Feedback From Environment & Energy Commission at October Meeting
- Final Draft Incorporating Relevant Comments
- Review with Community Design Commission at October Meeting
- Present to Village Board in Late 2023/Early 2024

Feedback from EEC



Climate Ready Oak Park: Progress Report

October 2023





Climate Ready Commitments

- Decrease community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by **60%** by **2030**, relative to 2019 emission levels.
- Achieve **net zero** community greenhouse gas emission by **2050**.
- Preserve or convert **30%** of community land to enhanced management for native plants & wildlife.
- Direct **40%** of public climate & sustainability dollars to the most vulnerable & impacted community members.
- **Partner** with frontline organizations & the most impacted to create climate & sustainability policies and programs.

[Village Board Resolution adopting Climate Ready Oak Park & declaring Climate Emergency](#)



Climate Ready Conversations



Get a free "I'm Climate Ready Oak Park" Gift Bag

Climate Ready Oak Park: One Year In

A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

free
kids table,
raffle &
dinner bites

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

Climate Ready COOP
& other community groups



Top 5 Actions for Renters

#1 Switch your electricity to Community Solar.
Invest in clean energy without solar panels
citizensutilityboard.org/solar-in-the-community

#2 If appliances break, ask your landlord to replace them with electric ones. When your lease is up, seek an apartment with electric appliances and heat.

#3 Travel clean.
Use public transit, walk or ride your bike as much as you can: bit.ly/op-greenways. Or use an e-bike or electric vehicle.

#4 Adapt green laundry habits.
Wash in cold water. Air out jeans and sweaters rather than washing after each wear. Use clothes drying racks instead of the dryer.

#5 Optimize your grocery budget.
Plan meals and grocery shopping to reduce food waste (toogoodtogo.com). Purchase a kitchen compost pail for \$10 at Village Hall + drop off your food scraps at one of four Oak Park composting locations: bit.ly/vop-compost. Grow veggies in containers or at a community garden.

CLIMATE READY OAK PARK
WWW.SUSTAINOAKPARK.COM



Top 5 Actions for Condo Owners

#1 Weatherize and electrify your home.
Reduce your energy load and save money (sustainoakpark.com/weatherization). When appliances break, replace them with electric ones. Learn about mini-splits and other heat pump technology: <https://bit.ly/d-eder-blog>.

#2 Switch to solar.
Invest in clean energy, without the panels: citizensutilityboard.org/solar-in-the-community. Or, visit sunroof.withgoogle.com to see if rooftop solar can work.

#3 Convert your lawn to native plants and veggies.
Work with your board to support biodiversity: bit.ly/natural-pledge-op. Consider a rain garden. Grow your own food in containers, your yard or a community garden.

#4 Travel clean.
Use public transit, walk or ride your bike: bit.ly/op-greenways. Or use an e-bike or electric vehicle; ask your board to add charging plugs in your garage.

#5 Compost.
Buildings with less than five units can join the Village's curbside compost program. Or purchase a kitchen compost pail for \$10 at Village Hall, and drop off food scraps at four locations. Learn more at bit.ly/vop-compost.

CLIMATE READY OAK PARK
WWW.SUSTAINOAKPARK.COM



Top 5 Actions for House Owners

#1 Weatherize and electrify your home.
Reduce your energy load and save money: sustainoakpark.com/weatherization. When appliances break, replace them with electric ones. Learn about mini-splits and other heat pump technology: <https://bit.ly/d-eder-blog>

#2 Switch to solar.
Invest in clean energy, without the panels: citizensutilityboard.org/solar-in-the-community. Or, visit sunroof.withgoogle.com to see if your home is a good candidate for rooftop solar.

#3 Convert your lawn to native plants and veggies.
Support biodiversity: bit.ly/natural-pledge-op. Consider a rain garden. Grow your own food.

#4 Travel clean.
Use public transit, walk or ride your bike as much as you can: bit.ly/op-greenways. Or use an e-bike or electric vehicle.

#5 Compost.
Join the Village's curbside compost program. Share with a neighbor to reduce trash pick up cost. Learn more at bit.ly/vop-compost.

CLIMATE READY OAK PARK
WWW.SUSTAINOAKPARK.COM

Climate Ready Conversations



Get a free "I'm Climate Ready Oak Park" Gift Bag

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups | OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY | Oak Park | one earth LOCAL

The poster features an illustration of a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities standing around a large globe. Some are holding hands, while others are engaged in eco-friendly activities like recycling, planting, and using a wind turbine. A QR code is visible in the top right corner of the illustration area.

Question One: Where are we today on climate as a community? What climate, sustainability, and equity actions have we--individually and collectively--taken over the past year?

Question Two: Where do we want to go in the next year?

Question Three: How do we get there in a just way?

Climate Ready Conversations



The poster features an illustration at the top showing a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities gathered around a large globe. Some are holding a recycling bin, others are planting a tree, and one is holding a solar panel. A QR code is visible in the upper right corner of the illustration. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Get a free 'I'm Climate Ready Oak Park' Gift Bag".

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups | OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY | Oak Park | one earth LOCAL

Question One: Where are we today on climate as a community?

Strong community interest in sustainability

More: electric vehicles, native plants, composting, cycling, rooftop solar and energy efficiency

Better: community engagement efforts, building energy & waste reduction & landscaping policies

Climate Ready Conversations



Get a free "I'm Climate Ready Oak Park" Gift Bag

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups | OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY | Oak Park | one earth LOCAL

The poster features an illustration of diverse people participating in environmental activities like recycling, planting, and holding a globe, with a QR code in the top right corner.

Question Two: Where do we want to go in the next year?

1. Reduce organic waste through more participation in composting.
2. Adapt and becoming more resilient to climate change impacts through neighborhood flood mitigation infrastructure, including more native plants;
3. Improve community health through safer walking and cycling infrastructure.
4. Reduce carbon emissions from transportation and improve community mobility through more accessible and high-quality public transit and electric vehicle infrastructure.
5. Reduce carbon emissions from buildings and improve community accessibility through building electrification and other retrofits.
6. Improve institutional accountability and collaboration through transparent goals and progress tracking.

Climate Ready Conversations



The poster features an illustration at the top showing a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities standing around a large globe. Some are holding hands, while others are engaged in activities like recycling, planting, and using a wind turbine. A QR code is visible in the upper right corner of the illustration. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Get a free 'I'm Climate Ready Oak Park' Gift Bag".

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Oak Park

one earth LOCAL

free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Question Three: How do we get there in a just way?

- Host more community conversations.
- Use multiple communications strategies, such as the library and a central repository.
- Ensure we are hearing from all affinity groups through outreach and research.
- Use clear masks, to provide language access for people who need to see others' lips when they speak.
- For signs, use pictures instead of words to illustrate information, e.g., how to dispose of waste, compost, and recyclables.
- Create an inclusive *Climate Ready* communication strategy outside of English.

Climate Ready Conversations



Get a free "I'm Climate Ready Oak Park" Gift Bag

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups | OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY | Oak Park | one earth LOCAL

The poster features an illustration of a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities standing around a large globe. Some are holding leaves, others are planting a tree. In the background, there is a wind turbine and a recycling bin. A QR code is located in the top right corner of the illustration area.

Question Three: How do we get there in a just way?

- Provide grants, low-interest loans and other assistance with the explicit goal of benefiting community members with fewer economic resources, rental properties, and legacy residents, and multifamily housing types.
- Shift towards universal services; e.g., composting is free for all or on an opt-out basis. Obtain State/Federal funding to support income-qualified programs.
- Create programs that make it easier to share resources between community members, e.g., shared geothermal system, bike sharing program, tool library, whole-block building retrofits.
- Make it easier to travel with low-cost options, e.g., walking, cycling, public transit.

Climate Ready Conversations



The poster features an illustration at the top showing a group of diverse people of various ages and ethnicities standing around a large globe. Some are holding leaves, others are planting a tree. In the background, there is a wind turbine and a recycling bin. A QR code is positioned in the upper right corner of the illustration. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Get a free 'I'm Climate Ready Oak Park' Gift Bag".

**Climate Ready Oak Park:
One Year In**
A Community Conversation

AUGUST 7, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 PM

Oak Park Main Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake Street

Register at bit.ly/climate-ready1

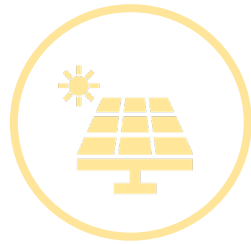
free kids table, raffle & dinner bites

Climate Ready COOP & other community groups | OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY | Oak Park | one earth LOCAL

Question Three: How do we get there in a just way?

- Develop a tree canopy strategy along the Eisenhower, to reduce health impacts from expressway traffic. Focus on creating more tree canopy coverage outside of Northwest Oak Park. Pursue a tree preservation and diversity agenda.
- Coordinate the local environmental groups to more collective impact. Address community priorities that are inhibiting climate action.
- Think beyond our municipal border, and consider where the landfills and factories are located - often in marginalized communities, when choosing a service provider or purchasing.

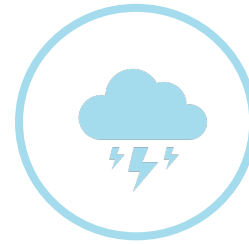
Climate Ready Impact Areas



Building Energy



Transportation Energy



Extreme Weather & Resiliency



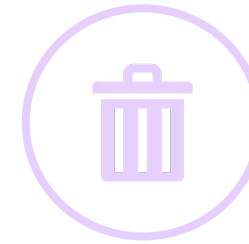
Community Health & Environmental Quality



Sustainable Economic Development



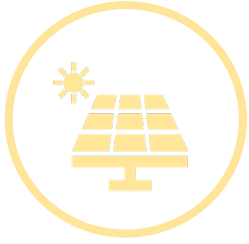
Healthy & Sustainable Food



Waste Reduction

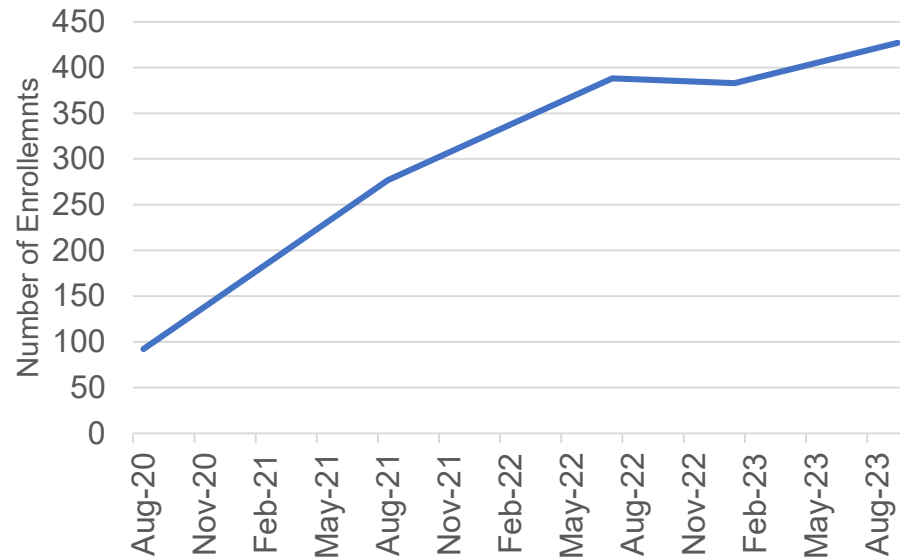


Parks, Plants, & Biodiversity

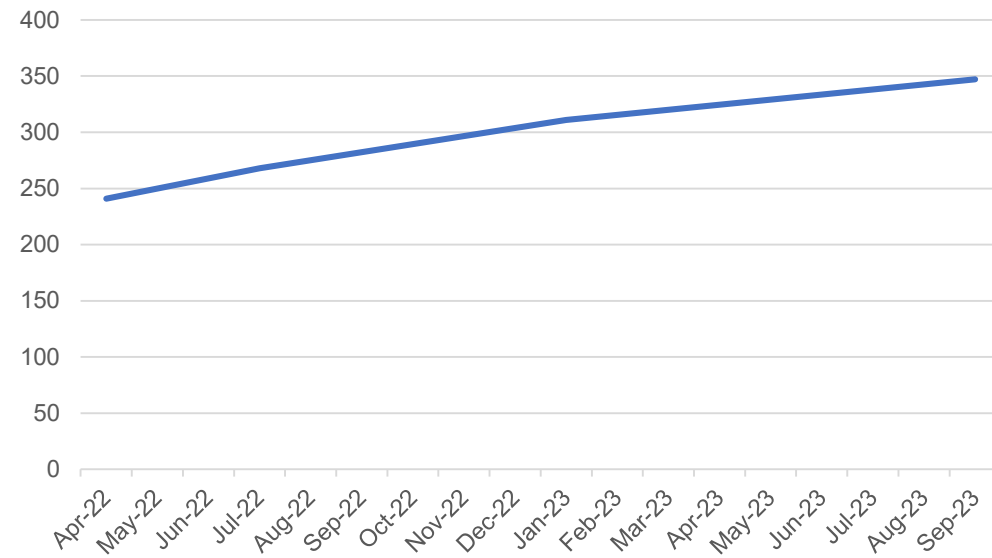


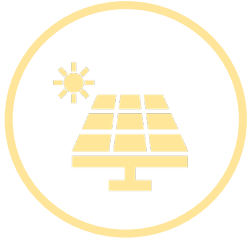
Solar Energy

Enrollments in Community Solar in Oak Park

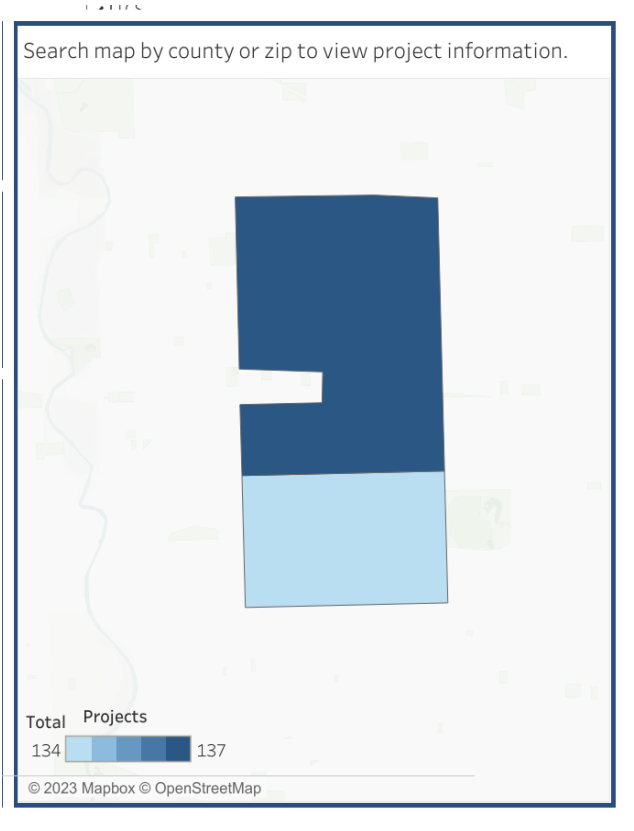


Number of Buildings in Oak Park with Rooftop Solar

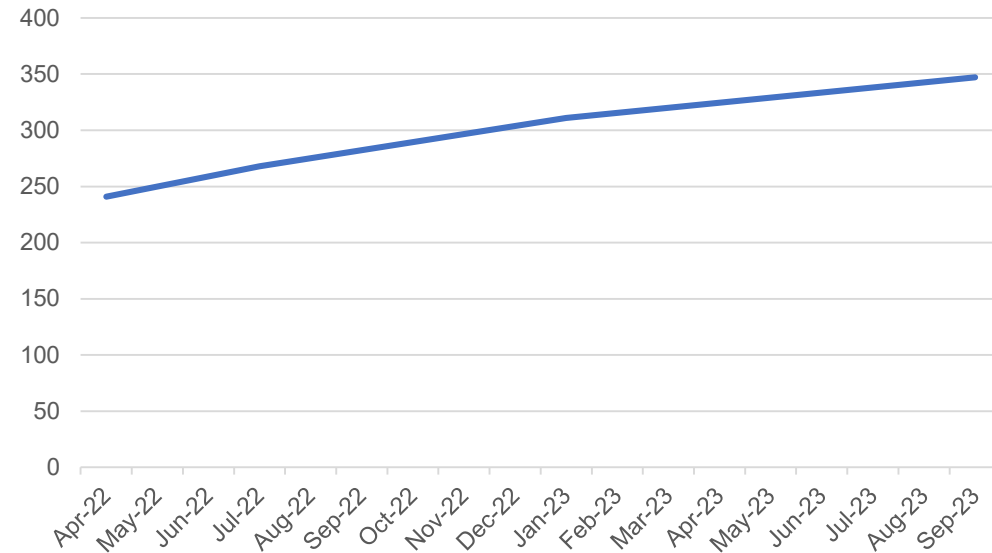


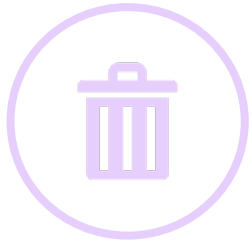


Solar Energy



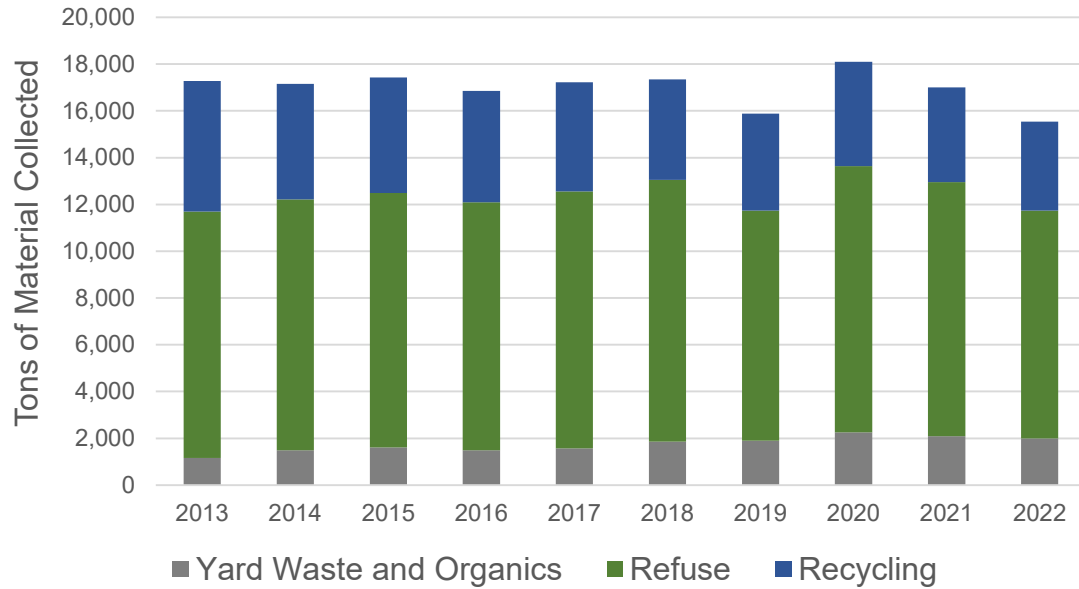
Number of Buildings in Oak Park with Rooftop Solar



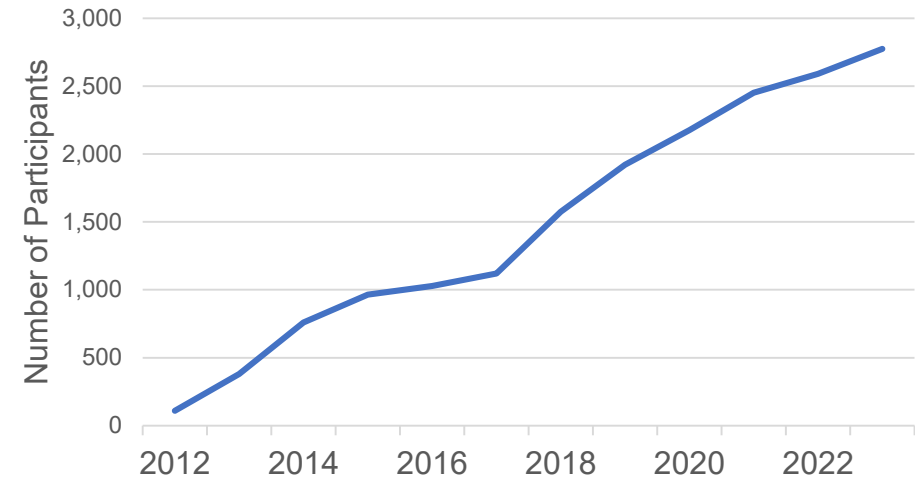


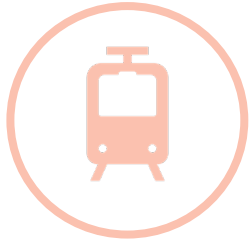
Waste Reduction

Oak Park Residential Waste



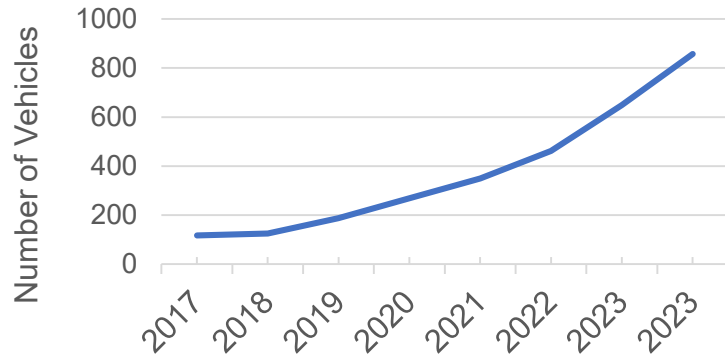
Oak Park Residential Composting Program



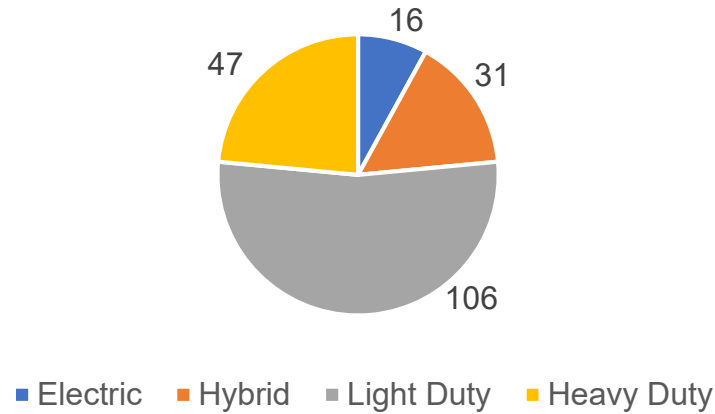


Transportation

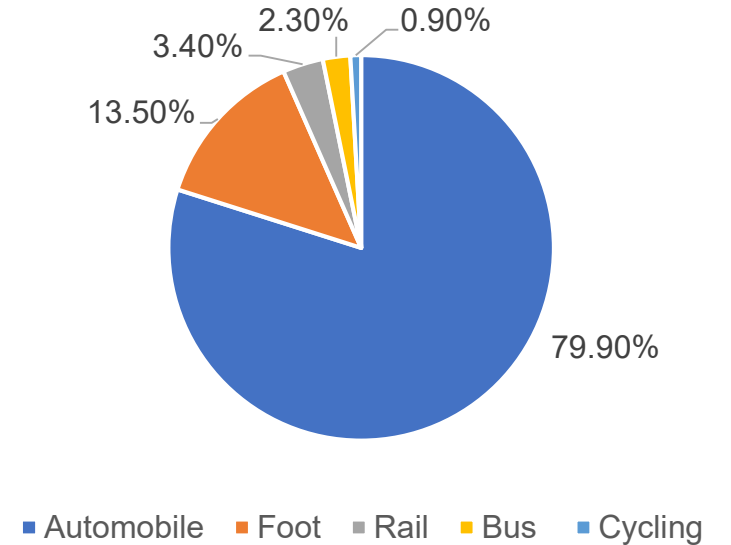
Electric Vehicles Registered in Oak Park



Municipal Fleet Vehicle Types



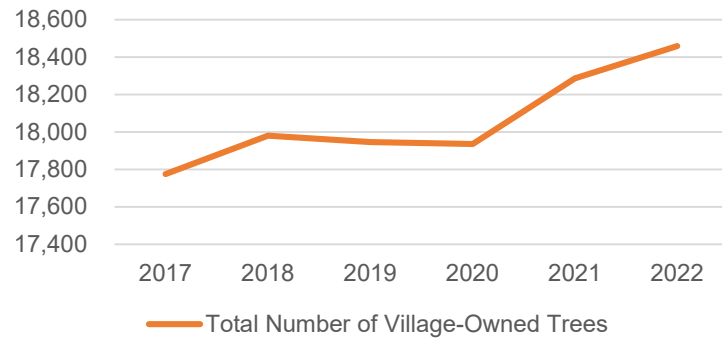
Passenger Mode Share



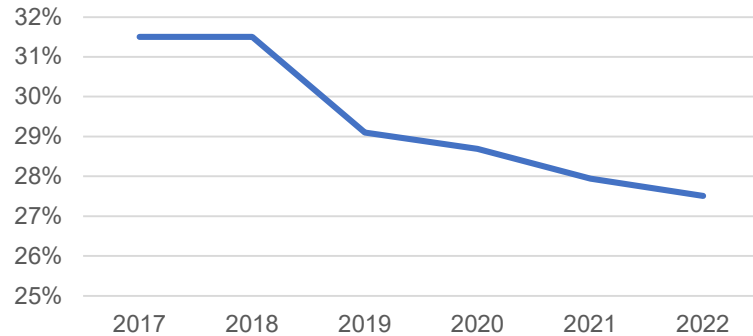


Biodiversity

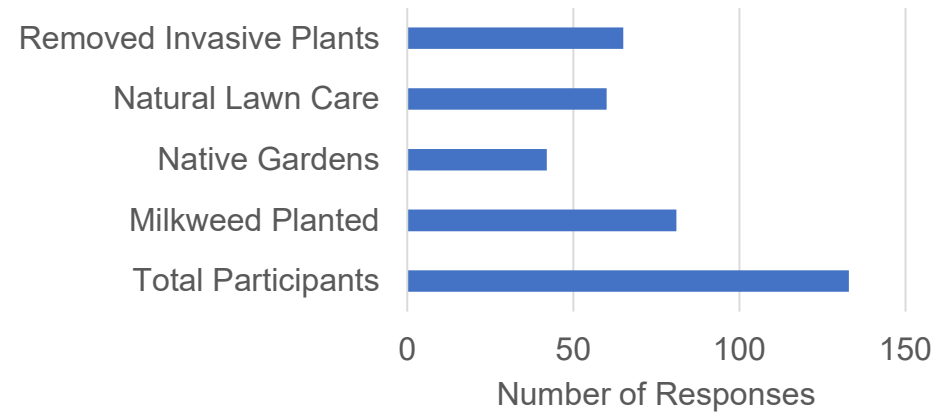
Total Number of Village-Owned Trees



% of ROW with ROW Canopy Coverage



Community Biodiversity Survey Responses
July - September 2023



Prioritizing *Climate Ready* Work

Impact-effort grids visualize how each proposed action might be prioritized for implementation. Each action can be evaluated to see where it falls in the grid.

