

# Community Recommendations

## Cool Village Commission

### July 21, 2010

The community recommendations enumerated below are based upon the priorities set forth in the Greenest Region Compact developed by the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus. The Compact was developed by participating Mayors who have committed to improve the environment in the Chicago region by taking actions in our own government operations and communities. Through that leadership, participating communities will demonstrate the economic and social viability of sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. To create the greenest region in the United States, participating communities, of which La Grange Park is included, will commit to seven strategies: Water Conservation, Waste and E-Waste Recycling, CFL Distribution, Air Strategies, Energy Strategies, Land Strategies, and Water Strategies.

#### 1. Water Conservation Strategies

In the Greenest Region Compact, participating communities will strive to improve the environment in the Chicago region by taking actions in their community to promote water conservation practices.

##### A. Recommended Action: Enhance Watering Restrictions in the Village Code<sup>1</sup>

Background Summary: The CVC proposes that watering times are amended so that watering is not allowed during the time of the day when the sun is most intense and water is lost to evaporation. Currently, the Village Code states that watering for sprinkling is allowed from May 15 through September 15, in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Odd-numbered street address may use water for sprinkling or watering lawns on days having an odd-numbered calendar date.
- Even-numbered street address may use water for sprinkling or watering lawns on days having an even-numbered calendar date.

The CVC proposes that watering be allowed only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., prevailing time.

Cost to Village: Staff time to write the amendment.

##### B. Recommended Action: Create Pamphlets and other educational pieces on Water Conservations Strategies

Background Summary: Education is essential in the implementation of water conservation strategies in the community. Informing children and adults the importance of water conservation in everyday activities and providing information about water conservation fixtures are both manageable strategies. The Commission would like to create pamphlets to distribute within the Village. Green ideas can also be included in the monthly E-briefs.

Cost to Village: Minimal; cost of paper and printing of flyer. CVC commissioners will write the flyer.

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<sup>1</sup> This Recommended Action requires Board Action.

## **2. Waste Recycling and E-Waste Mitigation Strategies**

A study of options available to the Village of La Grange Park regarding handling of solid waste streams was conducted. The process involves identifying professional trade organizations, individual companies and municipalities that are or have been involved in waste stream and or recycling efforts.

### **A. Recommended Action: Propose periodic E-waste recycling event.**

Background Summary: An initial survey of E-waste management has turned up over 60 programs currently known to the State of Illinois. Further evaluation indicates that there are a number of different strategies being employed to manage E-waste streams within municipalities. The most common approach has been “Recycling Days” which are sponsored by individual municipalities and supported by recyclers. Vintage Tech Recyclers is a firm that is currently offering a program free of charge to all members of the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency. The offer enables municipalities an ongoing opportunity to serve as sites for collection of E-waste as long as a load minimum is achieved.

Cost to Village: Low cost of administrative support and marketing of event.

### **B. Recommended Action: Propose ongoing metal recycling site within Village.<sup>2</sup>**

Background Summary: A survey of the opportunities that exist to further improve recycling in the Village revealed that there are many options available to the Village, some of which include revenue streams for the Village. Values in the range of \$1,000 to 3,000 per truckload depending on the materials collected, provider and total weight can be realized by the Village. Recycling firms will provide a receptacle but it is the responsibility of the Village to monitor materials collected, advertising and overall program management. A suggestion would be to position the receptacle within the grounds of the Public Works Yard to minimize unacceptable material deposits. The solid waste recycling strategies that have been studied compliment the successful and ongoing curbside recycling program in place within the Village.

Cost to Village: Low cost of administrative support and marketing of service. This program has a potential net positive revenue opportunity.

## **3. CFL Distribution Strategies**

According to recent studies on the compact fluorescent light bulb, manufacturers and corporate level retailers anticipate continued growth for the CFL market, yet stress the need for CFL programs and continued education in order to sustain this continued growth.

### **A. Recommended Action: Hold a Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) Distribution Event in Fall, 2010.**

Background Summary: Holding a CFL Distribution event is a specific Priority Strategy under the Greenest Regions Compact, with the goal to “Reduce residential energy consumption by encouraging the use of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs.”

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<sup>2</sup> Program will require service contract which requires Board Action.

Cost to Village: Minimal. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is a partner in the Northern Illinois Energy Project, which provides free or low cost light bulbs to municipalities for distribution.

**B. Recommended Action: Publish a flyer on energy efficient lighting, including proper clean up and disposal procedures for broken bulbs and promoting recycling of used bulbs.**

Background Summary: Education on the CFL will promote the continued use of this technology.

Cost to Village: Minimal; cost of paper and printing of flyer. CVC commissioners will write the flyer.

**C. Recommended Action: Approach La Grange Park hardware store to request discount on LED light bulbs for residents (for example, offer a coupon).**

Background Summary: Incentives for the local purchase will promote the continued use of this technology in our community.

Cost to Village: Minimal; approach the local business to request participation, CVC commissioners will write the promotional flyer.

#### **4. Air Strategy**

In the Greenest Region Compact, participating communities will strive to improve the environment in the Chicago region by taking actions in our own operations and communities that focus on air quality. Specific recommendations include: The retrofit of municipal diesel engines by installing pollution control devices, raising the awareness of public transit options by displaying information about options and promoting these choices to citizens, employees, and visitors. Also included is the installation of bike racks to encourage non-automotive travel. Realizing that more research is needed, the CVC decided at this time to focus on the expansion of a policy or practice that is currently in place by the Village – the no idling policy.

**A. Recommended Action: Publicize to the greater community that idling is wasteful, needlessly harmful to the driver's own kids and others – and harmful to their car engine.<sup>3</sup>**

Background Summary: Each day, Americans waste approximately 3.8 million gallons of gasoline by voluntarily idling their cars. Tailpipe emissions from idling contain toxic pollutants that harm human health and the environment. It is a myth that turning off and on one's car uses more fuel. It is actually bad for the engine to idle continuously. Experts say that if you are going to be in one place for more than 10 seconds, it is better to turn off the engine. Numerous motorists idle their cars for 5 to 15 minutes while waiting at railroad crossings, to pick up children at school or places like the Park District Recreation Center. To accomplish the action, the CVC would work with Environmental Clubs in individual schools to research this topic and create outdoor signs to be used in student pick-up areas to educate their parent drivers about this issue. We could have a contest for the best sign in each school – with a prize from local businesses. We might also try to post such signs at railroad crossings.

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<sup>3</sup> This Recommended Action is an intergovernmental program and would require Village Board support.

Cost to Village: The cost largely depends on the quality of the signage. Signs made in-house would cost approximately \$200 for eight signs. CVC commissioners could coordinate the effort and community/school volunteers will paint the signs.

## **5. Energy Strategies**

Energy strategies are programs that assist a community reduce its energy consumption. The Cool Village Commission has reviewed a number of strategies that will keep the Village connected with energy efficiency ideas and opportunities as well as assist with identifying where energy efficiency improvements can be made.

### **A. Recommended Action: Participate in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager Program**

Background Summary: Portfolio Manager is an interactive energy management tool that allows participants to track and assess energy and water consumption of its buildings in a secure online environment. Portfolio Manager can help set investment priorities, identify under-performing buildings, verify efficiency improvements, and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance.

Cost to Village: Minimal staff time in collecting. The Chicago EPA Office can assign an Intern to the program to set up the program, enter the data and track the progress.

### **B. Recommended Action: Join the EPA Region 5 Community Climate Change Network**

Background Summary: This network provides information and opportunities about energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction to municipalities, as well as access to a network of other like-minded communities that are taking action on climate change.

Cost to Village: None. This network communicates via monthly email blasts.

### **C. Recommended Action: Apply for a SEDAC (Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Center) Level 2: Site Visit & Energy Consultation Grant**

Background Summary: - Energy audits for an existing facility may include rehab plan review and/or site visit. New construction plans can be reviewed for new facilities. A list of energy cost reduction measures that the facility should consider will be provided. SEDAC and the participant can determine need for further program services. Priority is given to applicants who have firm plans for new construction or rehab and are serious about implementing SEDAC's energy recommendations.

Cost to Village: Minimal; staff time to lead the onsite evaluation. The CVC will complete the grant application for free audit services.

## **6. Land Strategy**

The purpose of land strategy in the Greenest Region Compact for Metropolitan Chicago is to promote tree planting. The Compact recommends that participating communities implement a municipal tree planting ordinance to establish, and maintain, maximum tree cover. The Village of La Grange Park already has two tree ordinances in place. The Village also had a parkway tree replacement program and budget. However, with the

current economy, the \$20,000 budgeted in the Village Budget for parkway tree planting was eliminated. The CVC considered the idea of a Village tree garden. This would include obtaining the trees for free and planting the trees on land owned by the Village and Community Park District. Naperville had a program similar to the one suggested. The Village of Naperville eliminated this program because the cost of caring for the trees proved greater than purchasing the trees. Therefore, the CVC determined it would not pursue the planting of the trees.

Another Issue addressed was what was being done regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle infesting ash trees. In summary, the cost of taking precautionary measures is not cost effective. The Village has an ordinance in place regarding treating trees with Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

**A. Recommended Action: Campaign promoting the homeowner to pay for the purchase and planting of new trees in the parkway.**

Background Summary: The Village has a tree planting program in place. The burden of the cost for the purchase and planting of the tree is on the homeowner. Once planted, the Village will maintain the tree. The Commission would like to create pamphlets to distribute within the Village. Green ideas can also be included in the monthly E-briefs.

Cost to Village: Minimal; cost of paper and printing of flyer. CVC commissioners will write the flyer.

## **7. Water Strategy**

Water strategies involve best management practices (BMP's). The Cool Village Commission researched a number of different methods that could be implemented within the Village. Permeable pavers, native landscaping, rain barrels, rain gardens, and drought tolerant grass seed were just a few items that were considered.

**A. Recommended Action: Create Pamphlets and other educational pieces on Water Strategies**

Background Summary: Education is key to increasing the implementation of water strategies in the community. Teaching children and adults the importance of planting native landscaping, disconnecting downspouts from the underground drain tile surrounding their homes, and the proper disposal methods for expired medication are all manageable strategies. The Commission would like to create pamphlets to distribute within the Village. Green ideas can also be included in the monthly E-briefs.

Cost to Village: Minimal; cost of paper and printing of flyer. CVC commissioners will write the flyer.