



## **2013-2014 Project Activities**

### **PRIORITY STRATEGIES**

#### **1. Open Space and Ecosystems**

- a) Design and conduct with the Safer Pest Control Project training for large community institutions/taxing bodies on eco-friendly weed and pest control policies/best practices.
- b) Support green infrastructure target projects and funding acquisition.
- c) Design and conduct educational forum on comprehensive green infrastructure plan development.

#### **2. Transportation**

- a) Aggregate public school walking/biking to school data.
- b) Meet with VOP staff and active transportation advocates to support prioritizing of the Oak Park Bike Plan strategies and encourage biking to and from school and to and from public transit.
- c) Conduct school bike facilities site analysis and needs assessment.
- d) Support VOP efforts to explore funding for downtown bike station.
- e) Develop pilot bike-friendly business district model in collaboration with Greenline Wheels.
- f) Educate/market to parents about the goals of increasing biking/walking to and from school and engaging children in bike safety classes.

#### **3. Water**

- a) Work with VOP to analyze and support the implementation of priority CMAP water conservation plan strategies and enroll residents and institutions in strategy implementation.
- b) Disseminate educational video (created in 2012 through PlanItGreen and VOP) promoting water conservation at home.
- c) Continue to promote state legislation in support of modifying plumbing codes to allow for rain water harvesting and grey water systems.

#### **4. Waste**

- a) Implement zero waste schools strategy matrix and timeline with parents, teachers, and administrators at two District 97 middle schools.
- b) Convene regular meetings of the collaboration at institutions working on food scrap diversion to support waste audits, assess equipment and training needs, negotiate contracts with haulers, create route density for haulers, and implement food scrap programs.
- c) Recruit new institutions for participation in the program, including multi-family apartment owners (Oak Park Apartments, Oak Park Residence Corps), schools (Trinity and Fenwick High School and private elementary schools), and other large community institutions.
- d) Implement survey for smaller restaurants and food scrap producing markets to determine interest in food scrap collection, and convene forum with 30 interested businesses and waste haulers to enroll businesses in local commercial food scrap collection program.
- e) Work with Dominican Community Leadership Program team on development of strategies for recycling "hard to recycle" materials and potentially developing plans for a local recycling center modeled after the Green4Good Recycling Extravaganza.

## **5. Energy**

- a) Continue to drive and support energy efficiency implementation and multi-sector strategies
  - \*Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF) program forums for non-profit and congregations
  - \*Energy Impact IL residential house parties and promotion strategies
  - \*OPDC 20 Businesses Project
  - \*Multi-family building resource acquisition support
  - \*NICOR Green Community Challenge – residents and businesses

## **6. Green Economy**

- a) Support OPDC Green Business Project (audits; resources; seminars targeting 20 businesses), recruit new potential participants, and secure additional funding for project expansion.
- b) Develop green business standards and criteria and support Triton College green business certification program development related to Oak Park businesses.

## **7. Food**

- a) Continue to support Sugar Beet local food cooperative planning and implementation.
- b) Aggregate local food procurement data for institutions (hospitals, schools, universities).
- c) Provide education for teachers on school gardens, curriculum, and program activities related to local farms and food.

## **8. Education**

- a) Implement second zero waste event training and support institutions that are working to reduce waste at community events.
- b) Support and promote Green Community Connections Film Festival and Bike Tour
- c) Convene 2013 gatherings and forums of the Sustainable Teachers Network, focusing on sustainability curricula, school programs, and model projects.

## **9. Community Development**

- a) Continue to work with Plan Commission and VOP staff to implement a strategy for conducting a sustainability screen for village ordinances.
- b) Conduct sector and institution forums that provide opportunities for community residents and leaders to provide “PlanItGreen” input on the Oak Park Comprehensive Plan.

## **10. Climate Change Adaptation**

- a) Conduct meetings to begin integrating Climate Change Adaptation strategies into each topic area within the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest.

## **11. Forums**

### Business

- a) 5 forums covering sustainability topic area strategies and certification linked to OPDC/Triton Green Business Project **(TBD)**
- b) Restaurant and Food Market Food Scrap Collection Forum **(MARCH)**

### Institutions

- a) Forum/Training on Developing an Institutional Sustainability Plan in Alignment with PlanItGreen **(APRIL)**
- b) General Forum – snapshot highlights; collaborations; funding resources; idea generation **(SEPT)**

c) SPCP Green Weed and Pest Control Training – Focus on taxing bodies and large institutions **(MARCH)**

#### VOP/VRF Staff

- a) All Staff – overview of PIG goals/strategies; staff updates/snapshot highlights; breakouts by department – planning in synch with PIG goals **(JAN)**
- b) Executive Staff and Elected Officials – PlanItGreen Overview and Brainstorm on development of programs, funding, and big impact initiatives. **(FEB)**

#### Residents

- a) Food **(MARCH)**
- b) Water **(MAY)**
- c) Energy Efficiency **(SEPT)**
- d) Waste **(APRIL)**

#### Faith-based

- a) IFF Energy Efficiency **(JAN)**
- b) Green Infrastructure? Transportation? **(MAY)**

#### Park Districts

- a) Staff Forum to synch PlanItGreen goals with Park District goals **(TBD)**
- b) Green Infrastructure Planning with VOP/VRF?

### **ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Education**

1. Comprehensive Farm to School Program Training and Implementation
2. Fun, marketing campaign promoting kids biking and walking
3. Local business “How to” sustainability guide
4. Community education focus on residential composting

#### **Energy**

1. One-Stop Shop Information portal for energy efficiency upgrade programs and resources and tips
2. Energy Code upgrades
3. MLS energy efficiency metrics
4. 300 free residential energy audits
5. Real Estate transfer Tax reduction for homes meeting certain energy efficiency standards
6. Multi-Family/Condo Energy Efficiency Programs

#### **Waste**

1. Multi-family recycling promotions or ordinance with requirement to recycle. Change bin allocations in favor of recycling.
2. “Landfill” bins next to “Recycling” bins in all public spaces
3. More education/signage re: what can be recycled
4. Village “Construction Debris” ordinance
5. “Pay as You Throw” system

#### **Water**

1. See VOP-CMAP Water Plan
2. Change billing structure
3. Info/Tips on water bills

### **Community Development**

1. Sustainable Development Criteria
2. Comprehensive Plan synching with sustainability goals/strategies
3. Code review
4. Sustainable Development incentives for developers

### **Transportation**

1. Research on best strategies (see plan) for reducing ghg emissions
2. EV infrastructure?
3. Public transit stop analysis and ways to promote greater usage
4. Parking availability/cost analysis in relation to public transit use

### **Green Business**

1. Triton Certification program
2. OPDC audits, seminars, and implementation support
3. Green Procurement guide/program
4. Green business guide

### **Open Space/Ecosystems**

1. IGIG grants
2. SPCP training
3. Forum on tree care, planting, and climate change adaptation
4. Study of greenway links to open spaces

### **Food**

1. Sugar Beet
2. Local Food procurement data
3. Local food restaurant analysis/initiative