

## **Go Green Illinois May 9, 2017 meeting minutes**

### **Greenest Region Compact**

(~32 members and 1 speaker attending)

#### **Speaker:**

Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

**Overview of the Greenest Regions Compact** – We encourage all members to visit these two websites for a complete explanation of this program.

Website: <http://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/regional-environmental-collaboration/>

Summary (4 page): <http://mayorscaucus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/GRC2-short-summary.pdf>

#### **Three parts to the Greenest Region Compact**

1. Compact
2. Framework
3. Supportive programs - future and current.

Original Greenest Region Compact adopted by 96 communities, 1/3 of Chicagoland communities.

The purpose of Compact is to align environmental issues, resources and actions on the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve progress.

Interested in inventorying environmental achievements for every municipality. Ranked them as elite, high, medium, low and very low.

Categories: Air, Climate Change, Energy, Land, Sustainability Stewardship, Waste and Water.

81% of all Chicagoland communities are making efforts in sustainability, and some did not realize that they were doing so. Land is the area on which most communities have expended some effort, 2nd is Stewardship, and 3<sup>rd</sup> is Energy.

See map of Chicagoland communities' sustainability efforts on GRC2 website and how your community ranks.

What has your community already done? What does your community plan to do?

Only 30 communities had plans with clear, specific goals. They studied those plans and also looked at model plans in other communities to align local and national efforts. Then they ranked and compared the plans. The GRC 2 synthesizes goals from 1,149 plans into 10 areas and 49 goals total. The full plan is [here](#).

The Framework is a well-organized tool to guide efforts and actions. An easy start is to go through the Framework goal by goal and see how many you have already accomplished and which are left. You can manipulate the Framework on Excel so that you eliminate areas that you have already addressed or those areas that your community chooses not to address.

#### Steps to Join the Greenest Region Compact (GRC) Adopters

1. Familiarize yourself with the GRC 2
2. Introduce your Environmental Commission to the GRC 2
3. Approach one or more Trustees and ask for their support
4. Approach your Mayor or Board President for buy-in
5. Schedule a vote on the GRC resolution

Go Green Illinois members are encouraged to advocate for their municipality to sign on, if they haven't done so already. If your municipality has not yet signed on, go [here](#) for sample resolution wording. There is no documentation or reporting required.

#### Questions and Answers:

Q. Can non-profits get involved with GRC?

A. GRC urges non-profits to get their municipalities to get involved. Edith can come talk to environmental commissions, staff or elected officials.

Q. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus – what value does it add?

A. MMC engages the Mayors. Helps get them on board to work on this issue. Helps with top down influence. Adds to regional clout. Mayors can see what other mayors are doing. Once Mayor signs on, then local activists can hold them to their actions.

Q. Why would a Mayor want to sign on?

A. Makra says most sign on because they know it is the right thing to do. Some may do it to placate the green community. Some say it is "to improve the human condition." Some think it will result in grant money. Some think it might be what their citizens want. This is part of the three legs – People, Planet, Profit.

Go Green Illinois members can work together to get our Mayors to sign on.

**Website Introduction and Explanation** by Kim Stone and Kevin Harvey

Our website [www.gogreenillinois.org](http://www.gogreenillinois.org) is up and running. All members are encouraged to explore the site, refer to it frequently and submit posts and events.

## **Community Sharing**

Wilmette – Village voted bikes lanes down, bird program and bird walks. Roll & Stroll to Worship. Native Plant sale.

Riverwoods – Republishing a book on Riverwoods.

Glencoe – Ravine workshops

Glenview – Village has a newsletter with a Go Green Glenview columns. Green table at all farmers markets. Different experts at the table each week. Bike to Worship day. River Day program, Nature in Glenview art contest. Participating in Oaktober.

Mundelein – Lake County Green Congregations. Had a great Green Living Fair. Opening membership to individuals not just green groups.

Northfield – Had their first event - movie showing, Before the Flood, well attended.

Buffalo Grove – Park District is having a green fair. "Small steps they can take at home." There is a full page ad – environmental action team (under the umbrella of the Park District) for a community spring work day. Getting more people involved.

Winnetka – Four trustees reached out to Liz Kunkle to talk about environmental issues. She is going to join the environmental forestry commission. Liz is optimistic that the Village will support environmental issues more robustly in the future.

Libertyville – Green Drinks Libertyville at O'Tooles'. They turned down a large development that would have negatively impacted the community. They are developing tear down guidelines. Trying to collect hard to recycle items. Working on draft of a sustainability plan. Working on sustainable restaurant recognition.

Oak Park – Working hard on pesticide regulation to pass a law so that communities can make their own laws regarding pesticide use. They urge all GGI members to sign the resolution. Contact Peggy McGrath at [pegspc2@gmail.com](mailto:pegspc2@gmail.com).

Evanston – Citizens Greener Evanston added an environmental justice committee. Helps them engage with diverse community. New trustees as of the spring election. CGE circulated a questionnaire to all candidates. Their sustainability director's position is vacant. Working on energy goals for their climate action plan.

Northbrook – Big event on May 15<sup>th</sup> weekend. Working to reinvigorate their Heritage Tree Program. Focusing on trees and habitat. Trying to set up a TreeKeepers program like Evanston. Book program, Hidden Life of Trees, at the Northbrook Library.

Lake County Audubon – Birdscaping program with Libertyville Township. Got grants and helped fund 49 trees and many shrubs installed along a nature trail. She encourages us to work with our townships.

Highland Park - Big event \_\_\_\_\_. Seasonal compost program until December. Need a new sustainability consultant. They are going to redo their plan rather than just moving forward with the existing plan.

Lake Bluff – Sustainability Committee working to allow chickens and beekeeping. Partnering with Lake Bluff Openlands to spruce up a main corridor. Nice partnership that could be replicated. There is a group dedicated to preserving buckthorn! Has a household food waste program in Lake Bluff.