

GGIL Meeting Minutes (beginning at 1:02) – 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Topic: Getting Your Suburb Ready for Electric Vehicles

Participants: 55

*All slides available on the GGIL website.*

*View upcoming events at the bottom of the minutes document.*

**1) First Speaker: Jay Futterman (Go Green Highland Park) – Kick Gas and Drive Electric**

- Has driven an EV since 2017 and travels a typical commute without range anxiety
  - Minimal maintenance – far less than a gasoline engine
- 2020 has tied with 2016 for the hottest year
- Transportation is the #1 greenhouse gas emitting sector in America
- Electric cars are a solution to emissions produced by gas-fueled vehicles
- Types of electric cars
  - Fully electric
    - Ex. Tesla, Nissan Leaf Chevy Bolt, Audi E-Tron
  - Plug-in hybrid
    - Ex. Chevy Volt, Chrysler Pacifica Van, Toyota Rav-4, Prius Prime, BMW
  - Resource: [plugstar.com](http://plugstar.com)
- Challenges for electric cars
  - Resource: [normalnow.com](http://normalnow.com)
  - Myths
    - Range anxiety
    - Cost: new cars can be expensive, consider browsing the used market
    - Reliability: maintenance is a non-issue, test drives are **key** to encouraging electric car use
      - Comment shared by Beth Drucker: “Still on the original battery of my 2004 Prius Hybrid!”
  - Challenges
    - Education: Plug in America
      - Action Item: consider adding a variety of electric vehicles to car shows with the opportunity for test drives and many viewers
      - Comment shared by Beth Drucker: “You could do a live video feed at an outdoor show.”
    - Availability
      - Action item: call local dealerships and ask about electric car availability
    - Charging: who has access to car charging and who does not?

- Solution: employers can provide charging ports where cars may sit for many hours at a time
- Tesla has a charging system that is not available to non-Teslas
- There will be a rapid roll out of fast charging stations soon
- Charging stations are most needed along highways

▪ **Action Item Summary**

- Add a few EVs on display at every event
  - Reach out to potential EV buyers
  - Call dealers to ask about EV availability
  - Test drive an EV before your next purchase
  - Resources: plugshare.com, pluginamerica.org, normalnow.com
- Q + A
- Dorr St. Clair: I owned a Nissan Leaf 2013-2016. The biggest problem was range anxiety, especially in the sub-zero weather and sitting in a Dan Ryan traffic jam in the summer. Have the lower-end vehicles fixed this problem? Also, how do we address the mining of the minerals needed?
    - Winter driving does zap power from any car battery, but EVs are still capable of winter driving with increased awareness of power use
  - Jeff Kressman: What are the advantages and disadvantages of electric vs. hybrid?
    - Advantage of electric: decreased maintenance
    - Traditional hybrid still derives all energy from gasoline with slightly higher efficiency – up to 50 mpg
  - Dudley Onderdonk: What is the cost to set up electric connections in the home?
    - Kim Stone: pushing to require wiring to accommodate this charging in all new builds in Highland Park
    - Jay Futterman: about \$500 for the wiring
    - Tim Milburn: price range is all over the map, for individual homes it ranges from \$500-\$1500
  - Jenny Futterman: Can you charge on a regular outlet that may be in your garage or outside?
    - Converters can be used to charge through regular outlets, but can sometimes overwhelm the system and takes a long time. But it is possible, especially if other electrical use is monitored during charging.
  - **Resources:**
    - Charging station incentives: <https://www.chargepoint.com/incentives/> (Gia Schultz)

- More incentives:
  - [https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/state\\_summary?state=il](https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/state_summary?state=il) (Tim Milburn)
- Hourly rates are often low overnight when cars are charged
  - hourly pricing from ComEd:
    - <https://hourlypricing.comed.com>

## 2) Second Speaker: Cheryl Scott – Becoming EV Ready Project

- SolSmart Success
  - Streamline solar codes
  - Extensive checklist and point system
  - Work collaboratively
- Using this system to prepare communities for EVs
  - Had to create a new checklist specifically for communities
- EV Readiness Decision Guide
  - For communities who are ready to get started with EV readiness
- Future EV Ready program
  - Creating resources for all 200 items on the checklist
  - Walking communities through the steps
  - Point-based community recognition program
    - These plans will facilitate regional planning
- 17 Listening Sessions
  - Asked participants for feedback on the checklist items
    - Community engagement
    - Zoning and planning
    - New construction
      - Establish requirements for making new single-family residential units to be EV ready/EV capable
      - Establish requirements for commercial and multi-family developments to be EV ready/EV capable
- Tim Milburn (Green Ways to Go)
  - Parking and access
    - Resources exist with comprehensive charging stations maps
      - AFDC Public Charging Station Map
      - ChargePoint Station Locator
      - PlugShare
      - Google Maps
      - Electrify America Station Locator
      - Tesla Supercharger Locator
  - Municipal Fleets (Schools and Park Districts, too)
    - Planning is key



- 4) Light-duty fleets
  - 5) Dealerships
- Beth Drucker: “Let’s see if we can make Illinois the next ZEV state! After all, we are the home of Rivian, the new electric pickup truck. We could all add short articles with links about ZEV in our newsletters.
- Components of ZEV Program
  - Exact # of vehicles is linked to automaker’s overall gasoline/diesel sales within the states
  - Provides flexibility to manufacturers through ZEV credits
    - Assigns each automaker credits which should be maintained equal to a set percentage of non-electric sales
    - Credits can be carried over and banked from one year to the next
    - Automakers can purchase/trade credit from other manufacturers
- Benefits
  - Dramatically lowering smog/greenhouse gas emissions
  - New employment opportunities
  - Saving fleets and consumers money on fuel
  - More electric vehicle options
  - Bolstering economies to invest in clean energy
- Accomplishments
  - Since 2010, more than 550,000 zero-emission vehicles and plug-in hybrids have been registered in California
  - As of October 2018, manufacturers had banked more than 816,000 full battery-electric/hydrogen fuel cell credits and 251,000 plug-in hybrid electric vehicle credits
- Challenges
  - MOU is voluntary and not legally binding
  - Travel provision allows automakers to receive credits in all other ZEV states for vehicles sold in California, proportional to the vehicles sales in the states
  - Manufacturers can use other environmental credits to bypass the ZEV program and buy credits from other automakers to avoid producing and selling ZEVs
  - Lower-income individuals and communities are often left behind
- Relevance to Illinois
  - Driving an EV in Illinois dramatically decreases tons of emissions
  - Rural Illinois drivers could save \$742 by switching from gasoline to electricity on average
  - Charging an EV at home in Chicago is like paying \$0.70 cents per gallon of gasoline
  - Building upon past success and ensuring that everyone who wants to purchase an EV has a fair shot
- Current ZEV policies in Illinois

- School bus retrofit reimbursement
  - Fee exemptions
  - EV emissions inspection exemptions
  - EV financing and charging rate
- Next Steps
  - Utilize funding
  - **Educate public and involve stakeholders for policy**
  - Illinois EPA and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
  - Coordinate with multi-state task force
- **Action Items**
  - Discuss the importance of policy connections and where they can have the greatest impact
  - Increase awareness/education through marketing/education campaigns
  - Support innovative state/local/grassroots efforts to increase consumer experience with ZEVs
  - Collaborate!
  - Sarah Sanford: Would anybody be willing to write an article on ZEV that can be shared in our community newsletters?
- Q + A
  - Renee Gladstone: Alternative fuels?
    - Would recommend not looking at alternate fuels because they are not always produced from clean sources (ex. Natural gas can be considered an alternative fuel)
  - Chris Parson: What are the prospects for IL to join?
    - Organizations need to advocate. It should be approached from a fleet perspective. Hoping that policy will move forward this calendar year.
- **Community Sharing**
  - Evanston
    - Brian Becharas – CGE:
      - Advocating for approving charging infrastructure, stronger building codes, more city resources
      - Safer street and sidewalks particularly during the winter
      - Winter warming systems at Metra stations
      - Anti-idling policy
      - Climate action and resiliency plan on city website
  - Glencoe
    - Barney Gallagher:
      - Northshore community solar program:
        - [NorthShoreCommunitySolar@mc2energyservices.com](mailto:NorthShoreCommunitySolar@mc2energyservices.com)
        - Save up to 20% on your energy bill while going solar
  - Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
    - Yuh Schabacker

- Beach cleanups
  - Giving out reusable straw kits, ordering 500 sets
  - Beth Drucker: check out Great Lake Straws for better disposable straws.
- Dorr St. Clair
  - Friends of Green Bay Trail
    - COVID difficulties, switching to Zoom meetings and lectures
    - 10-year anniversary presentation on February 10<sup>th</sup> (Glenview library Zoom site)
- Highland Park
  - Jenny Futterman
    - Speaker on waste generation and management internationally coming up in the next few months
    - May composting programs
    - Compiling lists of residents looking for clean landscapers
    - Book club in two weeks, book: *All We Can Save*, <https://gogreenhp.org/january-book-discussion/>
- La Grange
  - Rose Naseef
    - Looking forward to more EV ownership
    - Aggregation for renewable energy
    - Waste reduction efforts: recycling holiday lights, pumpkin composting, etc.
    - Native plant tour in the works
- Mayors Caucus
  - Cynthia Segura
    - Residential energy efficiency program: <https://mayorscaucus.org/residential-energy-efficiency-assistance-programs/>
- Vision Morton Grove
  - Gia Schultz
    - Approved sustainability plan to be voted on in the next couple months
- Northbrook
  - Sarah Sanford
    - Climate action plan ongoing until April
    - “Monarchs, milkweed, and More” upcoming program
- Palatine Cool Cities
  - Jeff Kressman
    - Building relationship with government on environmental issues
    - Working with League of Women Voters featuring Sean Casten on February 16<sup>th</sup>

- Park Ridge
  - Chris Parson
    - 501C4
    - Tim Milburn organizing a sustainability plan for the city, being presented January 19<sup>th</sup> to the city council
- River Woods
  - Laurie Breitkopf
    - Program on anti-racism: Collaborative Conversations
      - 3-week workshop, \$5, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28
      - 1<sup>st</sup> session: Jay Gonzalez will present at the first session, how racism impacts access to green space, how environmental organization and individuals have participated in environmental racism
        - White fragility
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> session: local leaders take action
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> session: how to build your own anti-racism practice
    - Program is full but considering a second series
    - Some issues with community members concerning anti-racism: pushback against “political” action by GGRW
- Vernon Hills
  - Seema
    - Tree awareness and composting
    - Collaborating with ICAF to spread awareness
    - Working with park district to create a compost drop-off site
    - Education
      - Zoom sessions to increase knowledge of home composting
- Winnetka
  - Liz Kunkle
    - Website in the works
    - Working on internal structure
    - Initiatives: EV show (on hold – hoping for in-person), Brendon Mendoza giving information to village staff
- Swancc
  - Mary Salvatori Allen
    - Not everything can be recycled curbside
    - Nothing should be recycled in bags
    - Resources: <https://swancc.org/resource-materials/recycling-guidelines>, <https://swancc.org/composting/composting-resources>
- Wilmette
  - Beth Drucker
    - First remote retreat worked well
    - New intern: Mereya Riopedre



- Former intern María Dabrowski now a contractor
  - Sustainability plan
  - All new developments will be a PUD
  - Going Green Matters replaced by webinar series
  - EV show in May outdoors
  - Community solar push
  - Winter composting
  - Permanent beach cleanups
  - Habitat work
- **Reminder to vote in the April 6 municipal elections:** local representatives make decisions that are highly impactful for residents. Your group should know who is running and should feel free to ask them questions.
- **Resource for sign recycling:** Chicago Logistic Services in Elgin accepts campaign signs and metal posts for recycling - 847-429-1926, 1333 Davis in Elgin, IL

Programs:

- Edith Makra: Any community can participate in our Community Solar Clearinghouse Solutions (CS2) program to offer community solar subscriptions to their residents - like the north shore consortium did - municipal leaders just need to fill out an expression of interest.