



Village of Arlington Heights

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February 19, 2007

Ms. Chalen Hunter
Northwest Municipal Conference
1616 E. Golf Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Dear Ms. Hunter:

On behalf of the Village of Arlington Heights, I am pleased to present for your review, the Village's application for the NWMC Environmental Stewardship Award for Home Rule communities.

I think you will find everything in order. However, if you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at 847-368-5807.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Reynolds
Superintendent of Maintenance

Enclosure

c: Bill Dixon, Village Manager
Scott T. Shirley, Public Works Director
James McCalister, Director of Health
Award File

NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award

2007 Award Nomination Form

Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 20, 2007.

Name: Michael J. Reynolds Title: Superintendent of Maintenance

Municipality: Village of Arlington Heights

Address: 33 South Arlington heights Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005

E-mail: mreynolds@vah.com Phone: 847-368-5807 Fax: 847-577-5930

Use additional sheets for answers if necessary

LIST SIGNIFICANT "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (i.e., community recycling, Tree City USA, etc.).

Over the past three decades the Village of Arlington Heights has been very active in "Green Activities". During this time, the Village has implemented many programs and initiatives covering a wide range of disciplines including air quality, urban forestry, recycling, and electricity conservation. Many of these programs have been collaborative efforts between the Village of Arlington Heights and other public agencies such as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and private industry.

The following historical chronology outlines specific environmental programs and milestones over the past four decades include:

- **1971** - The Village established the Environmental Control Commission (ECC). The ECC is an advisory body to the Village Board of Trustees to address environmental concerns throughout the Village. In 1983, the ECC began an annual poster contest to promote environmental awareness. From 1990 through 2005 the ECC solicited the community for award nominations. Any Arlington Heights business, school, youth or senior group, government or civic organization, individual, service club or homeowners' group was eligible for these awards of environmental excellence. Awards were given for outstanding performance that occurred in that particular year.
- **1985** - The Village established the Bicycle Commission. As with the ECC, the Bicycle commission is an advisory body to the Village Board to address traffic reduction through the promotion of bicycle use. A bike route system has been established to provide safe bicycle traffic through the Village.
- **1985** - The Village became certified as a Tree City USA. The Village continues to be proactive in issues involving our urban forest. The Village currently manages an urban forest of approximately 47,000 trees of varying species.

- **1988** - The Village began its community-wide curbside recycling program for single-family residences.
- **1993** - The Village began its recycling program for multi-family residences. Multifamily residences are required to submit a recycling plan to the Village's Health Department. Each summer an intern reviews the plans and inspects for compliance.
- **1994** - The Village began participating in the "America Recycles Day" event. As part of this annual event, the Village drops off free recycling bins to residents that have damaged or lost bins.
- **1995** - The Village, in conjunction with SWANCC and Motorola, hosts an electronics recycling event. A total of 81 tons of electronic equipment was collected from 1,315 area residents and kept out of landfills. This is a bi-annual event.
- **1995** - The Village began a pilot commercial recycling program in its Central Business District. The program began in November 1995 and was completed in October of 1996 with 230 businesses participating. A total of 172 tons of recyclable materials were collected in the program, including 80 tons of corrugated cardboard, 65 tons of mixed office paper and 27 tons of mixed rigid containers. When the pilot program ended, approximately 20 businesses elected to continue their recycling program.
- **1996** - The Village began a 10-year program to convert all of the Village's 12 Civil Defense Sirens from electric power to solar power.
- **1998** - To help reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality, the Village has been purchasing Low Emission Vehicles (LEV) since 1998. Future initiatives include the use of alternative fuels and the purchase of hybrid vehicles.
- **2002** - The Village holds periodic Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events. These HHW events have been co-sponsored by the Village, EPA, Metropolitan Water reclamation District of greater Chicago and the Villages of Mt. Prospect, Rolling Meadows and Elk Grove Village.
- **2004** - The Village installed a waste oil heater in its Public Works Annex Building. This heater is fueled by waste oil generated from the various village vehicles. Annually the Village recycles 200 gallons of oil.
- **2005** - The Village began a program to replace its older incandescent bulb traffic signal modules with newer more economical light emitting diode (LED) traffic signal modules. It is expected that this will reduce the electricity required to operate the traffic signals by 85%. In all, approximately 750 modules at 18 Village maintained intersections will be changed over a three-year period.
- **2005** - The Village began participating in a mercury exchange program sponsored by SWANCC.
- **2006** - The Village's accomplishments for 2006 are highlighted in the next section.

“GREEN ACTIVITIES” THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2006 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

2006 proved to be an active year for the Village in terms of its “Green Activities”. Several programs were implemented and existing programs were continued. Our activities are highlighted below.

- The Village received recognition as a “Tree City USA” for the 21st consecutive year.
- The Village was awarded a matching grant in the amount of \$8,750 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to augment its tree planting program. Annually approximately 500 parkway trees are planted throughout the Village.
- The Village became a member of the “Clean Air Counts Coalition” and in December 2006 was awarded the Bronze Level Certification for our efforts to improve air quality. Among the efforts required to receive this award are a number of public outreach efforts that include: providing a brief description of the purpose of the CAC program and a link to the CAC website on the Village’s municipal web-site. Displaying CAC public information materials in prominent locations such as at the Public Works Department, Village Hall, and Senior Center and raising environmental awareness through community mailings and other outreach efforts.
- The Mayor of Arlington Heights is the current Chair of the O’Hare Noise Compatibility Commission.
- The Village joined the Northwest Municipal Conference’s Environmental Best Practices Committee.
- In 2006 two significant amendments to the Village Code were passed by the Village Board. On November 6, 2006, the Village Board passed the smoking ordinance which, among other things prohibits smoking in most buildings within the Village. On December 18, 2006 the Village Board passed the Sound Insulation Amendments to the Village Code. This code was developed to minimize the effects within buildings from infiltrating external noise sources and to attain the decibel levels prescribed for acceptable intrusive noise levels.
- The Village participated in the “Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge” sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and received a certificate of recognition for that participation.
- The Village provided a document destruction event, sponsored by SWANNC at our Senior Center. Approximately 5.5 tons of shredded paper was generated from this event and sent to a recycling center.
- The Village completed its transition to 20% bio-diesel fuel for use in all of its diesel vehicles. Diesel exhaust is responsible for more than 20% of the nation’s smog-causing nitrogen oxide emissions and 15% of particulate matter (soot) emissions. Through the use of bio-diesel and other alternative fuels, reductions in soot, hydrocarbon, and carbon monoxide emission levels can make significant progress toward improving air quality.
- The Village continued the installation of LED traffic signal modules. In 2006, the Village received a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation to augment this program.

- The Village began a three-year program to illuminate the Village's entryway signs using solar power. The Village completed the installation of solar power at three of its entryway sign locations.
- In 2006, the Village began construction of its new Village Hall. Inclusion of Green Building Technology was researched for this project. Energy efficient lighting was incorporated into the design of the Village Hall.

EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.

The Village of Arlington Heights should be awarded the NWMC Environmental Stewardship Recognition because of its history of proactive environmental awareness; the broad spectrum of its environmental initiatives; the collective effort required by all Village departments to implement and sustain these initiatives; and the Village's overall long-term commitment to the environment.

As evidenced herein, the Village of Arlington Heights has been proactively involved in environmental issues for many years. The Village's environmental efforts encompass a broad spectrum of activities with the goal of improving environmental awareness and reducing its consumption of natural resources. Our award application is not based upon just one program, but several programs that incorporate a variety of energy saving options. From solar power, to reducing electric consumption; from the use of alternative fuels to everyday recycling, the Village is committed to conserving natural resources and protecting the environment now and into the future.

Many of our programs are not simply one-time programs, but long term programs requiring annual commitments to keep them going. Additionally, these programs transcend departmental boundaries requiring a collective effort by all Village Departments to promote and fulfill the Board's environmental goals. Some of these programs go unnoticed by the general public. Other programs, such as the Smoking Ordinance required a determined effort on the part of the Village Board to stick to what it thought was right and move forward with an ordinance, although unpopular in some eyes, that was required for the general health and welfare of all people in the Village.

In addition to sustaining the programs outlined in the previous sections, the Village of Arlington Heights is committed to continuing its environmental efforts in 2007.

New initiatives for 2007 include the following:

- The purchase of hybrid vehicles for non-emergency functions.
- Attainment of the Clean Air Counts Silver Award level.
- Retrofitting some of the Village's diesel trucks to reduce emissions. A diesel retrofit program is designed to reduce emissions of soot, smog-forming pollutants, and other toxic air pollution caused by diesel-powered vehicles. Using retrofit technologies, reductions in soot, hydrocarbon, and carbon monoxide emission levels can make significant progress toward improving air quality. One older and dirtier diesel vehicle can emit almost 8 tons of pollution per year, or a total of 160 to 240 tons of pollution over the life of the engine.

It is this long term commitment to environmental issues and collective implementation by all Village Departments which sets the Village of Arlington Heights apart from the other competing communities.