

Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration - Community Environmental Stewardship Award

2008 Award Nomination Form

Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 6, 2008.

Name _____ Joe McRae _____ Title: Assistant to the Village Manager_

Municipality _____ Village of Wilmette _____

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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.).

See attached sheet.

LIST "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP ACCOMPLISHED IN 2007 & 2008 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

See attached sheet.

EXPLAIN WHY YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.

The Village of Wilmette should be awarded the NWMC Community Environmental Stewardship Award because we have made a consistent and continuous effort over the years to be as environmentally friendly as possible. We have worked to create a more

green friendly organization from both a policy and administrative standpoint. (These efforts are highlighted in the attached document.)

We utilize memberships in the NWMC, SWANCC and Clean Air Counts to provide numerous recycling programs, opportunities and information to residents as well as essential training to key members of the Village staff. As such, we have helped to foster an atmosphere within the Village that is sensitive and respectful of our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously. And one we are committed to pursue as new opportunities become available.

Thank you for your consideration of the Village of Wilmette for this award.



VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

October 24, 2007

Summary of Environmental Initiatives

1. Village Board

Annual Goals

2002 – 2005: Review of actions the Village can take to support clean air initiatives through the *Partners for Clean Air* program sponsored by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

2006/2007: A Village Government that respects the environment and supports environmental initiatives.

Village Board Initiatives

Clean Air Counts Program – The Village has been an active participant in the public/private initiative to voluntarily improve air quality in the Chicago metropolitan region. This past summer, the Village received a Platinum award from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Wilmette was one of only four communities in the region to receive this award. (See attachment)

Environmental Discounts for Vehicle Stickers - In 2007, residents were able to receive a substantial discount of the cost of a vehicle sticker if their vehicle met certain environmental standards. This program received national attention through *Newsweek* magazine in an article entitled “Cars” published in the November, 2006 issue.

Redevelopment of Ford Property - Through the planned unit development process, the Village required the developer of the mixed use development for the former Ford site on Green Bay Road to incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) design elements. It is expected be the first residential development on the North Shore to be LEED certified.

Village Yard (Public Works Facility) Improvements - The Village is pursuing facility improvement at our Village Yard facility on Laramie Avenue. With the assistance of grant funds, we will be pursuing a LEED certification facility addition.

Advisory Boards and Commissions

Several of the Village Board’s advisory Boards/Commissions incorporate “green” initiatives and concepts as a part of their discussions and activities.

Examples include transportation initiatives to reduce vehicle idle time by interconnecting traffic signals (Lake Avenue and Green Bay Road) and reviewing student pick up and drop off activities (Central School, Romona School and Ronald Knox Montessori School) so as to maximize vehicle efficiency and pedestrian safety. In all traffic issues discussed by the Commission, there is an emphasis on promoting alternative modes of transportation such as public mass transit, bicycling and walking and making Village transportation facilities safe for pedestrians. The primary charge of the Bicycle Task Force is to educate the public on the benefits of biking and promote activities such as “Bike to Soccer Day” and “Bike to Highcrest.” These and other activities are aimed at encouraging emission and congestion free transportation.

On numerous occasions, staff has recommended that the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals encourage alternative stormwater management techniques in conjunction with commercial development. Rather than hard pipe and convey parking lot and building stormwater runoff directly into the Village’s storm system, the multi-step approach is to reduce the volume of runoff as much as possible, re-use the water runoff where possible and filter out as many contaminants by using bio-swales and filter strips.

2. Organizational Culture

- Staff group tour of the Chicago Green Center
- Private viewing of the movie, *An Inconvenient Truth* at the Wilmette Theatre.
- August 2006 - Village became a member of the United States Green Buildings Council (USGBC), and a member of the Chicago Chapter of the USGBC.
- Building and Grounds Supervisor participated in four seminars: 9/14/06 - Best Practices for Sustainable Facilities; 9/28/06 -High Performance Operations; 10/12/06 - Green Cleaning and Site Management; 10/26/06 -Materials Exchange and LEED Program Administration.
- Staff Committee - Ad-Hoc Energy and Environment Committee. The purpose of the committee is as follows: *It is the purpose of the committee to review and ensure that the operations of the Village are as energy and environmentally-friendly as possible within the realm of fiscal responsibility, to champion a heightened awareness amongst Village staff of the importance of being sensitive to the environment, to solicit and offer suggestions for energy and environmental initiatives as it pertains to Village operations and the community.*

3. Village Facilities – Energy Efficient Initiatives

The following energy/environmental initiatives have occurred in Village facilities:

Village Hall, Village Yard, and Fire Stations

- Energy efficient lighting in the first floor office areas
- Motion sensors for lights in private offices and meeting rooms
- Low E glass on all windows
- Energy efficient copy machines, water heater, air conditioning compressor

- Environmentally friendly air filters
- Green chemicals for cleaning (janitorial service)
- Florescent bulb recycling
- Use of low VOC paints

Water Plant

- Fluorescent bulbs and several lights on motion sensors/timers
- Electric heaters replaced with portable heaters that are used when needed
- Replacement of larger 1,200,000 BTU boiler with more efficient 900,000 BTU hot water boiler
- The heating system for two thirds of the plant with point of use thermostats for each area. This improvement eliminated the need for one of the steam boilers to heat large portion of building.
- All new pumps selected with high efficiency motors.
- Replacement of roof with energy efficient and sustainable roof designed for a 30 year life span.

4. Internal Policy Changes

Purchasing Policy. When the Village's purchasing procedures were revised a few years ago, a policy was added to ensure that environmental considerations were factored into all purchasing decisions.

Idling Policy. The Village has adopted an Idle Reduction Policy for its employees; the only exception is for public safety vehicles that are responding to an emergency situation.

5. Vehicle Fleet

Bio-Diesel Fuel. All diesel-equipped vehicles began using a 2% bio-diesel fuel blend on January 1, 2006.

Diesel Oxidation Catalysts. In 2006, the Public Works Department applied for and received notification of funding for a grant offered through the Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Clean Air Counts Campaign that will provide \$22,140 to purchase and install diesel oxidation catalysts on nine (9) trucks/street sweeper. In 2007, we hope to receive grant monies to install converters on 4 more vehicles.

Hybrid Vehicles. Earlier this year the Village purchased two Ford Escape Hybrid Vehicles (Public Works and Engineering Department) as replacement vehicles.

Future Purchases of Diesel Trucks. All future diesel truck purchases will have diesel engines that meet low-emission standards.

6. Public Education

The 2004 Wilmette village vehicle sticker, required on all resident-owned vehicles, featured the Clean Air Counts logo along with a sketch of a lakefront outdoor scene.

The Village newsletter, *The Communicator*, regularly includes articles that focus on energy and environmental causes. Environmental articles are frequently presented in a “Clean and Green” news section.

7. Recycling

On average, Wilmette residents recycle about 30% of its waste which equates to 4,600 tons of recyclables a year. For the past few years, the Village has offered residents the opportunity to drop off sharps, mercury thermometers and thermostats for recycling.

An in-house paper recycling program has been in place for over 10 years.

8. Trees and Native Plantings

In order to maintain a healthy urban forest, the Village has sought to promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂, and to plant native plantings that require less water and maintenance.

The Village typically plants more trees in a year than it removes. As of October, 2007, the Village planted 320 on parkway areas and removed 528 (over 300 related to August, 2007 storm, and EAB or diseased trees). The Village’s parkway tree capacity is between 90% and 95 %.

The Village offers residents participation in a cooperative tree-planting program. Fifty-nine residents shared in the cost of planting trees, thus allowing the Foresters to plant additional public trees throughout the Village.

9. Community Programs

The Village takes advantage of programs offered through its membership in SWANCC and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

Recycle Worn Out Shoes – 2007 marks the third consecutive year the Village has participated in SWANCC’s Reuse-A-Shoe program. We estimate that over 300 pounds of shoes are collected each year diverting 11,000 pounds of shoes from the landfills.

Paper Document Destruction Event - In April, 2006 the Village volunteered to hold paper document destruction event for SWANCC communities.

Lawn Equipment Exchange Program – In 2004, the Village hosted a Lawn Care Buy Back / Gas Can Replacement Event at the Village Yard. The event was a cooperative effort with the

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Clean Air Counts Campaign. In total, 14 residents participated in the program, exchanging gasoline powered lawn equipment for vouchers applied toward the purchase environmentally friendly lawn equipment.

Gas Can Exchange Program – This event was held in conjunction with the 2004 Lawn Care Buy Back Event, and has continued yearly through 2005 and 2006 during the Public Works Open House. Initially, 50 residents took advantage of the program exchanging old gas cans for environmentally friendly units equipped with a positive seal to help prevent spills. In 2005 and 2006, 6 residents participated each year.

Recycle Fluorescent Bulbs/Rechargeable Battery Program - Residents can bring compact fluorescents lights bulbs and rechargeable batteries (such as NiCad and Lithium) to the Health Department, located on the second floor of Village Hall, to be recycled on Tuesdays from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. There is no charge for this service. Fluorescent bulbs longer than 4 feet and non-rechargeable batteries will not be accepted. Article to appear in next issue of *The Communicator*.