

InterOffice Memo



To: Public Works & Environmental Concerns Committee
Through: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CG*
From: David P. Gorman, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works *DPG*
Date: March 6, 2017
Subject: Endorsement of the Greenest Region Compact 2

The Village of Lombard is member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. As part of this organization, the Village has participated in their Clean Air Counts program, the US Mayors Agreement on Climate Change, and the Greenest Region Compact (GRC). The latter had been recommended by the Environmental Concerns Committee and passed by the Village's Board of Trustees in 2008. Attached is the GRC2, which updates the goals that had been set in the earlier Compact. Staff requests that the Committee provide a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees regarding participation in the GRC2.

The attached GRC2 summary includes a listing of communities that have adopted a sustainability plan. As part of this small group, Lombard is recognized as a community that values sustainable programs and operations, as outlined in our Sustainability Framework. As the Committee knows, Staff values an economic justification in terms of return on investment and resiliency as components of sustainability. In addition, Staff submits that the types of actionable and impactful goals and actions are more important than the quantity of goals. Notable examples are the Village's Recycling Extravaganza, Annual Lombard Pride Cleanup, Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Grants, anti-idling program, the Bike/Ped Plan, LED streetlights, and use of concrete paver bricks and native landscaping where appropriate. There are no direct financial implications to endorse the GRC2. Rather, in doing so, the Village would continue to express a progressive policy of sustainability, which is also beneficial for grant eligibility and ranking.

Staff recommends that the Committee vote in favor of endorsing the GRC2 for acceptance by the Village Board of Trustees. Please contact Dave Gorman at 620-5765 if you have any questions.

DG/CG:dg
attachment: GRC2 Summary



Daniel J. McLaughlin
Mayor, Village of Orland Park
Executive Board Chairman

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor, City of Chicago
Executive Board Vice Chairman

Jim Holland
Mayor, Village of Frankfort
Executive Board Secretary

The Greenest Region Compact 2 – A Regional Strategic Plan for Environmental Sustainability

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is working to align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve meaningful and measureable environmental sustainability. The *Greenest Region Compact 2* (GRC2) provides a template sustainability plan to align the work of diverse communities and achieve greater regional impacts.

We will engage mayors in consensus sustainability goals through the GRC2; encourage and assist them in taking action; measure their progress; and applaud their success. Ultimately, this plan will connect essential financial and technical resources to move sustainability goals to successful realization.

The Greenest Region Compact Update

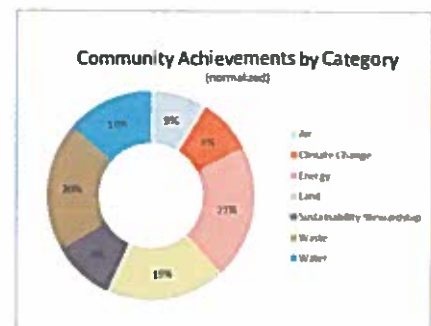
In solidarity with then Mayor Daley’s dream to lead Chicago to become the greenest city, 96 Caucus member communities signed on to the original Greenest Region Compact (GRC) in 2007. They pledged to take action to conserve energy; protect air and water quality; reduce waste and steward natural resources. With Chicago Community Trust support, the Caucus conducted fundamental research to enable a strategic update of the original GRC. See details in the full report, [Greenest Region Compact: Opportunities + Impact](#). This work was done in 3 steps and key findings are summarized below:

Step 1. A survey was conducted of original Greenest Region Compact adopters.

- Those who took the GRC pledge showed greater environmental achievements than other communities.

Step 2. An objective inventory of environmental achievements by all the communities in the region identified existing priority areas.

- These 95 types of achievements demonstrate that real progress towards environmental sustainability is being made by communities of all sizes and demographics. These achievements are mapped for 290 Illinois communities [here](#).
- Types and frequency of achievements indicate both local priorities and available resources. They mostly align with consensus sustainability goals gleaned from Step #3.
- While 26 communities are very high achievers, 209 demonstrate the need for the GRC2 template sustainability plan and targeted assistance.



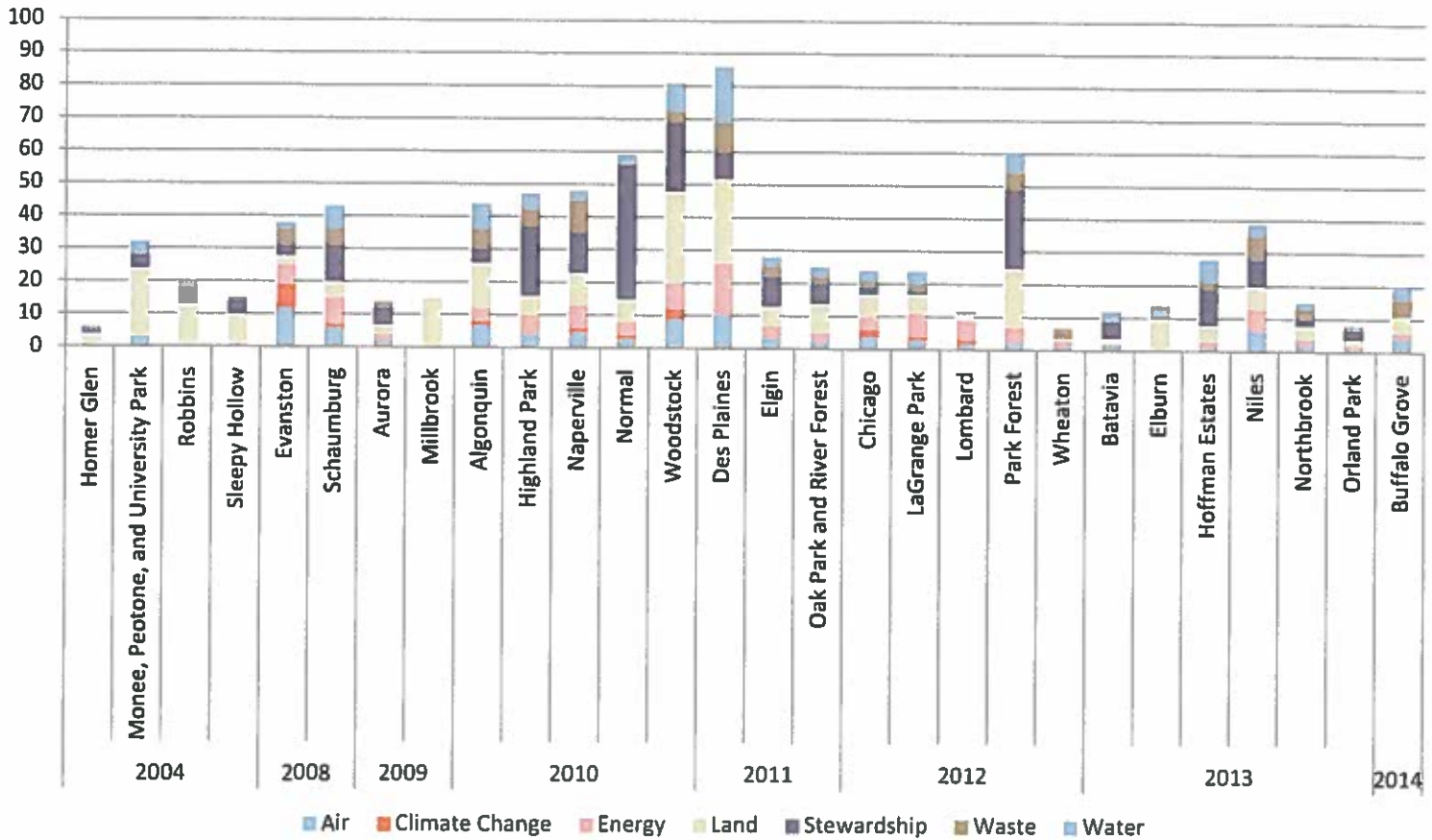
City of Chicago · DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference · Lake County Municipal League · McHenry County Council of Governments
Metro West Council of Governments · Northwest Municipal Conference · South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors · West Central Municipal Conference · Will County Governmental League

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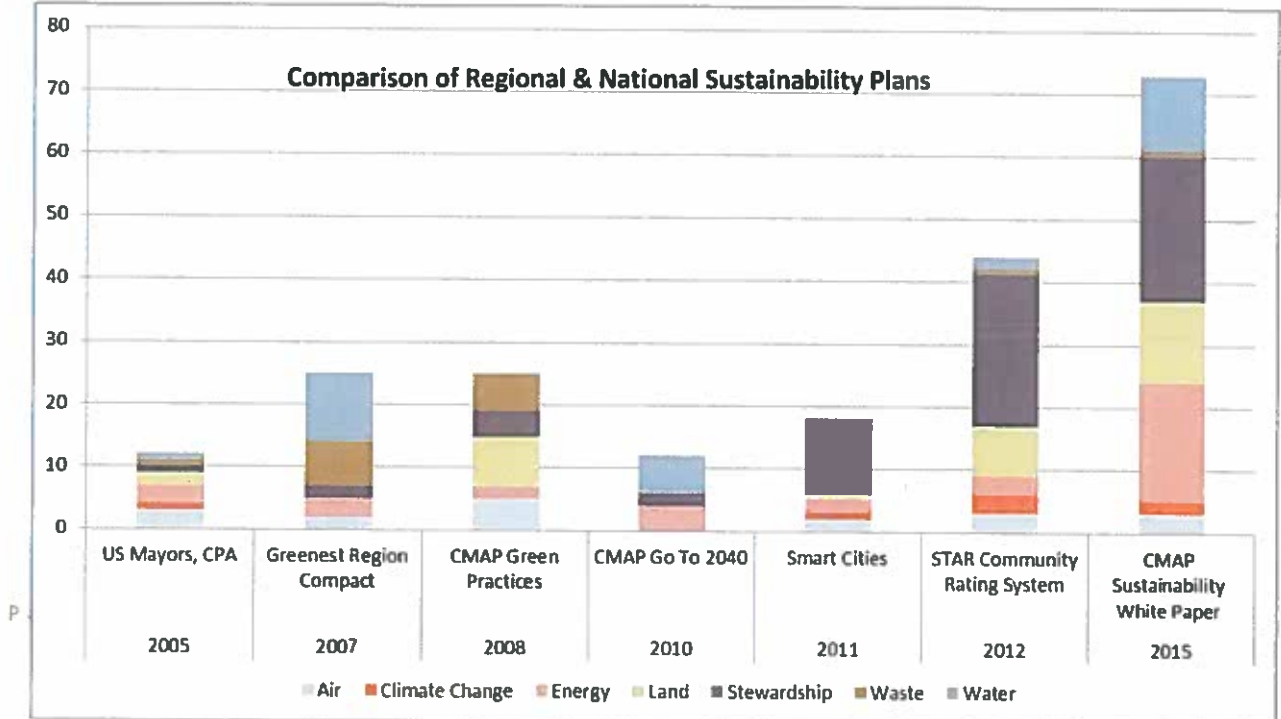
Step 3. Thirty of the local sustainability plans, and 8 regional or national sustainability documents were analyzed to identify type and frequency of sustainability goals. See charts below.

Comparison of Local Sustainability Plans

Number and Type of Goals



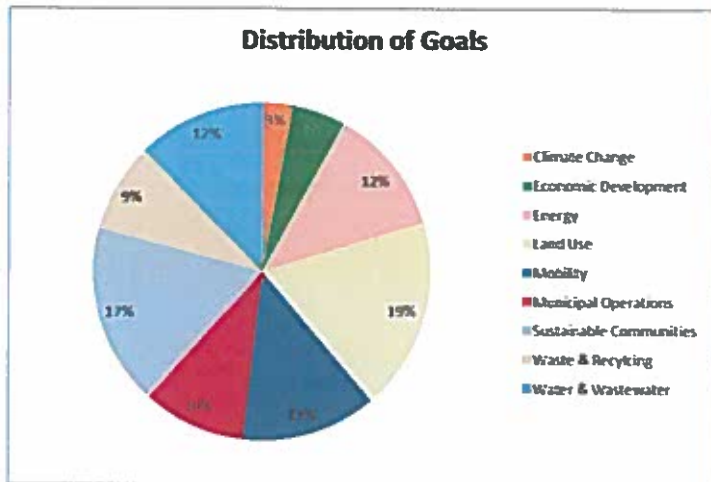
Comparison of Regional & National Sustainability Plans



Creating the Greenest Region Compact 2 – A Template Sustainability Plan for the Region

The process to create the GRC2, engage stakeholders and encourage adoption is being done in steps 4-6. Future steps for a robust regional sustainability program for municipalities are described in steps 7-8.

Step 4 Completed. The resulting draft GRC2 framework is being synthesized from 1149 specific environmental sustainability goals derived from the simplest local plan to the prestigious STAR Community Rating System. The goals have been synthesized into 10 categories that form the framework for the GRC2, creating a consensus, template sustainability plan for the region. Specific goals, ranging from fundamental first steps to advanced goals for 'leading' communities, populate the goal categories.



Synthesis into GRC2

Source of Sustainability Goals

- 30 local plans
- 8 regional/national plans
- 1149 specific goals

Consensus GRC2



Step 5 Underway. Experts and stakeholders representing each of the 10 GRC2 goal categories are being asked to help refine goals and assure alignment with greater regional and national objectives. Municipal leaders will review to assure that GRC2 goals are appropriate and achievable for communities.

The GRC2 will be tied to existing programs when possible such as Safe Routes to Schools, Green Power Communities, Water Sense Partners and more. Goals that can leverage technical assistance, tools and resources will be prioritized.

Step 6 Planned 2015-16. Rollout completed GRC2 framework. Municipalities will be asked to formally adopt the GRC2 and excellent participation across the region is expected. We will identify resources and implementation strategies and tie them to consensus GRC2 goals, thus advancing shared regional and national goals, as well.

Step 7 Planned. Tools to engage, support, and guide GRC2 participating communities will be needed. An online tool and support staff will provide the structure and assistance to help communities of all sizes and strengths progressively reach GRC2 goals. A system to measure outcomes and indicate progress must also be developed. Finally, a recognition program will be crafted to encourage communities to strive and recognize their efforts at all levels.

Step 8 Planned. Innovate and lead. The Greenest Region Compact 2 provides an innovative, strategic framework that will align efforts at local, regional and national levels to achieve meaningful and measurable sustainability in the region. This network is the perfect venue for innovation in financing, planning and collaboratively implementing current and future GRC2 goals. Support will be needed to realize leading actions such as regional resiliency; and innovations in energy systems.

Greenest Region Compact 2 Consensus Framework



Land Use

- Sustainable Development
- Land Preservation
- Parks & Open Space
- Urban Forestry
- Landscaping
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

Water & Wastewater

- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

Waste & Recycling

- Waste Reduction
- Recycling
- Waste Diversion
- Policy
- Education & Engagement

Sustainable Communities

- Health & Safety
- Arts & Culture
- Local Food
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education
- Outreach and Engagement

Energy

- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Management
- Renewable Energy
- Education & Outreach
- Policy

Economic Development

- Workforce Development
- Green Economy
- Innovation
- Policy

Mobility

- Bike & Pedestrian
- Shared-Use Mobility
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

Municipal Operations

- Lead by Example
- Sustainable Operations
- Municipal Fleet
- Data Management

Climate Change

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Air quality
- Resiliency
- Education & Outreach

Leadership

- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Collaboration

How the GRC2 Will Align Information, Resources, and Actions to Achieve Sustainability.

The GRC2 is already promising success related to renewable energy goals. This example below shows how information, actions and resources can be aligned to bring solar energy to communities and help reach state and federal renewable energy objectives.

- **Community Achievements**
 - 170 communities took steps to support renewable energy
- **Goals**
 - Local - 30% of sustainability plans seek locally generated renewable energy
 - State - Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard, increase renewable energy 115% by 2030
 - Federal – Clean Power Plan targets 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030
- **GRC2 Proposed Actions**
 - Adopt zoning policies and ordinances to support local renewable energy infrastructure
 - Install and operate photovoltaic systems (PV) to power public facilities

- **Resources to Leverage**
 - Use power purchase agreements that leverage tax incentives to bring down the cost of PV systems
 - Leverage Illinois Power Agency's investment in renewable energy credits
 - Apply for incentives from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
 - Seek grants from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- **Indicators**
 - Kilowatts of local renewable energy produced
 - Avoided carbon emissions
 - Dollars of private investment leveraged
 - Participation in the US EPA Green Power Community program

A Regional Strategic Plan for Environmental Sustainability

The GRC2 is a strategic approach that will coordinate sustainability actions by municipalities in the region. It is uniquely positioned for success because:

- It incorporates what communities are already doing. For example, 103 communities already have farmer's markets and 1/3 of national and local sustainability plans have local food goals. These common initiatives, in aggregate and aligned with higher goals, demonstrate that sustainability is accessible to most communities and meaningful.
- It will target the more than 200 communities that are currently showing moderate achievements and encourage them to strive. The highest achievers will become teachers.
- Local sustainability goals link to CMAP's Go To 2040 and lead a path the STAR Community Rating System and others, reinforcing the value of aligned efforts.
- The synthesis of 38 plans into the consensus GRC2 framework captures the collective wisdom and efforts of the residents, leaders, and sustainability professionals who created them.
- GRC2 recommended actions will be pragmatic and achievable. Strategies will be advanced that reduce the cost of government operations and measurably improve quality of life.
- Existing programs offered to municipalities by public agencies and non-profit organizations will be integrated and bolstered. GRC2 will not duplicate efforts.
- The GRC2 will be structured to encourage communities to adopt the pledge and take small steps, then greater steps towards sustainability. Recognition will be tiered to continuously challenge and reward communities.
- It capitalizes on the skills and experience the Caucus has in coordinating environmental action through Clean Air Counts and strategically managing sub-grants to communities to document substantial regional results.

For more information on the *Greenest Region Compact 2*, contact Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives, 312-201-4506, emakra@mayorscaucus.org and visit <http://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/regional-environmental-collaboration/>