

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 101

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Lisa Boone, Tejas Shah, Darryl Baker

Commission Members Absent: Cassandra West, Ramona Blaber

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Civil Engineer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:03 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, and they were unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Public Comment:** Two written public comments were read. They are attached with these minutes.

4. **Community Waste Reduction:**

Chair Lukehart led a discussion for the EEC to share progress and identify next steps for the community waste reduction project. The commission was also joined by Citizen Involvement Commission Liaison Sheila Wesonga. The discussion included:

- Commissioners shared their case study research progress. The compiled spreadsheet is attached with these minutes. Commissioner Boone gathered information from Grayslake and is working on gathering additional information from their staff. Commissioner Shah is researching Highwood and is working on gathering additional information from LRS and/or Highwood staff. Commissioner Baker gathered information for Highland park, and Chair Lukehart gathered information for Deerfield.
- Commissioners discussed additional strategies for case study research, including reviewing waste contracts from other communities and contacting universities in areas that have composting programs.
- Commissioners reviewed the 2021 proposal from LRS which included pricing for an alternate universal compost program with a 35-gallon container, at \$15 per month per household.
- The next steps identified to complete case study research were:
 - Commissioner Baker will research the Village of Northbrook.

- Commissioner Boone will continue research on the Village of Grayslake.
- Commissioner Shah will contact the University of Wisconsin Madison and/or Indiana University to see if they can provide guidance on universal composting programs.
- Chair Lukehart will continue research on the Village of Deerfield.

5. **Electric Shuttle:**

Chair Lukehart led a discussion on the electric shuttle project. Chair Lukehart has heard interest in the project from various groups including Arbor West Neighbors, the Oak Park Township, the Park District of Oak Park, and D200. CIC Liaison Wesonga noted that a shuttle would also be a benefit from the perspective of realtors.

The next steps include:

- Chair Lukehart plans to send a draft of survey questions to the Transportation Commission Chair and meet with the library to continue community discussions on the project.
- Commissioner Blaber will reach out to the Aging in Communities Commission and Disability Access Commission.
- The EEC will open the community survey during July.
- The EEC will send a memo to the Board in September.

6. **Adjourn:** At 7:59 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

From: [Wendy Greenhouse](#)
To: [Sustainability](#)
Subject: comment for EEC
Date: Friday, May 24, 2024 9:27:04 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Please ask that this be read into the record at the upcoming EEC meeting on June 4:

Dear Environment & Energy Commissioners:

A [recent report](#) reveals that the volume of methane emitted by rotting food waste in landfills has been greatly underestimated. With landfill-sourced methane constituting a major contributor to climate change, it's essential that more Oak Park residents and businesses compost their organic waste. I urge you to support making the Village's compost program an opt-out service. If residents find they are automatically paying for composting unless they contact the Village to opt out, they're more likely to give it a try. Seeing more organic waste containers in use among their neighbors will further encourage participation.

Until composting makes a sizable dent in our waste stream, residents should be able to share a container and split the service cost, which will make composting more equitable, bringing more lower-income residents on board. Individual households that divert their organic waste to compost rarely need their own full-size container for trash. They should have the option of contracting for a smaller trash container at a reduced cost, which would also lower the barrier to adopting composting--or even sharing a trash container. As households switch their waste stream toward composting, their overall costs could remain the same.

All of this will require a restructuring of the municipal waste program and LRS contract, which will be a complicated administrative project. But we can't afford not to undertake it. I hope you will recommend that the Village Board prioritize composting to lighten Oak Park's environmental footprint.

Thank you for your service!

Wendy Greenhouse, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Elizabeth Lukehart](#)
To: [Derek Eder](#)
Cc: [Zielinski, Abby](#)
Subject: Re: Public comment on Mac Robinet's Universal Composting Proposal
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 6:32:39 PM

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Thanks, Derek! We do read comments out loud at the meeting, so we'll be sure to include this tonight.

On Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 6:12 PM Derek Eder [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Liz -

I'm not sure if the EEC reads out written public comment at your meetings, but if so, I'd like to submit the following comment for tonight's meeting that I can not attend in person:

I was recently made aware of Mac Robinet's ["All In" Composting Plan for Oak Park](#) that he presented at the Environment and Energy Commission last year. I would like to urge the Village to consider this proposal and take steps to enact it in a timely manner. The policy would go a long ways towards the goals outlined in Climate Ready Oak Park and is the only way to provide access to composting equitably.

Additionally, with the concerns raised by residents about the Village's recently passed leaf bagging ordinance, enacting a Village-wide composting program would be an excellent way to address many of those concerns directly. It is my understanding that the Village would have some savings from stopping the street sweeping service, which could be directed to a composting program. And if residents were to have access to compost bins with wheels, it would require far fewer bags and would make the raking and cleanup much easier.

Thank you!

Derek Eder
he/him/his

[REDACTED]

LRS Contract Information:

11/15/21 Board Meeting: <https://oak-park.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5202178&GUID=55C9397A-A7B8-48F7-803C-FBD980150A53&Options=&Search=>

RES 21-279

A Resolution Approving an Independent Contractor Agreement with Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC for Municipal Trash, Recycling, Food Scrap/Yard Waste, Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection for a Five-Year Term and Authorizing its Execution

Attachments and recording can be viewed at the link above.

EEC Composting Project Case Study Research

Info from: Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition

EEC Member	Location		Program Information Basics					Additional Information					
	County	Municipality	Duration	Type	Acceptable Items	Cost to Resident	Hauler	Municipal Website Link	Year Started	Population (as of July 2019)	# of Households	Notes	Last Updated
Liz	Cook	Northbrook	Weekly from April to November), biweekly from December to March	Ride along with year round subscription service or seasonal compost/LSW sticker	Produce (including unpainted holiday pumpkins), non-liquid dairy & eggs including egg shells, breads, grains, pasta, and cereal (cooked or raw, non-meat sauce is okay), coffee grounds & filters, teabags, food-soiled paper bags, newspaper, paper towels, pizza boxes, and uncoated paper plates	Subscription (opt-in), Embedded in Garbage Fees Option 1: Residents can select a year-round subscription for a 35-gallon (\$124.85/year) or 65-gallon (\$145.66/year) container Option 2: Stickers for seasonal service April-November are \$2.16 each and available at Village Hall and local grocery and home/garden stores.	Waste Management	Northbrook	2018	32,958	13,056	code: https://library.municode.com/il/northbrook/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeid=CH21SOWALAWARE	April 2024
(reference only)	Cook	Oak Park	Year-round	Organics collection, includes both yard waste and food scraps.	Grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves, brush; food scraps, including meat, bread, vegetables, table scraps, dairy, coffee grounds and pasta; unsoiled or food-soiled paper products, such as paper towels, paper bags, pizza boxes, napkins, paper cups, newspapers and food packaging; compostable plastic bags that meet ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 standards	Subscription (opt-in) \$16.31 per month	Lakeshore Recycling Systems	Oak Park	April 2012	52,381	21,603		April 2024
none assigned, may be worth researching	Lake County	Deerfield	Year-round	Year round program, part of basic service	Food, yard waste & plants, food-soiled paper	35 gallon organics cart provided at no extra cost.	Lakeshore Recycling Services	Deerfield		18,646	7,058	fee schedule: https://il-deerfield.civicplus.com/ArchiveCenter/View/Item/405 ; code: https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/deerfield/latest/deerfield_il/0-0-0-4439 ; LRS brochure: https://il-deerfield.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/2734/2023-Lakeshore-Recycling-Brochure?bidid=	April 2024
Lisa	Lake County	Grayslake	Year-round	Ride along with LSW sticker or subscription service, option for year round	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)	Subscription (opt-in) \$12.50 per month in addition to residents' current garbage and recycling bills. The Green Package is a waste service package - includes trash cart, recycling cart, and an additional 35 gallon cart for organics, collected year round. This cart can be used for food scrap collection, as well as grass clippings, leaves, and small branches.	Waste Management	Grayslake	4/1/2016	20,725	7,777	Sign up for The Green Package here.	April 2024
Darryl	Lake County	Highland Park	Year Round	Composting For All	Fruit and vegetable peels, pasta and rice, egg shells, egg cartons, coffee grounds, tea bags, coffee filters, paper napkins, paper towels, newspaper and yard waste	No cost	Lakeshore Recycling Systems	Highland Park	4/1/2016, updated for all in 2023	29,515	11,477		April 2024
Tejas	Lake County	Highwood	Year-round	Year round program, part of basic service	Fruits, vegetables (includes unpainted holiday pumpkins), leftovers/kitchen scraps (includes coffee grounds, tea bags & filters), breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meat, poultry, seafood (including shells and bones), dairy, eggs (including shells; no liquids), paper products (includes paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons and pizza boxes)	35 gallon card provided at no added cost	Lakeshore Recycling Systems	Highwood	5/3/2017	5,224	1,897		April 2024
Liz	Lake County	Lake Bluff	Year-round	Year-round program, part of basic service. Yard waste cart subscription available	Branches, brush, vines, fruits, vegetables, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, non-liquid dairy products, eggshells, coffee, tea leaves	Compost/yard waste in paper bags 32 gallons or less: no extra cost. Option to rent a 35-gallon cart from Groot for \$30/year.	Groot	Lake Bluff	3/1/2017	5,562	1,955		April 2024
Cassandra	Lake County	North Barrington	Year-round	Curbside Pickup, max 32-gallon container	Pet waste, fruits and vegetables, leftovers, kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filters, breads, grains, pasta, cereal, meats, poultry, seafood, bones, dairy, eggs, plants and greens	Customers can rent a 32 gal waste bin for compost scraps by calling 844-NEED-LRS .	Lakeshore Recycling Systems	North Barrington	4/1/2016	2,982	1,075		April 2024

EEC Composting Project Case Study					
	Location		Other Information		
EEC Member	County	Municipality	Yard Waste Sticker price	Fall leaf collection program? (Yes/No)	Type of Fall leaf collection program (bags, street?)
Liz	Cook	Northbrook			
(reference only)	Cook	Oak Park			
none assigned, may be worth researching	Lake County	Deerfield	3.22		yard waste, april 1st - dec 15th, must be bagged or in 35 gallon container marked "yard waste"
Lisa	Lake County	Grayslake		Yes	
Darryl	Lake County	Highland Park	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tejas	Lake County	Highwood			
Liz	Lake County	Lake Bluff			
Cassandra	Lake County	North Barrington			