

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2022 COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE ACTION, AND RESILIENCY PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK, TITLED “CLIMATE READY OAK PARK,” AND DECLARING A CLIMATE CRISIS

WHEREAS, the global scientific community has determined that human activities, especially greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, deforestation, and land use changes, are causing climate change and its dangers to human and ecosystem health, food and water supply, and transportation and energy reliability; and

WHEREAS, people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, older adults and youth, unhoused and food insecure individuals, people with health conditions, economically disadvantaged individuals, and people and communities experiencing systemic discrimination will disproportionately suffer from the adverse impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, a climate emergency is defined as a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible damage resulting from it; and

WHEREAS, more than two thousand local governments in thirty-nine countries have declared a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued the Sixth Assessment Report authored by 234 scientists from 66 countries containing dire warnings about the state of the planet but showing that human actions have the potential to determine the future for climate; and

WHEREAS, the global scientific community has determined that to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, global warming must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to achieve this decrease, global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least fifty percent by no later than 2030, and emissions must be reduced to net zero by no later than 2050; and

WHEREAS, local governments have unique strengths to lead the way in taking long-term action to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, adapt to climate change impacts, and pursue sustainability initiatives that advance social equity, support local economic vitality, and foster community health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park (“Village”) and the community as a whole have demonstrated their desire and commitment to be a leader in climate action and sustainability by:

- Adopting a Resolution in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change on June 19, 2017, and committing the Village to engage municipalities, businesses and other entities to join the Village in acting to achieve the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement;

- Establishing citizen commissions and assisting local organizations that advance climate and sustainability initiatives;
- Planting and protecting the State of Illinois’ first municipal arboretum and other strategies to absorb greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts;
- Proclaiming Monarch Pledge Day, creating rain gardens and honeybee hives, and other initiatives to protect biodiversity;
- Reducing waste by participating in CompostAble, the Village’s compost program, celebrating Plastic Free July, and other waste reduction initiatives;
- Investing in clean energy installations and community solar subscriptions, and other climate change mitigation actions;
- Adopting racial equity as a Village policy goal to guide Village action across municipal functions; and
- Creating the 2022 Community Sustainability, Climate Action and Resiliency Plan for Oak Park, titled *Climate Ready Oak Park*, sets forth long-range community sustainability, climate action, and resiliency plan during 2021 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, *Climate Ready Oak Park* was created by the community using a process that emphasized procedural equity, incorporated affinity groups, design workshops, community events, citizen commissions, and other opportunities for involvement, resulting in a plan rooted in social equity, community well-being, and the expressed priorities and visions of the Oak Park community; and

WHEREAS, *Climate Ready Oak Park* identifies science-based targets and strategies to take measurable, equitable, and meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity, and develop resiliency to climate change hazards that threaten the community, economic health and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, *Climate Ready Oak Park* identified residential buildings, commercial buildings, and internal-combustion engine transportation as the largest generators of greenhouse gas emissions for Oak Park and opportunities for climate mitigation action; and

WHEREAS, *Climate Ready Oak Park* incorporates strategies for climate hazard adaptation, biodiversity protection, and other community needs and priorities within eight Impact Areas:

- Energy Use in Buildings and Housing;
- Transportation;
- Climate Resilience and Extreme Weather;
- Community Health and Environmental Quality;
- Sustainable Economic Development;
- Healthy and Sustainable Food;
- Waste Reduction; and
- Parks, Plants, and Biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the Village acknowledges that to fully implement *Climate Ready Oak Park*, the support and collaboration from governmental partners, regional, state and federal agencies, the private sector, community members and organizations, and all areas of Village operations and policy will be required; and

WHEREAS, this support can be demonstrated first by the Village Board through the adoption of this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, in the exercise of their home rule powers, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals Incorporated. The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth.

Section 2. Declaration of Climate Emergency. The Village declares a climate emergency.

Section 3. Adoption of *Climate Ready Oak Park*. In response to the climate emergency, the Village of Oak Park adopts *Climate Ready Oak Park* dated June 10, 2022, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, as a community plan to inform and guide Village policies and operations.

Section 4. Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goal. The Village adopts a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations and community activities by 60% by 2030, relative to 2019 emissions levels, and to net zero by 2050.

Section 5. Green Infrastructure Goal. The Village adopts a goal to establish 30% of municipal and community land as green infrastructure or enhanced management for native plants, wildlife, and people by 2030.

Section 6. Public Climate and Sustainability Dollars Goal. The Village adopts a goal to direct 40% of public climate and sustainability dollars to the most vulnerable and climate-impacted community members.

Section 7. Partnership Goal. The Village adopts a goal to partner with frontline organizations and the most impacted community members to create climate and sustainability policies and programs.

Section 8. Energy Needs of Village Facilities Goal. The Village adopts a goal to meet the energy needs of Village facilities with 100% renewable electricity by 2030 without the use of renewable energy credits.

Section 9. Carbon Neutral Goal. The Village adopts a goal of achieving a carbon neutral community by no later than 2050, and will seek opportunity to achieve carbon neutrality by an earlier date.

Section 10. Actions to Achieve Goals. The Village endorses the following actions to achieve the above goals:

- Track and annually report on progress towards all of the goals set forth herein;
- Adopt new *Climate Ready Oak Park* policies for municipal budgeting and operations by 2022;
- Adopt new *Climate Ready Oak Park* policies for building and development standards and regulation by 2023;
- Assign additional staff as needed to implement *Climate Ready Oak Park*; and
- Update *Climate Ready Oak Park* regularly.

Section 11. Village Collaboration. The Village will collaborate with governmental partners, businesses, community groups, academic institutions, organizations, and other local governments and agencies to enable achievement of the above goals.

Section 12. Sharing of Benefits. The Village will ensure that the benefits of *Climate Ready Oak Park* are shared among other local communities to reduce historical social and economic inequities.

Section 13. Village Clerk to Provide Resolution. The Village Clerk will provide copies of this Resolution to United States senators and representatives representing the State of Illinois, the Governor of the State of Illinois, and State of Illinois senators and representatives representing the Village.

Section 14. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after its approval and passage as provided by law.

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ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2022, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
President Scaman				
Trustee Enyia				
Trustee Buchanan				
Trustee Parakkat				
Trustee Robinson				
Trustee Taglia				
Trustee Walker-Peddakotla				

APPROVED this 1st day of August, 2022.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk