



Village of Lincolnshire

Energy and Environmental Issues Under Review

The Village is currently assessing its efforts with regard to energy usage and environmental issues. The Village Board directed staff to review existing practices and investigate ways to better utilize energy to protect the environment. Listed below is the status of the analysis. Related issues in the future will be highlighted in the newsletter.

- Diesel Engine Emissions - Staff is pursuing a Lake County grant administered by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to retrofit some of our diesel engine trucks. Our newest vehicle is equipped with the diesel emissions reduction factory equipment.
- Biodiesel Fuel Blend - In 2001, we began using a blend of 20% biodiesel fuel. The use of biodiesel fuel results in a substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.
- Hybrid Vehicles - We have three (3) administrative vehicles that could be eligible to be replaced as hybrid or green vehicles in the future. None of the vehicles are slated to be replaced in the 2007 Capital Improvement Program.
- Water Pumping Electricity Costs - We plan to investigate the potential of “floating” (or using the water pressure) from the Highland Park water system, our water provider, during lower demand months. If successful, it would reduce our pumping time and therefore our energy usage and cost.
- North Park Lighting - The North Park field lighting usage is on a computerized system that limits the lighting to athletic events to reduce unnecessary usage of the lighting.
- Village Hall Lighting - Incandescent light bulbs have been replaced with florescent lights.
- Village Hall Exit Signs - We have investigated the cost to replace the lighted exit signs with the new LED versions. The cost for the 40 signs is a maximum of \$12,000. This will be reviewed in future budget discussions.
- Building Heating - We use programmable thermostats on the HVAC systems at the Public Works Facility and Nature Center. While the Village Hall is used 24/7 due to the Police Department, public meeting space contains occupied/unoccupied switches to reduce wasted heat.
- Traffic Signals - While we don't control any of the traffic signals in the Village, we have requested IDOT and Lake County to investigate replacing existing traffic signals with the LED versions.
- Street Lighting - The Village owns twenty-five (25) decorative street lights, twenty-two (22) of which are on Riverwoods Road. The Riverwoods Road lights are scheduled to be improved in 2007 and we will investigate various alternatives. We also have forty-four (44) street lights provided by and under the control of Commonwealth Edison.

- Sanitary Sewer Inflow/Infiltration - Staff has been identifying problem areas in our sanitary sewer system to reduce the inflow and infiltration of storm water in our sanitary sewer system. Reduction of inflow/infiltration helps to reduce wasted energy costs for pumping and maintains greater capacity for the sewer mains.
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Transportation - We have completed a number of pedestrian and bike paths in the Village over the past few years. An additional nine (9) sections are budgeted for 2007. Some of these are dependent upon IDOT initiating improvements to Route 22, so we don't know if all of them will be constructed in 2007.
- Reforestation - The Village has budgeted \$20,000 for reforestation in 2007 and will also use Tree Bank funds which currently contain \$26,000. In an effort to increase new tree plantings, the Village Board has asked staff to investigate ways to encourage private tree plantings.
- Impervious Surface Ratios - The Zoning Board is currently reviewing the establishment of impervious surface ratios in residential districts that could positively impact storm water runoff.
- Recycling - In 2001, we replaced recycling bins with recycling toter carts, as the recycling industry advised the use of the toters generally increased the amount of recycling activity in a community. Our recycling tonnage went from 748 in 2000 to 998 in 2005, an increase of 33%.
- Green Roof Buildings - The Community Development Department has done some preliminary research into green roof buildings. This type of building could be pursued in some applications.
- Stormwater Management - The Village has been a leader in environmentally sensitive stormwater management design and implementation. Newer subdivisions have been built with open swales and naturalized detention ponds that are vegetated with native plants which filter out pollutants, absorb more water and provide habitat for wildlife.
- In our Village green space areas, we have protected high quality natural areas such as rare flatwoods, oak and hickory forest for improved air quality (evapotranspiration) and biological diversity. Furthermore, more naturalized areas mean reduced emissions from no need for mowers and fertilizers. Additionally, streambank stabilization projects along the Des Plaines River, Indian Creek and the Chicago River have improved water quality by reducing soil erosion.
- We have received numerous awards from the American Public Works Association for the environmental improvements to North Park. We received recognition from the United States EPA and Chicago Wilderness for a 2006 Conservation and Native Landscape Award. Also, we were recognized in 2006 as the Lake County Storm Water Management Agency's Community of the Year.
- **Public Education** - Newsletter articles have been published on:
 - redirecting rain gutters and installing rain gardens to absorb stormwater runoff
 - using native plants to reduce mowing and watering
 - reduce, reuse, recycle: encourage residents to reduce the amount of items going into landfills.