

## April Update

### News

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#### Early Adopters on Board with PlanItGreen

The Park District of Oak Park is the first institution to formally adopt the PlanItGreen Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest, while West Suburban Medical Center recently voted to adopt the plan as well. Oak Park and River Forest taxing bodies and major institutions are in the process of reviewing and adopting the plan, which organizers hope to achieve by late May or early June. For information on how your group can participate in adopting the plan, contact [act@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:act@sevengenerationsahead.org).

#### River Forest Coffees Generate High Octane Action

Never underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world. Groups of 12-15 residents and community leaders have been meeting in River Forest homes to review the draft PlanItGreen plan and to work on specific implementation strategies. In March two groups met – one to discuss a series of strategies for educating the community about composting for the coming year and the other to discuss business recycling and a residential food scrap collection pilot. These coffee talks have led to other ideas as well, including establishing a community communications network to promote all things green. For info on how to get involved, contact Sue Crothers at [suebillgee@comcast.net](mailto:suebillgee@comcast.net) or Susan Lucci at [smlucci@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smlucci@sbcglobal.net). The next RF Coffee on ENERGY is on April 19 at 9:30am at 1045 Jackson Avenue, River Forest. To review the plan and provide feedback, visit [www.sevengenerationsahead.org](http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org).

#### Business Community Engages PlanItGreen

*Free Energy Audits and Green Purchasing Consortium for Businesses Discussed*

Recent forums to discuss the draft Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest have generated great feedback from area business and property owners on the plan and commitments to implementing specific strategies, while providing local businesses with opportunities for free energy audits and green purchasing. Forums with the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce, and the Oak Park Development Corporation focused on the plan's energy efficiency, waste, and green economic development strategies, while providing information on how OP and RF businesses can access free, investment-grade energy audits (worth \$2,000-\$12,000) from the Delta Institute (contact Wyllys Mann at [wmann@delta-institute.org](mailto:wmann@delta-institute.org)). To learn more about the Delta Institute's Buying Better green purchasing consortium, visit [www.BuyingBetter.org](http://www.BuyingBetter.org).

#### Dominican University Hosts "Food 4 Thought" Forum

Garnished with locally raised pork, apples, and sustainable Wisconsin cheeses (from the Marion Street Cheese Market), Dominican University's 4Rfuture sustainability group hosted a session to educate students and faculty about local food initiatives at Dominican and the local food strategies and goals of PlanItGreen. Over 50 students and faculty attended the event, and shared ideas related to local food procurement, composting, and the new Dominican community garden project. To learn how to get involved, contact Amy McCormack at [amccormack@dom.edu](mailto:amccormack@dom.edu).

### Upcoming Events

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#### April 14 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN VENUE)

##### SEOPCO PlanItGreen Forum

Oak Park Conservatory  
615 Garfield Street, Oak Park  
7:00pm

This forum is designed for residents, businesses, and community stakeholders in Southeast Oak Park to learn about PlanItGreen and discuss plan goals and strategies.

#### April 19

##### River Forest Residents Coffee on ENERGY

1045 Jackson Avenue, River Forest  
9:30am

#### April 21

##### Village of Oak Park and Village of River Forest Plan Review Forum

*(for staff of the two villages only)*

Oak Park Village Hall  
123 Madison Street, Oak Park  
1:00pm-4:00pm

#### May 5

##### Community-wide PlanItGreen Topic Area Forum

Oak Park Public Library (Veterans Room)  
834 Lake Street, Oak Park  
6:45pm

This forum is for all OP and RF residents, businesses, and institutional leaders and will provide an opportunity to learn about the plan, hear stories of institutions that are already working on implementation, and break into topic area teams to discuss implementation commitments and ideas.

\* To register contact

[liz@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:liz@sevengenerationsahead.org)

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PlanItGreen is a project of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation's Communityworks initiative, designed to engage community residents and stakeholders in creating and implementing a vision plan for a sustainable Oak Park and River Forest.

Visit [www.sevengenerationsahead.org/planitgreen](http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org/planitgreen) to learn more.