



PlanItGreen

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS



Another Oak Park school adds a zero waste program

On Nov. 2, Susan Casey, Zero Waste Schools Program Manager at Seven Generations Ahead, gave presentations to the students of The Children's School in Oak Park.

The K-8 school, which relocated this year from Berwyn to the former site of St. Edmund School, had requested SGA's help in getting commercial composting established. The school launched its zero waste program with each classroom getting its own commercial compost bin and recycling bin.

Zero Waste Schools Program works with school staff and students to shift operations and minds toward generating zero waste through source reduction, recycling, composting and food recovery. [Learn more.](#)



PlantGreen's year of lunches, learning

In 2018, PIG hosted six lunch and learns covering topics like water, energy efficiency, native plants, solar, and more. More than 100 people from the Oak Park River Forest communities and beyond attended these educational sessions, held throughout the year.

[Read more](#)

Students headline radio program on solar



Local radio show host **Doris Davenport** (center) taught OPRF High School students **JT Hunt** (far left) and **Keenan White** (second from right) how to produce their own radio program while they also got lessons on solar energy.

On Nov. 11, Keenan and JT took the microphones during the first half of Davenport's evening show, interviewing Park District of Oak Park executive

director **Jan Arnold** (second from left) and solar consultant **Mark Burger** (far right) about different aspects of bringing solar to the community.

Keenan will begin his first internship in 2019 with "The Doris Davenport Show." His first project is "Solar Energy, Part 2."

PlantGreen is working to engage more youth in topics around energy and climate change, Burger says.

OAK PARK

Park District receives \$100,000 for sustainability projects

The Park District of Oak Park has received \$100,000 from the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club for a range of innovative sustainability projects that include solar panels, rain harvesting, tea composting and observable working honeybee hives at the Oak Park Conservatory.

The Park District needed to secure 1,000 pledges from community members identifying actions they and their family would take to help make the community more sustainable and contribute to the overall health of the planet.

The District has awarded "the solar and water harvesting contract and work will begin in the next few weeks," said Park District executive director Jan Arnold. "A composting system has been ordered and bees will arrive in the spring."

Also, as the Park District continues to expand its solar energy capacity, additional solar panels will be installed at the Ridgeland Commons Recreation Complex in December, Arnold said.

Incentive offered to join composting program

Oak Parkers interested in reducing the amount of organic material sent to landfills can sign up for the Village's composting program and receive a discount. Residents who join the CompostAble program for the first time will get three months free this year if they sign up for 12 months of continuous service, a savings of \$44.56. Sign-up info [here](#).

LED Light survey still open for comments

The Oak Park Public Works Department is testing new LED lamps on four blocks in the community to find the best replacements for the inefficient mercury vapor bulbs that had been the light of choice for municipal streetlight systems for decades.

The test is underway on the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of South Taylor Avenue and the 100 block of South Humphrey Avenue.



Residents are invited to visit the test blocks and share their views [here](#).

RIVER FOREST

Pumpkin Smash a composting success

In an effort to turn Halloween green, Roosevelt

Middle School's Eco-Warrior's Club held its first Pumpkin Smash on Nov. 3 - and it was a smashing success.

The Eco-Warriors set a goal to collect 300 pumpkins and received a total of 486 pumpkins that were diverted from the landfill. The collective weight of the pumpkins was 4,820 pounds.



(Photo via Facebook)



IGN addresses sustainable impact

The Interfaith Green Network (IGN) held its annual Kick-Off Breakfast on Oct. 4 West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest.

Gary Cuneen of Seven Generations Ahead spoke at the event, emphasizing the close alignment of the vision and goals of IGN member congregations with the goals and strategies of the PlantGreen Sustainability Plan. He also highlighted the goal to increase procurement of renewable energy and reduce overall waste in the two villages.

Attending were more than a dozen faith leaders from a broad spectrum of local faith communities and municipal officials from Oak Park and River

Forest, representatives from the Park District of Oak Park, and "green team" members from IGN member congregations.

Following presentations, attendees discussed the question: "How can IGN help make your sustainability efforts more impactful?"

Upcoming PlanItGreen Events

Join PlanItGreen this fall at these upcoming learning events. If you are interested in attending any or all of these events, please RSVP to Abbey with your name, email address, and which events you would like to attend.

RSVP to: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org

7th Annual PlanItGreen Leaders Forum

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 8-10 a.m.

The 19th Century Club

178 Forest Ave.

Oak Park

Join Oak Park and River Forest Institutions, Taxing Bodies, Congregations, Businesses and Community Organizations for the 7th Annual PlanItGreen Institutional Leaders Forum.

Highlights will include:

- Sustainability State of the Villages Welcome Addresses
- Community Institution 1-minute Success Story Snapshots
- Community Solar and Future Energy Jobs Act Updates
- Looking Ahead to 2019-2020
- 2018 Report Card Progress
- Networking

RSVP now to Lisa: admin@sevengenerationsahead.org

PlanItGreen is a project of the OPRF Community Foundation facilitated by Seven Generations Ahead, which engages multiple community institutions, and is guided by the OPRF Community Foundation's Communityworks Advisory Board and the PlanItGreen Core Team.



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation
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