



**AGENDA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**  
**VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK**  
**APRIL 20, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**2) REVIEW OF MINUTES**

March 16, 2023

**3) HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**4) COMMUNITY PLANNING REPORT**

May 12, 2023 5pm-7pm Flamingo Friday Kickoff Tabling

**5) 2023-2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PRIORITY ITEMS**

**6) UPDATES ON OTHER ITEMS**

Communication Initiatives, Solar Permits, and Waste Collection Data

**7) OLD BUSINESS**

**8) NEW BUSINESS**

**9) REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**10) NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

May 18, 2023

**11) ADJOURN**

The Village of Northbrook is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or facilities, are requested to contact Debbie Ford, 847 664-4013, promptly to allow the Village of Northbrook to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. Hearing impaired individuals may call the TDD number, 847 564-8645, for more information.



## MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Sustainability Commission  
**From:** Tessa Murray, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Date:** April 20, 2023  
**Subject:** 2023-2024 Climate Action Plan Priority Items

Northbrook's Climate Action Plan (CAP) calls to foster sustainability and reduce 80% of community-wide carbon emissions by 2050 through strategic planning and action item implementation. There are over 100 action items recommended within the CAP. After the CAP was first adopted in 2021, the Village Board of Trustees' Community and Sustainability Committee met and established the first set of CAP Top Ten Priorities. The Sustainability Commission was actively involved in creating programs for the first list of priorities, which are now being initiated and will take ongoing resources and staff hours to ensure successful implementation.

Following a review of Northbrook's CAP Progress Report for 2021-2022, the environmental consultant from paleBLUEdot provided their recommendation for the next set of CAP Top Ten Priorities. The Sustainability Commission agreed with this list. At the January 2023 Community and Sustainability Committee meeting, the Village Board of Trustees officially established the 2023-2024 CAP Priority Items as listed in the table attached to this memorandum.

At their April meeting, the Sustainability Commission is asked to contemplate several programming considerations for the following item that is a 2023-2024 CAP Priority:

LF 4-2: Offer low price compost bins similar to rain barrels the Village currently offers; potentially work with businesses as well and Village could then sell or give compost to residents.

The Village purchases rain barrels wholesale for \$55 per barrel and sells them for \$25 to residents at Village Hall. Around 100 are sold annually. Village staff gathered quotes from suppliers for purchasing a bulk number of outdoor compost bins to sell at a discount rate to residents: the quotes received range from \$30-\$165 per bin. The pricier options have more features like tumblers and pest-proofing. The cheapest options are smaller and more rudimentary.

When the Village Board discussed the above, some questions were raised regarding whether or not the Do-It-Yourself outdoor compost bins would be the most effective approach in getting more people to compost their organic waste in Northbrook, which is the ultimate goal of LF 4-2. Concerns included pests, property maintenance complaints, and the ability for elderly residents to manage an outdoor compost pile. This led them to question whether there is interest in this type of DIY composting in the Village. They wonder if the larger issue is that residents are unaware of Waste Management's compost service.

Due to the above qualms, another approach was suggested: providing a discounted rate for Waste Management's subscription organic waste collection. The Village could encourage residents to sign up for a subscription and receive a quarter of the year free. Alternatively, the Village could set up an online application system for residents and pay one year of the annual subscription (\$124.85/yr) for a smaller set of residents. Something to consider with this option is that it would exclude Northbrook residents who live in apartments and HOAs that are not in the current Waste Management contract.

The Village budgeted \$14,000 to administer a program that aligns with the CAP Priority Item LF 4-2. The Commission should discuss options and provide a recommendation for how staff should move forward regarding LF 4-2.

## 2023-2024 CAP Priority Items

ITEM #	Transportation and Land Use	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
TL 4-1	Conduct a municipal fleet inventory and EV transition Implementation plan. Effort to identify opportunities for electrifying, right-sizing, and improving overall efficiency of vehicles to meet CAP Goals. Include implementation recommendations to incorporate EV's through right-timing purchases with a planned vehicle-replacement schedule.	Item may be addressed through partnership with Northwestern University's Masters of Science in Energy and Sustainability program, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) EV Readiness program. The Village was selected to join cohort 2 of the MMC EV Readiness program which is expected to begin in Summer 2023.
TL 5-5	Create an Electric Vehicle (EV) Action Plan to guide access to chargers on Village property and village wide, explore alternative technologies like Smart cable technology and streetlight/EV charger integration, address barriers to charging for garage-free homes and rental properties, assess options to lower EV and EV charger implementation costs, and recommend EV charging station requirement amendments to zoning ordinances to support EV plan.	Item may be addressed through coordination among Village staff and participation in the MMC EV Readiness program. The Village was selected to join cohort 2 of the MMC EV Readiness program which is expected to begin in Summer 2023.
Buildings and Energy		
BE 1-1	Conduct a renewable energy Master Plan for achieving 50% renewable energy for all Village facilities and operations by 2030, and a pathway to achieve 100% by 2040. Master Plan should include exploration of on-site renewable options, community/shared renewable options, Renewable Energy Credit (REC) options, and opportunities for hosting community solar projects on Village buildings/properties.	Item may be addressed using consultant services and assessment of Village facilities.
BE 1-5	Provide solar assessment reports to 50 properties annually. Conduct informational workshop to assist building owners and businesses in understanding potential clean energy generation. Include economic performance and return on investment estimates, information on financing and ownership models, next step resources.	Item is in progress with residents receiving free property assessments through the Grow Solar Chicagoland program, and developments in need of zoning relief undergo feasibility and cost assessments for property rooftop solar installation.
Waste Management		
WM 4-1	Increase waste diversion opportunities by increasing recycling and organics collection bins in public places. Work with other public agencies to advance this goal.	Item is in progress with new recycling bins to be added to public spaces.

## 2023-2024 CAP Priority Items

<b>Water and Wastewater</b>		
WW 3-1	Conduct a stormwater management study exploring full range of methods of stormwater management including permeable pavements, bioswales, rain gardens, biochar amendments in soils with high clay content, and flood-tolerant plantings. Findings of study to be integrated into updated Village Master Stormwater Management Plan with recommended implementation projects.	Item may be addressed concurrently with updates to the Master Stormwater Management Plan.
<b>Local Food and Agriculture</b>		
LF 4-2	Offer low price compost bins similar to rain barrels the Village currently offers; potentially work with businesses as well and Village could then sell or give compost to residents.	Item may be addressed with opt-out compost program piloted with 100 households receiving free 1-year subscription to Waste Management's organic waste collection and/or bins to be provided at discount rates to residents for sale at Village Hall.
<b>Health and Safety</b>		
HS 3-4	Develop a debris management plan to support response to severe storm events and flooding.	Item may be addressed in-house through updating storm event aftermath procedure and increasing community education on how to prepare for major storm events (tree pruning, etc.)
<b>Greenspace and Ecosystem Health</b>		
GS 1-4	Conduct a Solar and Tree Compatibility study to actively identify the best sites in the Village for tree canopy expansion as well as the best locations for solar PV installations. Following study, work to direct and encourage tree planting and solar PV development in areas identified.	Item may be addressed in-house through collaboration between Village staff and Municipal GIS Partners staff to create list of targeted site areas and tree planting recommendations.
<b>Climate Economy</b>		
CE 4-1	Add a Carbon Impact Fee to all new development as a percentage of the building permit fee. Additional funds raised to be used for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation implementation. Projects may apply for a refund if they install on-site renewable energy system and provide documentation that demonstrates the system will offset a minimum of 40% of the site's energy consumption, with sliding scale refunds provided for projects offsetting over 40%.	Item may be addressed by exploring options for how to further promote sustainable buildings in Northbrook in a way that does not discourage development. An example of potential item implementation is a recommendation to reduce permitting costs for developments that achieve 100% of CAP recommendations provided to them during review phase.