

Executive Summary

The Sustainability Working Group (SWG) was formed by the Village Manager in June 2011. It is a nine member group with representatives from the Plan Commission, School Board, Chicago Botanic Garden, Park Board, and five Public-at-Large members. The SWG was tasked with assisting the Village Manager, the Plan Commission, and the Village Board in raising awareness and generating community input by achieving four distinct sustainable initiatives within an 18-month timeframe. Work on the below four initiatives is now complete and documentation is attached as Sections 1, 2, 3, & 4.

1. Establish a Village website hosting sustainability issues, information, and events.

The SWG determined the best approach to a user friendly, intuitive, and well maintained website was to link directly to the existing Village of Glencoe website allowing sustainability information and news/events to be accessed within an already established structure. Content on land use, buildings, water, waste, air quality, energy, and eco systems, as outlined in the 2009 Contextual Design Review Commission's Sustainability Study, was incorporated into the website. Direction for content was informed by the SWG and updated by village staff.

2. Plan and execute a village-wide outreach event to collect and measure resident interest and input in sustainability issues.

On March 10, 2012, the SWG hosted "Green Goals for Glencoe" at the Takiff Center to solicit community discussion, ideas, and involvement in various areas of sustainability. Approximately 30 residents attended the three hour forum and had the opportunity of focusing on energy, transportation, clean air/water, design/construction, waste, and open space in individual breakout groups moderated by SWG members. Ideas generated from these sessions are outlined and prioritized in **Section 2** of this report. Subsequent efforts to craft a sustainability plan for Glencoe should focus on these prioritized ideas.

3. Organize a pilot project to promote a specific sustainable village initiative in order to raise public awareness.

After much discussion and many ideas, the SWG determined that a fundraising event to benefit the ongoing restoration of the Green Bay Trail by Friends of the Green Bay Trail (FGBT) was an achievable and appropriate way to promote sustainability through a specific initiative. The "Buckthorn Barbeque", hosted by the SWG and held at the Glencoe Golf Club, drew 50 people and raised a net of \$3,000 for purchase of native plant material to replace buckthorn. The event featured multiple speakers, including Betsy Leibson from FGBT, author Charlotte Adelman (Midwest Native Garden), Bob Kirschner from the Chicago Botanic Garden, and Stella Nanos from the Glencoe Golf Club. An event similar to this might be considered on an annual basis to promote specific objectives.

4. Conduct an “audit” of Village ordinances to suggest easily achievable modifications enhancing sustainable practices.

The SWG completed an audit of Chapters 1-38 of the Glencoe Village Code to incorporate easily achievable additions, revisions, and comments promoting sustainability. These are organized in a format that directly corresponds to the chapters, articles, and/or sections of the actual Code and are listed in **Section 4** of this report. The audit is by no means exhaustive and will require subsequent review, direction, and approval by Village staff, Village legal counsel, and the Village Board. Larger-picture strategic sustainability concepts in areas of zoning and the Comprehensive Plan were outside the scope of this initiative. Chapters with no recommendations noted were not flagged for change.

The stage is now set to build on this progress through creation of subsequent ongoing sustainable efforts. Recommendations to accomplish this and maintain momentum are as follows:

1. Consider establishing a Glencoe Environmental Commission, reporting directly to the Village Board, to focus, promote, coordinate, and educate residents with respect to sustainable strategy, policy, and implementation. This type of commission has been started in neighboring communities (*see attached table – Municipal Sustainability Survey*). Such commission should be representative of the community, similar in organization to the Plan Commission, and include representatives from the schools, parks, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe Golf Club, etc. with specific expertise in environmental, landscape, and building technology. Such commission should establish a guiding vision for sustainability in Glencoe, collaborate with the Plan Commission on updating the Comprehensive Plan, and maintain content of the Village website relative to sustainability.
2. Encourage grass roots citizen sustainability organizations to pursue and give voice to motivated Glencoe residents. This will be an appropriate forum for pilot projects and fundraising.
3. Revisit and adjust the Contextual Design Review Commission incentives to voluntarily promote sustainable design through other measures than increased FAR.
4. Commence work on an updated Comprehensive Plan for the Village incorporating sustainable strategy as a primary component. Issues involving downtown master planning, open space, etc. should all be addressed in this document. A key component should be a Village-wide energy/sustainability audit to serve as a baseline for future action. This is in keeping with recommendations made in the 2009 Sustainability Study.
5. Devote ongoing resources to the maintenance and continued development of the now established Sustainability Website:
<http://www.villageofglencoe.org/about/sustainability/default.aspx>.

6. Advance prioritized outcomes from the March 10, 2012 Community Outreach Event. These priorities were initiated by Village residents who attended the event and later ranked in priority by members of SWG – *see Section 2 of this report*. It should be the responsibility of the Village to provide the next steps following this community exchange of ideas and priorities.
7. Review the Village Code Audit recommendations – *see Section 4 of this report* – with staff, the Village Planner, and the Village Attorney to amend codes to claim “low-hanging fruit” and reinforce sustainability.
8. Support the adoption of the proposed Steep Slope ordinance.
9. Reinforce alliances with sustainability organizations, engage staff in on-going training, establish a staff “green team” to regularly review internal policies/procedures, and investigate potential for a full or part-time environmental staff position, possibly shared with other neighboring municipalities.

Municipal Sustainability Survey

Municipality	Commission/Agency	Staffing	Contact	Local Support	Comments
Deerfield	Sustainability Commission	Village Part time	Jenny Maltais		Village based
Evanston	Environment Board, Utilities Commission, Green Ribbon Commission	City Full time Sustainability staff	Catherine Hurley	Citizens Green, Evanston Environmental Association, Living Evanston Talking Farm Walk N Roll	Very active local environmental community, Consultant help Active schools
Glencoe	Sustainability Working Group	Village Part time	Nathan Parch	Botanic Garden	Active schools Consultant help
Glenview	Natural Resources Committee	Village Part time	Robyn Flakne		Environmental Review staff Committee
Highland Park	Natural Resources Commission	City Full time Sustainability Staff(contract)	Emily Palm	Green Initiatives Alliance	Active schools Consultant help Planning Effort
Lake Forest	City staff "Green Team" / CEA	City Part time	Chuck Myers	Consortium for Environmental Leadership CEA	Good analytics City based
Northbrook	Environmental Quality Commission	Village Part time	Andrew Letson		Active staff "green team"
Northfield	No Village Commission		Liz Kunkle	Go Green Northfield	Limited activity new
Wilmette	Environmental & Energy Commission	Village Part time	John Prejzner	Go Green Wilmette	Active schools Green Businesses
Winnetka	Environmental & Forestry Commission	Village Part time	Steve Auth	Go Green Winnetka	

Source: D. Onderdonk, Glencoe Sustainability Working Group 11-20-12