

**SECTION 2:
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH EVENT**

**FINAL REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
PLAN COMMISSION**

March 10, 2012 Event Summary

INTRODUCTION

On March 10, 2012, The Sustainability Working Group hosted a Sustainability Forum at the Glencoe Park District's Takiff Center aimed at identifying "Green" goals for Glencoe. The Village Manager formed the Sustainability Working Group in June 2011 to assist staff, the Plan Commission, and Village Board in advancing sustainability initiatives in the community.

The purposes of the Sustainability Forum were to: foster a Village-wide conversation about sustainability; identify residents with an interest in sustainable initiatives; and provide a summary of the event under the "Sustainability" tab of the Glencoe Village website. More than thirty residents attended, rotating among five small groups focused on the topics of: Renewable Energy; Green Building Design and Construction; Transportation and Land Use; Solid Waste Management; and Open Space. A moderator from each small group listened and noted attendee suggestions and comments. A summary of the sustainability priorities identified at the Forum are summarized below and will be delivered to Village's Plan Commission and Board of Trustees.

The Sustainability Forum was held in the context of a year where many projects and issues in the Village related to natural resources and planning were being considered or were underway, including:

- A citizen group started a community vegetable garden on Village land near the Metra tracks at Sheldon Park.
- A citizen group, Friends of the Green Bay Trail, removed invasive species and installed native plants along Glencoe's bike trail south of Harbor Ave, with the approval and assistance of Village staff.
- An interest in "Green" home building became apparent with many homeowners opting to incorporate energy efficient and environmentally friendly features into their homes. One such home was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification.
- The Glencoe League of Women Voters completed a regional study of solid waste management with the recommendation that the Village strive for zero waste going to landfills.
- The Village Board appointed a task force of residents to examine policy regarding the use of Village-owned street-ends that link the Village to Lake Michigan.
- The Village approved a referendum on March 20th, 2012 authorizing an "opt-out" electricity aggregation program for residents and small businesses. Under this program, residents will have the opportunity to support renewable energy resources through a Green Power Program that purchases renewable energy certificates.
- Storm water mitigation projects have been considered to address the aftermath of unusually heavy rainfall in July and August of 2011.

SUMMARY OF THE FIVE DISCUSSIONS

Renewable Energy Generation with Incentives for Use

(Moderated by Village Trustee Larry Levin)

- Windmill towers at Tower Road tower, golf course, railroad right-of-way and possibly on the water storage tank on Route 41.
- Mini wind turbines for residential use (potential risk of injury?)
- Wave action
- Solar panels
- Passive solar design and skylights
- Fuel cells
- Geothermal heating and cooling

Energy Ideas (Energy Conservation)

- Energy conservation classes at Glencoe schools
- Energy saving tips offered to residents by village
- Village to adopt sustainable residential/commercial building codes
- Electric carts to collect garbage on smaller residential streets
- Village to subscribe to 100% renewable energy sources
- Encourage green roofs
- Provide electric vehicle charging stations
- Village to offer energy
- Biodiesel fuel for village vehicles
- Collect dog feces and food waste for methane/fertilizer production
- Explore cogeneration for production of electricity and heat

Green Design and Construction

(Moderated by Plan Commission member/Sustainability Working Group chairman Walter Eckenhoff)

- Publicity and tours of model sustainable homes
 - Slotnick Home
- Village promotion of concept
- Aesthetics should not get in the way of the message
- Saving energy equals saving money
- Village incentives for green construction
 - Fast track permit process
 - Reduced fees
 - Financial grants
- It is not about size
- Education of:
 - Owners
 - Builders

- Architects/Builders must be LEED certified
- Strict energy codes
 - Model code needed
- Material selection
- Energy audits
 - Available through the website: <http://www.myhomeeq.com/>
- Energy efficient HVAC
- Responsible use of energy and daylight
- Lifestyle component
 - How do you use your home & energy?
- Historic homes are restricted from using energy saving methods
 - Window replacement
- Recycle/Re-use building materials & components
- Incentives for rehabilitating existing homes
- Spring Clean Up should allow for items to be re-used
 - Hold a Village Garage Sale one week before
- Need for design review:
 - Yes or No?
 - Mixed?
- Waive permit fees for LEED construction
- Cost/Benefit analysis
- Issues related to FAR (Floor to Area Ratio-the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the parcel of land upon which it is built)
- Energy calculations – accurate?
- Honest environmental impact analysis
- Gradual implementation
- Improve Public Relations, awareness building for sustainability
- Educate about issues
- Leverage Village staff
- Afraid of Change

Other comments

- Need for Pervious / Permeable Paving
- Pilot Project Needed
 - Deconstruction of a home
 - Other
- Flooding (Sewer Back Up)

Transportation and Land Use

(Moderated by Sustainability Working Group member Dudley Onderdonk)

Land Use

- Reserve Downtown parking spaces for hybrid vehicles

- Revisit / Restart Downtown Planning effort
- Review need for small “Pocket Parks” especially along Green Bay Road
- Find better ways to use open space in the community
- Explore establishing a temporary downtown pedestrian mall to support events & shopping
- Explore Transit Oriented Development (TOD / mixed use development) in Downtown Glencoe
- Allow 3-4 story mixed use commercial / residential buildings Downtown

Transportation

- The wide Green Bay Road median near the Takiff Center creates bike/car conflicts
- Explore the use of school buses for additional Village transportation Needs
- Investigate establishing a local Village shuttle
- Encourage the use of mass transit (bus and rail)
- Improve directional and traffic signage for bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Provide designated bike lanes where feasible
- Investigate providing a weekend beach shuttle to manage parking at Glencoe beach
- Encourage and accommodate alternate vehicles
- Encourage walking to school
- Improve bicycle use and directional signs (similar to Wilmette & Northbrook)
- Provide incentives for energy efficient vehicles, bikes and walking
- Provide electric vehicle charging stations
- Promote expansion of existing mass transit
- Encourage bike rental downtown and at the Train station (Such as B-cycle)
- Expand use of the Chicago Botanic Gardens Shuttle Bus
- Provide bike racks downtown and at public buildings
- Contract with the Active Transportation Alliance to create a bike / pedestrian plan
- Allow golf carts to be used for local transportation
- Establish a local electric shuttle bus
- Establish child-safe walking and biking routes to school, parks and other destinations
- Reduce vehicle engine idling in pick-up zones at schools
- Improve facilities and connectivity for walking and biking throughout the Village
- Provide more safe crossings over/under Green Bay Road & RR tracks to improve safety
- Encourage a walking and biking culture
- Pursue Federal / State Government funding for transportation improvements

Solid Waste Management

(Moderated by Sustainability Working Group member Laurie Morse)

-- Too much waste from plastic water bottles in a town with award-winning drinking water

- Glencoe needs more and better public drinking fountains, especially on the popular ball playing fields (baseball, basketball, soccer, football, tennis courts).

- Current fountains are not designed to accommodate refillable water bottles. Need to retrofit older fountains with new fixtures with tall spouts that bottles can fit under.
- Existing fountains with low spouts not only do not accommodate refillable bottles – they have an “ick” factor. Much mention of how dogs drink from the existing fountains. Suggestion that new retrofits not have mouth dispenser – design for container refill.

--Glencoe does not have an Ordinance requiring deconstruction or recycling of debris that results from construction, remodeling or demolition. Most construction and demolition debris in Illinois ends up in a landfill.

- Amend municipal code with ordinances that give priority to deconstruction, rather than demolition. Create ordinance that requires recycling of a high proportion of construction debris.
- Require compliance as part of the building permit process
- Monitor compliance
- Provide information on costs/benefits of deconstruction
 - In public forums, on the Village Web site, in materials given to construction contractors
 - To permit applicants
- Publicize construction reuse stores so people are aware of where to donate building material, and where reusable materials can be purchased.

--Glencoe’s garbage cans are bigger than its recycling cans

- Glencoe’s recycling containers are not large enough.
- There are no recycling containers in the Glencoe downtown area.
- Glencoe doesn’t require a recycling plan for special events like fun runs, July 4th celebrations, etc.
- Residents attending the Sustainability Conversation would like to encourage more materials recovery in Glencoe.

--Lots of good, serviceable items are put on the curb during Spring Clean-up curbside collection.

- Many out of town scavengers retrieve items, but large volumes still go to the landfill.
- Electronic items, which are banned from the landfill, also end up on the curb.
- Organize a village-wide garage sale the weekend prior to Spring Clean-up.
- Coordinate with an electronics collection event in town.
- Publicize permanent electronics collection boxes in Village Hall and in Winnetka.
- Seek a non-profit group to organize
- Residents with serviceable items who don’t want to hold their own garage sale could donate (and have a free pick up) to a central community sale in the downtown area (staffed by the non-profit organizing group).

-- Residential and large facility (schools, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery store) food scraps and organics are not composted (except for West School), and go to the landfill.

- If recovered and composted, they could be used on farms and in gardens.

- Create a regional infrastructure for commercial food scraps and organics composting.
- Encourage back yard composting and vermiculture in Glencoe.
- Recommend compost bins that are a success at West School (solar cones).
- Ask the Glencoe Park District to run a class or one-time presentation on worm composting (vermiculture).
- Ask SWANCC to have a spring compost pick-up day at the Glenview Transfer Station, as SWALCO does in Libertyville, so people can close the loop between the food they eat and their back yard gardens.
- Organics are the heaviest and therefore most expensive part of the Glencoe waste stream, which is billed by the ton. Removing organics from the landfill stream would save the Village money.
- Compost is good for dirt, and good dirt is central to sustainable food supply
- Composting organics is an important step toward zero landfill

Open Space

(Moderated by Park Board member/Sustainability Working Group member Andre Lerman)

-- The village should do something about the bluffs at the top of the street end beaches, similar to the mini park at the end of Park and Hazel Avenues.

--Each Park should have its own identity and purpose. The Park District should articulate a mission statement for each park.

- There should be a visual identity component, including use of ornamental grasses, walking paths, botanic mission (i.e. type of tree or plant theme -- magnolias, day lilies, etc.) including use of native plants
- Some parks should have a teaching element, with small signs next to selected botanic or other features.
- There could be a sculpture park
- There could be a "wildlife park"
- Community Garden
- There should be an adopt-a-park program, with an active donor component
- Need to distinguish between open space purpose and active use purpose.
- There should be a pathway to a feature in the park.

--The Park Dist should schedule regular Park Tours, or an annual day in the spring for tours.

- The Park District should coordinate neighborhood block parties in local parks
- The Park District should work with District 35 and/or the Boy Scouts to adopt a park for a day.

--The playground redesign process needs to be more transparent and involve the relevant community, either neighborhood, demographic, or other interest group.

- More community input
- Natural or organic feature
- Integrate design with the neighborhood

--The Park District and Village should jointly plan for greenways on both sides of Green Bay Road, and in other locations like Watts Park.

- Also consider use of ravine bridges as part of greenway program

--There should be an integrated Park District and Village Plan for the Green Bay Trail and an integrated greenways plan.

- A bridge over Hazel Ave?
- Connect the GB Trail with the trail along Highway 41.
- Green Bay Trail bike signage on Old Green Bay Rd.
- Other bike routes for safe routes to schools.
- Winding paths in parks along train route.

--There should be joint planning with the Park District, Village and District 35 to plan "safe routes to school".

--There needs to be an integrated open space planning process between the Park District and the Village.

---There needs to be a plan for increased winter appeal for Parks and Open Spaces

- Golf Course winter use could include Nordic ski track. Open the clubhouse on selected weekends.
- Need a strategy for the "Little House"

--Should have a coordinated effort between the Village and Park District to approach the Forest Preserve District to consider use of Turnbull Woods as a Dog Park.

--The Park District has a program to eradicate Buckthorn. Why not the Village?

- Need to educate the community on the importance of this.
- Need to then replace the green buffer between the Parks and private homes
- Can the Park District have some sort of cost sharing to plant replacement trees where parks are adjacent to private homes, similar to the Village parkway tree program?

--Village should revisit its open space plan

- Inventory all open space including right-of-way, street end beaches, overlooks
- Integrate with Park District inventory of open space parks.
- Use of land swaps an option?
- What are the options for a possible future sale of the Hoover Estate?
- Are there other, better uses for Forest Preserve land? Can the Village get the Forest Preserve District to swap the tract at Green Bay and Westley? Is there some joint open space planning with the Botanic Garden?
- What is the cell tower policy?

--Is there a plan to address the water runoff issues related to drain water in the ravines?

- Is there an ordinance to protect the lake and the ravines by limiting construction and machinery on bluff and ravine slope faces?

**Glencoe Sustainability Working Group
Top 10 Ranking of Ideas from March 10, 2012 Public Outreach Event**

Suggestion	Topic	Ranking
Code Changes (steep slope ordinance)	Green Design/Construction	7
Village to Offer Energy	Renewable/Conventional Energy	7
Integrated Open Space Plan-Village, Park District, Schools, etc.	Open Space	7
Restart/Revisit Downtown Planning	Land Use	6
Village Plan to Eradicate Buckthorn, Invasive Species	Open Space	6
Recycle, Reuse Materials/Components	Green Design/Construction	5
Solar Panels	Renewable/Conventional Energy	4
Education - Classes @ Schools, Other - Energy Saving Tips	Green Construction/Design	4
Encourage Walking-School, etc.	Transportation	4
Reduce Plastic Bottle Use	Solid Waste	4

Note:

The above table reflects the votes of SWG members and staff liaison Nathan Parch given to prioritize the suggestions and comments received from the 30+ attendees at the March 10th Community Outreach Event held at the Takiff Center. The process began as an exercise led by Hall Healy at the July 18, 2012 SWG meeting. The suggestions for each of the five small group topics - Renewable Energy; Green Building Design and Construction; Transportation and Land Use; Solid Waste Management; and Open Space – were listed on large posters that Mr. Healy placed around the room. SWG members were given ten (10) green dots and instructed to stick them next to those suggestions they felt were priorities. Each green dot was weighted as one vote. The ranking process continued during the August 27th and September 19th meetings in order to allow those SWG members who had not yet participated an opportunity to contribute. Following the September 19th meeting, the top-ranked suggestions of SWG members were summarized in descending order in the above table.

Glencoe looks to get greener

BY CHARLES BERMAN
 cberman@pioneerlocal.com

Glencoe residents Barry and Natalie Slotnick were the perfect contributors to the village's Green Goals for Glencoe brainstorming session Saturday at the Takliff Center.

The Glencoe couple built the North Shore's first and state's fifth Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum home at Washington and Vernon avenues last year. The house features recycled and local building materials, captures natural light and boasts energy-efficient insulation, windows, appliances, ventilation and plumbing.

The Slotnicks experience and expertise was on full display when they joined one of the village's small work groups tasked with discussing ways to encourage green design and construction in Glencoe.

"Our home has a simple design that fits with the character of the neighborhood," Natalie Slotnick said. "Others can easily incorporate many of these green features."

The Slotnicks have promoted their home as a regional model and have hosted several public tours aimed at inspiring neighbors to follow suit, but Barry hopes the village will do more.

He suggested the village offer attractive incentives or permit rebates for those who incorporate green building features.

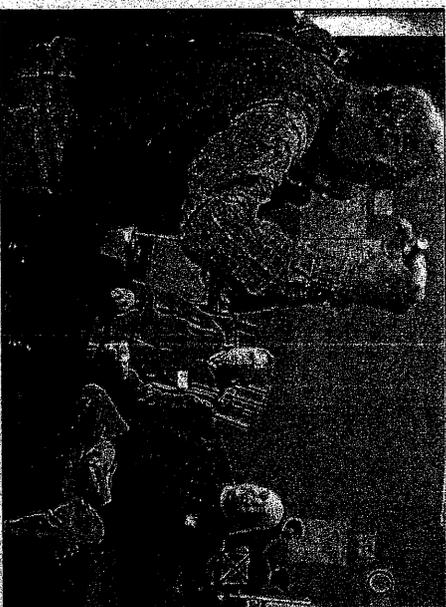
"This is a great first step," Barry Slotnick said. "There are a lot of opportunities here and there have been many great ideas discussed today."

Similar to the way community's show off their Frank Lloyd Wright designed homes, Glencoe resident Paul Krieger added that the village should aggressively promote the Slotnick house.

"To me, it's the poster child that we can all point to," he said. "It's an example of a well-designed house that meets our vision."

About two-dozen other residents circled the Community Room to sit in on brainstorming sessions that also tackled waste management, energy, open space and transportation and land use.

At the energy roundtable, residents encouraged the village to seek renewable sources of energy in its



Larry Johnson (center), Mark Rice (right) discuss ways to improve Glencoe's energy use during the village's Green Goals for Glencoe brainstorming seminar on March 10. Russ Dashow (left) facilitated the session. | PHOTOS BY CHARLES BERMAN-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

upcoming bid for a North Shore electric supplier. They also supported car charging stations, residential energy audits, clean vehicle fleets, mini windmill towers and conservation education.

The waste management group focused its attention on growing the local recycling program. Proposals included a food scrap composting initiative, a permanent electronic drop off site and Spring Cleaning program

that diverts used items from landfills.

Dudley Onderdonk facilitated the transportation and land use discussion. Nothing that one-third of all energy use is related to transportation, Onderdonk recommended a series of local initiatives to promote walking, biking and mass transit around a renewed downtown master plan.

The Sustainability Working Group moderated all the



Hall Healy facilitates a brainstorming session during the village's Green Goals for Glencoe environmental seminar on March 10 at the Takliff Center.

discussions and will provide a report to the Plan Commission and Board of Trustees on its findings and recommendations.

In addition to Saturday's public discussion, the task force was assigned to create a sustainability resources website, implement pilot projects

and review the village's code to incorporate green policies. "You have the ideas to make Glencoe sustainable," said Hall Healy, a member of the Sustainability Working Group.

For more information, contact glencoe@glencoeil.com or call 630-261-1111.

JOIN GLENCOE'S SUSTAINABILITY CONVERSATION SATURDAY, MARCH 10th

How can we better manage
our energy use;
building design; green spaces;
transportation; and
natural resources?
Come to the March 10
Sustainability Forum.

Engage the future!



The Village wants your help setting green goals for Glencoe

What: A brainstorming session to create green goals for Glencoe

When: Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 9 a.m to noon.

Where: The Park District Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe

Who: Everyone is invited. All ages. Bring your ideas!

Why: What we choose to do today will make a difference tomorrow.

In the spirit of the day, please consider biking or walking

Sponsors:

Village of Glencoe

Glencoe Plan Commission

Glencoe's Sustainability Working Group

Contact: GlencoeGreenForum@Comcast.net



COMMUNITY NEWS

THE CHAMBER REPORT

During the winter and early spring, the Chamber Board plans and organizes a number of events that will occur in the summer and begins preparation for the Glencoe Community Guide.

The 2012 Guide will be delivered to residents in May. Residents will want to keep a copy on hand throughout the year; it contains a wealth of information about Glencoe businesses, organizations and Village services - all in one convenient place.

Mark your calendar for events returning this summer: The Farmers Market will begin on Saturdays in June and run through October; the Sidewalk Sale will be held in downtown Glencoe on Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30; the Children's Carnival will be held on Wednesday, July 4 at the Village Court parking lot, and the Festival of Arts will be held Saturday, August 4 and Sunday August 5.

As we get closer to the dates, additional information about these events will be available on the Chamber website, www.glencoechamber.org, posters around town and ads in local publications.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND "GREEN GOALS FOR GLENCOE"

The Village of Glencoe's Sustainability Working Group invites residents to participate in a discussion session aimed at setting "Green" goals for Glencoe. The Working Group created the event, the first of its kind in Glencoe, to solicit community involvement in natural resources and sustainability planning. Topics to be addressed are: energy, transportation, clean air and water, green design and construction, land use and open space, and waste. The sustainability priorities identified at the event will be summarized and delivered to Glencoe's Plan Commission and Board of Trustees.

- What:** Brainstorming session to create green goals for Glencoe
When: Saturday, March 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Where: Takiff Center Community Room, 999 Green Bay Rd.
Who: Everyone is invited. All ages welcome. Please bring your ideas!
Why: What we choose to do today will make a difference tomorrow.

For more information, please contact GlencoeGreenForum@Comcast.net. Additional event information is available on the Village's website.



SPRING CLEAN-UP

Mark the dates!

The Village will again offer the one-day 'Spring Clean Up' service in early May to provide an opportunity to dispose of items that are generally not picked up as part of the normal garbage collection service.

The dates for this year's Spring Clean-Up are:

- Monday and/or Thursday Garbage Collection
• Spring Cleanup on Wednesday, May 2, 2012
- Tuesday and/or Friday Garbage Collection
• Spring Cleanup on Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Look for more information about this popular Village service, and the permitted list of materials you may dispose of on the Village website. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 835-4111.

HELPING GLENCOE SENIORS IN NEED

Since 1982, the Committee for Senior Housing Aid in Glencoe has been providing annual grants to Glencoe seniors who meet the program's asset and income criteria to help them pay their property taxes or monthly rent. These grants enable economically disadvantaged Glencoe seniors to continue to participate in and enrich the life of the community where many have spent a significant portion of their lives.

Family Service of Glencoe has enabled the Committee to carry on this work by providing a variety of services including confidential screening of the applications, including a home visit interview with each applicant, bookkeeping and clerical services, and assistance in grant writing and fundraising campaigns. Family Service has been able to provide these services free of charge as part of their efforts of outreach and community stewardship. The grant recipients benefit not only from the financial assistance, but also from the personal, one-on-one relationship with an experienced social worker who is able to assess needs, provide counseling and make referrals for other services as indicated.

This unique and vital program has been made possible through a small annual grant from the Village of Glencoe and the generosity of Glencoe citizens who value this opportunity to enrich the tax-deductible contributions critically important at this time to help the Committee continue this important work. Contributions may be sent to: The Committee for Senior Housing Assistance in Glencoe, c/o Family Services of Glencoe, 675 Village Court, Glencoe, Illinois 60022. For more information, contact Paul Wachowiak, LCSW at (847) 835-5111.

PRESS RELEASE

February 13, 2012

Village of Glencoe

Contact: Nathan Parch

(nathanp@villageofglencoe.org/847-835-4111)

(Please call Nathan to arrange an interview with Mr. Eckenhoff)

MARCH 10 EVENT WILL IDENTIFY GREEN GOALS FOR GLENCOE

The Village of Glencoe's Sustainability Working Group invites residents to participate in a March 10th discussion session aimed at setting "Green" goals for Glencoe. The forum will be held at the Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, from 9 am to noon.

The Working Group, chaired by Walter Eckenhoff, a Glencoe resident and co-founder of Eckenhoff Saunders Architects, Inc, has created the event, the first of its kind in Glencoe, to solicit community involvement in natural resources and sustainability planning. The forum will address the topics of energy; transportation; clean air and water; green design and construction; land use and open space; and waste. Facilitators will be open to other sustainability topics suggested by participants.

The sustainability priorities identified at the March 10 meeting will be summarized and delivered to Glencoe's Plan Commission and Board of Trustees.

The event is free and open to the public of all ages.

In June 2011, the Village Manager formed the Sustainability Working Group to assist staff, the Plan Commission, and Village Board in advancing sustainability initiatives in the community. Since that time the Working Group has created a "sustainability" section on the Glencoe Village web site -

<http://www.villageofglencoe.org/about/sustainability/default.aspx> - and is in the process of reviewing Glencoe's Municipal Code for sustainable practices and developing a pilot project that educates and encourages residents to undertake sustainable measures.

In addition to prioritizing potential green initiatives, the Working Group plans to use the March 10 event to gauge community interest in sustainability, and to build a foundation for a "Green" citizens group in the Village.

The Sustainability Forum is sponsored by the Village of Glencoe, the Glencoe Plan Commission and the Sustainability Working Group.

END

LocalNews

PIONEERLOCAL.COM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 | 5

Managing Editor: **Liza Roche**
847-486-6842 | lroche@pioneerlocal.com

Help identify green goals for Glencoe

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The Sustainability Forum is sponsored by the Village of Glencoe, the Glencoe Plan Commission and the Sustainability Working Group.

Advertisement:



March 10th event will identify GREEN goals for Glencoe



By Nathan Parch Feb. 16 at 4:36 p.m.

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Winnetka-GlencoePatch



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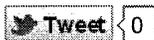
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Government

Village Group Sets Date for Green Community Forum

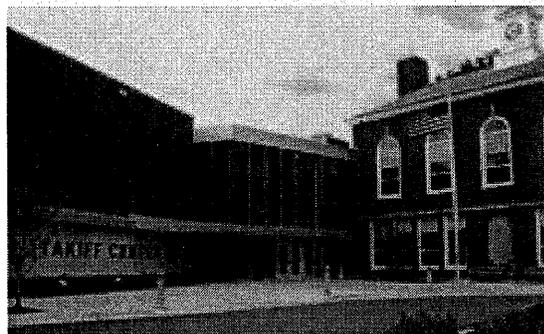
Glencoe's green spaces and energy use are up for discussion March 10.

By [Matt Klinkert](#) | [Email the author](#) | February 8, 2012



Related Topics: [Environmental Sustainability](#), [Green C](#)
[The Sustainability Working Group](#)

What steps can the village take to make Glencoe a greene



The future looks greener than ever in Glencoe.

The village is hosting a public forum on March 10 at 9 a.m. at the [Takiff Center](#) to brainstorm environment
The Sustainability Working Group, whose members volunteer their time to deliberate on environmental con
their regular meeting.

Related: Glencoe Goes Green!

During the March meeting, facilitators, comprised of members from the group, will listen and note any ideas for energy consumption and building design, amongst other eco-friendly infrastructure proposals.

Moreover, group members have backgrounds in education, architecture, environmental design and more, and their expertise will be put to use.

"I think this is the first community wide event that has been planned," said Walt Eckenhoff, chair of the group, "and it's [however] for quite some time."

Though the group is informal and mostly provides input to the plan commission and village board, they're also working on spreading awareness around town.

And to get the ball rolling, Eckenhoff said, they've set up a webpage, started auditing the village's ordinance for sustainability," and focused on creating a pilot project, which should begin to take shape following the upcoming election.

"What we're trying to do is leverage interest toward sustainability," he said. "A lot of this begins with kids."

What children learn in school, he said, their parents often hear about from them at the dinner table. Likewise, information is circulating about environmental initiatives.

"They're an important part of the population we have to appeal to," he said. "They're inheriting the environment."

The public forum is free but parking is limited. For more information, check out the village's website at www.villageofglencoe.com 835-4111.

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