

City of Elmhurst **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**



MARCH 2018

Sustainability Action Plan

Table of Contents

Elmhurst Sustainability Task Force Members	i
Introduction	ii
Background & Plan Development	1
Related Plans.....	2
Vision Statement, Mission and Goals	3
Focus Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling	4
Focus Area 2: Transportation and Mobility	6
Focus Area 3: Energy Use Reduction and Alternative Energy	8
Focus Area 4: Water Resources and Conservation	10
Implementation & Next Steps.....	12
Appendix 1: Sustainability Policy	
Appendix 2: Existing Conditions Reports	
<i>Solid Waste</i>	<i>Appendix 2 Page 1</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Appendix 2 Page 6</i>
<i>Energy</i>	<i>Appendix 2 Page 12</i>
<i>Water</i>	<i>Appendix 2 Page 18</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Appendix 2 Page 22</i>

Elmhurst Sustainability Task Force

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Introduction

The City of Elmhurst is pleased to present the Sustainability Action Plan. The City first made its commitment to sustainability in 2007 with the signing of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. In the years since making that important pledge, City leadership decided that a custom tailored plan with strategies to guide local actions would further strengthen the City's commitment to sustainability. The Action Plan is comprised of goals and strategies that support sustainable practices and continue to guide the City's decision-making process in these areas moving forward.

In 2014, the Sustainability Task Force was formed to provide input for development of such a plan. The Task Force is comprised of volunteers from various backgrounds and stakeholder groups. This diverse body has worked hard to provide input to and recommendations for this action plan.

The Task Force researched four target areas: Waste Reduction and Recycling, Transportation and Mobility, Energy Use Reduction and Alternative Energy, and Water Resources and Conservation. The plan focuses on goals and strategies for sustainability efforts in these four target areas. The Task Force was additionally challenged with the directives from City leadership that all recommendations must be local to Elmhurst and cost-effective (either cost saving, cost-neutral or no-cost).

To ensure that this is a living document – and one that can and will be implemented and used by City staff and elected officials with assistance from community partners – we developed goals and strategies for each target area, and included a timeframe for each strategy. These charts specify the initiative's timeline. It is our intention that over the next 5 years, these strategies are implemented with the City of Elmhurst leading by example toward its goals of sustainability.

Background & Plan Development

In 2007, former Mayor Thomas Marcucci, on behalf of the City of Elmhurst, signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, committing the City to steps that would reduce municipal and community consumption of non-renewable resources. This led to the City Council adopting a Sustainability Policy, which recognizes the City's primary responsibilities of maintaining core services such as water, waste water, public safety, and other community services. Additionally, the City is committed to a decision-making process that protects and enhances the environment.

In 2014, Mayor Steven Morley formed the Sustainability Task Force. The task force is comprised of volunteers from the community from different backgrounds and interests. Members represent the business community, school district, park district and residents. The members were charged with providing input for the development of a Sustainability Action Plan - a custom tailored plan, shaped by the ideas of Elmhurst residents and stakeholders, to promote and improve sustainability community-wide. The task force held a workshop on April 22, 2015, to seek input from the public. The input received from the workshop assisted in the formation of the goals and strategies.

The Task Force also used the Star Community Rating System as a resource for developing goals and strategies. The goals and strategies of the Sustainability Action Plan are supported by the Sustainability Policy. Each initiative will be:

- Elmhurst-based;
- Focused on waste reduction, transportation, energy and water; and
- Compatible with the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility (all strategies must be cost saving, cost-neutral or no-cost to the City).

With these criteria in mind, the Sustainability Task Force researched four focus areas: Waste Reduction and Recycling, Transportation and Mobility, Energy Use Reduction and Alternative Energy, and Water Resources and Conservation. The research became the basis of this document (Appendix - Existing Conditions Report). The research includes issue background, baseline data (where available), and key findings.

Sustainability is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

— Brundtland Report



"Elmhurst already engages in a number of sustainable practices, including its development patterns that allow a complementary mix of uses on a transportation network that facilitates mobility through alternative modes of transportation. Increased levels of sustainability can be achieved, however, through the creation of a City-wide sustainability program."

- City of Elmhurst
Comprehensive Plan

"The City should continue to incorporate sustainable best management practices (BMPs) for new development and improvements in the downtown. Green infrastructure needs to play a larger role in future developments and improvements to address stormwater issues more cost effectively, reduce pollution and become more energy efficient."

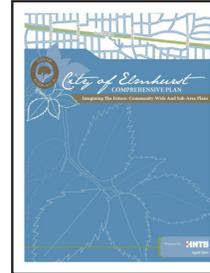
- City of Elmhurst
Downtown Plan

Related Plans

The City of Elmhurst has a strong planning background. In this section is a summary of plans that included sustainability elements. More information about each plan is on the City's website www.elmhurst.org.

Comprehensive Plan (2009)

The Comprehensive Plan is the plan by which all landuse planning in the City of Elmhurst is guided. The sustainability and natural resources chapters within the Comprehensive Plan provide a set of goals and objectives for maintaining and improving environmentally-friendly practices in Elmhurst.



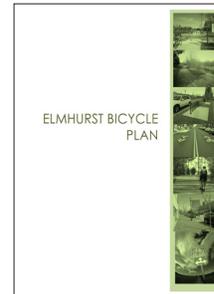
North York Corridor Plan (2015)

The Corridor Plan recommends increasing walkability, increasing and enhancing green space, mitigating flooding, improving lighting and beautifying the area along York Road from North Avenue to Grand Avenue. These elements further support the sustainability goals through best management practices providing a more sustainable, pedestrian-friendly corridor.



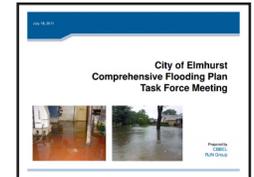
City of Elmhurst Bicycle Plan (2013)

Adopted in 2013, the Bike Plan is a guide for implementation of improved bicycle facilities and to recommend strategies to increase cycling by City residents.



Comprehensive Flooding Plans: Storm Sewer Analysis and Sanitary Sewer System (2011)

The recommendations of these reports support the goals of the Sustainability Action Plan because they provide direction in controlling and detailing storm water management, encouraging green space and emphasizing the importance of clean water and preventing overflow and infiltration.



City of Elmhurst Downtown Plan (2016)

The Downtown Plan is a guide for growth, investment, improvement, and development within downtown Elmhurst. The plan provides for sustainability initiatives such as accessibility to biking, walking and public transportation within the study area.



Vision Statement, Mission and Goals

The City of Elmhurst, with input from the Sustainability Task Force, carefully crafted the Vision, Mission Statement and Goals of the Sustainability Action Plan to ensure that every strategy is realistic, measurable and impactful. Each focus area includes goals and strategies. The timeframe options are ongoing, short-term or long-term. **“Ongoing”** means that the strategy is an action that the City is currently practicing and plans to continue. **“Short-term”** means the action should begin within a year, and **“long-term”** are any strategies that will be implemented in one to five years. The City will partner with agencies specializing in the subject area whenever possible.

Vision Statement: Sustainable communities are livable, healthy and resilient.

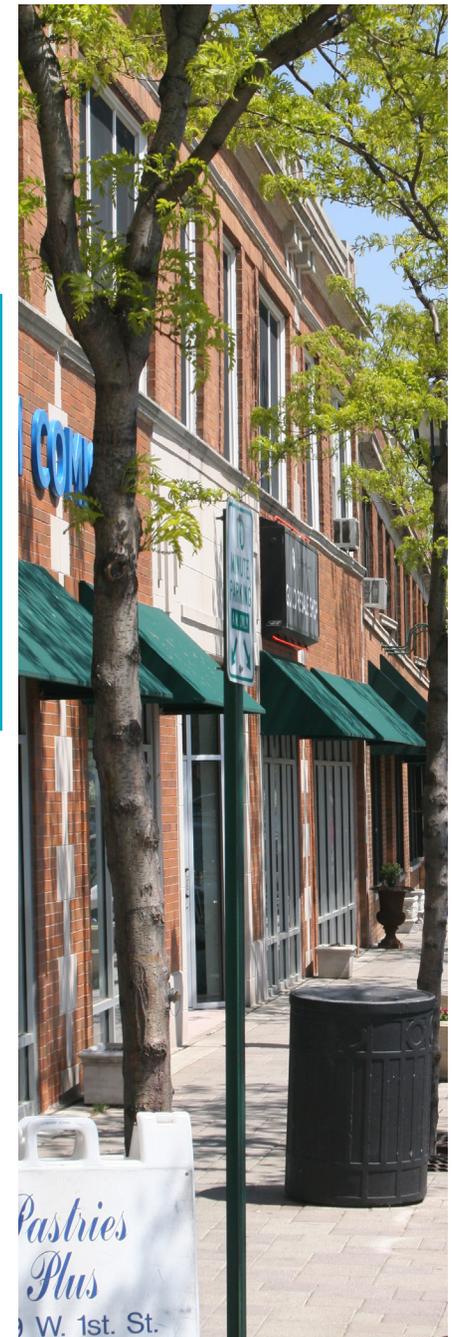
The City of Elmhurst will work in a leadership role to improve our environment and utilize our resources in ways that are fiscally responsible. We seek to protect and restore our environment, create economic value, and lead primarily by example through development of City practices and through the promotion of more sustainable options available to the community.

Mission Statement: To create a community-wide sustainability action plan focusing on waste reduction and recycling, transportation, energy and water.

Guiding Principles for Plan Development:

Transparency, inclusiveness and fiscal responsibility are three important principles of sustainability planning.

1. **Community Involvement:** Involve community stakeholders in implementing the plan and achieving its goals to the benefit of residents, businesses, institutions and government.
2. **Environmental Stewardship:** Reduce the City’s expenditure of resources to a level that will have measurable impact.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Prioritize and select the activities with high benefits for the cost.
4. **Communication:** Communication about progress being made and participation opportunities will occur regularly during plan development.
5. **Long-term Outlook:** Plan should have a five year timeframe for implementation with short, medium, and long term plan development.
6. **Effective Implementation:** The Plan will be developed in a way that measures progress over time, incorporating baseline metrics. Planning goals will focus on City operations and will be implemented through establishment of City policies and practices. The Plan will incorporate goals of community stakeholders with their collaboration, as they see appropriate. The plan will additionally seek to promote more sustainable choices for community members.





Focus Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling

Goals and strategies in this focus area are intended to increase access to recycling and reduce the amount of material being sent to landfills.

Goal 1: Increase access to and effectiveness of commingled recycling.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Provide information to single-family, multi-family housing residents and businesses about commingled recycling.	Short-term
2	Educate developers on design options that include recycling receptacles with new development.	Short-term

Goal 2: Without added costs to the City, facilitate electronic and hazardous waste landfill diversion.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Co-host specialized recycling events.	Ongoing
2	Expand access to and education about City program for collecting unwanted prescription drugs.	Short-term
3	Partner to provide free-standing recycling bins for batteries, electronics.	Short-term
4	Partner to provide regular electronics collection.	Short-term
5	Partner to provide centrally located free-standing recycling bins for fluorescent bulbs.	Short-term





Focus Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling

Goal 3: Increase composting of biodegradable waste.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Provide information to the community on composting food waste.	Short-term
2	Facilitate partnership with food composting groups and interested businesses.	Short-term
3	Pursue a small-scale, fee-based, pilot curbside composting program.	Short-term



Goal 4: Reduce the amount of landfilled waste, encourage material reuse and promote recyclable material options.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Promote consumer use of reusable bags at grocery and other retail stores.	Short-term
2	Promote partnerships with area retailers and education to facilitate a take-back for used plastic bags.	Short-term
3	Work with food producers, grocers, restaurants, and schools to donate surplus meals and staple food items to local food banks, shelters and others.	Short-term



Goal 5: Provide educational opportunities for the public on the importance of waste reduction and recycling.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Develop partnerships with key players to educate the community on waste reduction and recycling issues.	Short-term
2	Create and regularly update a waste reduction/recycling resources section to be included on new sustainability web page of City website.	Short-term
3	Provide waste reduction and recycling tips quarterly through "Front Porch."	Short-term



Focus Area 2: Transportation and Mobility

Goals and strategies in this focus area are intended to reduce fuel usage and provide a safer environment for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Goal 1: Decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Work with Pace and City Centre to improve Elmhurst as an end point for shopping.	Short-term
2	Enhance central business district for commuter travel (bike parking, walk patterns, and flow of vehicular traffic).	Ongoing
3	Partner to promote and encourage bike use for trips less than 2 miles.	Ongoing
4	Promote bike, walk and carpool to schools.	Long-term
5	Enhance Central Business District zoning guidelines to encourage transit oriented development.	Long-term
6	Promote rideshare programs (for example, Zipcar).	Short-term
7	Evaluate Complete Streets policy and incorporate applicable recommendations.	Long-term



Goal 2: Promote Alternative Fuel Vehicles when cost effective.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Designate priority electric vehicle (EV) parking in shopping areas.	Ongoing
2	When making infrastructure improvements, incorporate metered EV charging station locations in City-maintained parking lots/decks.	Long-term
3	Encourage businesses that currently provide EV charging at other locations outside of Elmhurst to add EV charging stations in Elmhurst.	Ongoing



Focus Area 2: Transportation and Mobility

Goal 3: Continue to implement Bike Plan by pursuing key Bike Plan strategies.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Pursue "outreach and engagement" plan recommendations including: Education for all ages (grants available), grade school and high school programs, "shop by bike" promotion.	Ongoing
2	Regularly assess and meet the need for additional bike parking in public places.	Ongoing
3	Support Safe Routes to School program.	Ongoing
4	Establish accessible and safe bicycle routes between north and south Elmhurst key locations, as identified in Bike Plan, including NW Elmhurst access to the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, North Elmhurst to Prairie Path and access to Elmhurst Crossing shopping center.	Long-term
5	Reconfigure and add bike parking at Metra station to allow for more bike parking.	Long-term
6	Provide sheltered bike parking at Metra station.	Long-term
7	Encourage installation of sheltered bike parking at key destinations including Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst College, grocery stores and major retailers, City Centre, parks and recreational facilities, parking decks.	Long-term
8	Incorporate Pick subdivision into bike plan.	Long-term

Goal 4: Promote use of cost-effective forms of alternative fuel and fuel conservation/ emissions reductions for vehicle fleets.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Encourage bicycle usage for City activities such as parking enforcement.	Short-term
2	For City fleet, analyze ways to reduce fuel usage 3% each year for the next 5 years and/or utilize cost-saving, alternative forms of fuel.	Ongoing
3	Encourage community partners to reduce fuel usage 3% each year for the next 5 years and/or utilize cost saving, alternative forms of fuel.	Ongoing
4	Create a vehicle anti-idling education and awareness program for residents, municipal fleets and other sectors, and at strategic waiting locations like schools, railroad crossings, etc.	Long-term

Goal 5: Provide educational opportunities for the public on transportation and mobility issues.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Develop partnerships with key players to educate the community on transportation and mobility issues.	Short-term
2	Create and regularly update a transportation resources section to be included on new sustainability webpage of City website.	Short-term
3	Provide transportation and mobility tips quarterly through "Front Porch."	Short-term

In 2013, Elmhurst was one of only eight Illinois communities named a *Bike-Friendly Community* by the League of American Bicyclists.

The designation is awarded to communities that have improved bicycle safety conditions and are welcoming to recreational cyclists.





A 2009 report from the EPA Green and Building Work Group that reviewed the impacts of the built environment estimates that U.S. buildings account for 39% of total energy use, and 68% of electricity consumption. Improving the efficiency of the built environment is one of the most effective ways to reduce energy use and protect the environment.



Focus Area 3: Energy Use Reduction and Alternative Energy

Goals and strategies in this focus area are intended to reduce energy usage and save money for the City and residents.

Goal 1: Reduce energy consumption and cost.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Ensure that City code is up to date and in alignment with state requirements.	Short-term
2	Partner with and promote applicable third party programs to raise awareness and educate the community about existing energy efficiency rebates, incentives programs, grants.	Short-term
3	Encourage higher-density development.	Long-term
4	Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees that save energy, including parking lots.	Ongoing
5	Regularly promote City and community accomplishments related to energy.	Ongoing
6	Track energy consumption data for key metrics over time.	Short-term
7	Create an education and outreach campaign or challenge to engage citizens and businesses in energy efficiency efforts.	Short-term
8	Promote/encourage energy audits and upgrades for residential homes year round, at time of sale, or in conjunction with a remodeling permit.	Short-term
9	Continue to incorporate cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades into municipal facilities.	Ongoing
10	Promote/encourage Energy Star, LEED certification programs.	Short-term
11	Explore possibilities for home energy financing assistance. Facilitate partnerships as appropriate.	Long-term
12	Promote and educate on benefits of light/white/cool roofs, etc.	Ongoing



Focus Area 3: Energy Use Reduction and Alternative Energy

Goal 2: Increase use of cost-saving renewable, cleaner, and more efficient energy.		
	Strategy	Timeframe
1	When cost savings can be realized, use municipal aggregation or other available programs to purchase cleaner and more renewable electricity. Keep abreast of latest methods and best practices available.	Ongoing
2	Evaluate and streamline solar equipment permitting process as appropriate.	Ongoing
3	Educate builders about the benefits of installing solar-ready infrastructure on new residential homes.	Short-term
4	Raise awareness and provide education about solar energy for the Elmhurst residential, commercial and industrial community including feasibility, financing options and available rebates/tax credits.	Short-term
5	Develop tracking for renewable energy installations.	Short-term



Goal 3: Provide educational opportunities for the public on the importance of energy use reduction and alternative energy.		
	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Develop partnerships with key players to educate the community on energy use reduction and alternative energy.	Short-term
2	Create and regularly update an energy use reduction and alternative energy section to be included on new sustainability web page of City website.	Short-term
3	Provide energy use reduction and alternative energy tips quarterly through "Front Porch."	Short-term





Focus Area 4: Water Resources and Conservation

Goals and strategies in this focus area are intended to provide strategies for water conservation, reduction of water pollution, and stormwater best management practices.

Goal 1: Promote water conservation, efficiency and reuse.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Promote third-party water conservation programs as appropriate.	Short-term
2	Promote natural landscaping choices for residential, commercial, industrial.	Short-term
3	Reduce municipal water use.	Short-term
4	Promote the benefits of the new water meters program, including the web portal to track usage, set notifications and identify leaks.	Ongoing



Goal 2: Address flooding through innovative (green) stormwater management practices.

	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Promote "Best Management Practices" (BMP) through demonstration projects. Educate community on benefits.	Ongoing
2	Promote and facilitate stormwater detention in commercial developments. Include education on stormwater BMPs.	Short-term
3	Educate the community on existing Residential Stormwater Incentive Programs and use homes that have implemented these programs as models.	Ongoing
4	Create long-term tree plan to develop urban forest.	Short-term
5	Continue to regularly report on benefits of stormwater BMPs to County, City Council, and residents.	Ongoing

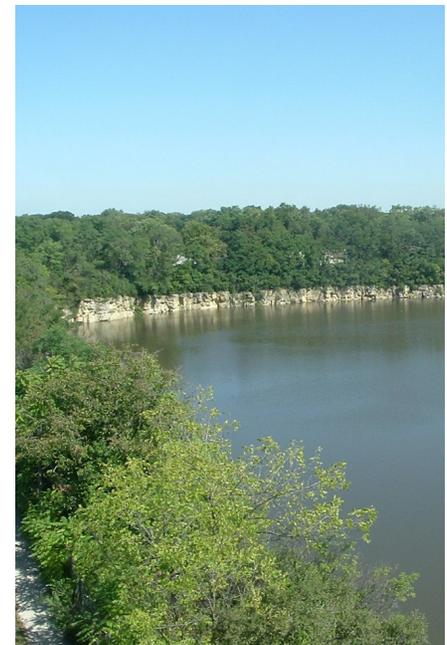


Focus Area 4: Water Resources and Conservation

Goal 3: Reduce water pollution.		
	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Evaluate use and safety of coal tar-based sealcoat.	Short-term
2	Educate the community on solutions for reducing stormwater runoff.	Short-term
3	Research and consider alternatives to winter road salt.	Short-term
4	Educate the community on natural and organic lawn care options, and use municipal property lawn care practices as model.	Short-term
5	Continue promotion of the highly-successful prescription drug take-back program.	Ongoing



Goal 4: Provide educational opportunities for the public on the importance of water issues.		
	Strategy	Timeframe
1	Develop partnerships with key players to educate the community on water issues (clean drinking water, flooding, conservation, etc.).	Short-term
2	Create and regularly update a water resources and conservation section to be included on new sustainability web page of City website.	Ongoing
3	Provide water conservation tips quarterly through "Front Porch."	Short-term



Appendices

1. ***City of Elmhurst Sustainability Policy***
2. ***Existing Conditions Reports***
 - a. *Solid Waste*
 - b. *Transportation*
 - c. *Energy*
 - d. *Water*
 - e. *Education*

Implementation

1. ***Plan update: every 5 years***
2. ***City Manager's report on achievements towards sustainability: annual***
3. ***Adding new action initiatives and targets: as they are identified***
4. ***Strategy implementation: ongoing, short-term and long-term (definitions on page 3)***

Implementation & Next Steps

The Sustainability Action Plan is meant to be a living document and will be updated every five years. Additionally, the City Manager's Report on Achievements Towards Sustainability will be completed annually. The City of Elmhurst is committed to monitoring and reporting the progress on this plan and to adding new action initiatives as they are identified. Reporting to the community will increase the visibility of the achievements and encourage others to become active in their own sustainability plans. Measuring and tracking progress in improving sustainability in our Community is critical to the long-term success of the plan. The Plan's goals and strategies may be added to or adjusted based on measured progress towards the goals, advances in sustainability and changes in the City's priorities and initiatives.

Although not a separate focus area, education is critical to the success of the Sustainability Action Plan. The City has a webpage dedicated to resources related to sustainable practices and frequently partners with other agencies to hold recycling events or educational workshops. The City has partnered with the Conservation Foundation for the past three years. The City is committed to continuing to be a resource for residents as educational opportunities arise.

As the City of Elmhurst works to improve the quality of life for residents today and for future generations, the City must operate with the intention to educate, communicate and build partnerships. Education about sustainable practices and communication about existing programs are paramount to moving toward sustainability. The task force – through its research – found many local agencies with sustainable goals and programs. If these resources were better communicated and educational opportunities were more readily available, the community would be more likely to adopt sustainable practices. Approximately half of the municipalities in DuPage County have an Environmental/Sustainability Commission. The City should consider establishing a Commission or Advisory Group to assist with plan implementations.

Partnerships are an important theme throughout this plan. The task force itself is a partnership of numerous local agencies. The commitment of the partner agencies to participate in the Sustainability Task Force has been invaluable. The task force members bring not only knowledge of their agencies, but also a diverse set of background and expertise. The City could not fulfill this plan without its partner agencies that share common sustainability goals. By leveraging the partnerships to achieve the goals of this plan, we are creating an efficient use of resources and time. Ultimately, this Sustainability Action Plan is a list of priorities for staff and committees. These strategies are all items that can be achieved without extra funding. Should grant funding become available, the City is poised to lead the way in acquiring funding to implement sustainability projects. For now, the City and the Sustainability Task Force have created the foundation for moving toward a more sustainable Elmhurst.

Appendix 1
Sustainability Policy

City of Elmhurst Sustainability Policy (2009)

Introduction

Across America, citizens are involved in environmental initiatives and concerned about improving local and global environmental quality. Concerns about global warming have heightened awareness that all aspects of our daily lives impact the environment. People are petitioning their local, state, and federal governments to respond to these concerns.

Elmhurst residents are also concerned. They expect the City of Elmhurst to address these concerns. On October 4, 2007, Mayor Marcucci signed a Cool Cities Agreement pledging to reduce the City of Elmhurst carbon footprint to 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. This first step will require significant City commitment. However, the environmental initiatives will not end there.

The City recognizes its responsibility in responding to local environmental concerns. This policy will address many areas of City responsibilities, and is intended to assist City staff in making decisions related to environmental concerns. This policy ensures environmental issues receive equal consideration in all decision-making processes regarding purchases, personal actions, and other critical municipal activities. While this policy may result in initial added purchase costs for fuel, electricity, and materials, it is intended to guide long-term decision making, resulting in better choices for both the local and regional climate.

This policy also encourages the City to actively partner with appropriate local citizen groups to promote new behaviors among Elmhurst residents, and encourage changes as related to building construction, vehicle use, and local energy consumption.

Sustainability Defined: The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defines 'sustainability' as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Elmhurst, as part of a region, nation, and world, has less impact or control on macro-level environmental, social, and economic forces. But within the sphere of its control, and within the context of its core service objectives, Elmhurst is committed to responsible stewardship of its environmental, economic, and social resources, so its exceptional quality of life for current and future generations is maintained and improved. The City hopes these initiatives will inspire and inform others to make a similar commitment.

Integrated decision-making is essential to sustainability. Recognizing that environmental, economic, and social equity concerns are interdependent is a central principle of sustainability.

Protecting the natural environment is fundamental to the concept of sustainability. Improving and sustaining the air, water, and land are fundamental to a sustainable society. Vigorous economic activity contributes to a high quality of life, and in Elmhurst, supports City services, including public safety, water and wastewater services, maintenance of streets and sidewalks that provide vital access throughout the community, and public parks for recreation and enjoyment of the environment. Balancing these multiple perspectives is essential to Elmhurst's concept of sustainability.

Sustainability Defined:

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Elmhurst is committed to responsible stewardship of its environmental, economic, and social resources, so its exceptional quality of life for current and future generations is maintained and improved.

The City hopes these initiatives will inspire and inform others to make a similar commitment.

Statement of Policy

The City of Elmhurst is dedicated to the enhancement and protection of the immediate and long term well-being of the City, its citizens, and its natural environment. To that end, the City of Elmhurst will consider sustainable environmental practices as an integral component of its leadership role in the community.

The City of Elmhurst will continue to face the challenge of maintaining the core water, wastewater, public safety, and all other community services that have been commonly accepted as the City responsibilities. At the same time the City will strive to protect and enhance Elmhurst's environmental quality, economy, and livability. The City is committed to incorporating proven new technologies that result in reducing energy demands; to use the most environmentally responsible products in its daily operations and to address critical local environmental issues when developing new City programs and initiatives which take on particular urgency in light of serious global environmental concerns. The City will seek to be an active partner with other civic organizations and public agencies within the City (Park Districts, School Districts, Library and Historical Foundation) to achieve sustainable policies and goals.

Investments in sustainable projects or in materials that have minimal environmental impacts cannot be measured by traditional economic criteria. Expecting a short or medium term return for the investing agency will in many (or indeed most) cases not be possible. Rather the long (perhaps decades) return for society in general should be the investing motive. Through their duly elected representatives the citizens of Elmhurst must decide the correct investment strategy for each agency.

Policy Guidelines

Guidelines for implementing sustainable municipal policy include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The concept of sustainability guides City policy. The City is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The long-term impacts of policy choices must be considered to ensure a sustainable legacy.
2. Protection, preservation, and restoration of the natural environment are high priorities of the City. Elmhurst is committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment. City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts within the context of the City's essential functions, planned development, and overall goals and responsibilities. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to make a similar commitment to the natural environment.
3. Environmental quality, economic health and social equity are mutually dependent. A healthy environment is integral to the city's long-term economic and societal interests. In achieving a healthy environment, the City must ensure that inequitable burdens are not placed on any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of the cities population, and that the benefits of a sustainable community are accessible to all members of the community.
4. All decisions have implications for the long-term sustainability of Elmhurst. The policy and decision-making processes of the City will reflect its sustainability objectives. The City will lead by example and encourage other community stakeholders to use sustainability principles to guide their decisions and actions.
5. Community awareness, responsibility, participation, and education are key elements of a sustainable community. All community members, including individual citizens, community-based groups, businesses, schools and other institutions must; 1) be aware of their impact on the environmental, economic, and social health of Elmhurst; 2) must take responsibility for reducing, eliminating and balancing those impacts and; 3) must take an active part in community efforts to address sustainability concerns. The City will therefore assist in opportunities to support community awareness, responsibility and participation in cooperation with all other organizations within the City such as Park Districts, School Districts, and Elmhurst College.
6. Elmhurst recognizes its linkage with the regional, national, and global community. The relationship between local issues and regional, national and global issues will be recognized and acted upon in the City's programs and policies. This may involve balancing local issues with broader concerns. In addition, the City's programs and policies should be developed as models that can be emulated by other communities. The City will also act as a strong advocate for the development and implementation of model programs and innovative approaches by regional, state, and federal government that embody the goals of sustainability.
7. Those sustainability issues most important to the community will be addressed first, and the most cost-effective programs and policies will be selected. The financial and human resources available to the City are limited. The evaluation of a program's cost-effectiveness will be based on an analysis of the associated costs and benefits, including environmental and social costs and benefits.

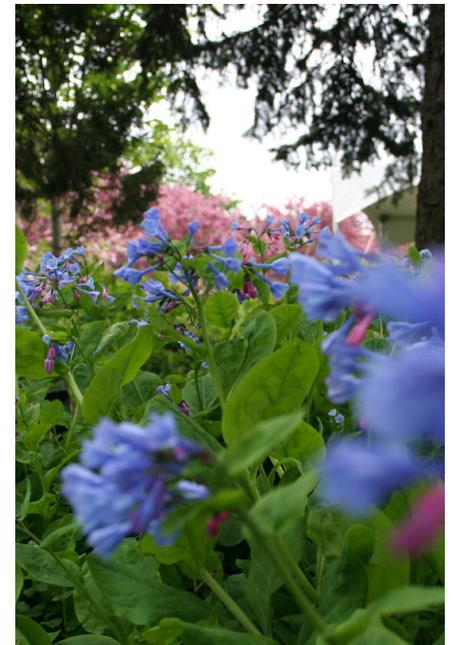
8. The city is committed to procurement decisions which minimize negative environmental and social impacts. The City will abide by an environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy that emphasizes long-term values and attempts to be a model for other public as well as private organizations.
9. Cross-sector partnerships are necessary to achieve sustainable goals. Partnerships among the City government, businesses, residents, property owners and all community stakeholders are necessary to achieve a sustainable community. The City will actively seek to participate with community groups and to engage community partners in all appropriate sustainability efforts.

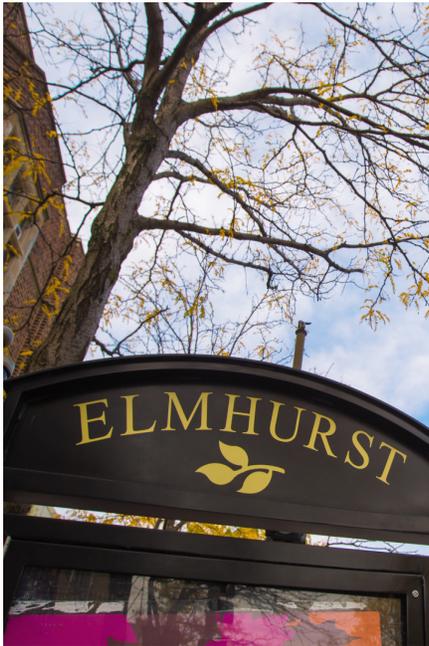
Sustainable Elmhurst City Programs

Some of the specific policies and programs that exemplify Elmhurst's sustainability objectives are briefly outlined below. Several of these policies and programs are detailed on the City web site. While not inclusive of all sustainable Elmhurst policies and programs, this listing is intended to serve as a resource guide to the City's efforts in working towards a sustainable Elmhurst, and will be periodically updated as the City initiates new programs or policies.

Community Leadership and Communication

- The Elmhurst City Council as the democratically-elected leadership of the community sets policies which are implemented by City staff. The Council is committed to responsible City management, including maintenance and improvement of public health, safety, and general welfare, as well as implementation of innovative sustainability policies and programs that are prudent, cost-effective, and set an example for other organizations and individuals.
- Sustainability information will be distributed in many ways including The Front Porch, a regularly published city newsletter, the city web site, and through the Elmhurst Public Library. In this way, all residents can access information to help them make wise conservation choices.
- Without strong local economic activity, the City would not have the resources to provide for public safety or maintain streets and other infrastructure. Fostering of local economic development is a critical long-term necessity for continuing sustainability of City operations.
- The City recognizes the need for partnership with private businesses and area citizen organizations. The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, with representatives from local businesses, local citizen organizations, such as the League of Woman Voters, the Library, the Elmhurst Park District, District 205, the Elmhurst Area Chamber of Commerce, and City staff, is one such partnership.





Commitment to Carbon Emission Reduction

- The City of Elmhurst is concerned about global climate change and has taken steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as part of a worldwide effort led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), through the Cool Cities initiative. Elmhurst pledges to reduce city-wide carbon dioxide emissions to 7% below 1990 levels, and to meet that emission goal by 2012.
- Elmhurst supports sustainable energy sources. Working with the local electrical energy provider Elmhurst will perform a review of electrical purchases to maximize power generated from sustainable sources such as wind, bio-fuels, solar, etc. Elmhurst will also conduct an audit of major energy uses, such as pumps, vehicles, buildings, and equipment. The goal of the audit is to identify new, more efficient equipment with the aim of reducing energy needs. This includes new HVAC systems at the Library, Waste Water Treatment Plant, City Hall, and Police Department.
- The Public Works vehicle fleet will utilize the use of bio-diesel and 'E-85' gasoline to the greatest extent possible. Also, electric/gasoline hybrid vehicles will be added to the fleet where possible to further reduce dependence on carbon dioxide producing fossil fuels.
- Elmhurst will reduce its own contribution to poor local air quality by reducing automobile use and establishing idling guidelines for municipal vehicles.
- Elmhurst encourages the use of building design and construction that results in the conservation of resources and the reduction of toxic pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.
- This policy shall establish the use of low volatile emission paints, cleaning products, adhesives, and other chemical additives wherever they are used, and that low emission products be made standard purchase inventory in the City central stores supply.
- Elmhurst supports public transit systems including the RTA, METRA, and PACE. Residents are encouraged to use the transit system as an alternative to the automobile. Creating a safe environment for walking and bicycling as additional automobile alternatives, is a high priority as well.

Resource Management and Conservation

- Elmhurst is committed to water resource conservation. City building codes require water saving devices be installed in all new and rebuild construction. Elmhurst also restricts outdoor water use during summer months based on even/odd addresses. The daily water allocation limits the total daily use of Lake Michigan water and is reviewed regularly. Annual water audits also insure that there is limited water waste. Elmhurst has high-quality water which meets all of the limits of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Water is regularly tested, and water quality reports are regularly provided to the community.
- As a founding member of a local storm water management workgroup, Elmhurst leads the way towards basin wide solutions to storm water management that crosses municipal and county boundaries. This approach has been recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the most effective manner to solve storm water pollution problems.

- As part of the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II rules, Elmhurst will monitor, inspect and certify construction activities within the City to eliminate the pollution of local surface waters due to construction run off of silt or of construction related materials. The City shall also implement into its construction designs best management practices (BMPs), which reduce the quantity of storm water run off with the use of pervious surfaces, bio-swales, and underground retention.
- While recognizing that use of manufactured substances is part of the modern world, Elmhurst is concerned about health and environmental impacts of toxic substances. The City is committed to using the lowest feasible amounts of toxic pesticides and fertilizers and will actively explore other methods in public plantings.
- Elmhurst has a long-standing commitment to waste reduction and recycling. Elmhurst works with its waste haulers to implement comprehensive recycling programs, striving to become a leader in waste reduction efforts. Current recycling efforts will continue to widen the scope of recycling opportunities in multi-family residences, public spaces, and the Union Pacific train station. The City participates in hazardous waste recycling sponsored by DuPage County and the State of Illinois. Elmhurst is also investigating advanced recycling strategies for batteries, paints, florescent light fixtures, etc. Information on recycling will be more widely and more frequently distributed to residents.

Quality of Life Initiatives

- Elmhurst participates in the National Arbor Day Foundation “Tree City” program. Replacing and expanding its urban forest is an annual budget priority. The Elmhurst Public Works Department maintains an extensive street tree inventory. Trees can improve air quality, provide shade, assist in ‘calming’ traffic, and reduce the ‘urban heat island’ effect. The City also encourages property owners to plant trees in their front yards to beautify Elmhurst. Elmhurst has also adopted a policy promoting the use of biodegradable materials in City planting projects.
- The Elmhurst Fire Department will retrofit its current fleet of fire apparatus with diesel oxidation catalysts. This technology will reduce emissions from fire apparatus to meet stringent clean air standards. Future apparatus purchases will include engines the will meet or exceed EPA emissions standards. In 2003 the Elmhurst Fire Department started installing Light Emitting Diodes (LED) emergency lights in all of its new vehicles and apparatus. These lights require less power which in turn reduces engine emissions.
- The City of Elmhurst Master Plan sustainability goals shall be considered as included in the Quality of Life Initiatives by reference.





Implementation Responsibilities

General policy directives are products of decisions made by the City Council with direction given to the City Manager by City Council, which sets limits, goals, and expectations. The City Manager delegates policy implementation to the department heads who achieve goals set by City Council action. To assist the department heads the City has established a 'Sustainability Committee' composed of staff from all of the City departments. The members of that committee are charged with reviewing current City practices and suggesting changes to achieve sustainability goals.

Purchasing policies must consider sustainable practices along with budget concerns and material quality when making purchases. These evaluation criteria are incorporated into the purchasing policies of each department and are considered as City departments develop annual budgets. The evaluation includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of new technologies, improved technologies, and alternative methods of achieving the budget goals. These evaluations shall not diminish the primary concern for public safety.

Implementing this policy involves all City departments. Individual department responsibilities will take the lead as the policy goals are implemented, but will require involvement from those departments with ancillary responsibilities. As an example new fire fighting equipment requires the co-operative design needs from Fire Department staff along with the maintenance requirements from Public Works. Likewise building code changes require the Building department working in co-operation with Planning, Zoning and Economic Development.

The Public Works central purchasing (central stores) is charged with investigating and modifying purchasing policies to adhere to the goals of this policy. Materials and product purchases shall be constantly monitored to meet the goals of the City policy.

Many aspects of this policy require close co-ordination with community services and community organizations. A department Director, appointed by the City Manager, will represent the City on appropriate community committees to provide City participation and advice.

With direction from the City Council the City Manager shall monitor the policy and establish annual achievement goals, including achieving target carbon emission reduction by 2012. Annual carbon inventories identify progress toward that goal. An annual report from the Department Directors to the City Council within the framework of the annual budget will identify the goals established for the coming fiscal year, and identify and quantify annual achievements of pre-set goals.



Appendix 2*

Existing Conditions Reports



Solid Waste



Transportation



Energy



Water



Education



Existing Conditions - Solid Waste

Solid Waste Management in Elmhurst Single-Family Residents

Elmhurst contracts with Republic Services for curbside hauling of refuse, recycling and compostable yard waste.

- Landfilled refuse is collected weekly in either 65-gallon or (with an upcharge) 95-gallon totes. Large items are collected as an included service one time per year for each residence. Large items are collected at other times via purchased stickers or by arrangement with Republic/Allied.
- Commingled recyclable paper, plastics, metals and glass are collected weekly in 65-gallon totes. Recycling is not required, but it is available at no additional cost. Reduction of recycling tonnage due to items improperly placed in the recycle totes is not tracked.
- From April through November, yard waste is collected weekly. The collection includes up to two tied bundles of brush per week. Additional bagged/binned yard waste can be collected with purchased stickers (\$3.25 per sticker). Also included are two autumn leaf collections (in November and early December) for each single-family home. Holiday trees are collected as an included service during the first two weeks of January. These trees can be collected at other times with a purchased sticker.
- There is no curbside pick-up for electronic, hazardous or compostable food waste.

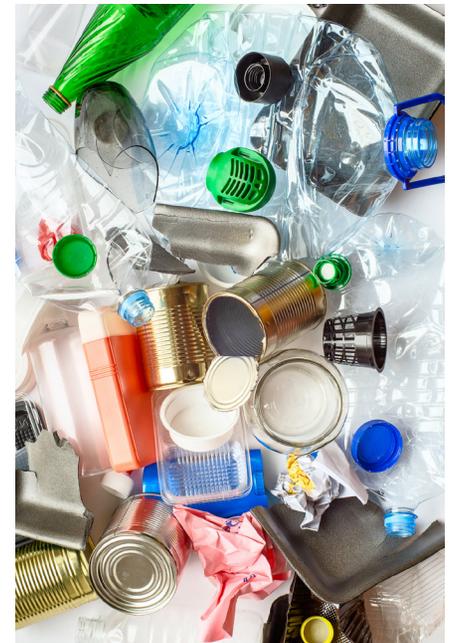
Republic provides monthly and annual data on the tons of landfill, recycling and yard waste it collects from Elmhurst single-family residences. **Table 1** below shows this annual data for the period from 2010 through 2014. During 2010 and 2011, this segment of Elmhurst produced 17,844 mean annual tons of non-yard waste that was either sent to the landfill or recycled. In 2013 and 2014, the non-yard waste remained nearly unchanged at 17,923 mean annual tons. Of this waste, 5,043 mean annual tons (28%) was collected as comingled recycling in 2010 and 2011, while 5,492 mean annual tons (31%) was collected as comingled recycling in 2013 and 2014. This increase in recycling quantities and proportions is likely tied to the larger 65-gallon recycling totes implemented in 2013. Over this same period, the collected compostable yard waste decreased from 2,792 tons in 2010 to 1,899 tons in 2014. A reason for the decrease may be the added resident cost for many yard waste collection services.

Appendix 2: Table 1

Annual landfill, recycling and yard waste for Elmhurst single-family homes for the period 2010 through 2014 (data provided by Republic Services)¹

Year	Total Waste Collected		Landfill Waste Collected			Comingled Recycling Collected			Yard Waste Collected		
	Tons	Tons per house	Tons	Tons per house	% of Total	Tons	Tons per house	% of Total	Tons	Tons per house	% of Total
2010	21,273	1.28	13,401	0.81	63	5,080	0.31	24	2,792	0.17	13
2011	20,114	1.21	12,201	0.74	61	5,006	0.30	25	2,907	0.18	14
2012	19,192	1.16	11,889	0.72	62	4,997	0.30	26	2,306	0.14	12
2013			13,379	0.81		5,688	0.34				
2014	18,677	1.13	11,483	0.69	61	5,295	0.32	28	1,899	0.11	10

¹ Blanks indicate where the data are not available.





Multi-family apartments and condominiums:

According to City data, there are approximately 3,742 multi-family housing units. Building owners and resident associations independently contract waste hauling. Data on collected waste and recycling is not tracked, and Elmhurst does not require that recycling is available on site for these residents.

Businesses

Building or business owners independently contract waste hauling. City Centre, Spring Road and York/Vallette shopping districts are represented by business associations. These associations do not track or report data on collected waste, and recycling is not required by associations. The City of Elmhurst does not require or provide incentives for waste reduction/recycling or composting. Some businesses voluntarily participate in and promote these activities (ex.: Flight 112 Wine Bar); the associated data on reduced or landfill-diverted waste is not reported to the city.

Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst School District 205

Large institutions in the City of Elmhurst include the Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst College, and School District 205. Each of these institutions independently contracts waste hauling services and each works to divert waste from landfill via recycling (see **Table 2**). At an institutional level, the percent of waste diverted from landfill via comingled recycling is roughly 40 percent of the residential diversion rate. This comingled recycle stream is 12 to 14 percent of all non-yard waste at these institutions versus 32 percent for residential.

By implementing food scrap composting, Elmhurst College has diverted an additional 5 percent from landfill. The College also composts or reuses nearly all of its landscape waste. In District 205, at least one school has implemented food waste composting. Though District 205 does have a district-wide resource conservation goal to reduce solid waste generation by 50 percent before July 2020 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.19c, adopted on Feb. 22, 2011), consolidated District data is not routinely collected or reported. Elmhurst Memorial Hospital does not practice food scrap composting, but the hospital does track total waste generation and landfill diversion on a monthly basis.

Appendix 2: Table 2

2014 waste data for Elmhurst residences and large institutions (Single-family and EMH data provided by Republic Services).²

² Greved cells were not reported or are not available.

Waste Generator (2014 data)	Landfill			Comingled Recycling		Composted food		Yard/ Landscape	
	Tons	Tons	% of Total	Tons	% of Total	Tons	% of Total	Tons	% of Total
Single-Family Residents	18,677	11,483	61	5,295	28	-	0	1,899	10
Multi-Family Residents									
Elmhurst Memorial Hospital	1,075	923	86	152	14	-	0		
Elmhurst College	1,050	852	81	129	12	52	5	17	2
District 205									
Municipal Buildings	63	36	57	27	43	-	0	-	0
Municipal Sidewalk Containers	31	28	90	3	10	-	0	-	0
Elmhurst Park District									



Specialized Waste Collection

1. City of Elmhurst-Supported Recycling Initiatives

Ongoing initiatives

- a. Medication disposal:** The Elmhurst Police Department has a medication drop box in their lobby for residents to drop off prescription and non-prescription drugs on a daily basis. From January through September 2015, more than 825 pounds of medication was collected. Twice a year, the Department also participates in the National Prescription Take-Back Day. The police not only offer a safe and convenient place of disposing of prescription drugs, they also provide education about the potential for abuse of medications. The benefit to the environment is that medication is not flushed to enter and contaminate water.
- b. Yard waste and brush collection:** Residential yard waste is collected from April 1 through November 30. Two free bundles of brush are picked up each week and do not require a yard waste sticker. Yard waste is taken to a transfer station in Northlake, 3 miles from Elmhurst, and then taken to the Garden Prairie compost site, which is 57 miles away in Boone County.

Specialized collections

- a. Used holiday lights collections:** Collection sites include Elmhurst Public Library, York Community High School, Elmhurst Park District (Wagner Center and Courts Plus) and Elmhurst City Hall. Holiday lights are collected from mid-November to the end of January. More than 600 lbs. of holiday lights were recycled in 2013; 2,252 lbs. in 2014.
- b. Halloween pumpkin composting:** Pumpkins are collected at the City's Public Works facility, and Republic Services then delivers them to Compost Supply for composting. More than 9,000 lbs of pumpkins were diverted from landfill in the first year (2014).
- c. Used cooking oil collection:** Used cooking oil, saved from Thanksgiving or regular use, is collected and turned into biofuel. This collection encourages residents not to clog drains or damage pipes by pouring it down the drain, or tossing it in the trash to end up in landfill. Eighty (80) gallons of oil were collected in both 2013 and 2014.
- d. Miscellaneous specialized recycling:** Elmhurst College also partners with various local organizations for specific collections such as SCARCE for used books and school supplies, Working Bikes, Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity.





2. Electronic and Hazardous Waste Recycling

Electronics:

The State of Illinois requires that all electronics and hazardous waste needs to be properly disposed of or recycled, should not be placed in landfill and cannot go into curbside recycling bins.

Elmhurst College’s annual Recycling Extravaganza provides residents and students the opportunity to drop off unwanted electronics for recycling. In the last five years, over 30 tons of household electronics have been collected for recycling. Many neighboring cities also offer residents a monthly electronics drop-off, including Wood Dale, Lisle, Wheaton, Westmont, Lombard, and Northbrook.

With the volume of electronics waste growing rapidly due to technological advances, it is important that collection opportunities are made widely available.

Hazardous Waste:

DuPage residents may drop off hazardous waste at the City of Naperville’s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off facility, open every weekend. A list of accepted items is posted at Elmhurst.org. Some communities also offer convenient collection sites for alkaline batteries and fluorescent bulbs (e.g., Northbrook).

3. Composting

It is estimated that over 27% of residential solid waste is food waste³, and this is an area of potential landfill volume reduction. Several communities in the Chicago region offer curbside food scrap service to residents on a “Pay-as-you-Throw” basis.

Some nearby municipalities support “backyard” composting. For example, Lombard offers a one-time, \$80 dollar rebate to residents for composting at home. Residents buy or construct a specified compost bin and send pictures into the city showing it in use to get their rebate.

Currently, Elmhurst does not offer curbside compost collection nor does it provide incentive for composting at home.

Commercially, food scrap composting is done by local grocery chains (Jewel, Mariano’s, Whole Foods and Walmart). Institutionally, Elmhurst College contracts with Waste Management for food scrap composting from its cafeteria. DuPage County, through its Commercial Recycling Program, seeks commercial units to participate in composting food scraps. Assistance is offered through the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition.

4. Construction and Demolition Waste:

The Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study Update (2015) reported that 25% of municipal solid waste is made up of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. This is also an accepted figure used in DuPage County’s Solid Waste Assessment 2012. These figures reflect all landfill contributions with both municipal and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI), C&D waste included.

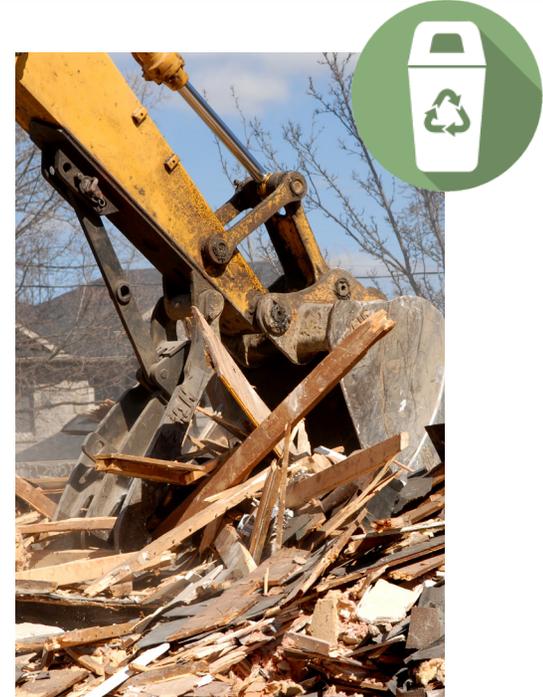
³ U.S. EPA, *Wastes - Non-Hazardous Waste - Municipal Solid Waste*, <https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/>

In Elmhurst, there is no data on the amount of C&D waste that is collected or estimated in conjunction with demolition and construction projects. There is no requirement to report C&D waste generation data by contractors, nor is there a requirement for recycling of these materials.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Cook County and the City of Chicago have passed Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinances. Cook County requires demolition contractors to divert 70% of the demolition debris by weight with an additional requirement for 5% by weight to be diverted for residential demolitions. Chicago requires contractors to keep track of the amount of recyclable waste generated, recycle 25% of it and submit an affidavit regarding their compliance.

KEY FINDINGS: SOLID WASTE

1. The City has a Sustainability Policy (2013) which advocates comprehensive recycling programs. This policy embraces efforts in many of the key areas identified above.
2. Education/information regarding residential recycling was reported as a community need during the April 2015 public input workshop.
3. Elmhurst provides recycling services for single-family residential collections only. Multi-family and commercial units are not required to contract with a waste hauler providing recycling. Institutions in Elmhurst appear to recycle in some form.
4. Collection of Elmhurst-generated items that by law require specialized handling is largely done by local not-for-profits or other municipalities. The waste streams required to be recycled are hazardous waste, landscape waste, fluorescent bulbs and electronics. For residents, Republic Services collects landscape waste. The City website refers residents and businesses to specialized recycling sites in neighboring communities or to events held by not-for-profits for disposing of hazardous waste, fluorescent bulbs and electronics.
5. An accurate picture of Elmhurst-wide solid waste and recycling volumes does not exist. Waste generated through construction and demolition contracting, waste from industrial, commercial and institutional operations and waste from multi-family units is not reported or collected. Industrial, commercial and institutional solid waste data alone could conservatively add over 15% to the existing residential figures. Based on comparative data from other communities and other existing planning data, reported solid waste collected is likely underreported in Elmhurst.
6. Formal programs to encourage food scrap compost collection or to support residential “backyard” composting have not been developed.





Existing Conditions - Transportation

A draw for new families and businesses, Elmhurst's location is highlighted in the City's current marketing promotion, "Close to Everything, Unlike Anything." Situated 18 miles from downtown Chicago and 10 miles from O'Hare International Airport, Elmhurst also boasts easy access to Interstates 290, 294 and 88, and a walkable downtown centered on a Metra commuter rail station. This bike-friendly community has much to offer to its residents and visitors.

Elmhurst's transportation system includes its roadways, public transportation options, and non-motorized transportation options, such as bicycling and walking. Efficient, accessible, and effective transportation networks that provide access to alternative modes of travel—such as transit, biking, and walking—are vital for higher quality of life, livability, and sustainability. Reduced reliance on private automobile trips helps to reduce emissions from fuel combustion and improve air quality. Using alternative forms of transportation is also more cost-effective than travel via private vehicle: one study estimates the annual savings of commuting by public transportation instead of by car at over \$11,000 for the Chicago region. Additionally, alternative transportation options provide increased mobility to a wider population range, such as the elderly and low-income individuals, who might not have access to automobiles or wish to drive. Increased opportunities for walking and biking are also beneficial from a public health perspective.

Key indicators for sustainable transportation, include roadways and vehicular access, access and use of public transportation and non-motorized transportation.

Roadways and Vehicular Access

The majority of the City's thoroughfares are in a good to excellent condition. The City of Elmhurst evaluates the need for maintenance and improvements and then completes projects on an ongoing basis. There are four classes of roadways: principal arterials, minor arterials, community collectors and local streets. Principal arterials Route 83 and York Road run north-south, along the west side of Elmhurst and through the center of the City. Principal arterial North Avenue (State Route 64) runs east-west. The three minor arterials running east-west across the northern-most border, the center of town and the south end are Grand Avenue, St. Charles Road and Butterfield Road. Community collector streets and local residential streets throughout town accommodate traffic at low speeds.

Approximately 145 miles of streets are maintained by the City: 105 miles are asphalt or similar material, and nearly 40 miles are concrete. Approximately 24 miles of streets in the City are maintained by the State of Illinois or DuPage County. The following repairs and improvements of City-maintained streets were completed in 2015: repair of approximately 700 asphalt patches and 20,000 potholes; application of 138,000 square yards of asphalt pavement; patching of nearly 1600 square yards of concrete pavement, 1,200 lineal feet of curb and gutters, 150 square yards of concrete driveways. This adds up to approximately 7.5 miles of paving. For the 2016 budget, the City of Elmhurst allocated \$2,272,000 for street paving and resurfacing, including \$1,750,000 for asphalt streets, \$72,000 for unimproved roads/alleys, and \$450,000 for concrete street resurfacing, and while exact project costs are estimated, 7 miles of paving are targeted. Street sweeping was completed weekly in business



districts. Other streets were swept monthly, from May to November and two additional instances in late fall to clear streets of leaves. Snow was cleared numerous times, as needed.⁴

Interstate 290 is accessible from 3 points: North York Road, North Avenue and St. Charles Road. Interstate 88 is accessible from South York Road, and Interstate 294 is accessible indirectly from the I-290 entry point via North Avenue.

High traffic volume, particularly during rush hours, creates congestion and increased emissions on North Avenue near the I-290 entry point, along Route 83, on York Road and at other intersections throughout town. Two underpasses at Rt. 83 and Robert Palmer Drive providing north-south access under the Union Pacific rail line alleviate some congestion caused by the 40,000 annual trips of the 50 daily freight trains and 60 daily Metra passenger trains that pass through Elmhurst. Four freight trains per day operate on the single-line Canadian National rail line, generating approximately 1,460 trips through the City, periodically creating congestion as there is no underpass for the Canadian National line. Changes in traffic patterns on this line are a result of additional or fewer cars on the four trains. There are no passenger trains on this line.

Public Transportation

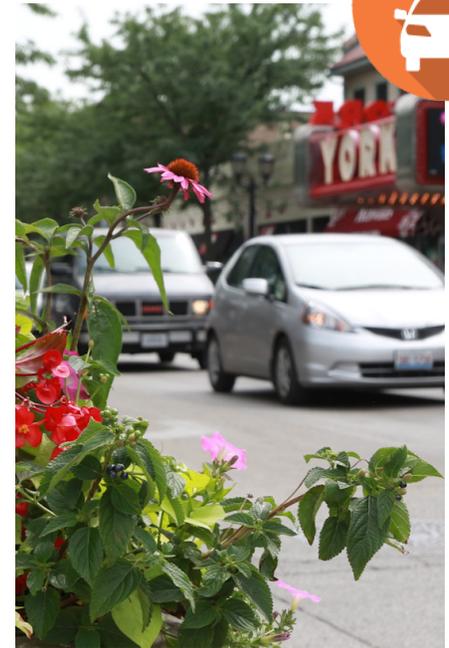
The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is a unit of government overseeing public transportation in the Chicago metropolitan area, including Metra rail service and Pace bus service in Elmhurst. Locally, the Metra Union Pacific rail line offers hourly service to downtown Chicago and to Elburn, with stops in multiple communities in between. Rush hour trains also accommodate commuters, including express routes between Elmhurst and Chicago. Using Metra to reach other areas of Chicagoland can be time consuming, as traveling to Ogilvie Station in Chicago's West Loop is first required.

The Pace bus service operates 3 bus lines traversing the City of Elmhurst. Local Pace bus routes are 309 Lake Street and 332 River Road/York Road, servicing the Elmhurst Metra station. Route 313 connects Oak Park and the Yorktown Shopping Center in Lombard. The trend for Pace ridership is decreasing usage for most routes for weekdays and weekends. For Metra, ridership information shows an increase for both boardings and alightings (RTAMS.org).

Non-Motorized Transportation

While Elmhurst residents enjoy access to walking and biking throughout much of the community, there are opportunities for improvement. Sidewalks throughout most of Elmhurst's residential areas enhance their walkability. The majority of neighborhoods organized on a grid system allow for easy bicycle navigation within contained neighborhoods. Approximately 96% of streets have sidewalks on one or both sides and 100% of intersections where sidewalks exist have curb cuts. Residents without sidewalk access along their properties may participate in the City's sidewalk cost-sharing program, in which the City and residents seeking sidewalks split the cost of new sidewalks, provided they meet policy requirements for the City's new sidewalk cost-sharing program. If at least 60% of residents on a residential block want sidewalks and commit to funding 50% of the cost, the City will fund 50%.

⁴ City of Elmhurst 2015 Budget Summary and City Staff reporting.





Amenities in the commercial downtown area, City Centre, are accessible for bikers and pedestrians. Bordered by residential districts to the east, south and west, residents can walk or bike to City Centre. Two smaller community shopping districts, along Spring Road and at York and Vallette, are situated in the center of residential areas, and are also accessible by bike or foot. Elmhurst Crossing shopping center on Route 83 and the shopping center at Butterfield and York also border residential areas, and service walkers and bikers. The Bike Plan does note lack of connectivity between some community shopping areas and accessible bike routes, such as Elmhurst Crossing. Resident feedback from the sustainability plan public workshop included comments about this lack of connectivity. All of these areas have bicycle parking available.

Recreational walking and biking are encouraged by the presence of, and access to, regional trails. The Salt Creek Greenway Trail is a regional pedestrian and bicycle trail extending from Elk Grove Village through multiple communities, including Elmhurst and on to Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield. Intersecting the Trail just west of Elmhurst is the Illinois Prairie Path, which spans five miles across Elmhurst. With access to these trails, the primary purpose of bicycle riding throughout the City continues to be recreation and exercise.

In 2012, the City of Elmhurst adopted a bike parking ordinance requiring bicycle parking in commercial districts where automobile parking is required.

In 2013, Elmhurst was one of only eight Illinois communities named a Bike-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. The designation is awarded to communities that have improved bicycle safety conditions and are welcoming to recreational cyclists. This recognition may not have been possible without Elmhurst's Bicycle Plan (Bike Plan), adopted into the Elmhurst Comprehensive Plan in 2013. Among highlighted features in the Bike Plan are improvements such as a bike route connecting the Metra station along Cottage Hill to the Prairie Path; and Elmhurst's first designated bicycle lane along Addison Avenue, complete with sharrows, or painted bike lane borders.

Additional bicycle storage at Elmhurst Public Schools and at the Metra station has resulted from Bike Plan recommendations. The Elmhurst Master's Cycling Team also donated a Dero Bike Fix-It bicycle repair station just south of the Metra tracks in City Centre, making tools and a pump available to the public.

There are deficiencies noted in the Bike Plan, such as the need for traffic signals activated by bicyclists and additional routes along West Ave. and Grantley Ave. on the north side, Madison St. on the south side and other areas. Many related and additional recommendations are identified in Bicycle Plan in the areas of encouragement for facilities, enforcement, education and evaluation, but commitment and further action is necessary to implement them.

The North York area was designated a Tax Increment Financing district in 2013 and the North York Corridor Redevelopment Plan was adopted by City Council in 2015. Recommendations for walkability enhancements are included in the Plan to address this noted area of deficiency. As with the lack of connectivity between bikeable areas, walkable neighborhoods are not all connected by walkable routes.

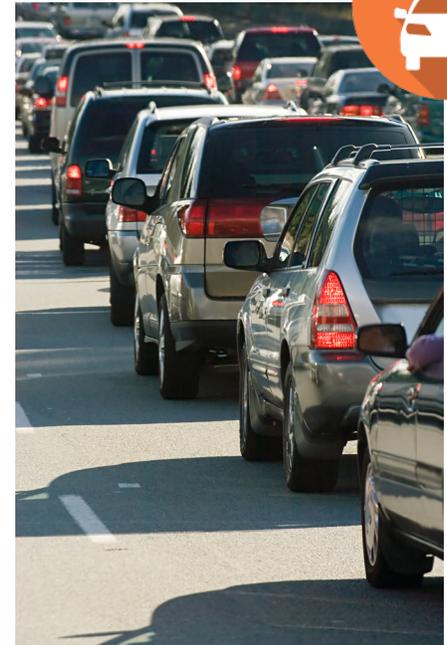


Modes of Travel

The following table summarizes the reported and measured modes of travel to get to work used by individuals residing in Elmhurst, based on data collected by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in 2012 and the 2014 City of Elmhurst Citizen Survey. Elmhurst residents self-reported single rider car transportation, consistent with data compiled by MetroPulse⁵, as their primary mode of transportation.

Appendix 2: Table 3
Modes of Transportation to Places of Employment

Transportation Mode to work	2014 City of Elmhurst Survey (%)	2012 MetroPulse (%) ¹
Car: Single rider	83	80
Car: More than one rider	1.02	6.6
Bus	.50	10.2
Train & car	7.57	
Train & bicycle	.61	
Train and feet	1.02	
Work at home	N/A	Approx. 5%



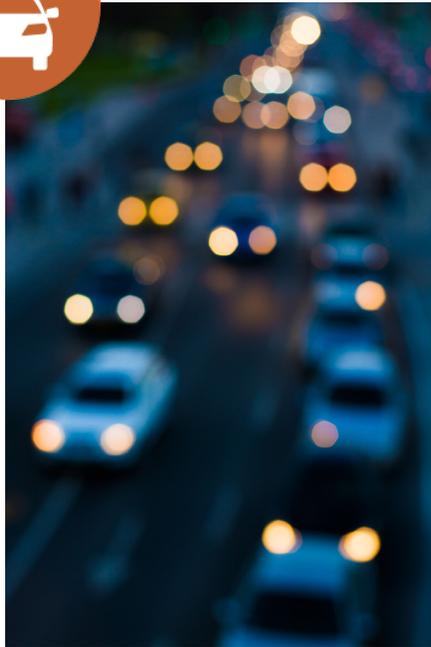
In 2010, the District 205 Safe Routes to School grant application included a table of estimated travel modes for students. Below are the findings:

Appendix 2: Table 4
Estimated District 205 Travel Modes for Students

Travel Mode	Number of Students	Percentage
Family Vehicle	1200	23.8
Carpool	100	2
School Bus	1684	33.3
Walk	1862	36.9
Bike	200	4
Public Transit	0	0
Total	5046	100



⁵ Source: MetroPulse, Community Data Snapshot for Elmhurst, is a service provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)



Additionally, the application indicated only one of District 205’s eight elementary schools is not considered walkable. Hawthorne School, situated south of the Union Pacific line, draws students from both north and south of the rail.

The estimated distance traveled of Elmhurst residents compared to DuPage residents and those living within CMAP boundaries are as follows:

Appendix 2: Table 5
Average Vehicle Miles Traveled Per Household⁶

Vehicle Miles Traveled	Elmhurst	DuPage County	CMAP Region
Avg. VMT: Metro Pulse (2011)	19,199	20,534	17,571
Avg. VMT:CNT (2005)	16,225	17,139	14,713

Table 6 provides a summary of mileage and fuel consumed for City vehicles.

Appendix 2: Table 6
City Vehicle Use⁷

Category	Total Annual Miles	Annual Consumption (Gallons)	Fuel Economy (mpg) (Note 3)	Cost (Note 4)
City Gasoline	1.34 million	116,526 gallons	11.5	\$382,000
City Diesel	435,637	83,700 gallons	4.3	\$319,000
City Bio diesel	Included	16,743 gallons	N/A	Included in diesel

Private Sector Sustainable Transportation Incentives

The major employers in Elmhurst are District 205, Elmhurst College, Edward-Elmhurst Hospital, McMaster-Carr and City of Elmhurst.

McMaster-Carr provides shuttle service to the Metra stop in Elmhurst. Elmhurst College provides a stipend to staff for using mass transit. Other programs and facilities encouraging sustainable travel may exist but are not promoted to the City of Elmhurst.

⁶ Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) and MetroPulse, Community Data Snapshot for Elmhurst, provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

⁷ Please note that these numbers may also include School District, Park District, Drivers Ed cars that we do not track mileage on and Police and Fire vehicles that may idle throughout the day. It also includes equipment that have hours meters, and not odometers (tractors, lawn mowers, generators). Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)



Parking and Density

City parking facilities are located in the Vallette/York community shopping area, the Spring Road business district and in City Centre. The City-owned Addison parking deck offers 690 parking spots to accommodate customers, part-time and full-time downtown employees as well as flexible use spaces. The central location encourages drivers to park once to access multiple locations. A customer-only parking policy was adopted by the City, taking effect with the opening of the Addison parking deck, whereby street parking longer than 3 hours is prohibited and violators may be ticketed. This policy encourages drivers to park in the deck.

The City of Elmhurst partners with Metra to provide commuter spaces, conveniently located near the Metra station along First Street, Park Avenue, and in three parking decks: Larch, Schiller and Adelaide. In 2016, one level of the Addison parking deck will include daily fee parking spaces, allowing for flexibility of use, including occasional Metra riders.

Housing density near access to public transportation reduces reliance on cars. Within one-half mile of the Metra station, there are 1,915 households. Within one mile of the Metra station, there are 6,443 households. These numbers are expected to grow with one multi-family housing development under construction and one planned in the downtown area.

KEY FINDINGS: TRANSPORTATION

The following represent the key findings from the existing conditions analysis related to transportation:

1. The City can be accessed by three major highways (Route 83, I-290 and I-294) and the UPRR Metra rail service to Chicago and Elburn.
2. Elmhurst has three Pace bus routes used primarily by individuals going through Elmhurst to other points of interest.
3. Elmhurst residents rely on single passenger driving as their primary mode of transportation, particularly for commuting.
4. Elmhurst residents bicycle primarily for recreation.
5. Elmhurst has been recognized for Transit Oriented Development and as a Bike Friendly Community.
6. A Bicycle Plan was been adopted in 2012; City staff is revisiting the plan to ensure the recommendations are safe and implementable.
7. The City was awarded grant funds to assist in improvements for the Elmhurst Metra Station. Continued evaluation of Metra station access is expected and improvements are anticipated.





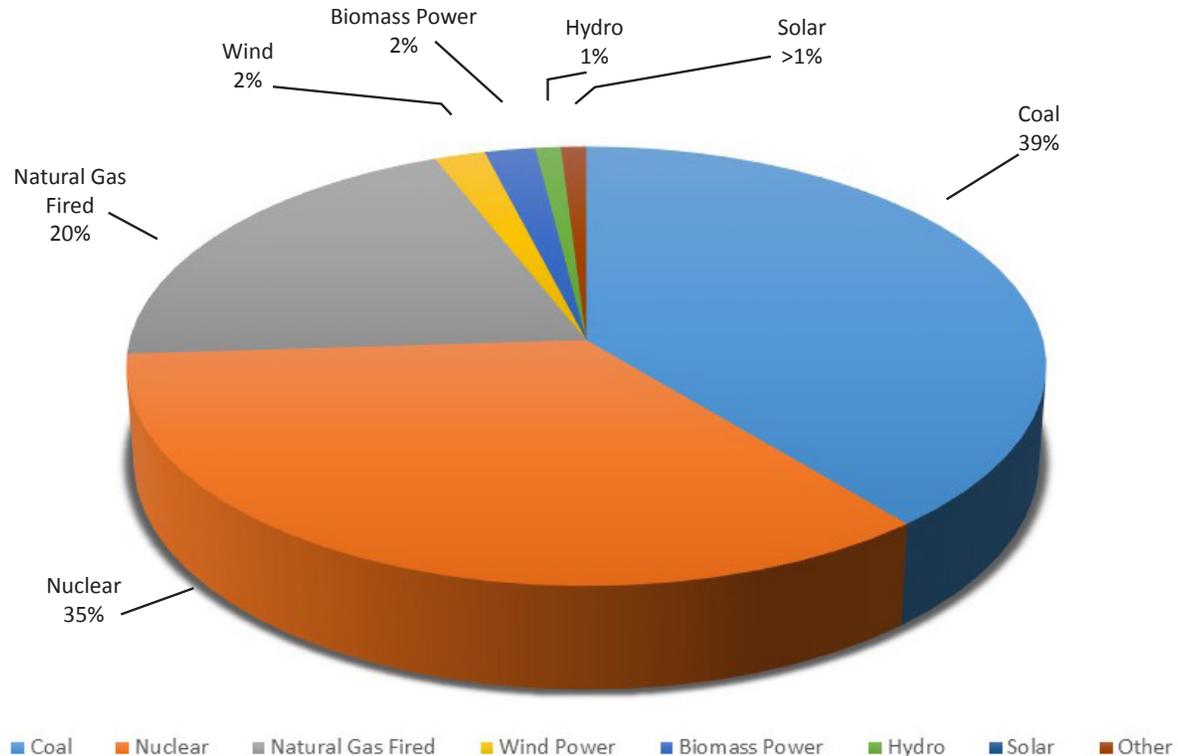
Existing Conditions - Energy

Energy Sources/Suppliers

ComEd supplies electricity for all uses (residential, commercial and industrial) to the City of Elmhurst. The sources of the electricity are about 59% fossil fuels (coal and gas), 35% nuclear, and 5% renewable, as shown in Figure 1. Elmhurst participated in a municipal aggregation program from 2012-2017. The aggregation of electricity is when a municipality or county negotiates the purchase of the combined electric supply of its residents and eligible small businesses through an alternate supplier. The overall benefit of aggregation is a lower rate for consumers (cost saving) and diversified energy sources.

Several companies provide natural gas throughout the State of Illinois. Nicor Gas provides natural gas to Elmhurst and DuPage County.

Figure 1: Sources of Electricity for the 12 months ending June 30, 2015⁸



⁸ 2015 ComEd Environmental Disclosure Statement



Electricity and Natural Gas Energy Use

Over 95% of the energy consumed in the Chicago region is supplied from fossil fuels (including diesel fuel, gasoline, coal, and natural gas) and from nuclear power. Most of these fuels are utilized via the process of combustion which is inefficient, wasting more than 50% of the fuel consumed. Fuel use and market inefficiencies result in higher costs for residents and businesses, with energy costs expected to rise in coming years.

Electricity is used to power lights and appliances and also for home cooling; therefore, consumption is significantly increased during the warmer months. Data for residential and commercial electricity consumption for 2014 were provided by ComEd and the City of Elmhurst. Residential consumption of electricity is about 30% of total electricity consumption, with commercial/industrial consumption about 70% of the total, and this is similar for Elmhurst, DuPage County and the State.

As shown in Table 7 below, Elmhurst per household electricity use is higher than both county or state household use (21% and 9% higher, respectively). Note that Elmhurst consumption data is for 2014, while DuPage County consumption data is for 2012 (2014 data not available). Therefore, the difference between Elmhurst and the rest of DuPage County may be somewhat smaller than indicated in Table 7.

Appendix 2: Table 7- Electricity Consumption - Commercial/Industrial (C&I) and Residential

	Total Consumption (kWh)	C&I Consumption (kWh)	C&I Consumption (% of Total)	Residential Consumption (kWh)	Residential Consumption (% of Total)	Residential Consumption (kWh) per Household (Note 4)	Average Annual Cost/ Household (Note 5)
Elmhurst 2014 (Note 1)	471,175,000	314,344,000	66.7%	156,831,000	33.3%	9,453	\$1,112
DuPage Co 2012 (Note 2)	11,034,897,780	8,255,502,646	74.8%	2,779,395,133	25.2%	7,803	\$918
State of IL 2014 (Note 3)	140,958,621,000	94,949,163,000	67.4%	46,009,458,000	32.6%	8,686	\$1,022

Note 1: Elmhurst C&I and residential consumption values provided by ComEd via the City of Elmhurst.

Note 2: DuPage consumption values obtained from DuPage County Energy & Emissions Profile (CNT Energy), 11/29/2013.

Note 3: State of IL Consumption Data from EIA, <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/data.cfm#sales>. Release date March 23, 2015 (used by end-use, sector, by state, by provider, annual back to 1990 (Form EIA-861)).

Note 4: Number of households based on 2010 Census = 16,590 households in Elmhurst; 356,179 in DuPage County; and 5,296,715 in the State.

Note 5: Residential cost used is \$0.1176/kWh obtained from actual 2014 residential bills from aggregation customers; see file Comed_20150930_from City of Elmhurst.xls. The 2014 Elmhurst electric aggregation rate was extremely favorable; 2015 costs have increased by about 9%. No cost data is available for the commercial and industrial sector, though the cost per kWh for C&I customers is likely lower than the residential cost.

Natural gas consumption data for 2014 for residential and commercial/industrial uses were provided by Nicor and the City of Elmhurst. As shown in Table 8 below, Elmhurst per household natural gas use is much higher than both county or state household use (43% and 36% higher, respectively). Note that Elmhurst consumption data reflects 2014 use while DuPage County consumption data is 2012 (2014 data not available). The difference between Elmhurst and the rest of DuPage County may be somewhat smaller than indicated.

Natural gas is the primary fuel for heating in Elmhurst and in Northern Illinois, in general. Other uses include heating water, drying clothes, and cooking. Because natural gas has lower emissions than coal and its cost has been decreasing in recent years, its use has also been increasing across the nation.

Appendix 2: Table 8- Natural Gas Consumption - Commercial/Industrial (C&I) and Residential

	Total Consumption (Therms)	C&I Consumption (Therms)	C&I Consumption (% of Total)	Residential Consumption (Therms)	Residential Consumption (% of Total)	Residential Consumption Therms per Household (Note 4)	Average Annual Cost Household (Note 5)
Elmhurst – 2014 (Note 1)	29,588,000	12,055,000	40.7%	17,533,000	59.3%	1057	\$740
DuPage Co 2012 (Note 2)	502,618,354	239,149,653	47.6%	263,468,701	52.4%	740	\$518
State of IL 2014 (Note 3)	5,347,298,073	1,228,664,363	53%	4,118,633,710	47%	778	\$684

Note 1: Elmhurst C&I and residential consumption values provided by Nicor via the City of Elmhurst.

Note 2: DuPage consumption values obtained from DuPage County Energy & Emissions Profile (CNT Energy), 11/29/2013.

Note 3: Illinois consumption values from Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Gas Utilities Comparison of Gas Sales Statistics For Calendar Years 2014 and 2013 (C&I is sum of small, large, and other reported values).

Note 4: Number of households based on 2010 Census = 16,590 households in Elmhurst; 356,179 in DuPage County; and 5,296,715 in the State.

Note 5: Residential costs used are \$0.70/therm for the Nicor region, including Elmhurst and DuPage County, and an average of \$0.87/therm for the State of Illinois, obtained from ICC report (see Note 3 above).



Electricity and natural gas consumption by City of Elmhurst municipal operations are summarized in Table 9. The total electricity and natural gas consumption by the City are a small fraction of the total consumption for the Elmhurst community. Nonetheless, efforts to reduce municipal energy use are important and will position the City as a leader and role model for the larger community.

Appendix 2: Table 9
Electricity and Natural Gas Consumption – City of Elmhurst Municipal Annual Operations

Municipal Operations Use	Total and Percent Consumption	Units ^c	Use per unit
Electricity Use (kWh) ^a			
Street Lights	3,492,200	6,961 fixtures	502 kWh/fixture
Buildings	1,647,000	306,544ft ²	5.4kWh/ft ²
Sewage	574,430	2,719,498,000 gal	0.000211 kWh/gal
Total Annual Electricity Use	5,713,630 kWh		
Natural Gas Use (Therms) ^b			
Buildings	203,496	306,544ft ²	0.3therms/ ft ²
Sewage (87% residential)	41,935	2,719,498,000 gal	0.000015therm/gal
Total Annual Natural Gas Use	245,431 therms		

^a For electricity, cost information not applicable due to Franchise Agreement with ComEd through which city does not pay for electricity for the following buildings: City Hall, Police Station, Fire Stations, Fire Training Tower, Library (excluding coffee shop) and Public Works Garage.

^b For natural gas, cost data not currently available.

^c City Buildings square footage does not include parking deck area since the decks are not materially heated during the winter.

Combustion of fossil fuels also results in significant local and regional emissions of particulate, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxides (SO₂), mercury, heavy metals, and carbon dioxide (CO₂). These emissions degrade air quality and damage public health. Fossil fuel emissions contribute to respiratory illnesses, such as asthma, that result both from direct exposure to emissions (from transportation and commercial/industrial processes), and from secondary exposure (to ozone and smog). In addition to emissions, combustion of fossil fuels to create electricity also contributes to higher rates of water consumption compared to renewable energy.

Key energy use indicators include energy sources, consumption, costs, and emissions from residential, commercial, industrial and municipal energy use. Additionally, taking measures to reduce consumption and emissions through energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources were considered as part of the key indicators for energy use. Improving the energy efficiency of building systems and appliances, increasing use of renewable energy resources, and encouraging energy conservation measures and behavioral changes can result in a reduction of energy costs, pollution and associated emissions.

Energy Efficiency and Use of Renewable Resources

Energy Efficient Buildings

Improving the efficiency of the built environment is one of the most effective ways to reduce energy and protect the environment. A 2009 report from the EPA Green and Building Work Group that reviewed the impacts of the built environment estimates that U.S. buildings account for 39% of total energy use, and 68% of electricity consumption. Improving the efficiency of the built environment is one of the most effective ways to reduce energy use and protect the environment. New buildings can be constructed to maximize energy efficiency using green building standards. Existing buildings and homes can be retrofitted with air sealing and insulation, efficient major appliances, HVAC, and lighting to save energy and money.

The City of Elmhurst Building Department enforces the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), 2012 Edition, as required by the State of Illinois. The IECC is designed to optimize the use of fossil fuels and non-depletable resources and establishes minimum standards for energy efficient buildings.

The City of Elmhurst has made many energy efficiency improvements at municipal facilities. Highlights include:

- The Public Works Department secured an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Energy Grant to retrofit the lighting fixtures in the Adelaide and Schiller parking decks.
- The Fire Department replaced all T-12 fluorescent lighting with more energy efficient T-8 fluorescent lighting. Additionally, a grant was received from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and Illinois Clean Energy Programs to replace all primary lighting at Fire Station #1.

Elmhurst has eight LEED registered or certified buildings including Elmhurst's Fire Station #2, Elmhurst College's West Hall dormitory, PNC Bank building, DuPage Water Commission building and one residential home. Additionally, Kohl's department store building is Energy Star Certified. Several residential homes have been certified through the Illinois Home Performance program following efficiency retrofits and performance testing.

Renewable Energy Use

Renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal power are defined as naturally occurring energy sources that can be harvested without the negative environmental effects of burning fossil fuels.

Municipal Aggregation

Elmhurst, along with many Illinois cities, has participated in municipal electricity aggregation since mid-2012. Municipal aggregation works by empowering Elmhurst residents and small businesses to pool their electric purchasing power. This enables the City of Elmhurst to choose an electricity supplier that keeps electricity rates low and allows Elmhurst to take advantage of bulk purchasing power to begin transitioning to a cleaner electricity mix for the community. Elmhurst's 2012 and 2014 aggregation contracts both included 50% Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Each REC represents one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity generated from a qualified renewable energy resource. In Elmhurst's case, this clean energy comes mainly from wind farms. Another benefit of Elmhurst's aggregation contract is that individual residents have the option to increase their support of renewable energy by opting up to 100% RECs.





Renewable Energy Installations in Elmhurst

The Elmhurst community has a small but growing number of renewable energy installations, but does not currently have a mechanism for tracking these installations. Known existing installations include:

1. Anaerobic digester and/or dual-fired generator at the municipal wastewater treatment facility
2. 42 solar hot water panels on Elmhurst College's West Hall dormitory
3. Four solar photovoltaic electric panels at York Community High School
4. Five solar photovoltaic electric panels at Immaculate Conception
5. Solar water and PV installations at residential homes
6. Geothermal heating/cooling installations at several residential homes

Power Resiliency and Reliability

Elmhurst's overhead electricity system is vulnerable to storm damage and extended outages that can disable cooling, heating, and health support systems for the elderly and vulnerable residents. Extended power outages during major weather events (e.g. severe storms, heat or cold waves) can endanger residents and their property. Several factors threaten the power system: Increasing numbers of severe weather events, aging infrastructure and higher demand for reliability and resilience posed by the digital economy. These threats create an ongoing need for improved back-up power and resiliency or the ability for critical facilities to continue to operate for extended periods of time without grid power.

KEY FINDINGS: ENERGY

1. Elmhurst can reduce energy spending and costs through efficiency improvements in transportation, facilities and power procurement.
2. Average Elmhurst residential energy use is higher than averages in DuPage County and the State of Illinois. Targeting additional efforts to reduce residential consumption would likely result in the most benefit in terms of cost and emission reductions.
3. Much of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1960 – over 48% – which indicates a need to upgrade these buildings with energy efficient features and systems. Uniformity of particular neighborhoods presents an opportunity to make targeted recommendations to homeowners.
4. The Elmhurst community has a small number of renewable energy installations. There is much room for growth in this area. The City has no mechanism to track the number of installations and amount of power generated from renewable energy installations at this time.
5. Elmhurst can improve power resiliency of critical facilities.
6. In order to create this Energy report, data from as far back as 2007 needed to be referenced, which is too far back to be meaningful in many instances. The City does not currently have an efficient system for ongoing, regular energy-related data collection, which will be necessary to monitor progress towards the goals set out in this plan.
7. Based on public workshop feedback, the Elmhurst community values information, education, and awareness about energy-related topics and projects. There is potential for the City of Elmhurst to coordinate and provide this outreach to the community.

Existing Conditions - Water

Water Resources

Water is a vital resource to any community. As demand increases for this non-renewable resource, sustainable management is crucial. Elmhurst's water priorities include: conservation of the water supply, quality of surface water, usage, stormwater and infrastructure. Despite the abundance of fresh water present in Lake Michigan, lake water is only expected to provide a sustainable supply through 2030.⁹ The only major water body within Elmhurst is Salt Creek, which does not meet water quality standards due in large part to Non Point Source (NPS) pollution.¹⁰ Additionally, stormwater management and flooding have had far-reaching implications in Elmhurst, particularly after the 100-year floods in 2008, 2010 (two) and 2013, and the 500-year flood in 1987.¹¹ For these reasons, Elmhurst must work to protect and manage its water resources.

Water Source

Every year the City is required to prepare an annual water use audit for the Illinois Department of Resources. Information on water use and leaks can be found in these documents at elmhurst.org. The City of Elmhurst purchases water from the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) located in Elmhurst. The DWC purchases Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago. Elmhurst does not treat the water, but repumps and rechlorinates it. Lake Michigan offers exceptionally high-quality water. The City of Chicago operates one of the most modern surface water treatment facilities in the United States and is capable of meeting or exceeding all state and federally mandated requirements for water quality.

As water (from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells) travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Elmhurst's public water supply has:

- 15 million gallons of storage capacity.
- A daily allocation of 4.693 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan.
- Ability to use 7.9781 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan.
- A daily average use of 4.333 million gallons of water per day in March 2014.
- 170.08 miles of water main.
- 2,214 fire hydrants on the system.
- Booster pumps capable of pumping more than 20 million gallons of water per day.

⁹ CMAP Water 2050 Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply/Demand Plan, <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/14452/NE+IL+Regional+Water+Supply+Demand+Plan.pdf/26911cec-866e-4253-8d99-ef39c5653757>

¹⁰ <http://www.saltcreekwatershed.org/water-quality/>

¹¹ June 22, 2015 Mayor's stormwater update to City Council, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6k0S2Jsysl>





In 2014, the City of Elmhurst pumped 3.9942 million gallons of water per day. There were 294,883,500 gallons lost through infrastructure leaks. The commercial sector represented 0.6341 million gallons of water per day, the residential sector represented 2.4988 million gallons of water per day, and municipal accounts used 0.0114 million gallons of water per day.

It is estimated that Elmhurst residents use approximately 59.5 gallons of water per person per day. This estimate is based on 2014 data and current meters. More accurate readings should be available by Fall 2018, when new water meter installation will be complete for all homes in Elmhurst.

The City of Chicago Department of Water Management, the DuPage Water Commission and the City of Elmhurst Division of Water/Wastewater Production and Treatment routinely monitor for contaminants in accordance to Federal and State Laws. The City of Elmhurst Division of Water/Wastewater Production and Treatment collects more than 50 bacteriological samples per month.

Water Infrastructure

The City of Elmhurst operates and maintains its water programs through two divisions within the Department of Public Works: Production & Treatment Division, and Distribution & Collection Division. The Production & Treatment Division is responsible for the 20 million gallon per day (MGD) activated sludge wastewater treatment facility with 10 sanitary sewer lift stations and the 15.0 MG water production system which utilizes three large finished water reservoirs and three elevated storage tanks. This division is also responsible for the 12 storm water pumping stations and ancillary systems. The Distribution & Collection Division manages more than 170 miles of potable water distribution main, 160 miles of the sanitary sewer collection system, and the storm sewer collection system which includes more than 60 outfalls and flap gates discharging into local streams. Additionally, the Division operates and maintains more than 15,000 residential and commercial water meters providing first-class service through the more than 5,000 service calls made each year. The City of Elmhurst Grease Trap Inspection program controls the discharge of fats, oils, greases from a combined total of 198 food service establishments and fuel dispensing facilities, into the public sewers and is supervised through this division.¹²

City of Elmhurst Water Infrastructure¹³

Age of Pipes	Miles of Pipes
60+ years	87.669
40-60 years	56.415
20-40 years	6.348
0-20 years	24.561
Total Miles	174.993

¹² 2015 Consumer Confidence Report: <http://elmhurst.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/649>

¹³ Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 2014 Annual Water Use Audit Form (LMO-2)



Surface Water

Elmhurst is part of the Salt Creek Watershed. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), 19 sewage treatment plants supply the main water discharge for the Salt Creek watershed, seven of which are actually on the creek. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) ranks Salt Creek water quality as “fair.” The main problems stem from non-point source pollution (from rainwater and melt water runoff), channelization (straightening of the creek), and habitat changes (building in the floodplain, stormwater discharges). Nearly all the problems facing Salt Creek, however, are related to rainwater in the watershed. Specifically, runoff from the urban landscape picks up a variety of chemicals and pollutants from lawns and roadways that directly discharge—untreated—into the creek. The man-made surfaces throughout the watershed convey a greater volume of rainwater than the creek evolved to hold. Furthermore, development in the floodplain has eliminated the creek’s ability to handle this greater volume of water, which results in more frequent floods and increased property damage. Finally, in older communities, raw sewage enters the creek during heavy rains because of the manner in which the infrastructure was built. These are some of the major resource management issues facing the creek today.¹⁴

Stormwater Management

The City continues to take action to bolster stormwater mitigation efforts. In April 2015, Council approved the Flood Prone Property Prioritization and Buyout Plan. As of 2016, nearly 80 homeowners have expressed interest in the plan, and 28 are being evaluated. There is funding for approximately two to three homes. These homes will not be identified to the public for risk reasons. See Stormwater Comprehensive Plan.

New Stormwater Management Policies and Programs are as follows:

Policies:

- Existing Residential Stormwater Management Policy
- Maximum Impervious Surface Policy
- New Home Stormwater Management Policy
- Public Surface Parking Lots Policy
- Residential Stormwater Management Incentive Policy
- Storm Sewer Extension Program Policy

Programs

- Overhead Sewer Program
- Residential Stormwater Management Incentives
- Storm Sewer Extension Program
- Flood Prone Property Buyout Program
- Check Valve Reimbursement Program

¹⁴ Salt Creek Watershed: Restoring Balance, <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5377ae2de4b0cb63d6fa7d44/t/537d6f>





KEY FINDINGS: WATER

The following represent the key findings from the existing conditions analysis related to water:

1. Salt Creek is impaired due to non-point source pollution, mainly related to rainwater in the watershed. Runoff from the urban landscape picks up a variety of chemicals and pollutants from lawns and roadways that directly discharge – untreated – into the creek.
2. The City has been working to address stormwater management and flooding issues in the community through four specific areas: homeowner education, policy, City operations, and capital programs.
3. Elmhurst adopted a Stormwater Management Ordinance, which establishes release rates and required storage for a 100-year event, as well as appropriate detention facilities. Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) listed are not required and can be eliminated through fees.
4. The Salt Creek (Greenway) Trail Pumping Stations Water Quality and Landscape Enhancements project represent BMPs that serve as examples to residents and developers for green infrastructure to manage stormwater.





Existing Conditions - Education

Elmhurst has numerous environmental education resources available within the city and county, ranging from hands-on outdoor learning opportunities and school curriculum to online reference materials and frequent educational presentations.

DuPage County signed the Cool Counties Initiative in 2012 as a way of accepting new environmental challenges. The Cool Counties plan set goals of reducing greenhouse gases from 2007 levels by 10 percent by the year 2020 and by 20 percent by 2030. To move these goals forward, the County brought together the DuPage Green Government Council (GGC).

The Green Government Council is a special advisory group that will assist the County by identifying ways to effectively conserve natural resources, reduce regional environmental impacts, develop sustainability initiatives and promote economic opportunities for businesses, community organizations and residents.

Cool DuPage is the County's effort to reduce energy consumption by educating residents, small business, government, commercial and transportation officials on changes they can implement to make significant environmental impacts.

The County offers additional educational opportunities (printed materials, social media posts, seminars, etc.) on stormwater management, water pollution, recycling and disposal locations, water conservation, energy efficiency, green buildings. The County itself has implemented traffic light optimization, retrofit lighting, Energy Star roofing, commercial recycling, reusable dishware, ground rubber tire road paving, vegetated roofs, rain barrels for schools, prescription takeback programs and roadway chloride reduction. Many of these programs can be replicated within Elmhurst.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, which has the Salt Creek Greenway Forest Preserve running through Elmhurst, offers environmental education opportunities and resources for teachers. The Forest Preserve District's naturalists and heritage interpreters offer field trips, self-guided programs, in-class presentations and learning opportunities. Educational loan boxes are available for teachers to enhance curricula and introduce students to DuPage County's natural and cultural history. Each box contains suggested lesson and activity outlines, books, DVDs, and specimens for students to examine, and all materials align with Illinois Learning Standards.

SCARCE, or School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education, has an assortment of resources, activities, and other learning opportunities for educators, children, and adults to encourage reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. Programs include home energy efficiency, composting, watershed models, waste audits and more. All 12 of Elmhurst's public schools and many of its private schools have earned their Earth Flag from SCARCE. The flag certifies that each school's community plays an active role in increasing education and awareness of environmental sustainability.





The Elmhurst Park District, a leader in sustainability, offers educational programming for both children and adults. EPD partners with the Oak Brook Terrace Park District's Lakeview Nature Center for additional outdoor environmental programming. EPD also offers garden plot rental and adopt-a-park programs to residents, is a partner in the Elmhurst Garden Club's Annual Garden Walk and is a past host of GreenFest.

Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition hosts monthly educational meetings on topics such as home energy efficiency, alternative energy, fuel efficiency automobiles, stormwater management and more. The organization partners with Elevate Energy and CUB (Citizens Utility Board) to educate the community on environmental initiatives that can also save money. Cool Cities founded the Elmhurst GreenFest, hosts an environmental documentary screening during the One Earth Film Festival, and documented *Building a Sustainable City: Environmental Accomplishments in Elmhurst*.

Elmhurst College, another leader in sustainability, hosts the annual Recycling Extravaganza, collecting more than 30 tons of electronics each year. The College also collects books, school supplies, eyeglasses and many other items for reuse. The College has organized community composting with other large businesses in Elmhurst. It also co-sponsors the One Earth Film Fest and campus Eco-Tours with Elmhurst Cool Cities.

Elmhurst Garden Club hosts an annual Garden Walk and Faire, educating the community on horticulture, education and conservation. The organization's educational programming includes pesticide-free lawn care, native species, stormwater management and more.

The Elmhurst Bike Task Force developed the Bike Plan and a bike ordinance, supplied bike racks at the Metra station and in business districts, works with District 205 for the Safe Routes to School program, and hosts the Annual Cycling Classic bike race and ride.

The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst hosts educational programming on fracking, coal, electricity aggregation and the transporting of hazardous substances by rail. The League founded the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition and initiated the Cool Cities pledge signed by former Mayor Tom Marcucci.

Elmhurst Public Library hosts sustainability educational series in their adult programming.

Heaven & Earth Growers assists organizations in building organic community gardens that then share their harvests with local food pantries.

The First Congregational United Church of Christ has earned their Earth Flag from SCARCE. The church hosts a Green Garden Fair each spring featuring vendors that help educate the community on organic gardening, home stormwater solutions, natural lawn care and more.

The Conservation Foundation offers a conservation@home program, helping property owners protect and create yards that are environmentally friendly. The City of Elmhurst has partnered with the Conservation Foundation to educate homeowners on native plants, rain barrels and rain gardens that reduce runoff and filter and conserve water.



Municipal-Led Initiatives

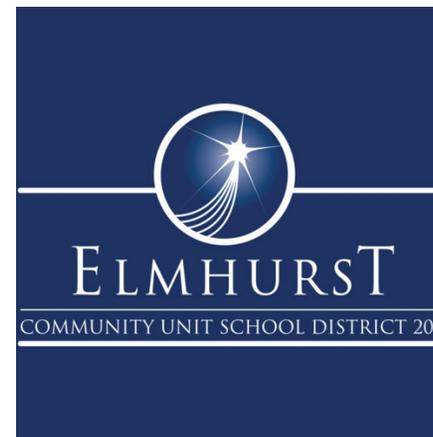
The City of Elmhurst partners with Elmhurst College for the annual **Recycling Extravaganza**, and also co-hosts with **SCARCE regular collections** such as the prescription drug take-back program, and cooking oil, pumpkin recycling and holiday lights recycling.

Elmhurst History Museum previously sponsored an exhibit on sustainability, highlighting contributions made by students in conservation clubs throughout District 205.

Educational Opportunities for Youth

District 205 schools provide sustainability-related science curricula. Additionally, several of the Elmhurst public schools have environmental clubs; seven also have outdoor classrooms or gardens providing additional educational opportunities. Numerous schools participate in waste-free lunch programs, walk/bike to school days, Great Donation Day, Earth Day, recycling, composting, and collections such as batteries, electronics and ink cartridges. Student-led initiatives include successfully petitioning the District for reusable trays in lunchrooms, and petitioning City Council for recycling receptacles in the Elmhurst City Centre business district.

York High School's Eco-Club hosts recycling drives, builds and donates bird and bat houses, mentors younger students throughout the district, participates in a LEED building contest and hosts a solar fair.





KEY FINDINGS: EDUCATION

The following represent the key findings from the existing conditions analysis related to education:

1. According to the U.S. EPA, “Environmental awareness influences individual behavior, and individual behavior is a fundamental factor affecting environmental conditions.” Additionally, environmental education for youth is particularly important as it helps to integrate sustainable practices as habits in their everyday lives.
2. General educational opportunities related to the environment are also provided by community-based organizations, such as SCARCE, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition. The FPDDC focuses on biodiversity and ecology; SCARCE’s programming is focused on waste reduction; Cool Cities provides information on a variety of sustainability topics.
3. District 205 schools are incorporating learning opportunities related to the environment and sustainability. Many schools have PTA Go Green committees for parents and environmental clubs for students. Educational opportunities taper in middle schools, but are offered again in high school through the YHS Eco-Club.
4. Many participants at the public workshop meeting voiced an interest in more educational information related to sustainability, particularly relating to recycling and green stormwater management.

