



**CITY OF ELMHURST**  
**209 NORTH YORK STREET**  
**ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126-2759**  
(630) 530-3000  
www.elmhurst.org

**SCOTT M. LEVIN**  
MAYOR  
**JACKIE HADDAD-TAMER**  
CITY CLERK  
**DAN CURRAN**  
CITY TREASURER  
**JAMES A. GRABOWSKI**  
CITY MANAGER

December 9, 2024

TO: Chair Brennan, and Members of the Public Affairs and Safety Committee

RE: 2023-2024 Data Report Related to the City of Elmhurst's Sustainability Action Plan

The City of Elmhurst adopted a Sustainability Action Plan in March 2018. The Plan describes the importance of data collection and emphasizes metrics and tracking results. The report for 2023-2024 updates the same metrics that have been tracked in previous years. The seven indices outlined below relate to Focus Areas and Goals identified in the Sustainability Action Plan and reflect the data available to the City of Elmhurst. The Sustainability Plan is due to be updated and funds are included in the 2025 budget. It is anticipated that an RFQ will be released in Spring 2025.

**Index 1) BioDiesel Fuel and Propane – Relates to Focus Area 2, Goal 4**

In 2023, 44,807 gallons of diesel fuel were consumed (3,734 gallons monthly), compared to 55,200 gallons in 2022. Of this total, 5,970 gallons were 100% biodiesel. The use of biodiesel results in an offset of 64 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2023<sup>1</sup>. In 2023, the City of Elmhurst's fleet consumed 14,473 gallons of propane (1,229 gallons monthly) compared to 16,176 gallons in 2022. The City experienced a milder winter season than normal, therefore overall fuel use was down (and as a result lower propane and fuel consumption compared to 2022).

In 2024, 36,882 gallons of diesel fuel were consumed (3,353 gallons monthly), compared to 44,807 gallons in 2023. Of this total, 5,795 gallons were 100% biodiesel. The use of biodiesel results in an offset of 57 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2024. In 2024, the City of Elmhurst's fleet consumed 10,531 gallons of propane (957 gallons monthly) compared to 1,229 gallons monthly in 2023. The City experienced another mild winter season, therefore overall fuel use was down (and as a result lower propane and fuel consumption compared to 2023).

In 2024, Elmhurst was ranked 43rd in the 2024 Green Fleet Awards by the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA). This prestigious recognition honors Elmhurst's ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation in fleet management,

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<sup>1</sup> Between 2022 and 2023, the additives in biodiesel were changed therefore the metrics in determining CO<sub>2</sub> offset has shifted.

placing the City among the top 50 greenest public fleets in North America. Additionally, our fleet that uses/can use alternative/EV method rose from 58% to 62.5% this year.

### 2023-2024 Greenhouse gas emissions avoided by alternative fuel usage



**287,512**  
Lbs. of coal burned



**4,295**  
tree seedlings planted



**19,298,296**  
cell phones charged

#### Index 2) Power Consumed for EV Chargers – Relates to Focus Area 2, Goal 2

The total electricity used to charge electric cars at the City’s charging station was 71,415 kWh in 2024 and 69,906 kWh in 2023 compared to 60,467 kWh at the last report. If compared to fossil fuel consumption this is the equivalent of 10.3 tons of greenhouse gases not emitted in 2024 and 10.1 tons in 2023.

The total electrical power used at three of the City’s electric vehicle charging stations from 2019 to 2024 are listed below. Over a 6-year period, the City saved 14,953 gallons of gasoline through the use of electric vehicles.

YEAR	ELECTRICAL ENERGY USED	GASOLINE EQUIVALENT <sup>2</sup>
2024	71,415 kWh	3,349 gallons
2023	69,906 kWh	3,279 gallons
2022	60,467 kWh	2,943 gallons
2021	41,580 kWh	2,024 gallons
2020	30,115 kWh	1,466 gallons
2019	38,876 kWh	1,892 gallons

The City is also in the process of installing four more EV chargers for fleet operations (Public Works/ PD/ City Hall).

#### Index 3) Prescription Drug Recycling – Relates to Focus Area 1, Goal 2 & Focus Area 4, Goal 3

The Police Department held two Prescription Drug Take-Back Days in 2023 that resulted in 249 lbs. of unwanted prescription drugs being collected. The dropbox in the Police Department lobby also collected 602 lbs. of unwanted prescription drugs. In 2024, the police department held two take back events collecting 407 lbs of unwanted prescription drugs and YTD the lobby drop box has collected 527 lbs of expired or unwanted prescription drugs. Safe destruction of expired and unwanted prescription drugs prevents contamination of the water reclamation system.

<sup>2</sup> Sources: EPA.gov - 1,562.4 lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh × (4.536 × 10<sup>-4</sup> metric tons/lb) × 0.001 MWh/kWh = 7.09 × 10<sup>-4</sup> metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh  
<https://search.epa.gov/>  
<https://www.regi.com/services/emissions-calculator>

#### **Index 4) E Waste and Reuse – Relates to Focus Area 1, Goal 2 & Goal 4**

In both 2023 and 2024, the City held four recycling events co-sponsored with DuPage County. In addition to offering recycling of electronics like computers, televisions, and printers, DuPage County partners with RewearAble to collect clothing and textiles for reuse and recycling. Items not able to be reused are turned into cleaning/painting rags or reused in insulation, packing material and carpeting. A total of 57,666 lbs. of electronics were recycled and 12,197 lbs. of textiles were collected in 2023. A total of 68,813 lbs. of electronics were recycled and 20,514 lbs. of textiles were collected in 2024.

City Hall recycled approximately 4,500 lbs. of e-waste and 80 toner and ink cartridges in 2023 and approximately 4,000 lbs. of e-waste and 84 toner and ink cartridges in 2024.

#### **Index 5) Energy and ComEd - Relates to Focus Area 3, Goal 1 & 2**

Please find attached the 2018-2023 Energy Efficiency report from ComEd for the City of Elmhurst. The program no longer provides year by year summaries, so totals begin in 2018, when ComEd started managing the process (formerly managed by ILEPA from 2008-2018). 2024 values are not available until Spring 2025.

In 2023, the City received \$143,000 in ComEd incentives and converted 2,864 more streetlight fixtures to LED. The City's electrical use for streetlighting was reduced by 2,142,000 kWh annually. The City's 6,700 streetlights have all been converted to LED light sources and the total reduction in electrical use is 72%.

LED conversion at City Hall is complete. In 2023, 87 light fixtures were converted to LED with an energy reduction of 22,000 kWh and the remaining 81 fixtures were completed in 2024. The conversion of all lighting at City Hall to LED has been completed in 2024, reducing consumption by an estimated 66,000 kWh per year. Lighting at Fire Station 1 was converted to LED, saving 71,000 kWh per year and heating and cooling equipment was replaced with high efficiency types to optimize energy use. LED conversion at the Police Department is also desired but on hold.

Building Maintenance Division commissioned new HVAC equipment and controls at the Public Works Building to optimize energy use. This project is still underway and will be monitored to confirm a projected 30% in energy savings.

The Community Development Department reported 56 solar panel permits applied for in 2024 (43 currently issued) and 62 solar panel permits issued in 2023 compared to 46 permits in 2022. In addition, the City tracks permits for EV charging stations that are being installed for both residential and commercial use. The Community Development Department issued 20 EV charger permits in 2024 and 23 such permits in 2023, up from 18 in 2022.

**Index 6) Water Smart – Relates to Focus Area 4, Goal 1**

As of the date of this report, the overall WaterSmart portal registration rate for Elmhurst is 67%, compared to 65% in 2023 and 36.9% in 2022. From June to September of 2023, we saw around a 20% increase in registration. This is one of the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the system and is above average compared to other utilities around the country. WaterSmart reports that the average registration rate among all 180+ of their utility clients is 25%.

WaterSmart detected 17,223 total leaks in 2024 and 16,974 total leaks in 2023 for customers in Elmhurst. Customers were alerted to 8,808 leaks in 2024 compared to 8,278 alerts in 2023. The number of alerts sent is a function of the customer’s self-defined leak detection threshold configuration, and the availability of customer contact information. As the City collects more customer email addresses the number of alerts sent will increase. The City also maintains 99% positive leak alert feedback since June 2018.

**Index 7) Refuse and Recycling – Relates to Focus Area 1, Goal 1 & 4**

The data tables below outline the tons of refuse and recycling collected by Republic Services at residential locations in Elmhurst by month for the 2023 and 2024 years (except December 2024). The City’s composting program is included in the Yard Waste category.

## City of Elmhurst

MONTHLY DATA REPORT				Recycling Detail	
	Tons Collected by Month			Paper	Commingled
	Refuse	Recyclables	Yard Waste	Fiber	Containers
<i>January-23</i>	910.89	351.58	40.40	244.73	106.85
<i>February-23</i>	837.20	330.01		229.72	100.29
<i>March-23</i>	1,034.90	422.86		294.35	128.51
<i>April-23</i>	937.37	365.07	72.01	254.13	110.94
<i>May-23</i>	1,061.53	361.43	153.77	251.59	109.84
<i>June-23</i>	1,261.40	441.04	115.20	307.01	134.03
<i>July-23</i>	1,006.80	343.47	131.32	239.09	104.38
<i>August-23</i>	1,142.47	393.90	154.21	274.19	119.71
<i>September-23</i>	1,105.89	369.59	108.76	257.27	112.32
<i>October-23</i>	986.26	356.10	112.76	247.88	108.22
<i>November-23</i>	1,242.98	437.97	439.73	304.87	133.10
<i>December-23</i>	1,123.89	453.19	109.24	315.47	137.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,651.58</b>	<b>4,626.21</b>	<b>1,437.40</b>	<b>3,220.30</b>	<b>1,405.91</b>
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>1,054.30</b>	<b>385.52</b>	<b>143.74</b>	<b>268.36</b>	<b>117.16</b>
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>243.30</b>	<b>88.97</b>	<b>33.17</b>	<b>61.93</b>	<b>27.04</b>
<b>Participation Rate</b>	<b>89.7%</b>				

# City of Elmhurst

MONTHLY DATA REPORT				Recycling Detail	
	Tons Collected by Month			Paper	Commingled
	Refuse	Recyclables	Yard Waste	Fiber	Containers
<i>January-24</i>	916.94	386.87	57.84	269.30	117.57
<i>February-24</i>	946.21	370.81		258.12	112.69
<i>March-24</i>	932.45	366.04		254.80	111.24
<i>April-24</i>	1,026.92	356.66	105.56	248.27	108.39
<i>May-24</i>	1,246.80	427.90	272.38	297.86	130.04
<i>June-24</i>	1,112.24	385.20	156.44	268.14	117.06
<i>July-24</i>	1,083.44	358.58	145.37	249.61	108.97
<i>August-24</i>	1,160.94	402.59	104.69	280.24	122.35
<i>September-24</i>	953.64	337.42	76.44	234.88	102.54
<i>October-24</i>	1,070.35	382.98	100.72	266.59	116.39
<i>November-24</i>	1,163.60	392.76	276.28	273.40	119.36
<i>December-24</i>				0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,613.53</b>	<b>4,167.81</b>	<b>1,295.72</b>	<b>2,901.21</b>	<b>1,266.60</b>
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>1,055.78</b>	<b>378.89</b>	<b>143.97</b>	<b>241.77</b>	<b>105.55</b>
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>243.64</b>	<b>87.44</b>	<b>33.22</b>	<b>55.79</b>	<b>24.36</b>
<b>Participation Rate</b>	<b>89.7%</b>				

# City of Elmhurst

## Program Overview

Since the start of the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program in 2008, our business and residential customers have saved more than \$9.0 billion on their electric bills and 82.4 million megawatt hours of energy - that's enough to power approximately 9.4 million homes for a year. Our energy efficiency offerings are structured to ensure that all communities in our service territory benefit from participation. Here's how your community fared in 2018 - 2023.

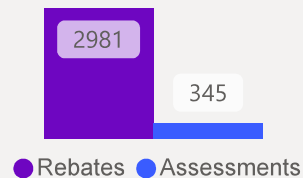
## Energy Efficiency Results for City of Elmhurst

**6,300** Total Participants      **\$2,053,200** In Total Savings

### Residential Customers







-  **1,600** Smart Thermostats Installed
-  **3,000** Number of Rebates Given
-  **300** Home Assessments Conducted
-  **\$453,300** Residential Bill Savings

5,900 Participating Residential Customers

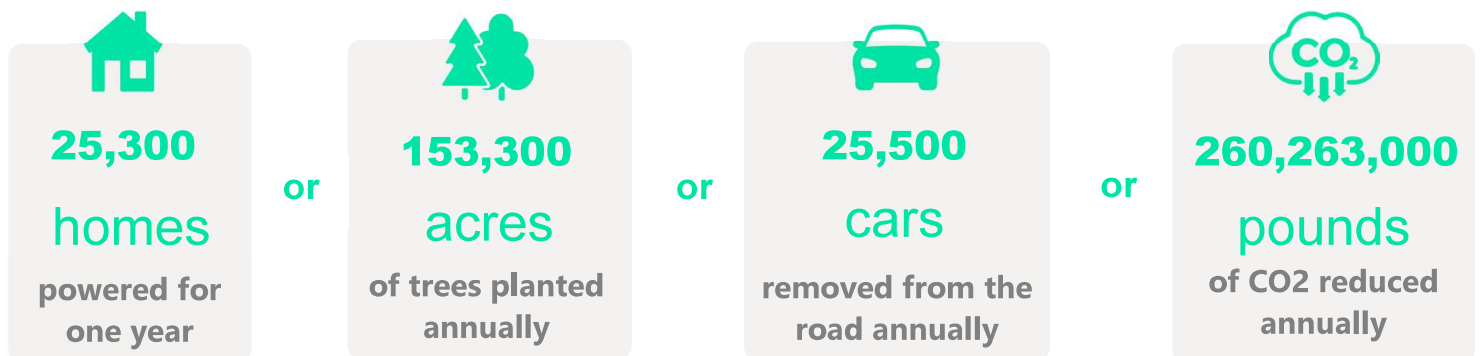


### Public Sector Customers

### Business Customers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  <b>2,900</b> LED Streetlights Installed       |  <b>\$3,714,800</b> Total Incentives Paid         |
|  <b>\$140,700</b> Total Incentives Paid        |  <b>400</b> Business Projects Completed           |
|  <b>\$65,300</b> Total Savings on Energy Bills |  <b>\$1,534,600</b> Total Savings on Energy Bills |

## Total Energy Savings are the Equivalent of:



Results for 2018-2023 | Terms and conditions apply. Offers are subject to change. Actual savings will vary by customers energy usage and rate.

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