# The Greenest Region Compact

*Opportunities + Impact*

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## ABOUT THE CAUCUS

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is a membership organization of the Chicago region's 273 cities, towns and villages. Founded in 1997 by then Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and leading mayors from nine suburban municipal groups, the Mayors Caucus pushes past geographical boundaries and local interests to work on public policy issues. The Caucus provides a forum for metropolitan Chicago's chief elected officials to collaborate on common problems and work toward a common goal of improving the quality of life for the millions of people who call the region home.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project conducted fundamental research to enable a strategic update of the original Greenest Region Compact by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The original Greenest Region Compact (GRC) is a simple pledge, signed by more than one third of all municipalities in the region in 2007 to take environmental action. The pledge offered a menu of strategies to improve the environment under the themes of air, energy, land, waste and water.

The goal of this project is to align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability.

The objective of this project is to propose a framework for a new GRC that is modeled on existing municipal sustainability plans; incorporates successful programs, policies, and other indicators of environmental achievement by municipalities; and aligns with goals and strategies of regional, national and global significance.

Research was conducted in three interconnected steps, resulting in the following findings:

## STEP 1

A survey of original GRC adopters was conducted to learn if the pledge influenced the community's environmental planning and outcomes. Adopters reported progress in 10 of the original 13 environmental strategies.

## STEP 2

Environmental achievements by municipalities, in the form of awards, certifications, grants, membership, policies and programs were tallied from objective sources. The purpose was to count activity in environmental categories by community to observe trends at a regional level.

+ The breadth of more than 3500 achievements showed great distribution across the region by communities of all sizes.

+ The Top 5 environmental achievements:
  1. Ownership of sufficient open space
  2. Curbside recycling
  3. Energy efficiency grants
  4. Tree City USA certification
  5. Water metering policies

  **Land stewardship**, and **energy efficiency and renewable energy** were the categories that showed the greatest numbers of achievements overall.

+ Twenty six municipalities showed very high numbers of achievements across all categories. All have sustainability plans. Nearly three-quarters of all municipalities showed medium to low achievement numbers. This suggests targeting assistance to this majority to adopt the new Greenest Region Compact.

## STEP 3

Twenty-nine municipal sustainability plans and seven regional or national plans were analyzed to capture the diverse efforts in conceptualizing and articulating environmental priorities of local governments. Plans were disassembled into component parts – nearly 1000 environmental goals and strategies were sorted into a common framework of nine categories, which will serve as the structure for a new GRC.

The findings show commonalities and general alignment in sustainability planning across the region, and at regional and national levels. The sustainability plan review revealed that the most goals are related to land stewardship and sustainable communities. Goals related to water and wastewater, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and mobility are the next most frequent.

These findings suggest that the resulting framework represents a regional consensus for a new Greenest Region Compact (known as GRC2), and it could be influential in achieving environmental sustainability for communities and the region. An engagement process will solicit input from stakeholders and indicators will be incorporated before a new GRC2 is launched.

## The New **Greenest Region Compact 2** Framework

Land Use

Sustainable Communities


Mobility

Water & Wastewater

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Municipal Operations

Waste & Recycling

Economic Development

Climate Change

# INTRODUCTION

This project conducted fundamental research to enable a strategic update of the 2007 Greenest Region Compact. The original Greenest Region Compact (GRC) is a simple pledge signed by municipal leaders to take action to improve the environment. The power of this document derives from the large number of municipalities who formally adopted the pledge through village board action and/or mayoral pledge. Ninety-six municipalities – more than one third of all municipalities in the region – signed the GRC pledge.

To offer the best guidance to these communities who are formally committed to environmental sustainability, a thoughtful and effective GRC is needed. Now seven years old, the GRC is in need of updating to incorporate policy and market changes impacting environmental concerns at the municipal level. As practices and terminology have evolved, the "environmental strategies" stated in the GRC would now more appropriately be called "sustainability strategies." Sustainability planning and implementation has and continues to evolve.

The approach devised for this essential update was to develop a new GRC (GRC2) based on the work already being planned and done by so many municipalities and organizations. The GRC2 is to be built on a framework synthesized from the sustainability plans already in use by some 30 municipalities. It is to incorporate already successful programs, policies, and other indicators of environmental achievement by municipalities. Finally, it is to align with goals and strategies of regional, national and global significance.

It is hoped that this work will lead to a consensus "environmental strategic plan" for municipalities of the region. The region's mayors, with much collective experience in making the region green, and their formal pledges to environmental sustainability, are the right ones to lead this effort. This report discusses research methodology and reports interesting findings. The innovative examination of sustainability thinking and action at the community at higher levels will certainly allow a new, strategic GRC to be crafted. However, this environmental strategic plan should be built on consensus. So an outreach and engagement phase is planned as a close follow-up. Municipal leaders and stakeholders will be engaged to develop the GRC2 from the component parts presented in this report. Finally, a new impactful Greenest Region Compact, based on consensus, well-integrated and well-supported is expected to broadly guide the region to environmental sustainability in the future.

This project is supported by the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

**+Tree planting at the award-winning Niles Community Rain Garden**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Niles)

# BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) provides a forum through which elected officials cooperatively develop consensus on common public policy issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges. The Caucus is a voice for regional approaches to issues such as economic development, housing, environmental quality, education reform, and transportation funding. The Caucus membership includes 280 mayors and village presidents. Nine sub-regional councils-of-government are incorporated into the Caucus' governance.

The Caucus' small staff is guided by committees comprised of mayors, municipal staff and leaders from councils of governments. In addition to the Executive Board, the Environment Committee advises environmental initiatives in general, and this update of the GRC specifically.

## The Original Greenest Region Compact

To answer the challenge by then Mayor Daley to make Chicago the greenest city in the country, the region's mayors formulated the original Greenest Region Compact in 2007. It was also constructed as device for equitably distributing resources to communities who would leverage investment to make greater environmental impact. Mayors in the region were invited to adopt the GRC pledge through formal municipal processes. Ninety-six municipalities and eight councils of government formally adopted the GRC between 2007 and 2008. The pledge and the list of signatories can be found in Appendix A. The distribution of large numbers of compact fluorescent light bulbs to signatories of the GRC may have favorably influenced the broad adoption.

By signing the GRC, communities pledged to set local goals and take municipal action to collaboratively advance regional environmental priorities. This pledge was to:

1. **Set environmental goals within their communities, and**
2. **Implement at least seven strategies, including the three Priority Strategies identified by the Caucus.**

### Priority Strategy 1:

Promote residential water conservation practices.

> **Goal:** Reduce the amount of water used by 15% below 2000 water consumption levels by 2015.

### Priority Strategy 2:

Enact E-Waste Recycling Programs.

> **Goal:** Measurably decrease the amount of electronic waste collected by curbside waste haulers.

### Priority Strategy 3:

Participate in the Northern Illinois Energy Project's Residential Lighting Program.

> **Goal:** Reduce residential energy consumption by encouraging the use of CFL Bulbs.

### + Land

- Tree Planting Programs

### + Air

- Diesel Retrofits
- Transit Education
- Bus Shelters and Bike Racks

### + Waste

- Residential Curbside Recycling
- Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling
- Paint Recycling

### + Energy

- LED Traffic Signals
- Municipal Green Power Purchase

### + Water

- Residential Rain Barrel Program
- Residential Sprinkler Regulations
- Stormwater Best Management Practices

While developing the GRC, the Caucus managed the successful Clean Air Counts program. This program challenged municipalities, other local governments and businesses to take action to reduce emissions in their communities. Seventy-four municipalities were formally and publicly recognized for achievements at the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. These local efforts were tallied and reported to the US EPA to measure voluntary compliance with Clean Air standards. This approach is the model for the Caucus' current and future environmental initiatives.

Clean Air Counts succeeded in reducing pollutants that are precursors of ozone by 15 tons per day, surpassing the original goal by 200%. Investment in Clean Air Counts and administrative support for the program were phased out in 2011. Since then, the Caucus has administered sub-grants to municipalities to achieve GRC environmental objectives, notably in energy efficiency and urban forestry.

**+ New goals are needed that are relevant, integrated with current policies, issues and sophisticated new sustainability ratings.**

### Need for GRC Update

There has not been coordinated follow-up to measure success since GRC signatories took the pledge in 2007-2008. Recommended strategies had not been updated in response to evolving policies and markets. Most notably, the state passed Public Act 97-0287 - Electronic Products Recycling & Reuse Act mandating recycling of electronics, dramatically altering the municipal role. The original Priority Strategy recommended voluntary recycling of E-waste. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) have become affordable and commonplace, so action on Priority Strategy 2 is long-completed. New goals are needed that are relevant, integrated with current policies, issues and sophisticated new sustainability ratings. Climate change was not a part of the GRC, but is now widely integrated into plans and actions at all levels of leadership.

Many communities have continued to make advances in local sustainability planning and program implementation since the GRC was adopted. Thirty-nine community sustainability and environmental action plans, of varying complexity, have been developed in the region since 2004. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has assisted in the development of sustainability plans for at least two communities and one county through their Local Technical Assistance Program (LTA).

Since the GRC was adopted, pivotal guiding documents for the region have been written. Go To 2040 offers a comprehensive vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for the region. Sophisticated sustainability rating systems programs like the STAR Community Rating System and Envision™ offer high-level visions and goals. The GRC2 should be integrated with relevant plans and programs.

# GOAL + OBJECTIVE

The **goal** of this project is to align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability.

The **objective** of this project is to propose a framework for a new GRC that is modeled on existing municipal sustainability plans; incorporates successful programs, policies, and other indicators of environmental achievement by municipalities; and aligns with goals and strategies of regional, national and global significance.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Caucus retained CB&I, a consulting firm with considerable expertise in sustainability planning. Caucus and CB&I staff comprised the Team that worked collaboratively to design and conduct research to understand sustainability priorities, needs, activities and the influence of the GRC and other regional or national plans and documents.

To create the foundation for the GRC2, information was extracted from these three important sources:

### STEP 1 Survey of Original GRC Adopters
Done to specifically measure progress on the pledge formally made by municipal board action;

### STEP 2 Environmental Achievements Inventory
Analysis of municipal environmental achievements from objective sources; and

### STEP 3 Sustainability Plan Review
Analysis of existing sustainability plans of Caucus municipalities and higher-level plans and guiding documents at the regional and national levels.

# STEP 1
## Survey of the Original Greenest Region Compact Adopters

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Vital to the evaluation and update of the GRC is an assessment of the effectiveness of the original commitments. The Caucus sought feedback from the adopters of the GRC to learn how the pledge influenced their environmental actions. While direct questions about the outcomes from the original Priority Strategies would have provided the most accurate information about the impact of the GRC, three factors made this impractical.

First, seven years have elapsed since the GRC was widely adopted and municipal leadership has changed in many communities. It would have posed an unnecessary burden for municipal staff and elected officials who may not have been original signatories, to research actions specifically related to the pledge. Second, some of the GRC proposed actions were rendered irrelevant by changes in state policies, evolution of market forces, and other policy changes over time. Finally, CMAP sought input from municipalities to guide in the development of a sustainability planning toolkit more broadly than the GRC framework, thus the survey was expanded to a broader plane to avoid duplicating the efforts of the two agencies.

To support both the desire for historical information and the desire for guidance in the development of the toolkit, the research team worked with CMAP to draft and distribute a survey to all GRC adopters. The survey included questions about the impact of the GRC and about specific environmental accomplishments. These were generalized from original GRC strategies, due to the changes in their relevance over time. These questions gauged interest in the environmental themes of air, energy, land, water and waste to inform both the sustainability planning toolkit and the new GRC. A question about barriers to sustainability planning was also asked.

The electronic survey was sent on April 3, 2014 to both mayors and managers of the 93 of municipalities which originally adopted the GRC. (Note: three additional adopters were discovered after the survey was sent). A similar survey was sent to the eight councils of governments who adopted the survey. The survey email and survey questions can be found in Appendix B. The analysis of the responses is summarized in the Findings section, page 16; the complete survey results can be found in Appendix C.

STEP 1 + FINDINGS

# SURVEY FINDINGS

A total of 39 responses were received, including 35 municipalities, one county and one council of government, for a satisfactory 42% response rate.

The answers to the introductory question, "Has the Greenest Region Compact informed your planning efforts or impacted your environmental initiatives?" (Figure 1) indicates that the GRC has been modestly influential to municipalities. The high number of respondent who answered "not sure" may be attributable to staff and leadership turnover since its adoption in 2007.

However, over 40% of the respondents indicated that their municipalities have also adopted a formal sustainability plan or are in the process of developing one. An additional 26% indicated that their municipalities have set environmental goals, not necessarily in a formal sustainability plan, rather in the form of other planning documents or policies, such as through comprehensive plans. Ninety percent of all sustainability plans analyzed were published after the GRC was released in 2007.

The GRC was designed for municipal action, yet it was adopted by eight of nine councils of government (COGs). However, the strategies may have proven difficult to undertake by COGs which support many municipal leaders, but do not govern.

Only the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) answered the survey. They reported having a sustainability plan with goals (though it could not be included in the review, based on the aforementioned criteria). The SSMMA also reported strong accomplishments of energy, water and tree planting strategies and additional accomplishments in sustainable land use.

To better solicit response from COGs, the surveyed was pared down to two questions and re-sent to the COGS. The questions and five responses were:

Has the Greenest Region Compact informed or impacted your COG's environmental initiatives?

**Yes 40%** **No 60%**

Do you think the Compact informed or impacted your members' environmental initiatives?

**Yes 40%** **No 20%** **Not Sure 40%**

Records indicated that the West Central Municipal League likely signed the GRC, but their participation could not be confirmed. However, they responded appropriately to these questions.

**Figure 1: Has the GRC informed your planning efforts or impacted your environmental initiatives?**

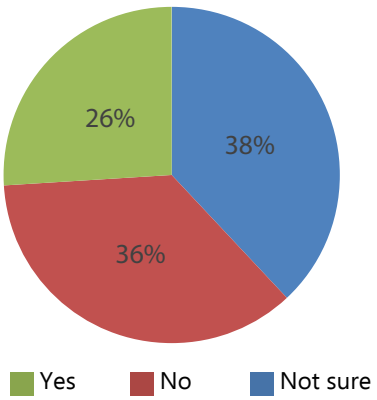
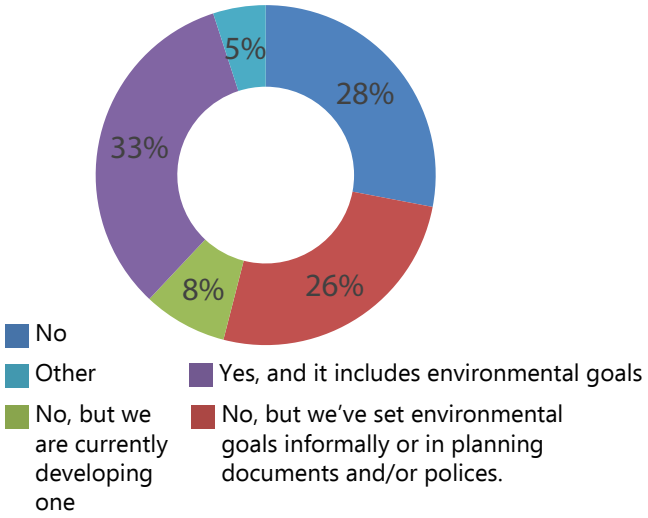



**Figure 2: Has your municipality developed a sustainability plan?**



### Responses About Specific GRC Strategies

The survey included 26 questions specific to accomplishments and interest in sustainability strategies within the original GRC categories. As stated in the Methodology section, the questions are inclusive of, but not exclusive to, GRC original strategies. This survey provided insight on progress towards the environmental goals and priority strategies specific to GRC signatories.

**Figure 3: Number of Questions by GRC Category**

| GRC Category | Number of Questions |
|---|---|
| Water | 6 |
| Waste | 5 |
| Energy | 5 |
| Land | 5 |
| Air + Climate | 5 |

## + Water

**Water conservation was Priority Strategy 1 in the GRC.**

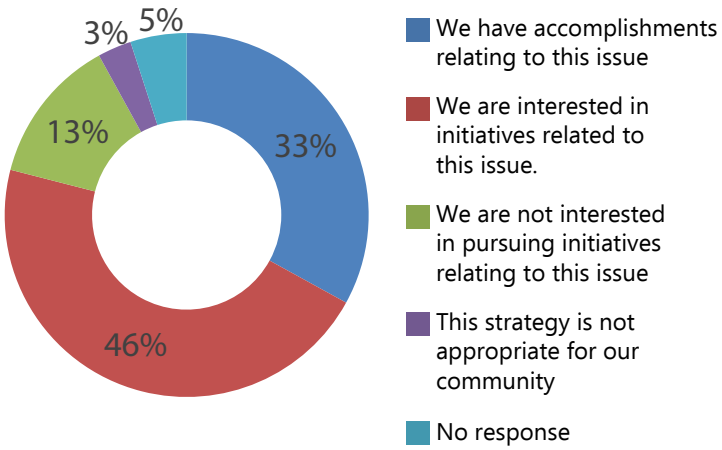
- Upgrading water and wastewater infrastructure is a water conservation strategy undertaken by 63% of municipal water utilities responding, while 33% are interested in related initiatives.
- Respondents showed accomplishments (67%) and interest (33%) in policies to conserve water consumption.
- The majority of the respondents (65%) have initiatives to promote water conservation, mostly by educating the community on the issue. Approximately half of the respondents are interested in offering incentives or support to encourage water conservation, however only 23% indicate that they are currently offering such support.
- The majority of municipalities (78%) have accomplishments relating to stormwater best management practices.

## + Waste

**E-waste was Priority Strategy 2 in the GRC.** E-waste programs have mostly been pursued since the Illinois EPA passed Public Act 97-0287 (Electronic Products Recycling & Reuse Act) mandating recycling of electronics in 2012.

- The survey reflects this law with 90% of the respondents offering E-Waste programs.
- A curbside recycling program is implemented by 95% of the respondent municipalities. This is reflected in the achievements inventory portion of this report.
- Composting is of interest to over half of the respondents, with over a third already pursuing initiatives related to composting.
- Paint recycling programs were undertaken by 53% of the respondents and 35% are interested in this issue.
- Construction and Demolition debris recycling ordinances or policies have been pursued by 33% of respondents with an additional 46% of respondents interested in the issue.
- 61% of the respondents that positively acknowledged the influence of the GRC in the first survey question, have accomplishments relating to waste issues.

**Figure 4: Enact construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance or policy**



## + Energy

- Most of the energy-related questions received high responses. Specifically, almost 90% of respondents have accomplishments related to energy efficiency at municipal facilities, most likely due to state-funded energy efficiency programs.
- Traffic signal replacement with LED fixtures is also a widely-pursued program by 70% of the respondents with an additional 23% indicating interest. The question assumes that traffic signals are converted from incandescent to LEDs programmatically rather than on as-needed basis.
- In general, there is a high interest in renewable energy, both in terms of overcoming building/ zoning code barriers for renewable energy systems and promoting renewable energy in the community. Over 60% of the respondents are also implementing municipal electricity aggregation contracts with renewable energy sources, and an additional 20% is interested in this issue.

**+New electric vehicle charging station in Franklin Park**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Franklin Park)

**+Solar-powered recycling and refuse containers at Schaumburg's Metra Station.**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Schaumburg)

## + Land

- The vast majority of respondents (83%) shows interest in green building requirements, while only 13% are already pursuing such policies. All of the municipalities that are pursuing these policies had positively acknowledged the influence of GRC in the first survey question.
- Tree planting programs have been pursued by almost 90% of the respondents, which is reinforced by the popularity of the Tree City USA and related award programs discussed in the achievements section.
- Mixed-use development policies and regulations have been pursued by 45% of the respondents, with an additional 45% expressing interest in this issue.

## + Air & Climate

- Major accomplishments include improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure with 80% of the respondents having accomplishments and 20% expressing interest in this issue.
- Climate adaptation initiatives (not an original GRC strategy) are of interest to almost 70% of the respondents but only 10% have implemented initiatives related to this issue.

# DISCUSSION OF THE SURVEY

The survey demonstrated a correlation between environmental accomplishments and the pledge to implement at least ten of the thirteen original GRC strategies. The CFL light bulb program; E-waste program; and LED traffic lights were widely accomplished, though not as discretionary municipal initiatives. Light bulbs were given away to all signatories, while E-waste and LED traffic signals were mandated.

However, reports of high accomplishments in the remaining 10 strategies, that were voluntarily undertaken, indicate the GRC may have had positive influence. The eight strategies that were very successfully pursued were water conservation (consolidated from many strategies), bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, promotion of transit options, curbside and paint recycling, renewable energy procurement, tree planting and stormwater best management practices. Progress on the diesel retrofit strategy was measured in two ways. One measure was participation in a Caucus-administered grant program (see Achievements section starting on page 16). The survey asked a more general and contemporary question about green municipal fleets. Together these results indicate moderate progress on the original strategy. Information about residential rain barrel programs was taken from the 2008 survey of municipal green practices by CMAP and therefore excluded from the survey. Only thirteen municipalities reported residential rain barrel programs at that time.

Despite changes in policies, markets and technology since the GRC was adopted, and slight inconsistencies in tracking results, accomplishments are reported by municipalities on all of the original GRC strategies.

Finally, a third of responders indicated that the main challenges to the pursuit of sustainability initiatives are related to resources of funding and limited staff capacity or technical expertise. The last question about conservation design was included to assist CMAP and is not relevant to this study.

# STEP 2
## Environmental Achievements Inventory

### ACHIEVEMENTS INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

To broadly and objectively capture environmental priorities of the region, the Caucus chose to tally environmental achievements generally within the framework of the GRC. This objective analysis answered the question: **"What are municipalities already doing to achieve environmental sustainability?"**

This analysis measured municipal efforts within five core areas of the GRC:

**+ Air** **+ Energy** **+ Land** **+ Waste** **+ Water**

Two additional categories were added to reflect growth in the municipal environmental purview beyond the scope of the GRC:

**+ Sustainability/Stewardship** **+ Climate Change**

The Sustainability Stewardship category includes general sustainability efforts that did not fit into any of the other categories, such as the presence of a sustainability plan or citizen's environmental commission. Collectively, the five original GRC categories plus the two additional categories are referred to as 'GRC+2'. All achievements were sorted into these GRC+2 categories.

A comprehensive list of over 100 achievements was compiled that would solidly indicate the breadth and depth of environmental achievements. After beginning the inventory, not all of these indicators could be identified, so a number of achievements was eliminated for lack of data. Notably, information about recycling programs and sustainable waste management was lacking. No one organization consistently assembles information about all municipal recycling programs. A total of 95 possible achievements across the GRC+2 categories was tracked. All municipal efforts were reported by a third party, such as a granting agency or non-profit organization making recognition awards. Municipalities were not asked to report their achievements. This method for measuring achievements showed progress across an impressive breadth of communities. The inventory included each of the Caucus' 280 member communities, additional communities in the region that are not Caucus members, and high-achieving Illinois communities outside the metropolitan region, for a total of 295 communities. Achievements from objective sources were tallied for all these communities. The list of all communities included in this study can be found in Appendix D.

The purpose was to count activity in environmental categories by community to observe trends at a regional level. Therefore, only the achievement itself was noted, not details of the achievement. For example, the number of grants awarded in energy efficiency is of interest, not the size of the grant award or specific project accomplishments. The intent was not to rank communities by environmental achievements, but to observe trends about the scale and distribution of activities.

## ACHIEVEMENTS INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

Municipalities had to put forth effort or invest money resulting in the achievement to be recognized. This is illustrated in the achievement of a "LEED AP on staff". The U.S. Green Building Council supplied membership lists of persons with LEED AP credentials indicating their home municipality. However, simply having a person with LEED AP in a community does not merit recognition. But a municipality that put forth effort and/or money for an employee to earn that credential, or intentionally hired such a person demonstrates commitment. This is counted as an achievement in the Sustainability Stewardship category and is attributable to 13 communities.

A few achievements were earned by park districts or school districts which may serve multiple municipalities. Their achievements were attributed to the dominant community in their jurisdiction or the specific location of the achievement, e.g., renewable energy systems. But all achievements are intended to reflect effort and commitment by local governments, only.

### Source of Data

The source of information for the achievements inventory was mostly provided by state and federal organizations; and national or regional groups that provide grants, awards and other recognition.

Most of the information was available on third party websites. Data was requested directly from some organizations; and only two Freedom of Information requests from state agencies were necessary. The Caucus also provided several lists related to Clean Air Counts, emerald ash borer and other grants awarded, and a list of known citizen environmental commissions. The CMAP 2008 Green Practices Survey offered a useful summary of activities being done by local governments. This survey provided information from 175 local governments. The complete list of 95 achievements and source of data can be found in Appendix E.

The accuracy of the achievements inventory is dependent upon the accuracy and completeness of third party information. Some lists, such as grant and award recipients, would likely be highly reliable. Achievements that result from some kind of investment (e.g., membership dues or grants); result in public recognition, (e.g., awards or designations); or involve regulation (municipal electricity aggregation contracts or International Energy Conservation Code adoption) were reliably tracked. Some programs were tracked by interested non-profit groups which were likely not comprehensive, though they were the best available sources of information. For example, the list of municipal green roofs were found in the International Greenroof & Greenwall Directory, an online commercial directory. And the presence of a municipal green initiatives website was tracked by Sierra Club for their Cool Cities program participants, not for all municipalities in the region. A complete search for all municipal green initiative websites was beyond the scope of this project.

### Timeframe

The span of time considered for this analysis was 2007-2014, as the GRC was released in 2007. Programs and other indicators of environmental achievement have come and gone in that span of time. All achievements reported by third parties, regardless of program duration, that were made in this span of time were included. Thus, the long-running programs will show higher numbers since they recur for many years. Short-running programs, even if they have strong participation, may show lower numbers.

## ACHIEVEMENTS INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

### Types of Achievements

Municipal environmental sustainability achievements of the following types were tallied and reported:

+ **Award** + **Certification** + **Grant**
+ **Membership** + **Policy** + **Program**

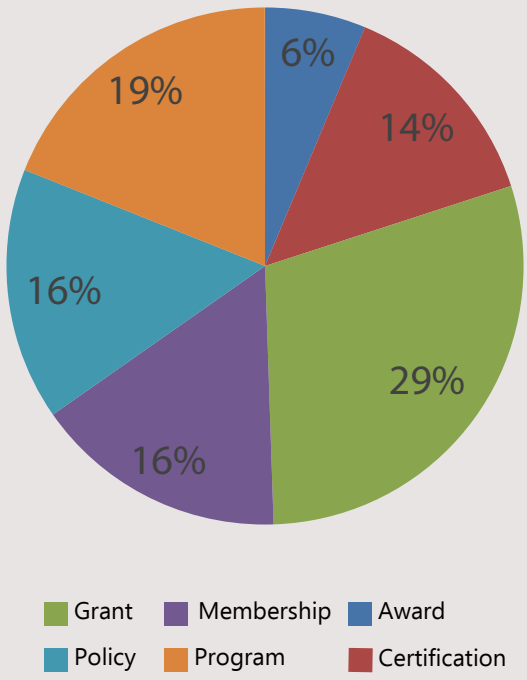
**Figure 5: Achievements tallied by type and GRC+2 category**

| Category | Award | Certification | Grant | Membership | Policy | Program | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| Climate Change | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Energy | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 14 |
| Land | 2 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| Sustainability Stewardship | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 17 |
| Waste | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| Water | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 13 |
| **Total** | **6** | **13** | **28** | **15** | **15** | **18** | **95** |

**Awards and certifications** are relatively limited lists that strongly correlate with environmental priorities. Recognition awards are exclusive and expected to go to top achievers. For example, Partners for Clean Air only gave out three awards for exceptional accomplishments in reducing air pollution. Certifications are voluntarily sought by municipalities for public and peer recognition. Sometimes technical assistance, information or even favorable consideration for grants are given to municipal certification holders. The Water Sense and Green Power Partner certifications by the US Environmental Protection Agency are given to communities meeting specific criteria for water efficiency (45 communities) and renewable power procurement (4 communities), respectively.

The administration of award and certification programs are often very similar. Typically, certifications are awarded for accomplishment of tasks and conditions prescribed by a certifying body. Awards are typically competitive and selective. The most popular municipal certification program, Tree City USA, illustrates

**Figure 6: Types of Achievements**



## ACHIEVEMENTS INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

the similarity between awards and certifications. Tree City USA is a certification (though it is called an award by the administering agency) given to municipalities by Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Arbor Day Foundation for compliance with four standards of community tree stewardship. Continued and exceptional achievement is recognized with the Tree City USA Growth and Sterling Awards. This achievement was counted favorably by the Caucus in evaluating grant proposals for federally funded grants to restore tree canopy impacted by the emerald ash borer.

**Grants** indicate action directly attributable to environmental sustainability. Though the supply of funds, degree of competition, and targeted purpose for grants is not in municipal control, receipt of grants by municipalities is still a good indicator of commitment to environmental sustainability. Grants that push new technologies in areas such as alternative fuel and energy efficiency grants drive model implementation by public agencies, building markets in the process. Considerable effort and sometimes expertise is often necessary to apply for and manage grants. The allure of financial support for important projects is also strong motivator for seeking grants. Fifteen different grants were tallied, though details of the grants were not.

**Memberships** in organizations that provide environmental advocacy, services, and information are optional investments of time and effort for municipalities, and therefore a good indicator of environmental commitment. Membership in organizations such as Chicago Wilderness, ICLEI, Illinois Recycling Association and 12 other memberships were tallied.

Environmental **policies and programs** are definitive indicators of action that can lead to community sustainability. There are many programs and policies that would indicate municipal environmental leadership, and sustainable practices by residents, businesses and municipal government alike. However, an exhaustive search of all sustainable policies and programs self-reported in each of the region's communities would be both impractical and unnecessary. This project aims for a higher level analysis.
Consistent with this project methodology, the team tracked policies and programs that are promoted and/or tracked by a third party, only. An example of this is a Complete Streets policy, promoting safe, walkable and attractive streets. Smart Growth America reports 17 municipalities in the region have adopted this policy.

Whether these membership lists are comprehensive or not is highly variable. For example, water conservation and efficiency policies and programs were gleaned from a survey conducted by CMAP in 2008. Responses, while robust, were voluntary and self-reported by 175 communities. The Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) promotes adoption of a sophisticated model environmental policy, but does not track adoption. The list used to report adoption of the model environmental policy was based on the best available information from IPRA. In contrast, adoption of regulated policies is well-tracked. For example, state law requires adoption of the International Energy Efficiency Code and reporting of that adoption to the state Capital Development Board.

STEP 2 + FINDINGS

# ACHIEVEMENTS INVENTORY FINDINGS

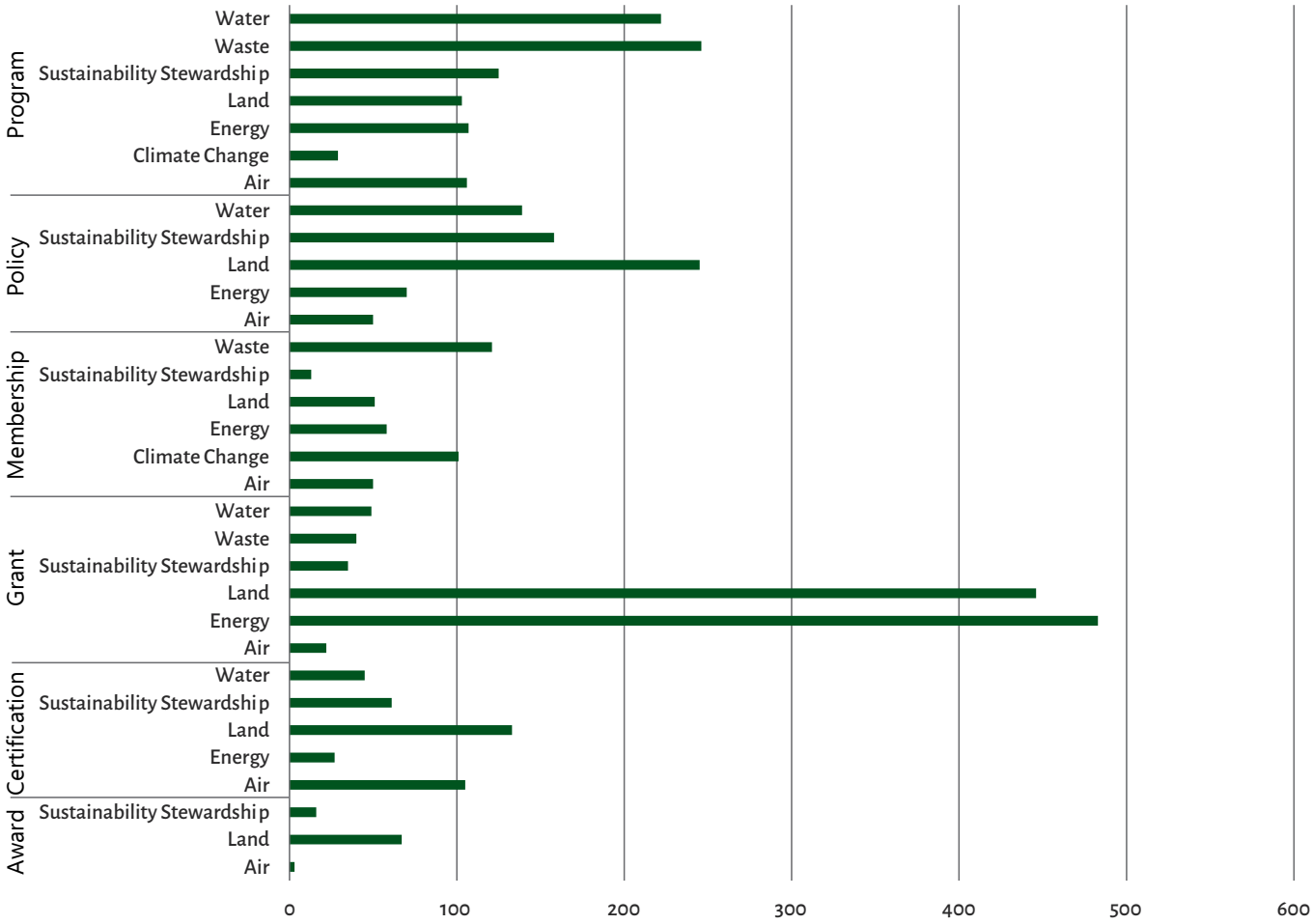
### Overall Summary

The study of achievements proved to be an equitable, high-level means of observing municipal accomplishments in environmental sustainability. Most of the measures of achievement, especially policies, programs, and certifications are open to all municipalities, regardless of size, or the presence of a sustainability plan or sustainability staff. Certainly, the achievements tallied require substantial effort, and this may be a barrier to low-capacity communities. A total number of 3527 community achievements were tallied for 295 communities. These achievements were categorized by type of achievement and by GRC+2 category.

| GRC+2 Category | Sum of Achievements | Number of Possible Achievements |
|---|---|---|
| Air | 336 | 15 |
| Climate Change | 131 | 6 |
| Energy | 745 | 14 |
| Land | 1045 | 22 |
| Sustainability Stewardship | 408 | 17 |
| Waste | 407 | 8 |
| Water | 455 | 13 |
| **Total** | **3527** | **95** |

**Figure 7: Sum of all community achievements by GRC+2 category**

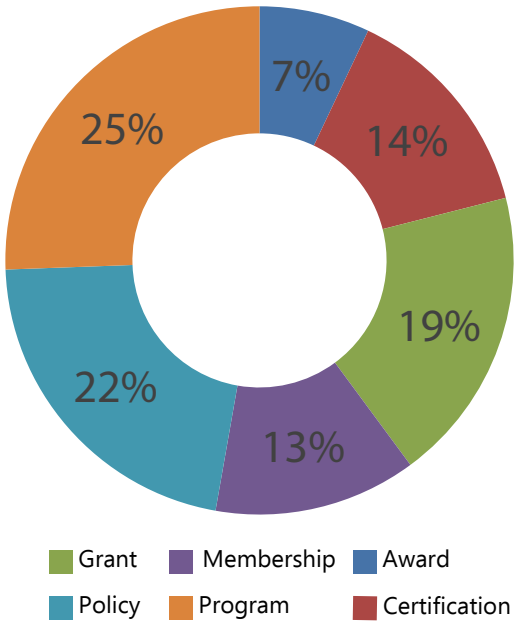
**Figure 8: Achievements by Type and GRC+2 Category**



## Summary Achievements by Type

Awards are presumably an exclusive measure of sustainability achievements. Only three types of awards were discovered, with additional sub-sets of these awards bringing the total to six. Only 16 communities earned any of the three categories of Governor's Sustainability Awards between 2009 and 2013. However, the Tree City USA certification (and its corresponding 'Growth' and 'Sterling' award) is the fourth most common achievement among municipalities.

**Figure 9: Community Achievements by Type**




**Certifications** proved to be a good measure of environmental achievements. Municipal participation in certification programs is relatively robust. Thirteen certification programs were inventoried. Tree City USA is the most popular certification program reporting 122 certified communities. Clean Air Counts, the Caucus' emissions reduction program, had the next strongest participation – 74 communities were 'certified' by level of accomplishment, e.g. Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum. The next most common achievement, with 53 communities, was LEED certification of municipal building(s). Notably, the newest high-level certification programs were the most exclusive. STAR Community Rating System and Sustainable Sites Initiative each have only three participants in the region, LEED Neighborhood Design has five certified communities, and Bicycle Friendly Community has eight certified communities.

**Grants** are an important, but complex indicator of environmental accomplishments. Twenty-eight grants account for 30% of all the achievements tallied. Additionally, grants account for 40% of the top 10 achievements over the seven-year study period. It might be argued that grant writing capacity may not be present in small or low-income communities. On the other hand, some grants are targeted to serve such communities, such as emission reduction/mitigation grants and brownfield mitigation. When tallied by type, most (over 40%) grant programs evaluated in the study are in the Land category; but the most frequently awarded grants where in the Energy category (45%).

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awarded the most municipal grants - 152 energy efficiency grants were made in the period covered by this study. Only eight of the U.S. Department of Transportation's highly competitive, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants were received in the region. This does not suggest that energy efficiency is a greater priority than sustainable transportation projects, but that more grant-making capacity exists for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Future analyses could consider grant programs in relation to municipal and regional environmental priorities, but is beyond the scope of this project.

Fifteen municipal **membership** commitments were inventoried. Memberships were variable in the degree of resources and efforts required. Municipal memberships in non-profit organizations such as the Illinois Recycling Association, Product Stewardship Network or Chicago Wilderness cost up to a few hundred dollars. Membership in these issue-driven organization correlate with municipal priorities. Municipalities pay a fee to join collaborative organizations like solid waste agencies for effective recycling services, or collaboratives. Another example of an operational membership is the

Department of Energy's Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium which fosters collaboration and information sharing to adopt energy efficient technologies. A number of organizations challenge municipal members to take action and demonstrate inclusive support for the cause. The Caucus' own Clean Air Counts and EPA's Energy Star Partners are popular examples, totaling 99 and 30 municipal member, respectively. The World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour Challenge is a more exclusive example, with 18 municipal members.

The categories of **programs and policies** are indicators of actual municipal environmental efforts by municipalities. . However, they are tallied from information provided by third-party organizations, not voluntarily self-reported by municipalities for this study. Combined, policies and programs made up 45% of all achievements inventoried. These will likely correlate strongly with locally-established indicators in community sustainability plans.

The presence of 10 or more acres of open space per 10,000 residents, the standard set by the National Recreation and Park Association, is the highest achievement across all categories. This statistic, supplied by CMAP does not distinguish municipal open space from county-owned forest preserves, nor does it account for accessibility. It is categorized as a policy, and underscores the strong trend towards achievements in the 'land' category, and frequency of land-based goals, discussed below.

Metering of all water service is the next most common municipal conservation policy, practiced by at least 119 municipalities. This figure is self-reported as "100% metered" by respondents to the CMAP 2008 Survey of Water Utilities.

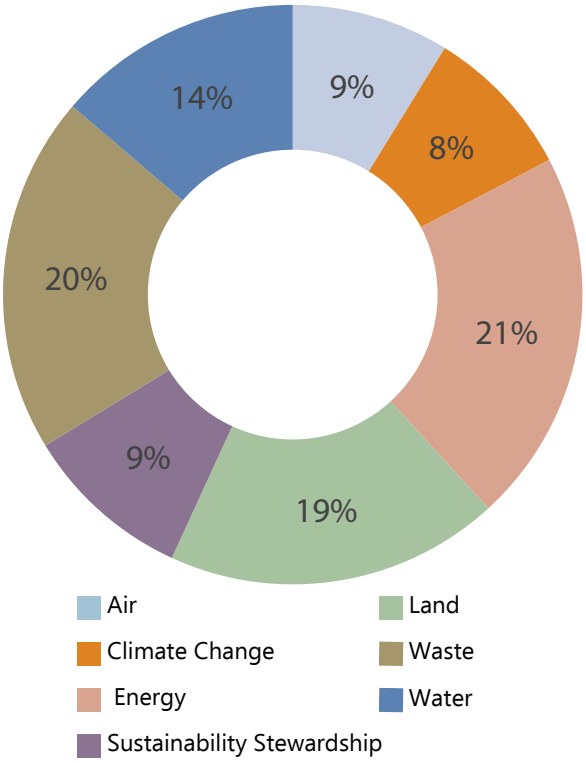
Curbside recycling is believed to be practiced by 193 municipalities. This figure was consolidated from several sources including solid waste agencies and the Illinois Recycling Association.
Farmers Markets are the most popular municipal program in the Sustainability Stewardship category. They are supported by 103 cities in the region.

## Summary of Achievements by Category

The purpose of the achievement inventory was to measure what activities are already being done by municipalities. Achievements were categorized in the GRC+2 categories, as described in the Research Methodology section. Results were normalized to account for variation in the number of possible achievements identified in this study.

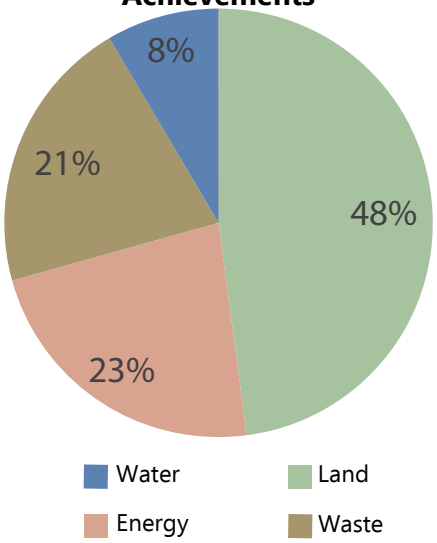
The results of this analysis clearly illustrate municipal environmental priorities. Half of all the reported achievements, or 40% when normalized, are in the Land and Energy categories

**Figure 10: Community Achievements by Category (normalized)**



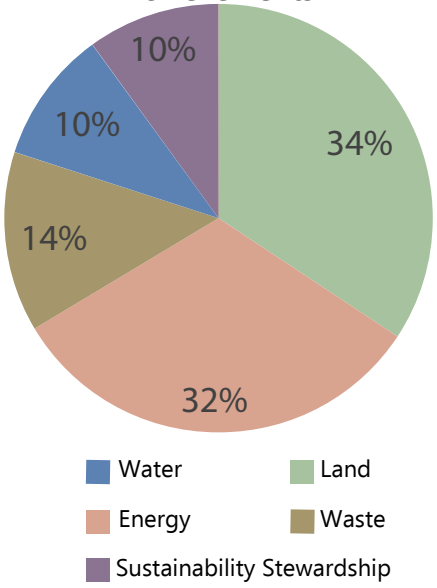
Analysis of the top 10 and top 20 most frequent achievements confirms that 70% of the community achievements are in the land and energy categories. This shows clustering around common, priority issues that are at once relevant, achievable by municipalities, and well-supported. The top 10 most frequent achievements include 40% of all community achievements (approximately 1,400), and the top 20 most frequent achievements include 60% of all achievements (approximately 2,150).

**Figure 11: Top 10 Most Frequent Achievements**



**+ Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Police Chief Michael Witz receive LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for village's new Police Headquarters.**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Franklin Park)

**Figure 12: Top 20 Most Frequent Achievements**



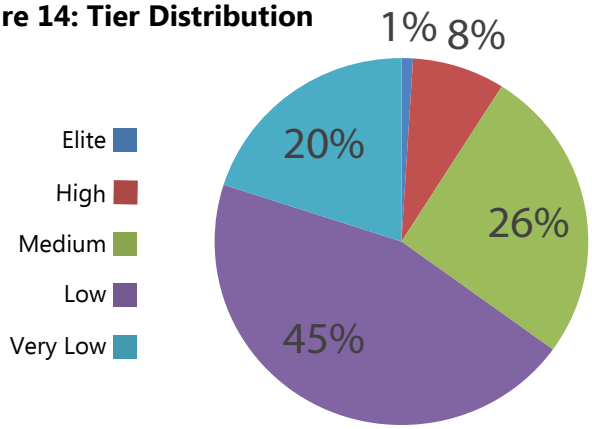
**+ Community members pose in front of their hard work at the award-winning Niles Community Rain Garden**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Niles)

| Key | Range of Achievements per Community | Number of Municipalities | Average Achievements |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elite | 40-60 | 4 | 50.3 |
| High | 25-39 | 22 | 30.2 |
| Medium | 15-24 | 75 | 18.3 |
| Low | 5-14 | 134 | 8.5 |
| Very Low | 0-4 | 60 | 2.4 |

**Figure 13: Number of municipalities and achievements by tier**

**+ Shaumburg's retrofitted storm channel at its municipal center was created by removing culverts and installing bridges to reconnect the fractured ecosystem. Local projects like this are important in improving the Salt Creek Watershed.**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Schaumburg)

**Figure 14: Tier Distribution**




## Summary of Achievements by Community

Overall, the achievement inventory revealed a great deal of activity around environmental sustainability throughout the region and across all types of communities. Of 295 communities in the study, only Holiday Hills, population 610 (2010 Census) showed no environmental achievements by this method.

To better analyze the achievements across the region, municipalities were clustered into "Tiers" based on the number of achievements per municipality. Five Tiers were delineated. On the high end, the Elite Tier has only four municipalities showing 40 to 60 achievements or nearly 50 achievements on average per municipality. The Very Low Tier is made of 60 municipalities with zero to four achievements or 2.4 achievements on average per municipality

This information is vital to setting the target for the new GRC. The vast majority of the region's communities (71%) are in the Low to Medium Tiers. More than half (54%) have under 10 achievements. However, only 6% of all communities report only 1 achievement. Most were small communities that achieved the national standard for amount open space per capita.

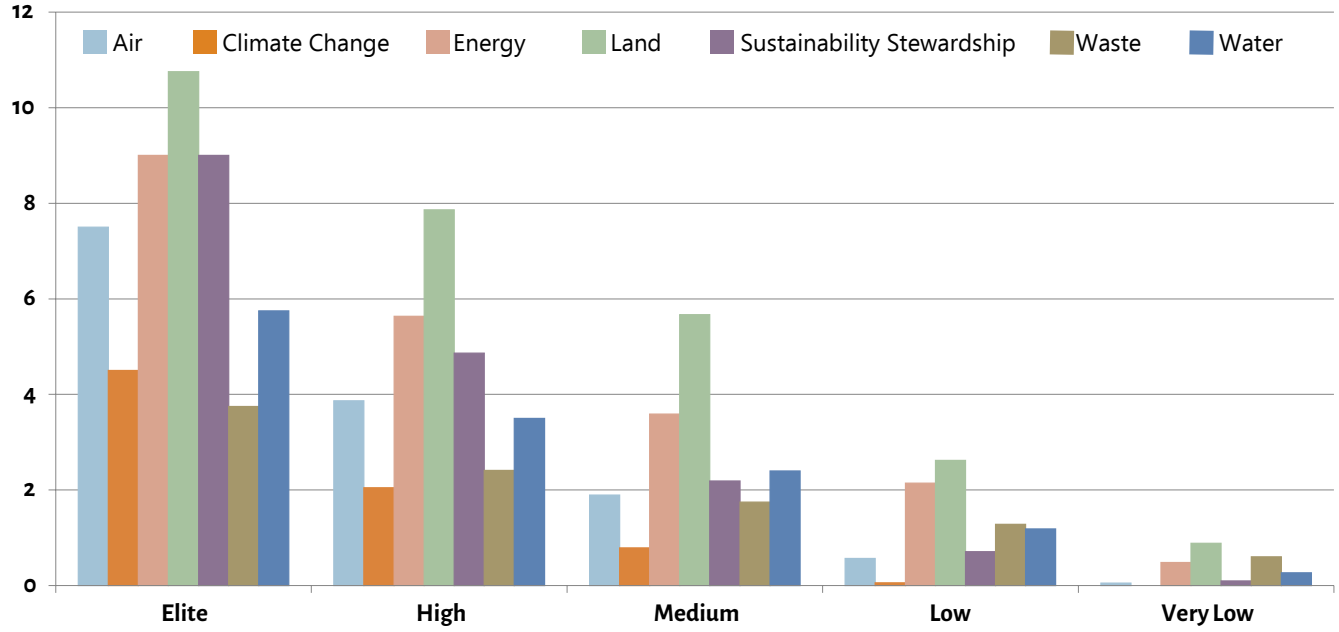
**Land, energy, waste, and water** (in this same order) are the achievements sought by municipalities in the Low and Very Low tiers.

**Sustainability Stewardship and Climate Change** achievements grow exponentially in higher tiers.

**Waste** achievements are relatively constant across Tiers indicating sustainable waste management is relatively accessible.

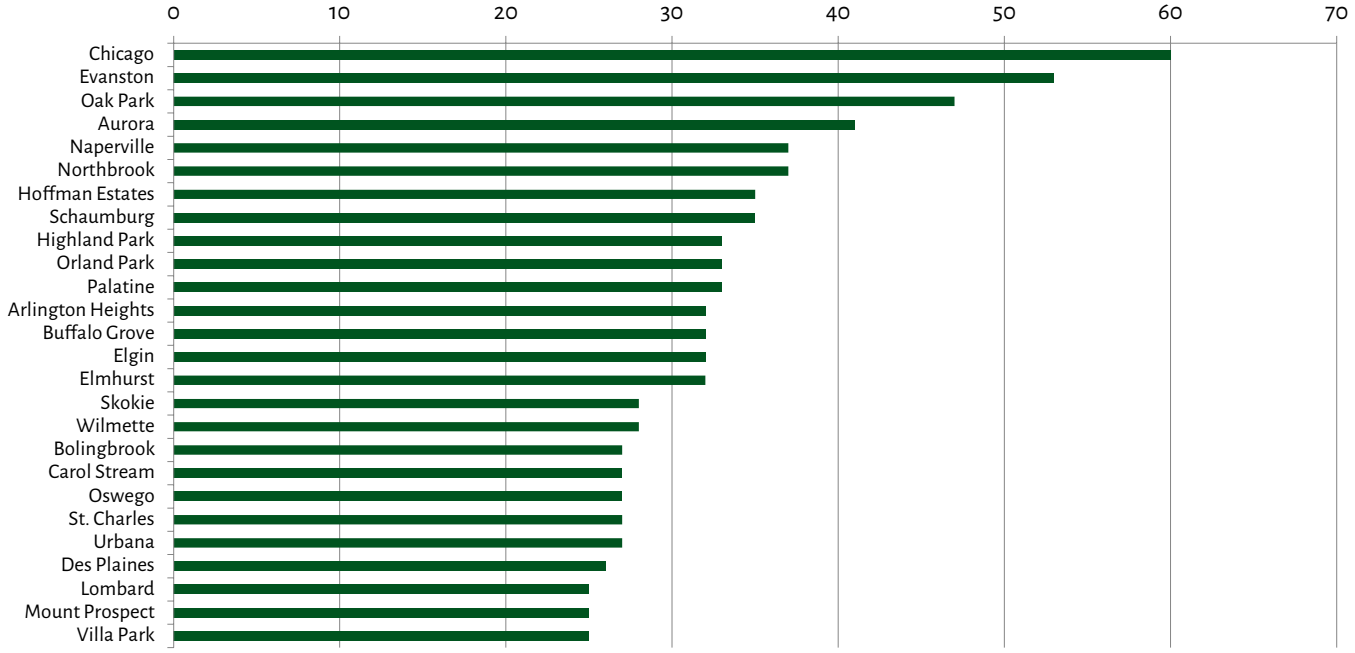
**Energy** accomplishments in Low and Very Low tiers may indicate good penetration of energy efficiency grant programs.

**Figure 15: Average Achievements per Community in GRC+2 Category and Tier**




This analysis is not intended to rank communities. But some of the region's communities are clear leaders in environmental sustainability. Municipalities in Elite and High Tiers comprise the Top 26 municipalities which are 13% of all communities. The sum of all achievements of these Tiers also represents 25% of all the achievements tallied from the 295 communities. Each leading community has at least 25 achievements across the GRC+2 categories. Several municipalities had exactly the same 'rank', justifying the odd use of the "Top 26".

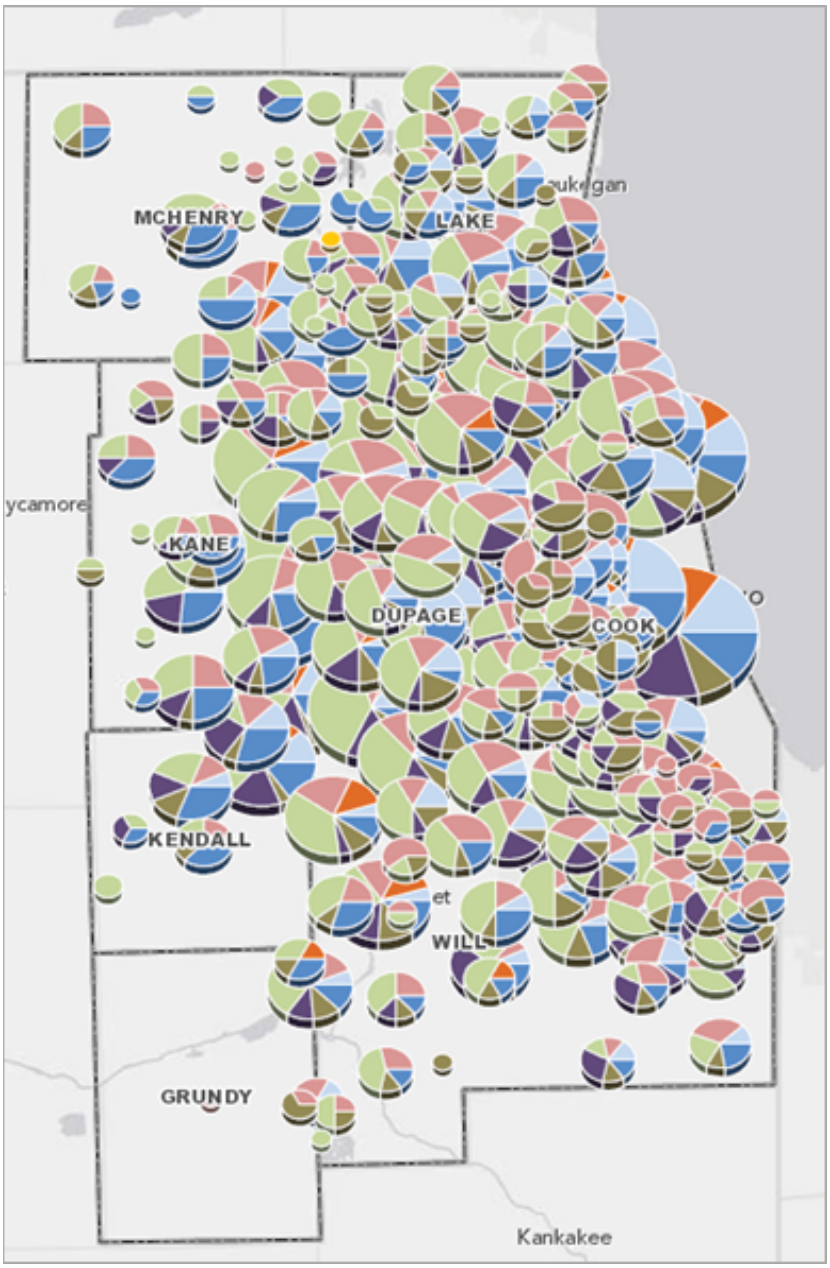
**Figure 16: Top 26 Municipalities by Number of Achievements**



## Geographic Distribution of Achievements

Achievements were generally well distributed across the region as shown in Figure 12 to Figure 15. However, some geographic observations are noted. Suburbs in the North and West showed higher numbers of achievements. Inner-ring suburbs to the south and west, with the exception of Oak Park, had lower numbers of achievements.

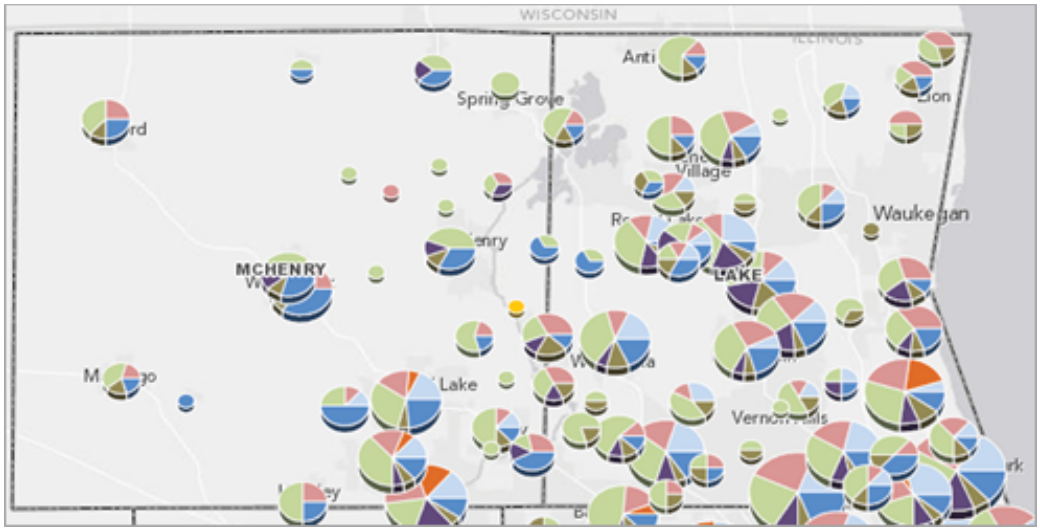
This analysis also reveals some geographic clustering around issues. The map is interactive online at **http://mayorscaucus.org/interactive-map-environmental-achievements-region/**. The following maps, Map 1 - Map 12 indicate achievements in the GRC+2 categories.




**Map 1: Distribution of all GRC+2 achievements**

### Map Key

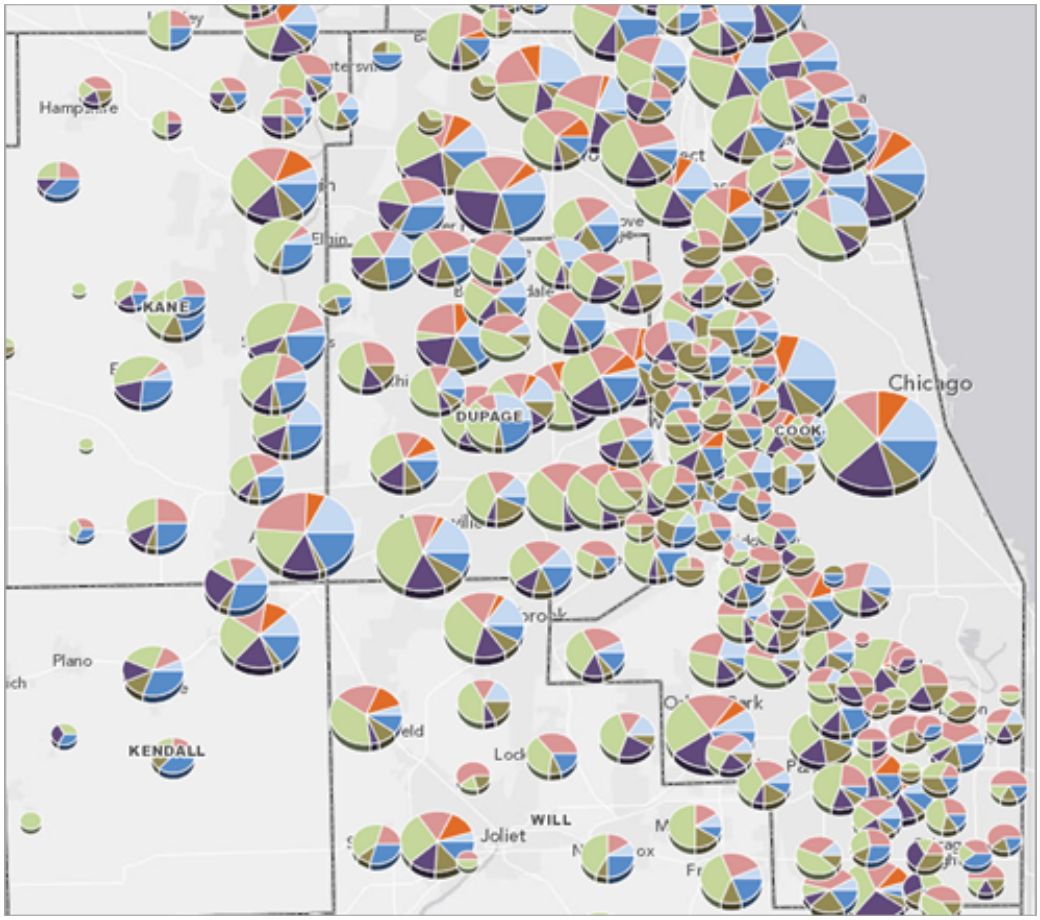
- Land
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Air
- Water
- Waste
- Sustainability
- No programs



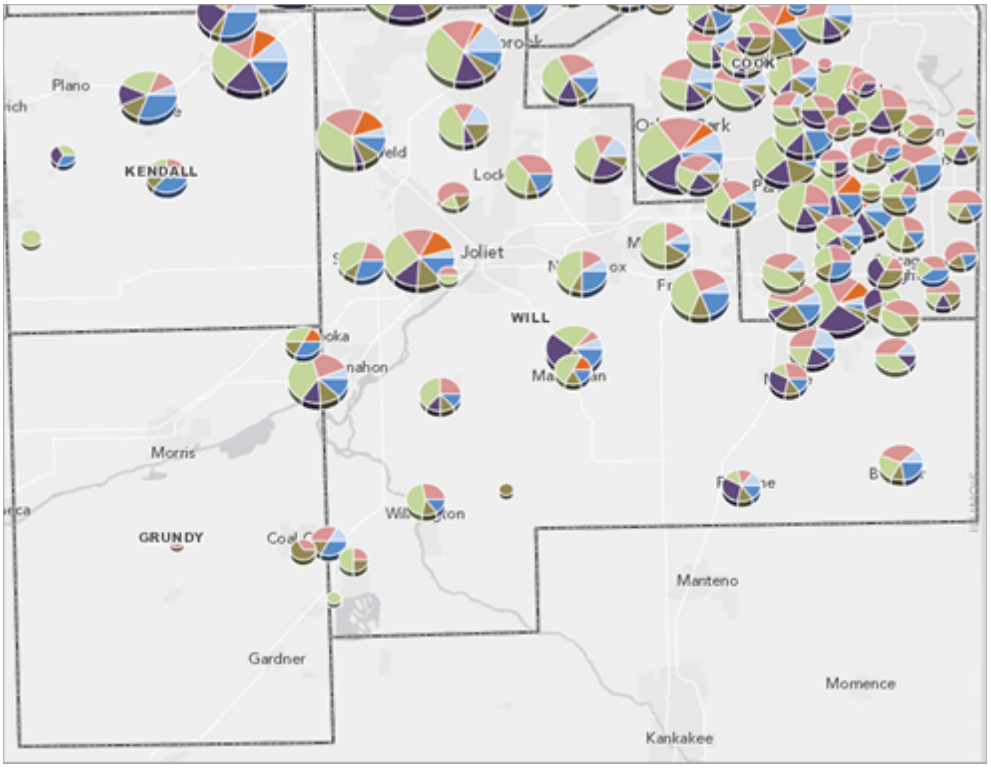

**Map 2: All achievements in McHenry and Lake counties**

## Map Key

- Land
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Air
- Water
- Waste
- Sustainability
- No programs



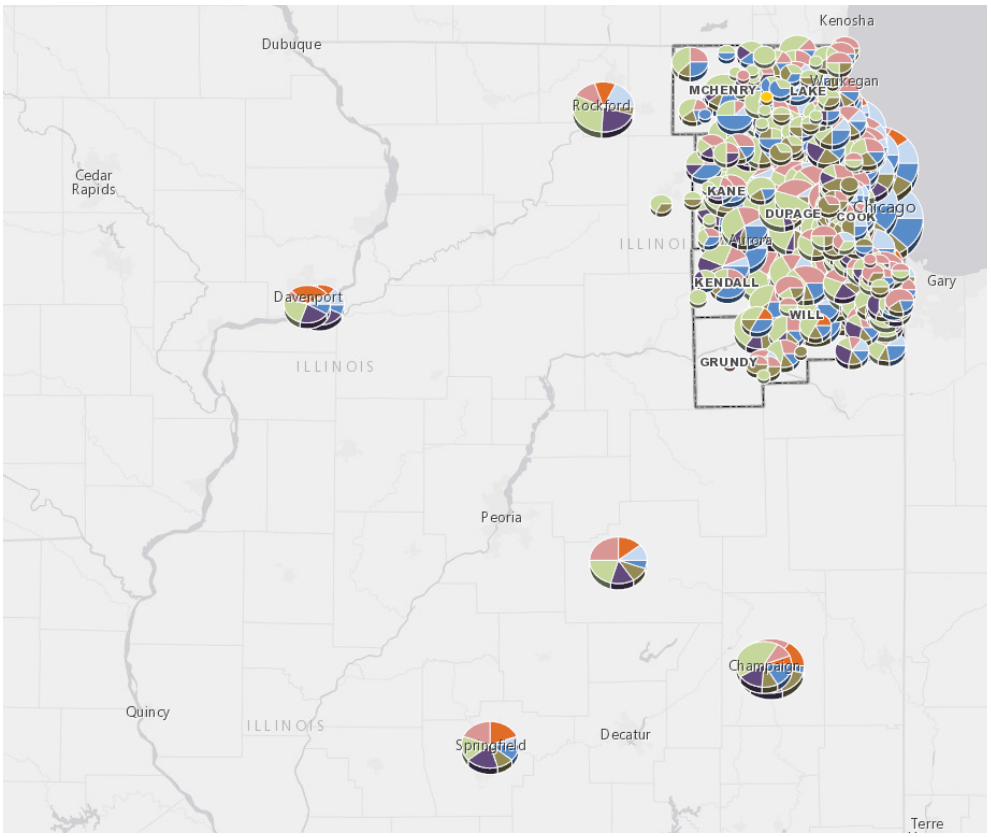

**Map 3: All achievements in Cook, Kane, and Kendall counties**




**Map 4: All achievements in Will and Grundy counties**

## Map Key

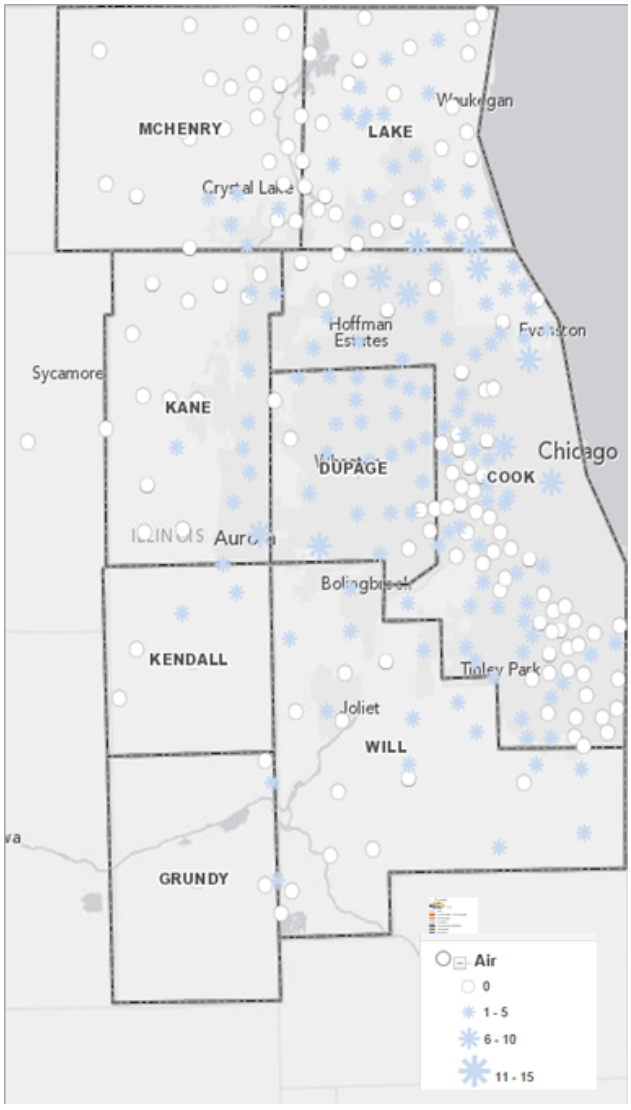
- Land
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Air
- Water
- Waste
- Sustainability
- No programs




**Map 5: All achievements across the State of Illinois**
Note Appendix D for a list of all communities included in this study.

### Map of Air Achievements

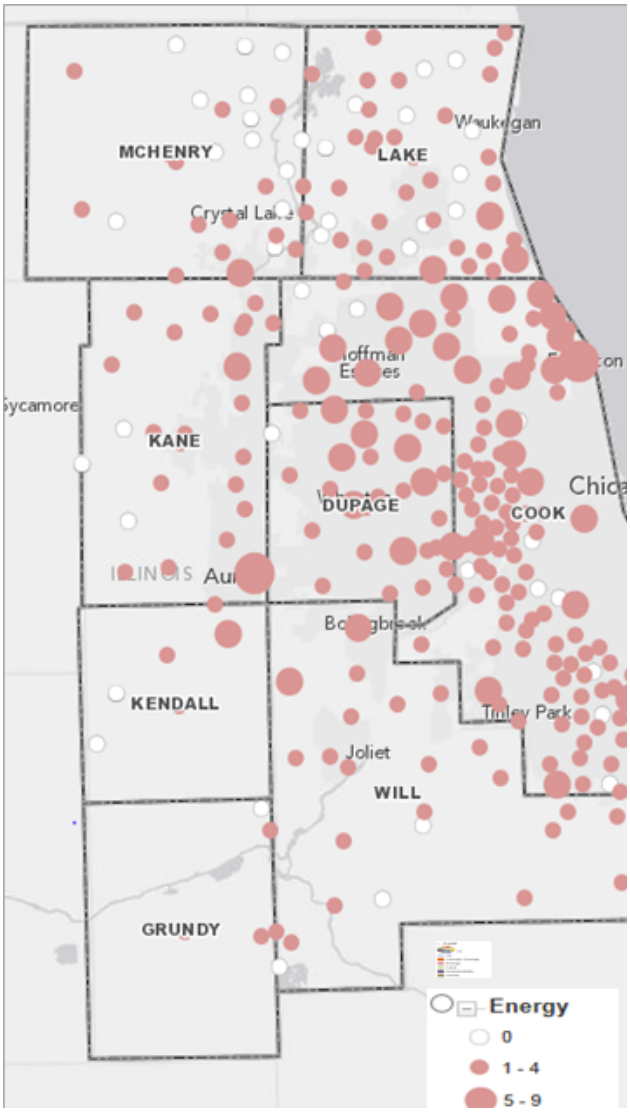
Inner-ring suburbs and large communities show more Air achievements, which are usually related to transportation and mobility.




**Map 6: Distribution of Air Achievements**

### Map of Energy Achievements

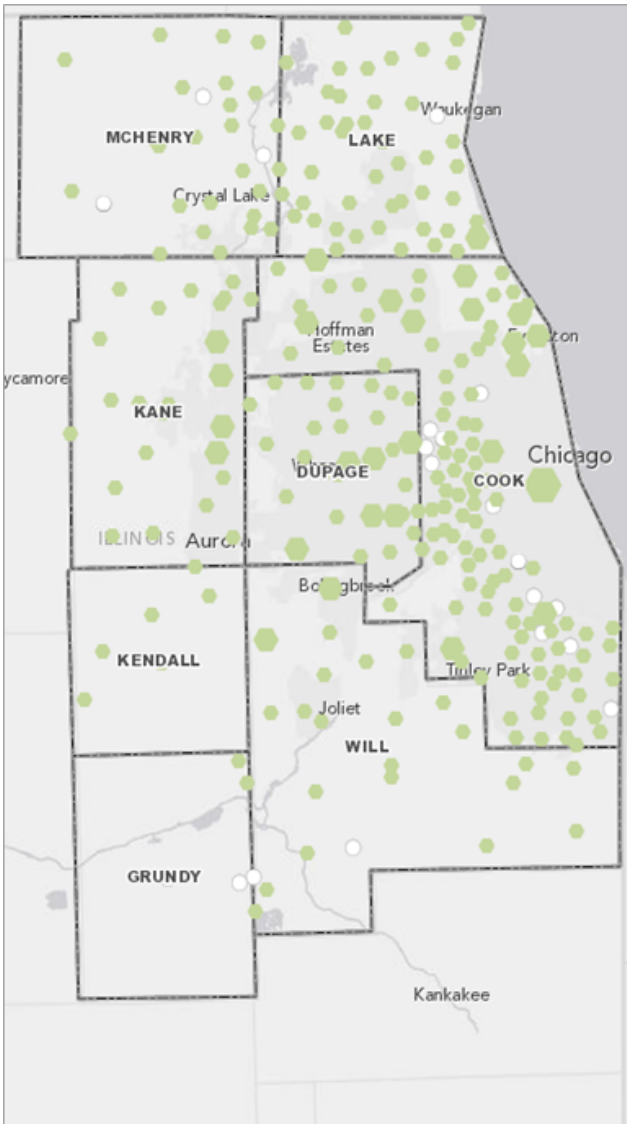
North Shore and northwestern and southwestern suburbs show many Energy achievements.




**Map 7: Distribution of Energy Achievements**

### Map of Land Achievements

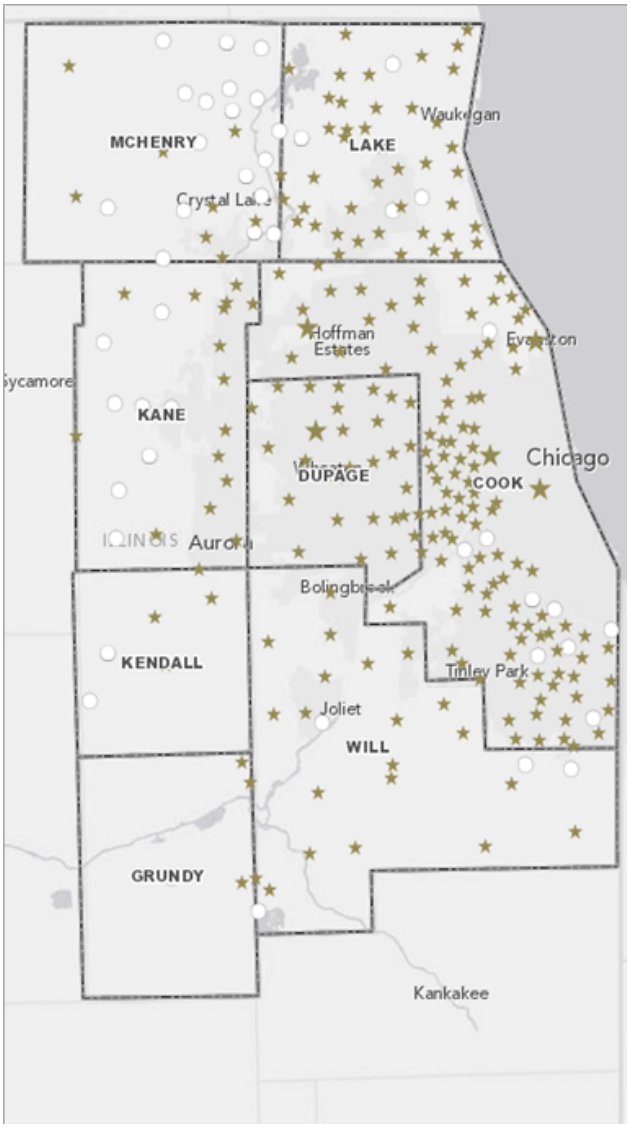
Land stewardship achievements are the most frequent achievement and are expectedly found distributed liberally throughout the region.




**Map 8: Distribution of Land Achievements**

### Map of Waste Achievements

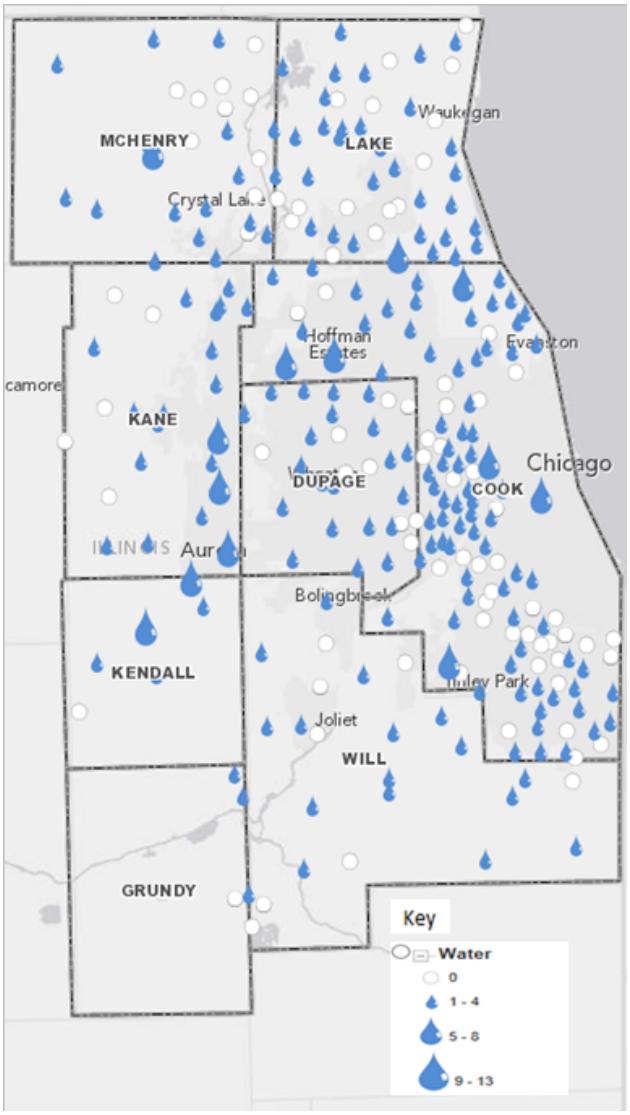
Waste achievements are more uniformly distributed in the region, with notable strength in the near western and northwestern suburbs.




**Map 9: Distribution of Waste Achievements**

### Map of Water Achievements

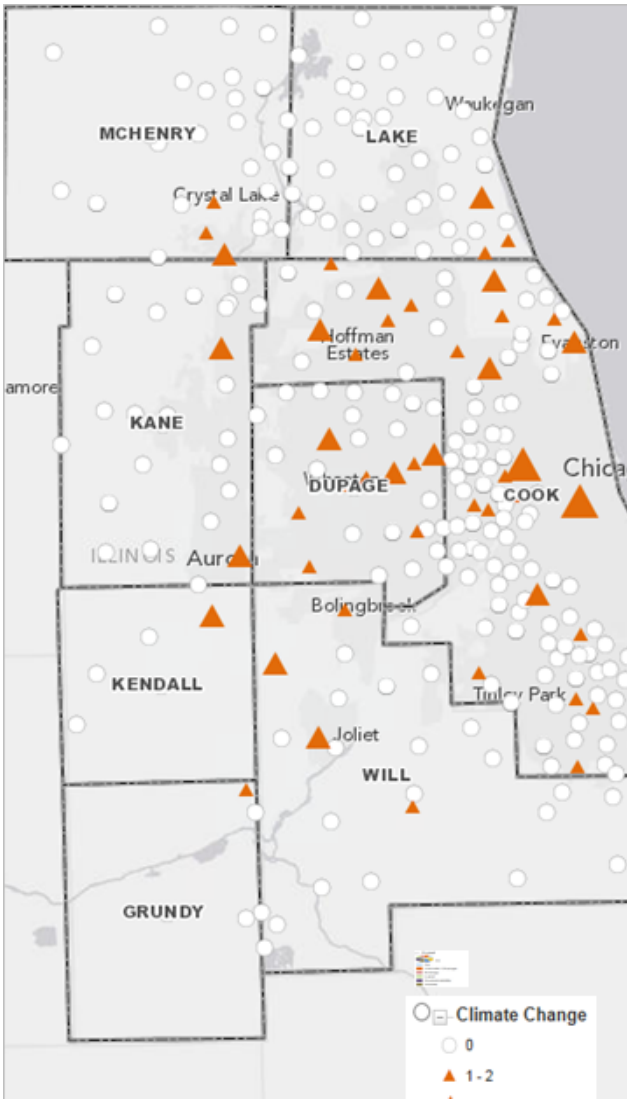
A larger number of water achievements are distributed in outlying suburbs, notably in the Fox Valley. This likely correlates with ground water sources and reflects collaborative water supply planning efforts. Stormwater-related achievements also reflect common geographic features.




**Map 10: Distribution of Water Achievements**

### Map of Climate Change Achievements

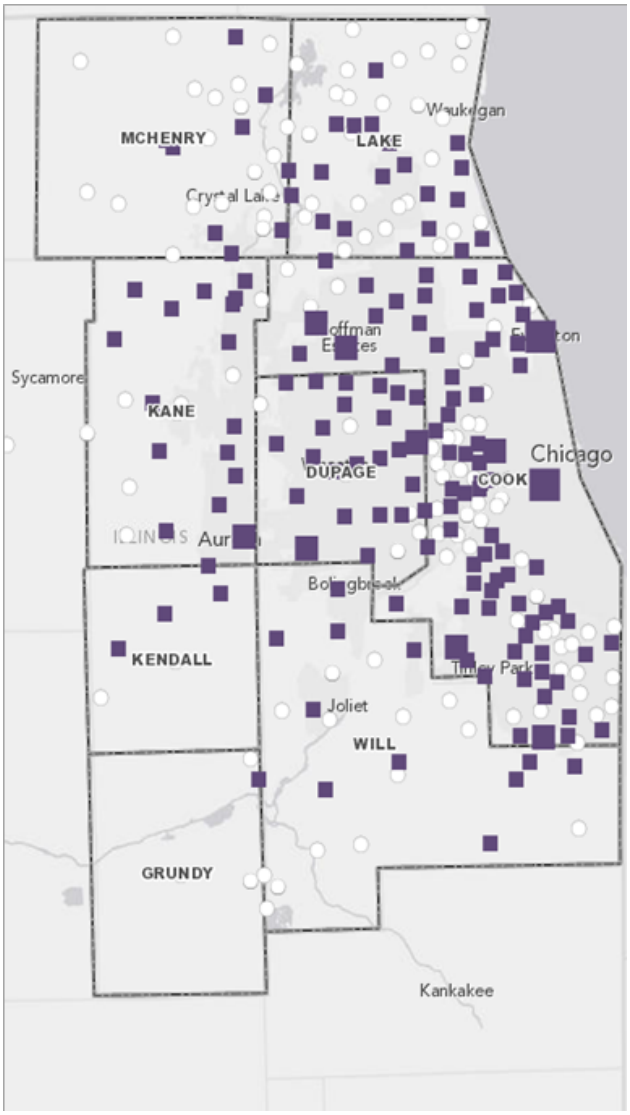
Communities in the Elite and High Tiers have the most achievements in this category.




**Map 11: Distribution of Climate Change Achievements**

### Map of Sustainability Stewardship Achievements

Sustainability Stewardship shows a surprising dispersal of achievements outside of the typical concentrations in the north and west.




**Map 12: Distribution of Sustainability Stewardship Achievements**

**+ Cyclists participate in the City of Evanston's Bike the Ridge event**
(Image courtesy of the City of Evanston)

**+ 55th State Representative Martin Moylan alongside Des Plaines Alderman Mark Walsten introduce the City of Des Plaines's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fleet vehicle in 2008.**
(Image courtesy of the City of Des Plaines)

# STEP 3
## Sustainability Plan Review

GRC2 will be strategic and effective if it builds on current and past sustainability planning at municipal and higher levels. This phase of the research was meant to capture the diverse efforts in conceptualizing and articulating environmental priorities of local governments. The diversity of communities within the Caucus membership challenges the new GRC to broadly suit a wide range of community types and sizes. Sustainability planning is still very new and evolving. This comprehensive review of municipal sustainability plans within the Chicago metropolitan region and other high-achieving communities in Illinois is meant to reveal commonalities and differences and benefit from varying perspectives.

The objective of this process is to provide the very best building blocks for a new, consensus GRC. Conceptually, this review of plans aimed to 'stack' local sustainability plans to align and observe common sustainability goals and strategies among many plans.

## PLAN REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The review of sustainability plans was conducted in four parts:

+ **General Analysis**
  By compiling a total of 44 sustainability plans and guiding documents, the project team observed general trends over time and the character of sustainability planning.
+ **Aligning of Sustainability Plans**
  All plans were disassembled into component parts (themes, goal categories, goals and strategies) and aligned within the GRC+2 framework for analysis. This step intends to show themes and priorities as they relate to the GRC+2 and the achievements analysis
+ **Synthesis of all Goals into a new framework for Greenest Region Compact (GRC2)**
  Apparent consensus goals naturally emerged from the analysis of 791 unique goals expressed by each municipal plan. The 150 unique goal categories were re-categorized into nine new environmental sustainability goal categories.
+ **Comparison of Achievements to Sustainability Plans**
  General observations are made about the correlation of environmental achievements and sustainability plans.

### Municipal Sustainability Plans Review

The primary goal was to review all known municipal sustainability plans in the Chicago region. The Delta Institute's Sustainability Plan Catalog and Analysis (2013) provides a directory of many municipalities with publicly available sustainability plans. Sustainability plans that are embedded in community comprehensive plans (Round Lake, Hainesville, Elburn, and Orland Park) were discovered from responses to the survey of GRC adopters. All plans developed by CMAP through Local Technical Assistance projects (Park Forest and Niles) were reviewed. The Illinois EPA provided a list of sustainability plans developed through their Green Communities Demonstration Program from 2004.

## PLAN REVIEW METHODOLOGY

In all, 39 sustainability plans, representing 43 municipalities and one county, were carefully reviewed. The list of municipalities with sustainability plans and those reviewed can be found in Appendix F.

Broadly visionary plans with no specific strategies or goals were excluded from the analysis as they could not be compared to the majority of plans (Glencoe, Glenview, Hainesville, Mettawa, Round Lake, St. Charles, and Wheeling.) Other plans were excluded as their short-term target dates have already passed (the combined plan for Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights as well as the combined plan for Oswego and Montgomery.) In contrast, the Lake County plan was included in the analysis due to its similarities with the structure of municipal plans.

Based on these criteria, 29 sustainability plans, representing 32 municipalities and one county were selected for in-depth analysis.

| Criteria for Inclusion in Analysis | Number of Communities | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Communities with sustainability plan | 44 | 43 Municipalities and 1 county (Lake County) |
| Excluded because format does not align | 7 | Glencoe; Glenview; Hainesville; Mettawa; Round Lake; Wheeling; St. Charles |
| Excluded because outdated goals | 4 | Chicage Heights/South Chicago Heights; Oswego/Montgomery |
| Total | 33 | 29 Municipal plans representing 32 municipalities + 1 county plan |

**Figure 17: Number of communities with sustainability plans**

### Regional and National Plan Review

Local environmental sustainability efforts should be guided to have maximum positive impact on national and regional issues. Therefore, goals and strategies that are relevant to municipalities, from regional, national and/or international plans, rating systems and other guiding documents were similarly 'stacked' to observe alignment with each other and local priorities. They were also broken down into component goals and strategies to observe commonalities and gaps.

Envision™ provides a holistic framework for evaluating and rating the community, environmental, and economic benefits of all types and sizes of infrastructure projects. It evaluates, grades, and gives recognition to infrastructure projects that use transformational, collaborative approaches to assess the sustainability indicators over the course of the project's life cycle.

The STAR Community Index™ is the nation's first framework and certification program for local sustainability, built by and for local governments. It encompasses economic, environmental, and social performance measures for both local governments and the broader community. STAR provides communities with a standard and comprehensive set of goals, objectives and performance measures by which to improve interdependent environmental, economic, and social conditions.

## PLAN REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is a simple pledge to take 12 local actions to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The Agreement was crafted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in response to the Kyoto Protocol in 2005. Some 500 U.S. mayors, 43 of which are in the region, signed the agreement.

GoTo 2040 is the regional plan for the Chicago Area by CMAP. It was released in 2010 having achieved consensus on vision for the region. Throughout the plan, a total of 12 sustainability goals from the Livable Communities, Efficient Governance, Regional Mobility and Human Capital sections were analyzed. Specific strategies of regional significance for energy, land and water are found in the Livable Communities section. Alignment with this plan is paramount as it is specific for the region and was drafted with considerable input from communities.

The Green Practices for Local Governments Survey Report was completed in 2008. This CMAP survey was a very comprehensive summary of a key environmental actions and interests by 175 local governments. The survey also invited municipalities to express interest in further exploring the environmental activities queried in the report. Because it is comprehensive, tailored for municipalities, and suggested future environmental goals, the practices reported in the survey were included as 'goals' in the regional and national plan review.

The Smart Cities Council Readiness Guide is a framework for a smart city, against which cities can assess their readiness to innovate. The Guide is a conceptual roadmap to address growth strategies by focusing on universal principles that unite key areas such as energy, transportation, water and public safety.

For consistency, the Greenest Region Compact was analyzed on par with these other national and regional documents, even though it is fundamental to other analyses in this project.

### Aligning Sustainability Plans

The diversity of plans, and some unique approaches to naming and classifying goals, provided excellent perspective on the tone, style and content of sustainability-thinking in the region. But to synthesize diverse plans, commonalities were sought across different naming and organizing protocols.

The following terms are used throughout this report to attempt to describe the intentions and approaches to sustainability commonly found in sustainability plans. The great variation in plan styles, and the large number of sustainability goals analyzed makes precise adherence to these terms difficult. For the purpose of this study these definitions are:

- **Theme** - a distinct subject matter, e.g. Water
- **Category** - a group of similar goals and strategies, e.g. Water & Wastewater
- **Sub-Category** - a group of similar goals and strategies within a common category, e.g. Water Conservation
- **Goal** - the result towards which an effort is directed, typically described; with a specific, measurable, indicator of accomplishment, e.g, "Reduce overall community potable water consumption"
- **Strategy** - the steps to be employed to reach the goal, e.g., "Ensure the Village's drinking and wastewater systems are operating efficiently"

## PLAN REVIEW METHODOLOGY

Some 150 named categories were found in the municipal and regional plans analyzed. There were ten different names for the water and wastewater category alone. Some unique goal categories include Equity and Empowerment; Natural World; Forestry, Prairie and Carbon Offsets; Ecosystems; and Natural World. Plan authors had different perspectives on organizing goals within categories. Some included measurable goals and strategies under themes. Some simply listed goals in broad categories.

Goals with similar outcomes were classified differently, as well. For example, lighting efficiency goals and strategies were found under Air, Energy Efficiency and Global Warming categories; and tree planting was found under Energy and Land goal categories. These individual goals were assigned to the more common categories based on the nature of the desired outcome. For example, a goal to "Implement policies and practices that treat rainwater as a resource and make use of it where it falls" is labeled "Forestry, Prairie and Carbon Offsets" by a municipality. This was reassigned to the common Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure sub-category in the Water & Wastewater category.

The scope of this project is environmental sustainability. Community sustainability plans included goals for arts, culture, health, governance, education, equity, housing diversity, recreation, human services, spirituality and more. Though not originally part of the GRC, nor analyzed in the previous achievement inventory, (using GRC+2) these goal categories are integrated in this Sustainability Plan analysis. Twenty-nine municipal and seven regional or national plans and guiding documents were analyzed together. The sustainability plan review discovered 791 municipal plan goals and 198 regional and national goals for a total of 989.

Every goal in each of these plans was carefully entered into Excel, using pivot tables for analysis. The purpose was to disassemble sustainability plans into common component parts upon which to construct the new Greenest Region Compact (GRC2).

The Team first analyzed the themes of each sustainability plan and compared them to the GRC framework. All 989 individual plan goals and categories were sorted into the more simplistic GRC+2 categories to observe regional priority goal categories.

In the next step, similar goals and strategies were grouped together in the most logical themes and categories, independent of the GRC+2 categories. Apparent consensus themes and goal categories naturally emerged from the commonalities in the plans. All 991 sustainability goals were re-categorized into nine environmental sustainability goal categories, presented in the Findings section.

**+ New solar panels (left) and green roof (right) on Evanston's Water Treatment Plant**
(Images courtesy of the City of Evanston)

# PLAN REVIEW FINDINGS

### General Analysis - Trends in Sustainability Planning

Twenty-nine municipal sustainability plans were analyzed, representing 32 municipalities and one county. Beginning in 2004, and showing marked acceleration after 2010, trends in community sustainability planning follow a number of influencing factors over time.

The first known plans in Illinois were developed in 2004 under the EPA Green Community Demonstration Program. The development of sustainability plans accelerated over the period of the study (2004-2013), likely as a result of events at the national and regional level which triggered interest and opened opportunities to sustainability planning and implementation. These influencers include the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, signed in 2005 by 141 American cities, growing to 1060 across the country to this date and representing a population of nearly 89 million citizens. Climate action has been a concern to global cities since 2005. The Chicago Climate Action Plan is one of the most prominent examples.

Another influencer in the national political arena was the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program in 2009. While EECBG focused on energy efficiency, this flow of federal funding allowed municipalities to complete projects in line with their overall environmental strategies.

In 2010 CMAP completed Go To 2040, the first, long-term comprehensive plan for the region since the Plan of Chicago in 1909. The planning process succeeded in engaging some 35,000 people to consider the region's future. High-level sustainability goals are set throughout the plan, especially in the Livable Communities section. The Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program followed soon after the plan was released to provide planning assistance directly to municipalities to aid in the implementation of Go To 2040. The Park Forest and Niles sustainability plans analyzed in this report are products of the LTA program.

Starting in 2012, a number of rating systems for municipalities were published to encourage municipal achievement in sustainability. Most notably, STAR Community Index, LEED for Neighborhood Development, and Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision address issues relevant to new developments, livable communities, and horizontal infrastructure. In all, three comprehensive plans, four Green Communities plans, one land use plan, one sustainability report, two climate action plans, and 20 sustainability/ environmental action plans were analyzed.

| Year | Number of Municipal Plans | Influencers |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 4 | |
| 2005 | 0 | Climate Protection Agreement signed |
| 2008 | 2 | Chicago Climate Action plan released |
| 2009 | 4 | |
| 2010 | 5 | GO TO 2040 released |
| 2011 | 2 | LTA projects began |
| 2012 | 5 | STAR Community Index and Envision launched |
| 2013 | 6 | |
| 2014 | 1 | |
| **Total** | **29** | |

**Figure 18: Timeline of plans development and possible influencing factors**

Documents ranged from one to over 200 pages with varying complexity and sophistication. The most extensive and inclusive documents were plans from Chicago, Elgin, Evanston, Oak Park/ River Forest, and Park Forest. The Green Communities plans generally had fewer goals which were mostly land stewardship-oriented. Elburn, Normal and Woodstock were also dominated by land goals, though Woodstock had the most goals (80) of any plan. Evanston and Lombard have the most technical and detail-oriented plans. Wheaton's document is more of a sustainability report than plan. Niles and Park Forest were completed as CMAP LTA projects. Those and Orland Park and Chicago also reference Go to 2040.

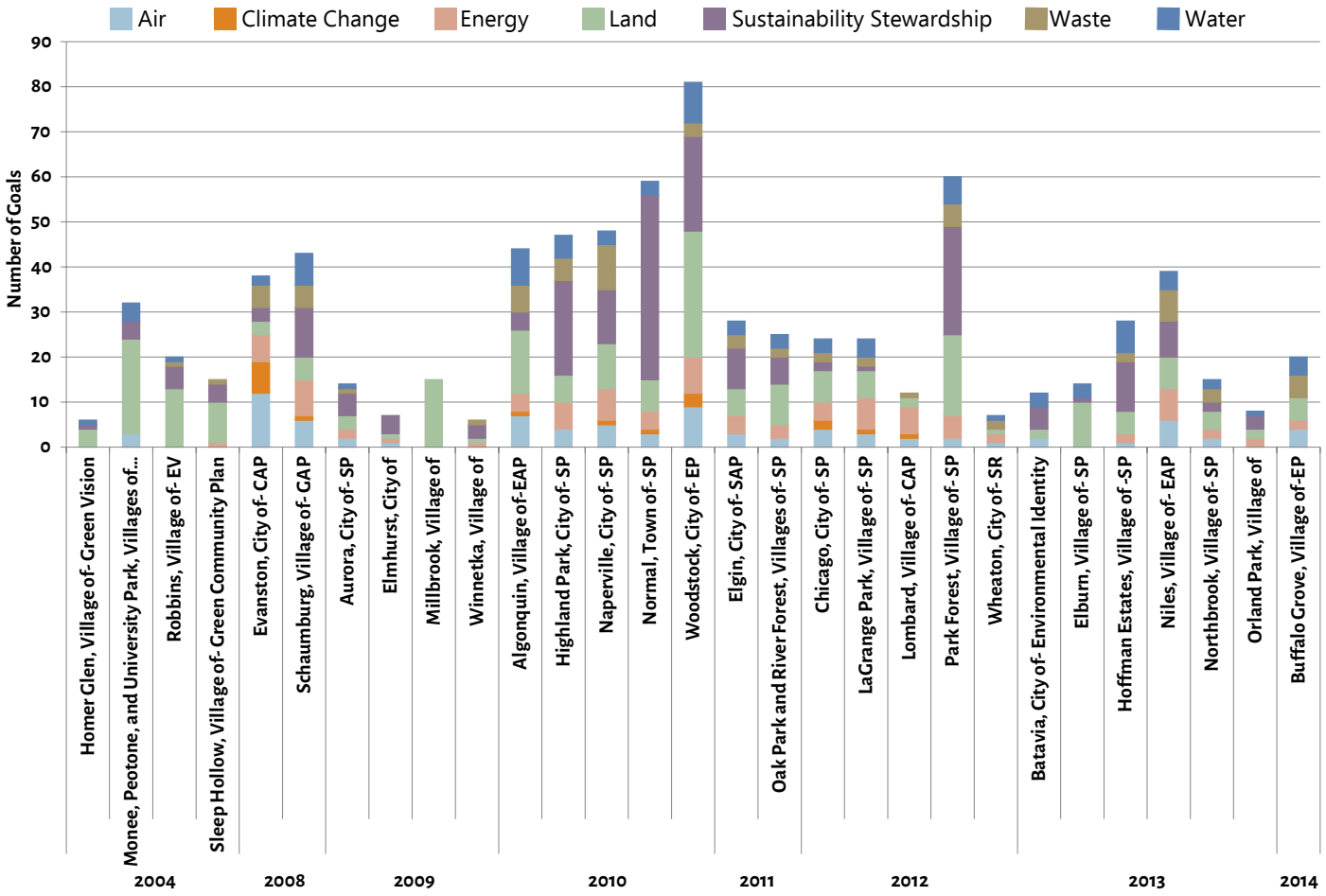
## Alignment of Municipal Sustainability Plans

Figuratively speaking, plans were 'stacked' to observe where common goals aligned and to observe differences. This was first done just for municipal plans, then regional and national plans were included. Detailed goals in each plan were analyzed and compared to the original five categories of the GRC framework. In general, plans showed similarity and collectively addressed a broad range of themes that extended beyond the original GRC. As discussed in the Achievements Inventory, Methodology section, Climate Change and Sustainability Stewardship were added as additional categories to form 'GRC+2' categories used throughout this report. This accommodated the many goals found in these areas, especially the diverse goals attributable to Sustainability Stewardship.

| Municipality | Plan Title |
|---|---|
| Algonquin (2010) | Environmental Action Plan |
| Aurora (2009) | Sustainability Plan |
| Batavia (2013) | Strategic Goals for Environmental Identity |
| Buffalo Grove (2014) | Environmental Plan |
| Chicago (2012) | Sustainability Action Agenda |
| Elburn (2013) | Comprehensive Plan |
| Elgin (2011) | Sustainability Action Plan |
| Elmhurst (2009) | Comprehensive Plan |
| Evanston (2008) | Climate Action Plan |
| Highland Park (2010) | Sustainable Community Strategic Plan |
| Hoffman Estates (2013) | Sustainability Plan |
| Homer Glen (2004) | Green Communities |
| La Grange Park (2012) | Sustainability Plan |
| Lake County (2009) | Sustainable Strategy |
| Lombard (2012) | Climate Action Plan |
| Millbrook (2009) | Land Use Plan |
| Monee/Peotone/University Park | Green Communities |
| Naperville (2010) | Sustainability Plan |
| Niles (2013) | Environmental Action Plan |
| Normal (2010) | Community-Wide Sustainability |
| Northbrook (2013) | Strategic Sustainability Plan |
| Oak Park/River Forest | The Environmental Sustainability Plan |
| Orland Park (2013) | Comprehensive Plan |
| Park Forest (2012) | Sustainability Plan |
| Robbins (2004) | Green Communities |
| Schaumburg (2008) | Comprehensive Green Action Plan |
| Sleepy Hollow (2004) | Green Communities |
| Wheaton (2012) | Sustainability Report |
| Winnetka (2009) | Environmental Plan |
| Woodstock (2010) | Environmental Plan |

**Figure 19: All municipal sustainability plans and titles analyzed**

**Figure 20: Review of Municipal Sustainability Goals by GRC+2 Categories**




All 791 individual municipal goals and strategies were analyzed and sorted into GRC+2 categories to allow analysis across issues. The frequency with which each of these goals is found reveals common regional priorities. For example, goals that focus on alternative transportation options – public transit, and bike/pedestrian infrastructure – appear in nearly every plan reviewed. The number and distribution of goals are also indicative of the complexity of the plans.

A few important points emerged from this analysis:

- Nineteen out of the 29 plans included transportation and mobility as an individual category. Conversely, the GRC embedded transportation strategies in the Air category.
- A number of common themes were not addressed in the GRC, including: economic development, education & outreach, land use and development, arts and culture, and local food.
- Stewardship, Education & Outreach, and Policy are cross cutting themes and appear in almost all categories, all other goals are unique to each category.

## Alignment with National + Regional Plans

The analysis of regional and national documents reveals that municipalities are aligned with these higher-level plans. These goals are also sorted into the GRC+2 framework and presented in Figures 28 and 29 below. This figurative stacking was done to observe commonalities and differences between the local and larger scales.

Land and Stewardship play a large role in national rating systems Envision and STAR Community Index, as well as for CMAP regional plan. As previously stated, this was clearly reflected in both the Achievements inventory and Sustainability Plan Review. Go To 2040 set broad goals for livable communities tied to planning. Operational goals related to waste, air, energy and even climate change were not included. The US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement has many operational goals and has the most in common with the GRC+2 goal categories.

The recurring appearance of Land and Stewardship as the highest municipal goals, followed by Energy, Water, and Waste next are echoed in this analysis of just the number of goals. The number of regional/national goals in each of the GRC+2 categories mostly parallels the number tallied from municipal plans. This suggests that achievement of local goals could favorably impact regional goals, too.

**Figure 21: Goals and Strategies at the Regional and National level by GRC+2 category**

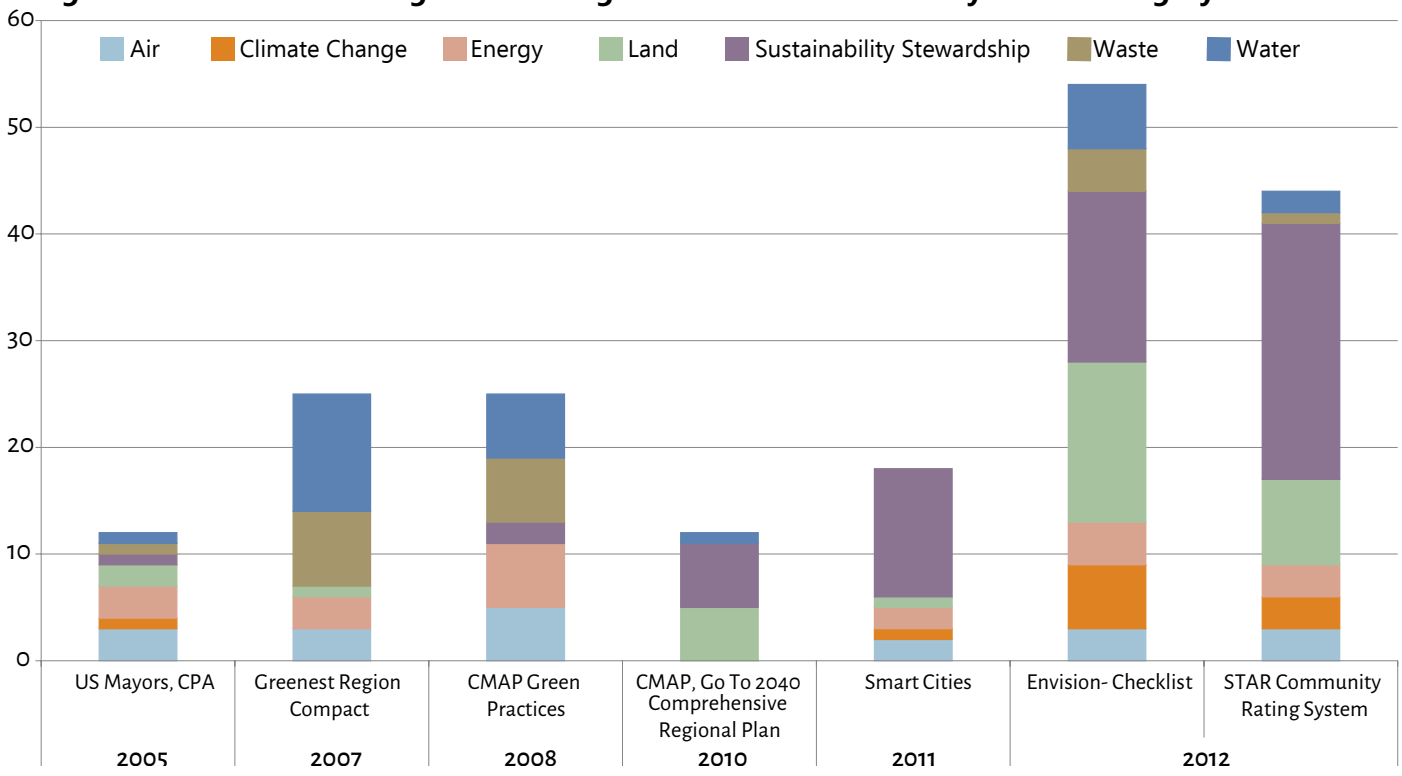
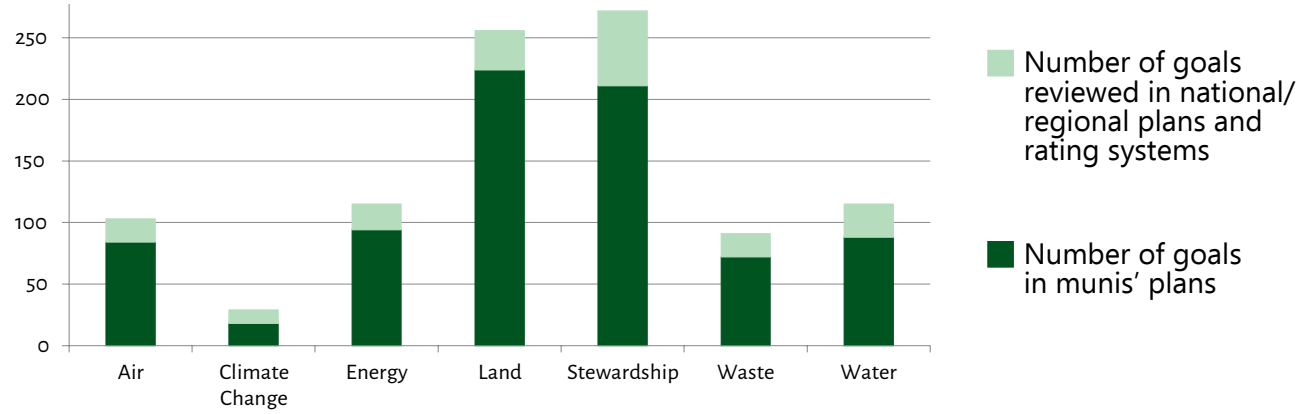


**Figure 22: Number of goals by GRC+2 category - Municipal and national/regional plans**




## Synthesis of Sustainability Plans

This complex process of analyzing and sorting nearly 1000 themes, goals and strategies can be used to create an even stronger framework for the new GRC then one built on the GRC+2 categories. The process of disassembling sustainability plans into component themes, goals and strategies permits a new consensus framework to emerge.

All goals and strategies of each municipal and regional/national plans were organized into a database for analysis. Instead of being sorted into the GRC+2 categories used in the achievement analysis, the categories were allowed to emerge organically based on the nature and expected outcome of the stated goals. Divorcing goals and strategies from unique naming and organizing styles found in the many plans allowed logical re-categorization. These categories can be presumed to represent consensus as they are assembled wholly from all of the 29 municipal plans and documents analyzed.

**+ Students building raised vegetable beds at Aunt Martha's Community Garden in Park Forest**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Park Forest)

**+ Donations at the Village of Park Forest Clothing and Textile Recycling Drive**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Park Forest)

## METHODOLOGY NOTE

This process to align and streamline goals is illustrated in the specific example of Data Management within the category of Municipal Operations. The Buffalo Grove, Evanston, Hoffman Estates, Niles, Schaumburg and Winnetka sustainability plans all set goals to manage data for sustainable outcomes. The Go To 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, as well as the national Envision Checklist and international Smart Cities Index also have Data Management Goals. For the purpose of analyzing trends and priorities, illustrated in Figure 25 above, these goals were sorted into the GRC+2 categories that would be impacted by achievement of these goals - Air, Land, Stewardship and Waste.

However, the plan authors had categorized these same goals in these different categories:

- Benefit Cost
- Efficient Governance
- Leadership
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Transportation and Land Use
- Education
- Government
- Planning and Development
- Resources and Operations

The details of all the Data Management goals all prescribe municipal efforts to track, analyze and share data to achieve sustainable operations. Thus, in the final step to create the GRC2 framework, they were re-categorized into the common sub-category of Data Management within the Municipal Operations category. The following are all Data Management goals found in all sustainability plans analyzed.

| Name of Plan | GRC+2 Category | Plan Author's Category | Specific Data Management Goal |
|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo Grove, Village of-EP | Land | Planning and Development | Pedestrian and Bicycle Accident History Analysis- The Village will continue to conduct a three year analysis of pedestrian and bicycle accidents and then make improvements based on the results of that study |
| CMAP, Go To 2040 | Stewardship | Efficient Governance | Improve access to information |
| Envision- Checklist | Stewardship | Leadership | Establish a sustainability management system |
| Envision- Checklist | Stewardship | Leadership | Plan for long term monitoring and maintenance |
| Evanston, City of- CAP | Air | Transportation and Land Use | Collect and track data on Evanston travel trends including vehicle miles traveled, transit boardings and the number of residents that commute via bike and foot |
| Hoffman Estates, Village of -SP | Waste | Resources and Operations | Develop a system to identify the total weight of internal waste and recycling streams and perform a waste audit to determine future actions to improve waste reductions programs |
| Hoffman Estates, Village of -SP | Waste | Resources and Operations | Improve accessibility of a resident and staff comprehensive directory for local recycling of household items |
| Niles, Village of- EAP | Stewardship | Education | Create centralized depots of information for the public |
| Schaumburg, Village of- GAP | Waste | Recycling and Waste Reduction | Evaluate the current recycling rates at municipal facilities to identify opportunities for improvement |
| Smart Cities | Stewardship | Government | Infrastructure - integrated health and safety operations |
| Smart Cities | Stewardship | Government | Open Government- open data, open apps, privacy |
| Winnetka, Village of | Stewardship | Benefit Cost | Study and recommend Winnetka-centric changes in policy and expenditures through a measureable, data based process involving public input |

**Figure 23: Example of Goals re-categorized under Data Management sub-category of Municipal Operations**

## Comparison of Achievements + Sustainability Plans

More than half of the top 26 cities, those in the High and Elite Achievement tiers, have a sustainability plan. What's more, all of the top 10 cities have a sustainability plan. This suggests that sustainability action planning is fundamental to effective environmental outcomes.

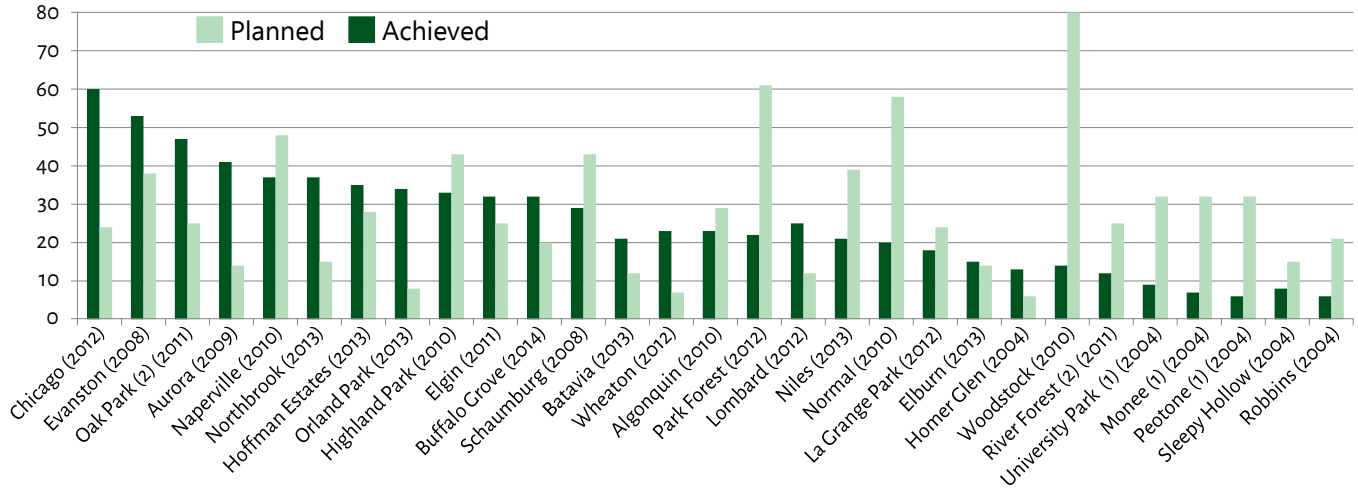
A comparison of achievements tallied to sustainability goals reviewed was both possible and informative. So it was done for the 29 plans analyzed. The achievements are from the objective inventory conducted for all 295 municipalities in this study, not necessarily tied directly to the plans. Actual tracking of specific plan goals would be reliant on community reports and indicators, which is beyond the scope of this project. It is not known how many communities are tracking indicators of achievement, or how they are reporting them. The achievements were over the period of 2007-2013, even though some plans were drafted late in that period. The achievements data is derived from the total number reported in the GRC+2 categories. The goals in the chart below are the total number of goals from the Sustainability Plan Review and Analysis.

It cannot necessarily be concluded that some communities showed achievement related to their goals, and others either have not. Rather, the data more likely shows a disparity between goals set and resources available, such as grants and programs. It also may indicate that achievements occur independently of plans, in some cases. Only Hoffman Estates, Elgin, Algonquin, La Grange Park and Elburn show overall achievements in line with overall goal categories. Park Forest, Normal and Woodstock set very high goals relative to observed achievements. About the same number of communities set goals that significantly outnumbered achievements as vice versa.

| Municipality | Sum of Achievements | Have Sustainablity Plan? (+) |
|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 60 | + |
| Evanston | 53 | + |
| Oak Park | 47 | + |
| Aurora | 41 | + |
| Naperville | 37 | + |
| Northbrook | 37 | + |
| Hoffman Estates | 35 | + |
| Schaumburg | 35 | + |
| Highland Park | 33 | + |
| Orland Park | 33 | + |
| Palatine | 33 | |
| Arlington Heights | 32 | |
| Buffalo Grove | 32 | + |
| Elgin | 32 | + |
| Elmhurst | 32 | + |
| Skokie | 28 | |
| Wilmette | 28 | |
| Bolingbrook | 27 | |
| Carol Stream | 27 | |
| Oswego | 27 | + |
| St. Charles | 27 | + |
| Urbana | 27 | |
| Des Plaines | 26 | |
| Lombard | 25 | + |
| Mount Prospect | 25 | |
| Villa Park | 25 | |

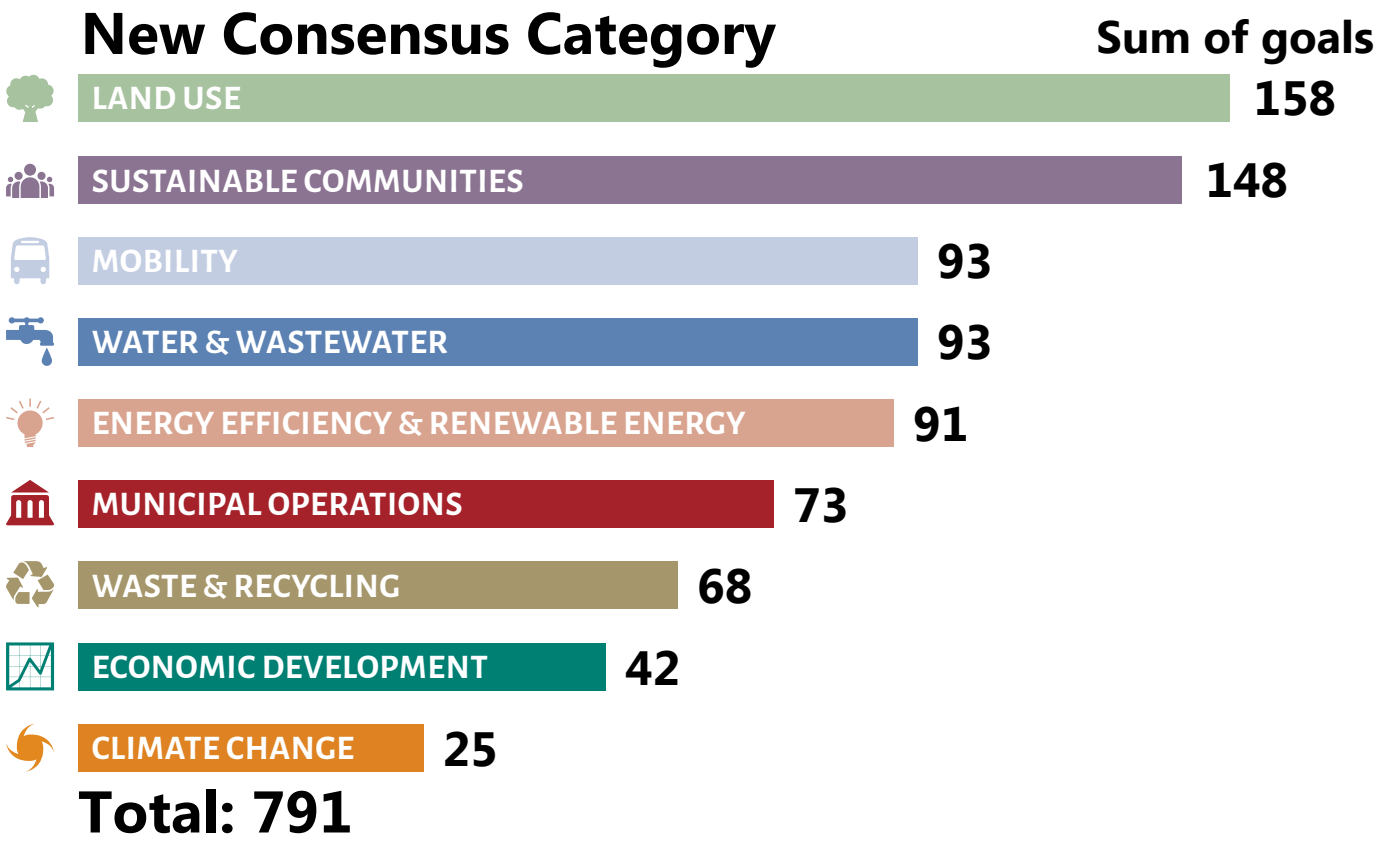
**Figure 24: Top 26 cities per achievements**

**Figure 25: Comparison of total number of Achievements and total number of Goals**



## GRC2 CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK + GOALS

The occurrence of goals in the sustainability plan analysis caused the emergence of new categories which are thus used as the framework for the GRC2. Upon analysis of commonalities and gaps between plans and the original GRC, nine new categories were identified and named. The number of goals in each category suggests relative importance. This framework is a synthesis of all local sustainability plans reviewed and represents collective wisdom of community sustainability leaders in the region.



### Creating the New GRC2 Goal Categories

The original GRC categories of Energy, Land, Waste and Water were retained, but renamed to align with the majority of plans studied. Five new categories are proposed. Air-related goals were most commonly included in the new Climate Change or Mobility categories, and sometimes Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Therefore, Air as a stand-alone category is eliminated and Climate Change and Mobility (previously called Transportation) are added. Economic Development, Municipal Operations and Sustainable Communities are new categories.

The nine new GRC2 categories also reflect changes in technologies and attitudes. For example, there was much interchange between the original GRC Land and Water categories and the new Land Use and Water & Wastewater categories. This is likely because of the growing acceptance of green infrastructure practices. For example, The Village of Robbins Environmental Vision (2004) states, "Encourage best management practices in relation to stormwater and landscaping." This was categorized by the plan's author as "Land Use and Development" and initially as Land in the GRC+2 category in this study. However, a total of 26 individual plan goals related to green infrastructure. This justifies a new goal sub-category of "Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure" within the category of Water and Wastewater".

The nine categories were designed to accommodate the range of goals found in all plans. Most were unique to their category. The Sustainability Stewardship Category accommodated Arts & Culture, Health & Safety, Historic Preservation and other goals not included in the original GRC nor in the Achievement Inventory of this study. Notably, Education & Outreach and Policy goals were found in eight of the nine categories. For example, "Educate consumers on how to make better purchases in order to reduce waste" is an Education & Outreach goal assigned to the Waste & Recycling category.

Every goal is included, though sorting into common categories provides a streamlined framework. The GRC+2 categories were used as an interim framework for analysis and are discarded in the final and future GRC2 framework.

| Old GRC+2 Category | Goals Assigned to these New GRC2 Categories |
|---|---|
| **Water** | Water & Wastewater, Land Use |
| **Waste** | Waste & Recycling |
| **Energy** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Municipal Operations (overlapped frequently), Sustainable Communities |
| **Land** | Land Use, Mobility, Sustainable Communities, Municipal Operations, Economic Development, Water & Wastewater |
| **Air** | Mobility, Municipal Operations, Sustainable Communities |
| **Climate Change** | Climate Change, Sustainable Communities |
| **Sustainable Stewardship** | Economic Development, Municipal Operations, Sustainable Communities |

**Figure 26: Synthesis of goals from GRC+2 into New Consensus GRC2 Categories**

## GRC2 Consensus Framework + Goals

This synthesis of plans strongly suggests future priorities based on the number of common goals expressed in each new category. Many of these priority themes are similarly expressed in the findings of the Achievements and Survey sections.

### Sustainable Communities

The Sustainable Communities and Land Use categories represent 40% of the goals reviewed. Sustainable Communities goals are included in 27 out of 29 municipal plans analyzed. Common goals in this category are Stewardship, general Education and Outreach (not specific to any other category) and Local Food. Almost all plans have one or more goals that fit within this category, while four plans have between 10 and 30 goals. Community engagement figures prominently in the sustainability vision for many communities accounting for 27% of all goals in this category.

### Land Use

Land Use goals also dominate municipal concerns comprising 20% of all municipal goals and 27 out of 29 plans. Within that category, the most frequent goals relate to Land Preservation and Smart Growth and Transit Oriented Development. Trees and Parks & Open Space are ranked next most common goals.

### Count of Sustainable Communities Goals

- Arts & Culture - 11
- Education & Outreach - 39
- Health & Safety - 14
- Local Food - 22
- Policy - 12
- Stewardship - 50

**Total: 148**

### Count of Land Use Goals

- Education & Outreach - 12
- Land Preservation - 44
- Landscaping - 12
- Parks & Open Space - 24
- Policy - 10
- Smart Growth & Transit-Oriented Development - 31
- Stewardship - 5
- Trees - 20

**Total: 158**

### Mobility, Water & Wastewater, and Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Mobility, Water and Wastewater, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy are nearly tied for the third most important category of goals. Goals in the new Mobility category most commonly aim to increase the use of alternative transportation and public transit.

## Count of Mobility Goals

Alternative Transportation - 21

Anti-Idling Policy - 3

Bike & Pedestrian - 9

Complete Streets - 3

Education & Outreach - 10

Employee Commute - 4

Multi-modal - 4

Policy - 1

Public Transit - 18

Stewardship - 8

Transportation Infrastructure - 12

**Total: 93**

## Count of Water & Wastewater Goals

Education & Outreach - 16

Infrastructure Improvements - 9

Policy - 7

Stewardship - 5

Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure - 26

Water Conservation - 20

Water Quality - 10

**Total: 93**

## Count of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Goals

Building Retrofits - 32

Education & Outreach - 16

Energy Management - 7

Policy - 6

Renewable Energy Generation - 18

Renewable Energy Procurement - 5

Stewardship - 7

**Total: 91**

### Municipal Operations

Municipal Operations is a category common to 21 plans and reflects the importance of municipalities as community leaders in green practices. With this category, there was some overlap with Sustainable Communities and Energy categories. Half of all plans reviewed set goals to improve the efficiency and reduce emissions from the Municipal Fleet.

## Count of Municipal Operations Goals

Data Management - 7

Education & Outreach - 2

Environmentally Preferable Procurement - 14

Municipal Fleet - 18

Paperless Office - 4

Policy - 3

Stewardship - 25

**Total: 73**

### Waste & Recycling

The Waste and Recycling category is focused on waste reduction and improving participation of the existing recycling program, or expanding the recycling program to the business sector.

## Count of Waste & Recycling Goals

C&D Recycling - 5

Composting - 4

Education & Outreach - 11

E-Waste - 3

Policy - 6

Recycling Program - 18

Stewardship - 3

Waste Reduction - 14

**Total: 68**

**+A native prairie planting at Schaumburg's Public Works facility captures and filters storm-water runoff from the parking lot before it moves downstream.**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Schaumburg)

### Economic Development

Thirteen municipal plans have 40 goals related to Economic Development. Three fourths of these goals aim to incentivize sustainable businesses and grow the green economy, and develop the workforce through training.

## Count of Economic Development Goals

Green Economy - 21

Innovation - 4

Policy - 2

Stewardship - 2

Workforce Development - 9

**Total: 42**

### Climate Change

The least number of goals are into the Climate Change category, but 14 plans have at least one goal in this category. The most frequent goals are to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory and reduce such emissions. It is probable that the categories of goals are a reflection of the purview and abilities of municipalities. For example, climate change may be an important concern that is not easily addressed at the local level.

## Count of Climate Change Goals

Adaptation - 1

Air Quality - 3

Education & Outreach - 2

GHG Emissions - 13

Stewardship - 6

**Total: 25**

**+ New LEED Gold Certified Police Headquarters in Franklin Park**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Franklin Park)

# CONCLUSION

The new Greenest Region Compact framework (GRC2) is a synthesis of the goals and strategies of 29 local sustainability plans in alignment with regional and national plans. In effect, this expresses consensus of the many municipalities and organizations that developed these plans. Many of the planning processes were consensus processes, as well. Community engagement and participation was a feature in half of the local sustainability planning efforts. For example, Elgin convened 9 citizen working groups and Oak Park/ River Forest reports more than 900 citizens participated in the planning process. Citizen environment commissions, comprised of volunteers formally engaged in civic activities, are often involved in sustainability planning. Environmentally-focused citizen commissions exist in 20 of the 29 communities (plans) analyzed. It is also noteworthy that citizen engagement figures prominently throughout goals categories in local plans. It appears that citizen engagement is valued for implementation as well as planning.

Go To 2040 boasts an impressive citizen and stakeholder engagement process that solicited input from 35,000 people. The STAR rating system was developed by a large working group of leading environmental professionals and stakeholder groups.

## The Greenest Region Compact 2

The Sustainability Plan Review and Achievement Inventory together comprise a thorough, albeit passive, consensus process to identify and prioritize goal categories and strategies. Commonalities allowed priorities and therefore a consensus framework to be discerned. The extensive sustainability plan analysis yields nine priority goal categories for the new GRC. Almost 800 goals expressed through 29 local plans are synthesized into nine consensus goal categories. These goals which commonly appear in existing municipal plans are likely relevant and important to other municipalities. It is likely that this proposed new GRC framework will 'fit' diverse community sustainability planning in the future. More importantly, it aligns with many of the higher level plans and guiding documents to aim local plans to achieve regional and national impact.

## NEW CONSENSUS CATEGORIES

- CLIMATE CHANGE
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- LAND USE
- MOBILITY
- WASTE & RECYCLING
- SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
- MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS
- WATER & WASTEWATER
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

# Greenest Region Compact 2 Consensus Framework

## Land Use

- Trees
- Landscaping
- Land Preservation
- Parks & Open Space
- Smart Growth & Transit-Oriented Development
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Water & Wastewater

- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Stormwater Management & Green Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Waste & Recycling

- Waste Reduction
- Recycling Program
- C&D Recycling
- E-waste
- Composting
- Policy
- Stewardship
- Education & Outreach

## Sustainable Communities

- Health & Safety
- Arts & Culture
- Local Food
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- Building Retrofits
- Energy Management
- Renewable Energy Generation
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Economic Development

- Workforce Development
- Green Economy
- Innovation
- Stewardship
- Policy

## Mobility

- Alternative Transportation
- Anti-Idling Policy
- Bike & Pedestrian
- Multi-Modal
- Public Transit
- Employee Commute
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Municipal Operations

- Environmentally preferable procurement
- Paperless Office
- Municipal Fleet
- Data Management
- Stewardship
- Policy
- Education & Outreach

## Climate Change

- GHG Emissions
- Air quality
- Adaptation
- Stewardship
- Education & Outreach

### General Conclusions

The results of both the GRC Survey and Achievements inventory indicate that indeed, the adoption of the original GRC correlates with sustainable actions. Accomplishments in all of original 13 GRC strategies were reported through the Survey of GRC Adopters and/or tallied through the Achievements Inventory. Forty percent of GRC signatories have developed plans addressing sustainability. However, more than one-third of signatories reported that they were "not sure" the GRC had impact on their efforts. This suggests better support is needed to guide new adopters of the GRC2.

The new consensus framework combined with ongoing outreach and engagement suggest the new Greenest Region Compact could be a powerful motivator for local environmental action in line with higher level goals. The GRC2 will serve as solid and strategic sustainability plan for communities that adopt it. It can also serve as a foundation for communities wishing to develop their own, tailored sustainability plan.

This study amassed a great deal of knowledge about the nature, structure and content of sustainability plans in the region and for other communities active in sustainability elsewhere in the state. This comprehensive compilation of plans and achievements is believed to be unique. It will be useful for other organizations leading or studying sustainability work regionally. The database can be queried to show achievements and plan goals for specific environmental sustainability issues, or for specific regions. For example, stormwater-related accomplishments for communities in the south suburbs can be reported. Similarly, the database can report specific municipal plans to procure or generate renewable energy across the region.

As thorough as this study is, conclusions cannot be drawn about the alignment of available resources and community priorities. However, the findings could be used by organizations offering grants and other resources to help municipalities achieve environmental sustainability to ensure these resources are equitably distributed.

An important conclusion drawn from this study is about the likely target for the new GRC. Observations about high and low achieving communities are very informative. The "top 26" communities show impressive sophistication in their planning and demonstrate high numbers of achievements. However, the majority of communities (71%) are demonstrating environmental achievements and potentially could accelerate their efforts. The Caucus aims for equity and inclusiveness in programming, so it will aim for a new GRC that will be accessible, yet inspiring to the greatest number of communities.

**+Glenbard East High School's Key Club removing invasive buckthorn from the Illinois Prairie Path in Lombard**
(Image courtesy of the Village of Lombard)

## Next Steps

This project clearly identifies strengths and gaps in the current environmental programing in the region through the survey and the inventory of achievements. It identifies elements of a new GRC2 through the analysis and resulting synthesis of sustainability plans. However, it intentionally stops short of making specific recommendations for a GRC2. To be strategic, enduring and effective the GRC2 needs input and buy-in from all stakeholders. The Caucus Environment Committee will engage mayors, municipal staff, community environmental commissions, other civic leaders, state and federal

government partners, non-profit and industry stakeholders to finally craft the GRC2.

Once partners and stakeholders join in finalizing the GRC2, broad adoption by communities across the region will be solicited. The original signatories will be first asked to recommit to a new GRC2. Next, the communities in the medium to low tiers will be encouraged to work towards a sustainable future using the GRC2 as their sustainability plan. High achieving communities will be asked to share their accomplishments and mentor these communities. Municipalities that demonstrate strong achievements within themes (e.g. Water & Wastewater) can share specific expertise with other GRC2 adopter aiming to achieve goals in those areas.

Notably absent from this study is any discussion about indicators of progress towards sustainability goals. Indicators are very important and will be thoroughly considered in the next phase of this project. Once final consensus goals and strategies are reached, simple and accessible indicators will be developed. If practical, programs that already exist and track progress towards specific goals will be incorporated as indicators. The Achievement Inventory compiled dozens of potential indicators in the form of certifications, awards and programs.

Finally, the potential of the new GRC will be explored and developed in the future. The Caucus will explore interest among funding agencies in using the adoption of the GRC2 as a measure of environmental commitment and capacity to take action. It is hoped that resources could be targeted to communities that adopt the GRC2 work towards these consensus goals.

There is interest in exploring how the GRC2 may grow into a program that not only solicits commitment from community leaders, but encourages them to greater levels of achievement. A tiered recognition program for municipalities, like Sustainable New Jersey or Minnesota Sustainable Communities, may be suitable for the region.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## PROJECT TEAM

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Administrative support was provided Jeffrey Walter, Program Coordinator and Dave Bennett, Executive Director, both with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Eve Pytel, former Director of Environmental Initiatives for the Caucus, wrote the original proposal which earned grant funds to support this work.

The Project Team gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for information and assistance that led to the completion of this project:

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| Sarah Wochos | *Environmental Law and Policy Center* |
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## METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

The Mayor Caucus Environment Committee provided leadership throughout this project. Mayor Tom Weisner, City of Aurora served as Chairman through much of the project period. Former Mayor David Pope, Village of Oak Park served as Co-Chairman through the initial planning of this project. Co-Chairman Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Franklin Park and Mayor John Ostenburg, Park Forest assumed leadership in February 2014.

## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

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| Sarah Coulter | *Village of Park Forest* |
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| Mark Fowler | *Northwest Municipal Conference* |
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December 2014

# APPENDIX A - Greenest Region Compact Pledge + Signatories

**Metropolitan Mayors Caucus**
**Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago**

***We*** the undersigned Mayors will strive to improve the environment in the Chicago region by taking actions in our own operations and communities.

***Through*** our leadership we will demonstrate the economic and social viability of sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

***To*** create the greenest region in the United States, we will commit to:

1. Setting environmental goals within our communities, and
2. Implementing at least seven strategies identified in the Workbook that support the achievement of our goals, including the three Priority Strategies identified by the Caucus' Environmental Committee as described below.

**Priority Strategy 1:**
Promote residential water conservation practices.

Goal: Measurably reduce the amount of water used by 15% below 2000 water consumption levels by 2015.

Potential Adaptation Actions:

1. Educate residents to increase their knowledge of water saving practices.
2. Provide information on simple ways to save water.
3. Enact sprinkler and outdoor water usage ordinances.
4. Promote use of rain barrels.
5. Encourage use of aerators on water faucets.
6. Repair or replace leaking municipal water mains.
7. Encourage residents to install water meters and check for household leaks.
8. Provide financial incentives to encourage behavioral changes.
9. Encourage xeriscaping – a set of landscape design principles which minimize water usage.
10. Incorporate conservation practices into new development guidelines and incentives, such as for low-flow toilets and showerheads and higher efficiency appliances.
11. Any additional strategy identified by a municipality that is compatible with its environmental goals.

**Priority Strategy 2:**
Enact E-Waste Recycling Programs.

Goal: Measurably decrease the amount of electronic waste collected by curbside waste haulers.

Potential Adaptation Actions:

1. Develop an e-waste recycling program.
2. Provide information to residents on the hazards of improper disposal of e-waste and the environmental benefits of recycling e-waste;
3. Host, sponsor or advertise at least one e-waste recycling event annually.
4. Donate used equipment to schools, libraries, non-profits, etc.
5. Any additional strategy identified by a municipality that is compatible with its environmental goals.

# APPENDIX A - Greenest Region Compact Pledge + Signatories

**Priority Strategy 3:**
Participate in the Northern Illinois Energy Project's Residential Lighting Program.

Goal: Reduce residential energy consumption by encouraging the use of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs.

Potential Adaptation Actions:

1. Partner with the Northern Illinois Energy Project to offer free, or discounted, CFL light bulbs to residents.
2. Any additional strategy identified by a municipality that is compatible with its environmental goals.

**Additional Environmental Strategies:**

**Air Strategies:**

1. Retrofit municipal diesel engines by installing pollution control devices.
2. Raise awareness of public transit options by displaying information about options and promoting these choices to citizens, employees, and visitors.
3. Build bus shelters and install bike racks to encourage non-automotive travel.

**Energy Strategies:**

4. Reduce energy consumption by changing out incandescent traffic signal bulbs to light emitting diodes (LEDs).
5. Commit to annually purchasing renewable energy or renewable energy certificates.

**Land Strategies:**

6. Implement a municipal tree planting ordinance to establish, and maintain maximum tree cover.

**Waste Strategies:**

7. Adopt a local ordinance or policy which requires the recycling of construction and demolition debris.
8. Offer a residential paint recycling program.
9. Implement a curbside recycling program.

**Water Strategies:**

10. Review local stormwater ordinances, identify barriers to implementation, and encourage the implementation of Stormwater Best Management Practices though local planned developments and redevelopments.

By signing the Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago, we pledge to make environmental considerations a priority. We will demonstrate that environmental practices are fiscally responsible. We call on our residents and businesses to join us as environmental stewards to preserve our resources, climate, and economic viability of our region for future generations.

# APPENDIX A - Greenest Region Compact Pledge + Signatories

| Municipality | Date Passed | COG |
|---|---|---|
| Addison | 01/21/08 | DMMC |
| Algonquin | NA | McHenry |
| Alsip | 02/04/08 | SWCM |
| Arlington Heights | 12/17/07 | NWMC |
| Aurora | 01/29/08 | MetroWest |
| Bartlett | NA | DMMC/NWMC |
| Batavia | NA | MetroWest |
| Bedford Park | 09/06/07 | SWCM |
| Bloomingdale | 10/02/07 | DMMC |
| Blue Island | 09/11/07 | SWCM |
| Bridgeview | 12/02/07 | SWMC |
| Brookfield | 09/14/09 | WCMC |
| Buffalo Grove | 12/03/07 | NWMC/LCML |
| Burlington | 01/22/08 | MetroWest |
| Calumet City | NA | SSMMA |
| Carol Stream | 01/22/08 | DMMC |
| Channahan | 01/22/08 | WCGL |
| Chicago | 11/30/07 | |
| Chicago Ridge | 05/06/08 | SWMC |
| Country Club Hills | NA | SSMMA |
| Countryside | 08/08/07 | WCMC |
| Crete | 02/12/08 | SSMMA/WCGL |
| DeKalb | 02/01/08 | MetroWest |
| Des Plaines | 11/07/07 | NWMC |
| Elburn | 01/22/08 | MetroWest |
| Elgin | 09/12/07 | MetroWest |
| Evanston | 01/28/08 | NWMC |
| Evergreen Park | 02/04/08 | SWCM |
| Flossmoor | 03/17/08 | SSMMA |
| Geneva | 08/06/07 | MetroWest |
| Gilberts | 08/21/07 | MetroWest |
| Glencoe | 02/21/08 | NWMC |
| Grayslake | 02/19/08 | LCML/NWMC |
| Hainesville | 08/14/07 | LCML |
| Hampshire | 11/01/07 | McHenry |
| Hanover Park | 02/27/08 | DMMC |
| Hickory Hills | 09/13/07 | SWCM |
| Highland Park | 08/13/07 | NWMC/LCML |
| Hinsdale | 08/14/07 | DMMC |
| Hoffman Estates | NA | NWMC |
| Homewood | 02/12/08 | SSMMA |
| Island Lake | 09/24/07 | LMCL/McHenry |
| Itasca | 01/29/08 | |
| LaGrange Park | 08/28/07 | WCMC |
| Lake County | 02/12/08 | |
| Lake Forest | 02/04/08 | LCML/NWMC |
| Lake Zurich | 02/04/08 | LCML/NWMC |
| Lemont | 01/28/08 | DMMC/SWCM/WCGL |
| Libertyville | 02/13/08 | LCML/NWMC |
| Lily Lake | 02/11/08 | MetroWest |
| Lincolnshire | 02/11/08 | LCML/NWMC |
| Lincolnwood | NA | NWMC |
| Lindenhurst | NA | LCML |

# APPENDIX A - Greenest Region Compact Pledge + Signatories

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lisle | 03/17/08 | DMMC |
| Lombard | 02/07/07 | DMMC |
| Midlothian | 11/28/07 | SSMMA |
| Montgomery | 12/18/07 | MetroWest |
| Mount Prospect | 02/12/08 | NWMC |
| Niles | 03/26/08 | NWMC |
| North Chicago | 04/05/10 | LCML |
| Northlake | 08/06/07 | WCMC |
| Oak Brook | 02/26/08 | DMMC |
| Oak Brook Terrace | 02/26/08 | DMMC |
| Oak Forest | 02/12/08 | SSMMA |
| Oak Lawn | 08/08/08 | SWMC |
| Orland Hills | 02/06/08 | SSMMA/SWCM |
| Orland Park | 10/15/07 | SWMC/SSMMA |
| Oswego | 01/14/08 | MetroWest |
| Palatine | 02/04/08 | NWMC |
| Palos Heights | 02/19/08 | SSMMA |
| Palos Hills | 09/06/07 | SWCM |
| Palos Park | 01/28/08 | SWCM |
| Park Forest | 02/11/08 | SSMMA |
| Port Barrington | 08/01/07 | McHenry |
| Prospect Heights | 08/06/07 | NWMC |
| Richton Park | 02/11/08 | SSMMA |
| Riverdale | 02/12/08 | SSMMA |
| Roselle | 01/28/08 | DMMC/NWMC |
| Round Lake | 02/04/08 | LCML |
| Sauk Village | 02/12/08 | SSMMA |
| Schaumburg | 10/09/07 | DMMC/NWMC |
| Schiller Park | 08/28/07 | WCMC |
| South Holland | 02/04/08 | SSMMA |
| Streamwood | 02/07/08 | NWMC |
| Sugar Grove | NA | MetroWest |
| Villa Park | 02/11/08 | DMMC |
| Warrenville | 02/04/08 | DMMC |
| Wauconda | 02/07/08 | LCML |
| West Chicago | 01/21/08 | MetroWest |
| West Dundee | NA | MetroWest |
| Wheaton | 06/16/08 | |
| Winnetka | 02/07/08 | NWMC |
| Wood Dale | 02/07/08 | DMMC |
| Woodridge | 02/07/08 | DMMC/WCGL |
| Worth | not dated | SWCM |
| Yorkville | 08/14/07 | MetroWest |
| | | |
| **COGs** | **Date Passed** | |
| DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference | 10/04/07 | |
| Lake County Municipal League | 11/19/07 | |
| McHenry County Council of Government | 07/25/07 | |
| MetroWest Council of Government | 07/26/07 | |
| Northest Municipal Conference | 11/14/07 | |
| South Suburban Mayors and Managers | 10/25/07 | |
| Southwest Conference of Mayors | 11/29/07 | |
| Will County Government League | 04/10/08 | |

# APPENDIX B - Survey Questions + Email to Participants

**Municipal Sustainability Survey Questions:**

The Caucus and CMAP are collaborating on this survey and future sustainability programs. The Caucus seeks to measure progress on strategies identified in the Compact and update the Compact with current sustainability goals, plans and programs. We are reaching out to you to better understand your community's accomplishments and interest in a range of sustainability issues. The results of this survey will help to identify technical assistance needs and inform the development of the Sustainability Planning Toolkit. In addition, the last question in the survey requests information to inform a separate ongoing CMAP project to update its Conservation Design Resource Manual.

The aggregate responses to the survey may be summarized, but will be generalized to maintain anonymity. Thank you for your participation!

**1. What is your municipality?**

**2. What is your title?**

**3. Has the Greenest Region Compact informed your planning efforts or impacted your environmental initiatives?**

a. Yes
b. No
c. Not sure

**4. Has your municipality developed a sustainability plan? For the purposes of this survey, a "sustainability plan" is defined as any planning document that establishes broad environmental goals, such as a sustainability plan, assessment, or report; climate action plan; Green Communities plan; or plan centered on a set of environmental issues, but it does not include plans that focus on one environmental issue (like a green infrastructure study or watershed plan).**

a. No
b. No, but we have set environmental goals informally or in other planning documents and/or policies
c. No, but we are currently developing one
d. Yes, and it includes environmental goals
e. Yes, but it does not include environmental goals

**5. Please identify your community's accomplishments or level of interest in each sustainability strategy listed below (on the survey, you'll be able to select bubbles for each column). Strategies specific to the original Greenest Region Compact are noted.**

# APPENDIX B - Survey Questions + Email to Participants

| Sustainability strategies<br><br>* Indicates *Greenest Region Compact* strategy | We have accomplishments relating to this issue | We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | This strategy is not appropriate for our community |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Water** | | | | |
| Upgrade water/wastewater infrastructure * | | | | |
| Regulate landscape and irrigation practices* | | | | |
| Enact policies to conserve water | | | | |
| Encourage stormwater best management practices* | | | | |
| Offer incentives or support to encourage water conservation* | | | | |
| Educate users about water conservation | | | | |
| **Waste** | | | | |
| Implement programs to properly dispose of electronic waste* | | | | |
| Enact construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance or policy* | | | | |
| Curbside recycling* | | | | |
| Paint recycling program* | | | | |
| Composting program | | | | |
| **Energy** | | | | |
| Improve energy efficiency at municipal facilities | | | | |
| Replace traffic signals with LED fixtures* | | | | |
| Specify renewable sources in electricity aggregation contract* | | | | |
| Update building/zoning codes for renewable energy systems | | | | |
| Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in the community | | | | |
| **Land** | | | | |
| Green practices at municipal facilities | | | | |
| Tree planting program* | | | | |
| Green building requirements | | | | |
| Encourage mixed-use and/or infill development through policies/regulations | | | | |

# APPENDIX B - Survey Questions + Email to Participants

| Air and Climate Change | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greening municipal fleet* | | | | |
| Promote and improve public transit options* | | | | |
| Enact no-idling policy or ordinance | | | | |
| Improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure | | | | |
| Climate adaptation initiatives | | | | |

**Greenest Region Compact and Other Sustainability Strategies**
**Municipal Sustainability Implementation and Planning**

**6. Please tell us more about your existing initiatives, including any that might not be covered by the topics listed above. (open-ended text box)**

**7. Please briefly describe how your municipality is tracking progress of existing initiatives and if and how progress is being reported within the organization. (open-ended textbox)**

**8. What are the challenges that you foresee or that you have experienced in undertaking sustainability initiatives? (multiple choice; select any that apply)**

a. Insufficient funding
b. Limited data or technical knowledge
c. Limited staff capacity, resources, or technical expertise
d. Lack of interest from government leadership
e. Lack of public support
f. Other (please describe)

**9. What would you find most useful to include in a Sustainability Planning Toolkit? (multiple choice; select any that apply)**

a. Details on the process for developing a sustainability plan
b. General information on sustainability issues
c. Actionable strategies to address various sustainability issues
d. How to set quantitative goals (indicators) to measure progress
e. Recommended indicators to use to measure progress
f. Brief case studies/example experiences from other municipalities
g. Implementation guidance on how to carry out plans once they are developed
h. Other (please describe)

# APPENDIX B - Survey Questions + Email to Participants

**Conservation Design Policies**

**11. Conservation design is a design technique that facilitates development while maintaining the most valuable natural features and functions of a site. Do you currently have policies, requirements, or allowances for conservation design in your community's plans or ordinances? (check all that apply)**

a. No, it is not formally recognized and is a lower priority
b. No, but interested in adding
c. No, but techniques have been handled through our PUD process
d. Yes, in the comprehensive and/or sustainability plan
e. Yes, in the zoning ordinance
f. Yes, in the subdivision ordinance
g. Yes, in the stormwater management ordinance
h. Yes, in other regulations

# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

Dear Mayor and Staff,

In 2007 or 2008 **your community was one of nearly 100 municipalities to formally adopt the Greenest Region Compact** (Compact) championed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. By signing this Compact, your community pledged to set local goals and take municipal action to collaboratively advance regional environmental priorities.

**We would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey to help us evaluate the Compact and guide future sustainability work.**

Signatories of the Compact pledged to:

1. Set environmental goals, and
2. Implement at least seven strategies.

Strategies listed in this survey are taken from the original Compact and organized under the five fundamental issues - air, energy, land, waste and water. Many communities have continued to make advances in local sustainability planning and program implementation since the Compact was adopted.

The Caucus and CMAP are collaborating on this survey and future sustainability programs. The Caucus seeks to measure progress on strategies identified in the Compact and update it to align with current sustainability goals, plans and programs. CMAP is designing a Sustainability Planning Toolkit to provide communities with guidance on creating and implementing sustainability plans.

To those ends, we seek to better understand your community's accomplishments and interest in a range of sustainability issues. The results of this survey will help to identify technical assistance needs and inform the development of the Sustainability Planning Toolkit. In addition, the last question in the survey requests information to inform a separate ongoing CMAP project to update its Conservation Design Resource Manual.

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# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

Note that the percentages in this Summary are slightly different from the discussion in the Findings section: this summary includes two trial responses that were eliminated for accurate results.

**What is your municipality?**

Addison | Village of Orland Park | Woodridge | Evanston | oak brook | Geneva | Round Lake | Schaumburg | Village of Roselle | City of Blue Island | Worth | City of Warrenville | Hoffman Estates | Village of Streamwood | Oswego | MMC | Lake Zurich | Elburn | Countryside | city of highland park | Bedford Park | palos heights | Villa Park | Channahon | Schiller Park | Hainesville | City of North Chicago | Northlake | Buffalo Grove | Kristin | Village of Oswego | Chicago | Elgin | Lake County | Village of Arlington Heights | City of Lake Forest | Village of Niles | Grayslake | Carol Stream | South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association | West Chicago

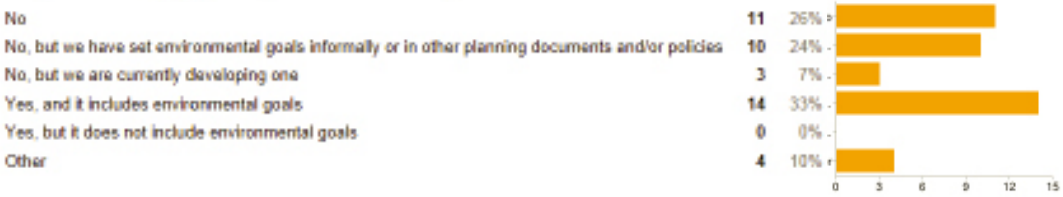
**What is your title?**

test | Senior Management Analyst | Assistant City Administrator | Village Manager | Director Public Works | admin intern | Sustainability Coordinator | Village President | City Planner | Village Administrator | Landscape and Sustainability Planner | City Administrator | Zoning Officer | Sustainable Programs Coordinator | village president | Public Works Services Coordinator | Senior Planner | Planner to the stars | City Manager | Development Dir. | CSO | Director of Public Works | Assistant to the Village Manager | Executive Director | Administrator | Assistant Village Manager | Mayor | Community Development Director | Asst. to the Village Mgr. | Supervisor of Planning | village manager | administrator

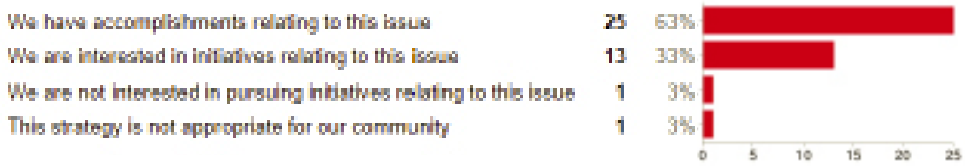
**Has the Greenest Region Compact informed your planning efforts or impacted your environmental initiatives?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 15 | 37% |
| No | 11 | 27% |
| Not sure | 15 | 37% |

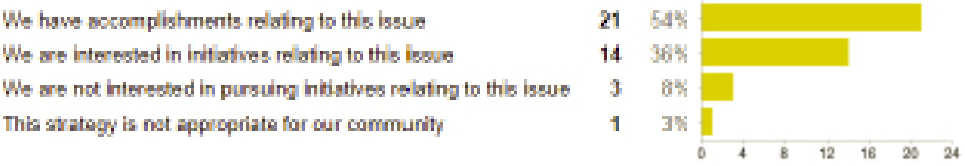
**Has your municipality developed a sustainability plan?**




**Upgrade water/wastewater infrastructure" [Water]**

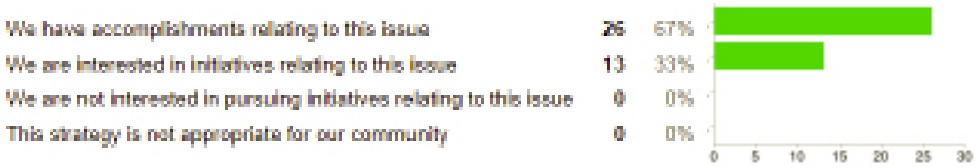



**Regulate landscape and irrigation practices" [Water]**

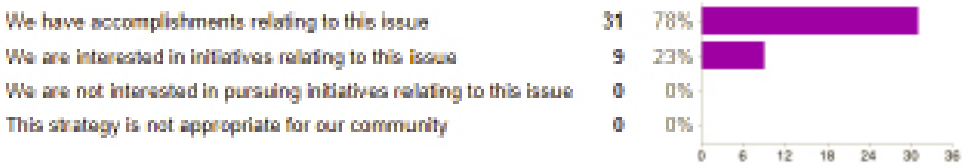


# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

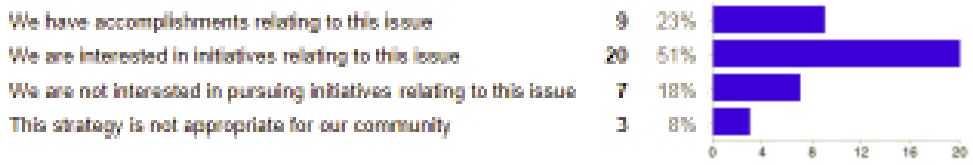
**Enact policies to conserve water [Water]**



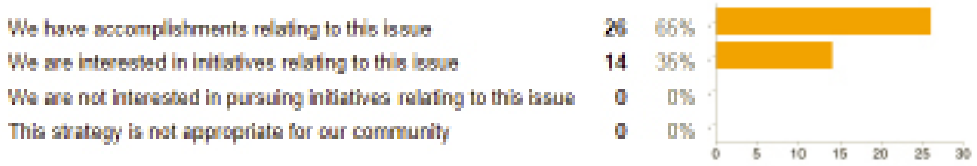

**Encourage stormwater best management practices* [Water]**



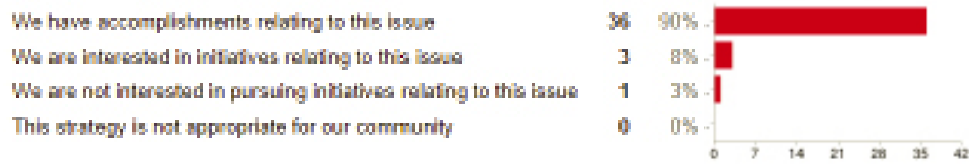

**Offer incentives or support to encourage water conservation* [Water]**



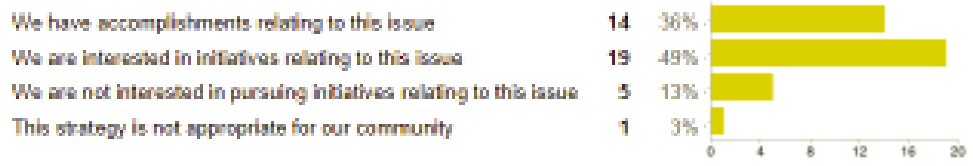

**Educate users about water conservation [Water]**




**Implement programs to properly dispose of electronic waste* [Waste]**



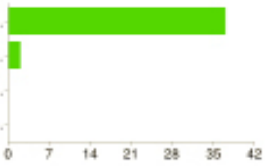

**Enact construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance or policy* [Waste]**



# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

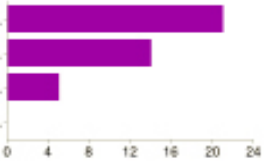
**Curbside recycling" [Waste]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 37 | 95% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 2 | 5% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 0 | 0% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



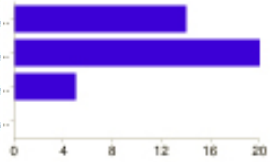

**Paint recycling program" [Waste]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 21 | 53% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 14 | 35% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 5 | 13% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



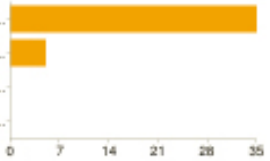

**Composting program [Waste]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 14 | 36% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 20 | 51% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 5 | 13% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |




**Improve energy efficiency at municipal facilities [Energy]**

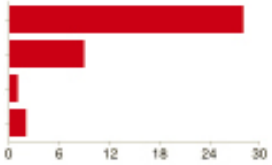
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 35 | 88% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 5 | 13% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 0 | 0% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

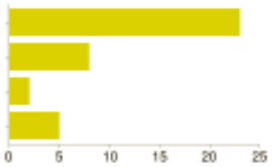
**Replace traffic signals with LED fixtures* [Energy]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 28 | 70% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 9 | 23% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 1 | 3% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 2 | 5% |



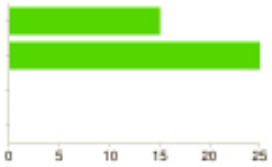

**Specify renewable sources in electricity aggregation contract* [Energy]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 23 | 61% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 8 | 21% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 2 | 5% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 5 | 13% |



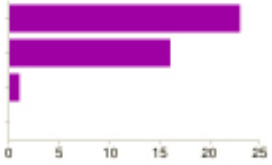

**Update building/zoning codes for renewable energy systems [Energy]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 15 | 38% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 25 | 63% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 0 | 0% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



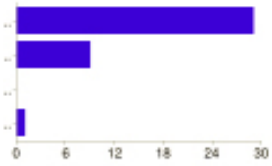

**Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in the community [Energy]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 23 | 58% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 16 | 40% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 1 | 3% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



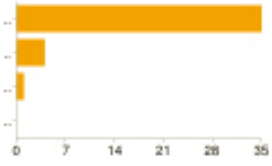

**Green practices at municipal facilities [Land]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 29 | 74% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 9 | 23% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 0 | 0% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 1 | 3% |




**Tree planting program* [Land]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 35 | 88% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 4 | 10% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 1 | 3% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



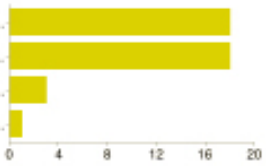
# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

**Green building requirements [Land]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 5 | 13% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 33 | 83% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 1 | 3% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 1 | 3% |

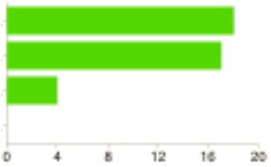
**Encourage mixed-use and/or infill development through policies/regulations [Land]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 18 | 45% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 18 | 45% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 3 | 8% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 1 | 3% |



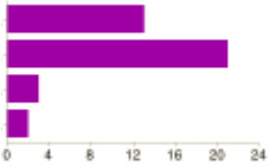

**Community garden program [Land]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 18 | 46% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 17 | 44% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 4 | 10% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 0 | 0% |



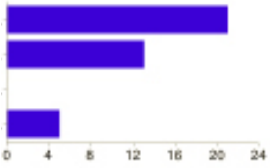

**Greening municipal fleet* [Air and Climate Change]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 13 | 33% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 21 | 54% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 3 | 8% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 2 | 5% |



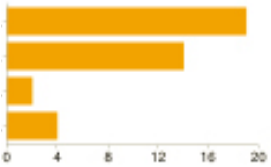

**Promote and improve public transit options* [Air and Climate Change]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 21 | 54% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 13 | 33% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 0 | 0% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 5 | 13% |



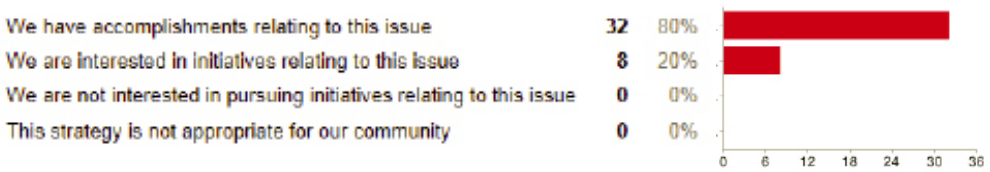

**Enact no-idling policy or ordinance [Air and Climate Change]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We have accomplishments relating to this issue | 19 | 49% |
| We are interested in initiatives relating to this issue | 14 | 36% |
| We are not interested in pursuing initiatives relating to this issue | 2 | 5% |
| This strategy is not appropriate for our community | 4 | 10% |

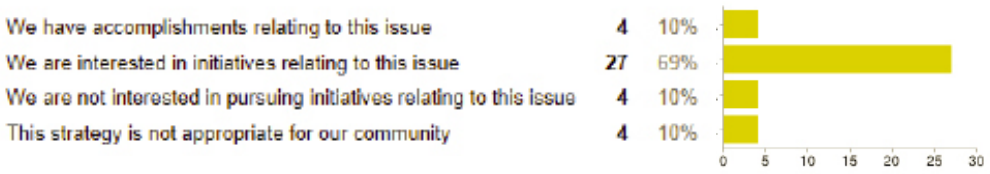


# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

**Improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure [Air and Climate Change]**

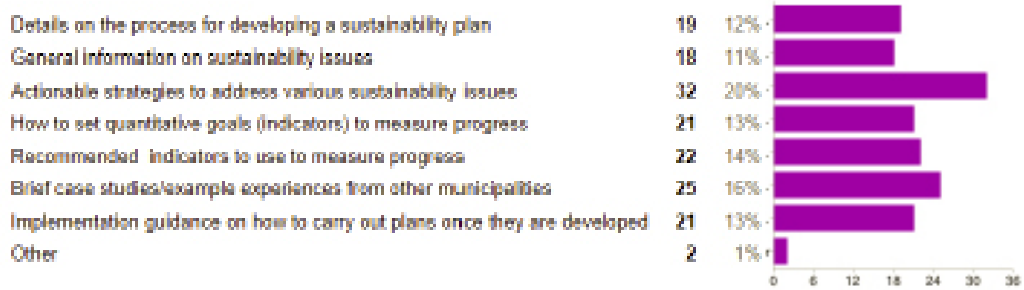



**Climate adaptation initiatives [Air and Climate Change]**




**What are the challenges that you foresee or that you have observed in municipalities undertaking sustainability initiatives?**

**What would you find most useful to include in a Sustainability Planning Toolkit?**



# APPENDIX C - Survey Results

## Municipal Sustainability Implementation and Planning

**Please tell us more about your existing initiatives, including any that might not be covered by the topics listed above.**

We have a drop off location for electronics recycling Storm water quality best management practices are encouraged and we have been awarded an IGIG grant for a ditch project We have a plan with 7 areas of focus: - Economic Development and Job Creation - Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy - Transportation Options - Water and Wastewater - Parks, Open Space and Healthy Food - Waste and Recycling - Climate Change Too many to list Watershed standards are through MWRD. Our Public Works Supt. has initiated LED lights and landscapping projects. We have modernized our buildings that reflect energy conservation projects. We sponsor an electric aggregation program for our residents. Our deposit company provides recycling projects. We met our original climate action plan goal of 13% by 2012 and are presenting city council with a new plan for a 20% reduction by 2016. We also used the STAR Communities Rating system to evaluate our community Sustainability across 7 goal areas including environmental, social and economic, and received a 4-STAR rating. nothing extra that i know of, just took office . We also did a few economic development programs that were sustainability inclined. We promoted business improvement through energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and building systems. We also promoted home improvement through energy efficiency upgrades to the building envelope of houses. Sustainability issues are addressed through our Transportation committee electronic recycling is available year round not just at selected events. Tree branches are picked up and mulched, not shredded, mulch is available to residents at not charge. We have extensively used rcycled or repurposed materials in our City Hall remodel, we follow the Illinois Energy Code for building and remodeling in the City. Community Health & Brownfields Hazardous waste drop-off schedule for May Spring Clean up program including electronics is also scheduled in May. www.hoffmanestates.org/green Links to our sustainability pages and existing Sustainability Plan, which dictates most of our programming. We replaced all the interior lighting in municipal facilities with energy efficient alternatives and installed motion sensors, we are implementing a pilot project of LED street lights in a neighborhood this year, implemented codes for renewable energy systems, we consider "greener" alternatives in new construction and remodeling projects, we sponsor a large electronics/paper shredding extravaganza to celebrate Earth Day (over 100,000 lbs of electronics), we are submitting an application to the IEPA to host a household hazardous waste recycling event, we do outreach on our website regarding energy efficiency for residents and business owners, we sponsor a farmers market, we are building more bikepaths, all village owned traffice signals have been replaced with LED, we adopted Schaumburg's Biodiversity Plan as an amendment to our Comprehensive Plan, we have a tree planting program, we have a complete inventory of all village owned trees, we offer operate the Woodfield Tolley to various stores during the holiday season, many of our traffic signals are interconnected to keep traffic flowing, we adopted an anti idling protocol for village vehicles, all water meters have ben replaced with electronic meters allowing the village to notify a resident or business if there water usage is above normal. HP has a robust sust program history that includes a strat plan, a intergov working group (now disbanded), dedicated revenue streams, and has experimented with hiring a contracted sustainability manager. We had a number of achievements, but saw the program enter a state of flux during a period of staff and elected official turnover. We can be contacted at any time for elaboration. 2014-2015 budget year we are replacing our mercury vapor street lights with LED.Our E-recycling drop off event will also include textile recycling. We have recently approved a "complete streets" policy document.

# APPENDIX D - List of Communities in this Study

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Addison | Village of |
| Algonquin | Village of |
| Alsip | Village of |
| Antioch | Village of |
| Arlington Heights | Village of |
| Aurora | City of |
| Bannockburn | Village of |
| Barrington | Village of |
| Barrington Hills | Village of |
| Bartlett | Village of |
| Batavia | City of |
| Beach Park | Village of |
| Bedford Park | Village of |
| Beecher | Village of |
| Bellwood | Village of |
| Bensenville | Village of |
| Berkeley | Village of |
| Berwyn | City of |
| Big Rock | Village of |
| Bloomingdale | Village of |
| Blue Island | City of |
| Bolingbrook | Village of |
| Braidwood | City of |
| Bridgeview | Village of |
| Broadview | Village of |
| Brookfield | Village of |
| Buffalo Grove | Village of |
| Bull Valley | Village of |
| Burbank | City of |
| Burlington | Village of |
| Burnham | Village of |
| Burr Ridge | Village of |
| Calumet City | City of |
| Calumet Park | Village of |
| Campton Hills | Village of |
| Carol Stream | Village of |
| Carpentersville | Village of |
| Cary | Village of |
| Champaign | City of |
| Channahon | Village of |
| Chicago | City of |
| Chicago Heights | City of |
| Chicago Ridge | Village of |
| Cicero | Town of |
| Clarndon Hills | Village of |
| Coal City | Village of |

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Cook County | County |
| Country Club Hills | City of |
| Countryside | City of |
| Crest Hill | City of |
| Crestwood | Village of |
| Crete | Village of |
| Crystal Lake | City of |
| Darien | City of |
| De Kalb | City of |
| Deer Park | Village of |
| Deerfield | Village of |
| De Kalb County | County |
| Des Plaines | City of |
| Diamond | Village of |
| Dixmoor | Village of |
| Dolton | Village of |
| Downers Grove | Village of |
| DuPage County | County |
| East Dundee | Village of |
| East Hazel Crest | Village of |
| Elburn | Village of |
| Elgin | City of |
| Elk Grove Village | Village of |
| Elmhurst | City of |
| Elmwood Park | Village of |
| Elwood | Village of |
| Evanston | City of |
| Evergreen Park | Village of |
| Flossmoor | Village of |
| Ford Heights | Village of |
| Forest Park | Village of |
| Forest View | Village of |
| Fox Lake | Village of |
| Fox River Grove | Village of |
| Frankfort | Village of |
| Franklin Park | Village of |
| Geneva | City of |
| Gilberts | Village of |
| Glen Ellyn | Village of |
| Glencoe | Village of |
| Glendale Heights | Village of |
| Glenview | Village of |
| Glenwood | Village of |
| Godley | Village of |
| Golf | Village of |
| Grayslake | Village of |

# APPENDIX D - List of Communities in this Study

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Green Oaks | Village of |
| Greenwood | Village of |
| Grundy County | County |
| Gurnee | Village of |
| Nainesville | Village of |
| Hampshire | Village of |
| Hanover Park | Village of |
| Harvard | City of |
| Harvey | City of |
| Harwood Heights | Village of |
| Hawthorn Woods | Village of |
| Hazel Crest | Village of |
| Hebron | Village of |
| Hickory Hills | City of |
| Highland Park | City of |
| Highwood | Village of |
| Hillside | Village of |
| Hinsdale | Village of |
| Hodgkins | Village of |
| Hoffman Estates | Village of |
| Holiday Hills | Village of |
| Homer Glen | Village of |
| Hometown | City of |
| Homewood | Village of |
| Huntley | Village of |
| Indian Creek | Village of |
| Indian Head Park | Village of |
| Inverness | Village of |
| Island Lake | Village of |
| Itasca | Village of |
| Johnsburg | Village of |
| Joliet | City of |
| Justice | Village of |
| Kane County | County |
| Kaneville | Village of |
| Kendall County | County |
| Kenilworth | Village of |
| Kildeer | Village of |
| La Grange | Village of |
| La Grange Park | Village of |
| Lake Barrington | Village of |
| Lake Bluff | Village of |
| Lake County | County |
| Lake Forest | City of |
| Lake in the Hills | Village of |
| Lake Villa | Village of |

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Lake Zurich | Village of |
| Lakemoor | Village of |
| Lakewood | Village of |
| Lansing | Village of |
| Lemont | Village of |
| Libertyville | Village of |
| Lily Lake | Village of |
| Lincolnshire | Village of |
| Lincolnwood | Village of |
| Lindenhurst | Village of |
| Lisle | Village of |
| Lockport | City of |
| Lombard | Village of |
| Long Grove | Village of |
| Lynwood | Village of |
| Lyons | Village of |
| Manhattan | Village of |
| Maple Park | Village of |
| Marengo | City of |
| Markham | City of |
| Matteson | Village of |
| Maywood | Village of |
| McCook | Village of |
| McCollum Lake | Village of |
| McHenry | City of |
| McHenry County | County |
| Melrose Park | Village of |
| Merrionette Park | Village of |
| Mattawa | Village of |
| Midlothian | Village of |
| Millbrook | Village of |
| Minooka | Village of |
| Mokena | Village of |
| Moline | City of |
| Monee | Village of |
| Montgomery | Village of |
| Morton Grove | Village of |
| Mount Prospect | Village of |
| Mundelein | Village of |
| Naperville | City of |
| New Lenox | Village of |
| Newark | Village of |
| Niles | Village of |
| Normal | City of |
| Norridge | Village of |
| North Aurora | Village of |

# APPENDIX D - List of Communities in this Study

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| North Barrington | Village of |
| North Chicago | City of |
| North Riverside | Village of |
| Northbrook | Village of |
| Northfield | Village of |
| Northlake | City of |
| Oak Brook | Village of |
| Oak Forest | City of |
| Oak Lawn | Village of |
| Oak Park | Village of |
| Oakbrook Terrace | City of |
| Oakwood Hills | Village of |
| Old Mill Creek | Village of |
| Olympia Fields | Village of |
| Orland Hills | Village of |
| Orland Park | Village of |
| Oswego | Village of |
| Palatine | Village of |
| Palos Heights | City of |
| Palos Hills | City of |
| Palos Park | Village of |
| Park City | City of |
| Park Forest | Village of |
| Park Ridge | City of |
| Peotone | Village of |
| Phoenix | Village of |
| Pingree Grove | Village of |
| Plainfield | Village of |
| Port Barrington | Village of |
| Posen | Village of |
| Prarie Grove | Village of |
| Prospect Heights | City of |
| Richmond | Village of |
| Richton Park | Village of |
| Ringwood | Village of |
| River Forest | Village of |
| River Grove | Village of |
| Riverdale | Village of |
| Riverside | Village of |
| Riverwoods | Village of |
| Robbins | Village of |
| Rock Island | City of |
| Rockdale | Village of |
| Rockford | City of |
| Rolling Meadows | City of |
| Romeoville | Village of |

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Roselle | Village of |
| Rosemont | Village of |
| Round Lake | Village of |
| Round Lake Beach | Village of |
| Round Lake Heights | Village of |
| Round Lake Park | Village of |
| Sauk Village | Village of |
| Schaumburg | Village of |
| Schiller Park | Village of |
| Shorewood | Village of |
| Skokie | Village of |
| Sleepy Hollow | Village of |
| South Barrington | Village of |
| South Chicago Heights | Village of |
| South Elgin | Village of |
| South Holland | Village of |
| Spring Grove | Village of |
| Springfield | City of |
| St. Charles | City of |
| Steger | Village of |
| Stickney | Village of |
| Stone Park | Village of |
| Streamwood | Village of |
| Sugar Grove | Village of |
| Summit | Village of |
| Symerton | Village of |
| Third Lake | Village of |
| Thornton | Village of |
| Tinley Park | Village of |
| Tower Lakes | Village of |
| Trout Valley | Village of |
| Union | Village of |
| University Park | Village of |
| Urbana | City of |
| Vernon Hills | Village of |
| Villa Park | Village of |
| Virgil | Village of |
| Volo | Village of |
| Wadsworth | Village of |
| Warrenville | City of |
| Wauconda | Village of |
| Waukegan | City of |
| Wayne | Village of |
| West Chicago | City of |
| West Dundee | Village of |
| Westchester | Village of |

# APPENDIX D - List of Communities in this Study

| Caucus Communities + Counties | Community Type |
|---|---|
| Western Springs | Village of |
| Westmont | Village of |
| Wheaton | City of |
| Wheeling | Village of |
| Will County | County |
| Willow Springs | Village of |
| Willowbrook | Village of |
| Wilmette | Village of |
| Wilmington | City of |
| Winfield | Village of |
| Winnetka | Village of |
| Winthrop Harbor | Village of |
| Wonder Lake | Village of |
| Wood Dale | City of |
| Woodridge | Village of |
| Woodstock | City of |
| Worth | Village of |
| Yorkville | United City of |
| Zion | Village of |

# APPENDIX E - List of Achievements + Source

The ninety-five achievements are sorted by the number of achievements in descending order.

**Type:** **A**=Award **C**=Certification **G**=Grant **M**=Membership **P**=Policy **Pg**=Program

**Category:** Air Climate Change Energy Land Sustainability Stewardship Waste Water

| Achievement | Type | Category | Sum of Achievements | Source | Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Access to Parks/Open Space | P | Land | 228 | Correspondence with CMAP | |
| Curbside Recycling | Pg | Waste | 193 | Correspondance with DuPage County, SWANCC, Will County | |
| PY1-PY6 DCEO Grants | G | Energy | 167 | DCEO - FOIA request | http://www.illinois.gov/dceo/ServicesGuide/GranteeResources/Pages/default.aspx |
| ICECF energy efficiency | G | Energy | 152 | ICECF website | http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/about-the-foundation/ |
| Tree City USA | C | Land | 122 | Tree City USA website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |
| Water metering | Pg | Water | 119 | Correspondence with CMAP (2008 Water Utilities survey) | |
| Emerald Ash Borer grant | G | Land | 114 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | http://www.mayorscaucus.org/pages/Home/MunicipalGrantProgramMitigatingEmeraldAshBorerImpactsonTheUrbanFores.html |
| DNR Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)/Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | G | Land | 104 | DNR website | http://dnr.state.il.us/OCD/newosladi.htm |
| Farmer's Markets | Pg | Land | 103 | US Dept of Agriculture website | http://www.agr.state.il.us/markets/farmers/ |
| Solid Waste Agency | M | Waste | 99 | agencies websites | http://swancc.org/swancc-who-is-swancc |
| Greenest Region Compact | Pg | Stewardship | 97 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus | http://www.mayorscaucus.org/pages/Home/Reports.html |
| Water coservation education | P | Water | 96 | CMAP 2008 Water Utilities survey | |
| CFL bulbs giveaway program | Pg | Energy | 93 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| EECBG program allocations | G | Energy | 80 | DOE website | http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/eecbg.html |
| EV (public) charging station | Pg | Air | 74 | Alternate Fuel Data Center website | http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_locations.html |
| RTA Community Planning | G | Land | 66 | RTA website | http://rtachicago.com/community-planning/community-planning.html |
| Environmental-focused citizen commission | P | Stewardship | 65 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Electricity Aggregation w/Renewables | P | Energy | 63 | Go Clean Go Local (pg 13), Multiple Authors | http://gocleangolocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Leading-from-the-Middle_IL-Report_FINAL.pdf |
| ICECF renewables | G | Energy | 61 | ICECF website | http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/about-the-foundation/ |
| Municipal LEED certified buildings | C | Stewardship | 53 | USGBC projects directory | http://www.usgbc.org/home |
| Safe Route to School | G | Land | 51 | IDOT website | http://www.dot.il.gov/saferoutes/saferouteshome.aspx |
| No-idling policy/program | P | Air | 50 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Biosolid re-use - land application | Pg | Waste | 49 | Correspondence with MWRD | |
| Water Sense Partner | C | Water | 45 | WaterSense Partnership website | http://www.epa.gov/watersense/about_us/what_is_ws.html |
| Sustainability Plan | P | Stewardship | 44 | Correspondence with Delta Institute, IEPA (Green Communities), additional research | http://www.epa.state.il.us/p2/green-communities/ |

# APPENDIX E - List of Achievements + Source

**Type:** **A**=Award **C**=Certification **G**=Grant **M**=Membership **P**=Policy **Pg**=Program

**Category:** Air Climate Change Energy Land Sustainability Stewardship Waste Water

| Achievement | Type | Category | Sum of Achievements | Source | Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cool Cities | M | Climate Change | 43 | Cool Cities website | http://coolcities.us/about.php?sid=ff5b4b120bc7991eaf72119d8609d647 |
| Watershed plans | P | Water | 43 | CMAP website | http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/water/water-quality-management/watershed-planning |
| Green Infrastructure Program | Pg | Water | 43 | CMAP Municipal survey of Green Practices of 2008 | |
| Chicago Wilderness | M | Land | 42 | Chicago Wilderness website | http://www.chicagowilderness.org/who-we-are/ |
| Clean Air Counts Bronze | C | Air | 40 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Tree City USA (growth award) | A | Land | 37 | Tree City USA website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |
| Partners for Clean Air | M | Air | 32 | Partners for Clean Air website | http://www.cleantheair.org/ |
| Illinois Green Fleets certification | C | Air | 31 | IEPA website | http://www.illinoisgreenfleets.org/overview |
| Tree City USA Sterling (2000-2011) | A | Land | 30 | Tree City USA website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |
| Energy Star Partner | M | Energy | 30 | ENERGY STAR website | http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=estar_partner_list.showPartnerSearch |
| Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program | G | Land | 28 | IDOT website | http://www.dot.il.gov/ITEP/login.aspx |
| Green Initiative website | Pg | Stewardship | 28 | Cool Cities website | http://coolcities-il.appspot.com/ |
| Energy Star certified buildings | C | Energy | 27 | ENERGY STAR website | http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/about-us |
| GHG inventory | Pg | Climate Change | 26 | Cool Cities website | http://coolcities-il.appspot.com/ |
| Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) | G | Water | 25 | IEPA website | http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/publications/igig-progress-report.pdf |
| Clean Air Counts Participating | Pg | Air | 25 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus | http://www.cleanaircounts.org/overview.aspx |
| Model Enviro Policy | P | Stewardship | 24 | Correspondence with IPRA Environmental Committee | |
| EECGB Competitive Grant | G | Energy | 23 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Cook County | http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/eecbg.html |
| Resilient Communities for America | M | Climate Change | 23 | Resilient Communities for America | http://www.resilientamerica.org/join-the-leaders/ |
| Illinois Recycling Grant Program | G | Waste | 21 | Correspondence with DCEO | http://www.illinois.gov/dceo/whyillinois/KeyIndustries/Energy/Recycling/Pages/default.aspx |
| 2010-2011 Sustainable Community Challenge applicant | G | Stewardship | 20 | Partnership for Sustainable Communities website | http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/grants.html |
| US Conference of Mayors CPA | M | Climate Change | 20 | US Conf Mayors website | http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm |
| Clean Air Counts Silver | C | Air | 19 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Urban and Community Forestry grants | G | Land | 19 | Corrrespondence with IDNR | http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/about_overview.shtml |
| Household Hazardous Waste 2007-2013 | G | Waste | 19 | Correspondence with IEPA | http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste/index.html |
| Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition | M | Air | 18 | Chicago Clean Cities Coalition website | http://www.chicagocleancities.org/about-chicago-clean-cities/our-mission |
| Earth Hour City Challenge | M | Energy | 18 | WWF website | http://worldwildlife.org/pages/earth-hour-city-challenge |
| Water conservation pricing | Pg | Water | 18 | Correspondence with CMAP (2008 Water Utilities survey) | |
| DNR Bike Path Program | G | Land | 17 | DNR website | http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newbike2.htm |
| Complete Streets Policy | P | Land | 17 | Smart Growth for America | http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/complete-streets-fundamentals/complete-streets-faq |
| Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) | G | Land | 16 | CMAP website | http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/cmaq |

# APPENDIX E - List of Achievements + Source

**Type:** **A**=Award **C**=Certification **G**=Grant **M**=Membership **P**=Policy **Pg**=Program

**Category:** Air Climate Change Energy Land Sustainability Stewardship Waste Water

| Achievement | Type | Category | Sum of Achievements | Source | Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICLEI Member | M | Climate Change | 15 | ICELEI website | http://www.iclei.org/iclei-global/who-is-iclei.html |
| Green Roofs on muni Buildings | Pg | Water | 15 | CMAP Municipal survey of Green Practices of 2008 and Greenroof and Greenwall Database Project website | http://www.greenroofs.com/ |
| NPS Section 319 Grant | G | Water | 13 | IEPA - FOIA request | http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm |
| LEED AP on staff | M | Stewardship | 13 | USGBC people directory | http://www.usgbc.org/home |
| LEED requirement/incentives | P | Stewardship | 13 | USGBC Illinois | http://www.usgbc.org/home |
| Rain barrel program | Pg | Water | 13 | CMAP Municipal survey of Green Practices of 2008 | |
| 2009-2013 Governor's Sustainability Award Winner | A | Stewardship | 12 | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |
| Illinois Recycling Association Member | M | Waste | 12 | IRA website | http://illinoisrecycles.org/ira/ |
| Climate Action Plan | P | Stewardship | 12 | Cool Cities website | http://coolcities-il.appspot.com/ |
| Sustainable Watershed Action Team (SWAT-2008-2013) | G | Water | 11 | Chicago Wilderness website | http://www.chicagowilderness.org/what-we-do/protecting-green-infrastructure/ |
| Gas can replacement program | G | Air | 10 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | http://www.cleanaircounts.org/gascanreplacement.aspx |
| LTA projects | G | Land | 10 | CMAP website | http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lta/ |
| Green Communities Demonstration Program | G | Stewardship | 10 | IEPA website | http://www.epa.state.il.us/p2/green-communities/ |
| Solid State Street lights Consortium | M | Energy | 10 | DoE website | http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/consortium.html |
| Product Stewardship Institute Members | M | Waste | 10 | PSI website | http://www.productstewardship.us/ |
| Community Energy Challenge | Pg | Energy | 10 | CB&I files | |
| America in Bloom | M | Land | 9 | America in Bloom website | http://www.americainbloom.org/About-AIB/About-AIB.aspx |
| Stormwater Utilities | Pg | Water | 9 | CMAP Value of Stormwater utilities | http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/218071/Value_of_Stormwater_Utilities_Local_Govts_Chicago_Region-1-8-12.pdf/07b7b166-acd2-491f-bc40-079ae97e3549 |
| Clean Air Counts Platinum | C | Air | 8 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Bicycle Friendly Community (2013) | C | Land | 8 | The League of American Bicyclists website | http://www.bikeleague.org/content/communities |
| ICECF Natural Areas | G | Land | 8 | ICECF website | http://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/about-the-foundation/ |
| TIGER grants | G | Land | 8 | DOT website | http://www.dot.gov/tiger |
| Clean Air Counts Gold | C | Air | 7 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | |
| Diesel retrofit grants | G | Air | 7 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | http://www.cleanaircounts.org/dieselretrofit.aspx |
| Adopted IECC 2012 | P | Energy | 7 | Capital Development Board | http://shop.iccsafe.org/2012-international-energy-conservation-code-soft-cover.html |
| Public Charging Stations (BD, CNG, LNG) | Pg | Air | 7 | Alternate Fuel Data Center website | http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_locations.html |
| LEED certified neighborhoods (LEED ND) | C | Stewardship | 5 | USGBC projects directory | http://www.usgbc.org/home |
| Lawn Care buy-back program | G | Air | 5 | Metropolitan Mayors Caucus files | http://www.cleanaircounts.org/lawnmowerleafblowerbuyback.aspx |
| EPA Brownfield development grants 2007-2013 | G | Land | 5 | US EPA website | http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/index.htm |

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**Type:** **A**=Award **C**=Certification **G**=Grant **M**=Membership **P**=Policy **Pg**=Program

**Category:** Air Climate Change Energy Land Sustainability Stewardship Waste Water

| Achievement | Type | Category | Sum of Achievements | Source | Link |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011 Sustainable Community Challenge recipient | G | Stewardship | 5 | Partnership for Sustainable Communities website | http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/grants.html |
| Water conservation device rebates | Pg | Water | 5 | Correspondence with CMAP (2008 Water Utilities survey) | |
| EPA Green Power Community | Pg | Energy | 4 | EPA website | http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities/index.htm |
| Waste Wise | Pg | Waste | 4 | EPA website | http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/smm/wastewise/about.htm |
| 2007-2008, 2011 PFCA Award Winners | A | Air | 3 | Partners for Clean Air website | http://www.cleantheair.org/news/Entry/12 |
| Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) | C | Land | 3 | The Sustainable Sites Initiatives website | http://www.sustainablesites.org/ |
| STAR Communities Index | C | Stewardship | 3 | STAR Communities website | http://www.starcommunities.org/rating-system |
| Carbonn GHG reporting | Pg | Climate Change | 3 | The Climate Registry website | http://citiesclimateregistry.org/ |
| 2009-2013 Governor's Sustainability Award Honorable Mention | A | Stewardship | 2 | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |
| 2009-2013 Governor's Sustainability Continuous Improvement Award | A | Stewardship | 2 | Illinois Sustainable Technology Center website | http://www.istc.illinois.edu/info/govs_awards.cfm |

# APPENDIX E -
## Municipalities with Sustainability Plans Included in this study

Sustainability plans were identified for these communities as of November 2014 and included in this study.

| Municipalities with a Sustainability Plan | Municipality Type | Sustainability Plan Reviewed |
|---|---|---|
| Algonquin | Village of | + |
| Aurora | City of | + |
| Batavia | City of | + |
| Buffalo Grove | Village of | + |
| Chicago | City of | + |
| Chicago Heights | City of | + |
| Elburn | Village of | + |
| Elgin | City of | + |
| Elmhurst | City of | + |
| Evanston | City of | + |
| Glencoe | Village of | + |
| Glenview | Village of | + |
| Hainesville | Village of | + |
| Highland Park | City of | + |
| Hoffman Estates | Village of | + |
| Homer Glen | Village of | + |
| La Grange Park | Village of | + |
| Lake County | County | + |
| Lombard | Village of | + |
| Mettawa | Village of | + |
| Millbrook | Village of | + |
| Monee | Village of | + |
| Montgomery | Village of | + |
| Naperville | City of | + |
| Niles | Village of | + |
| Normal | City of | + |
| Northbrook | Village of | + |
| Oak Park | Village of | + |
| Orland Park | Village of | + |
| Oswego | Village of | + |
| Park Forest | Village of | + |
| Peotone | Village of | + |
| River Forest | Village of | + |
| Robbins | Village of | + |
| Round Lake | Village of | + |
| Schaumburg | Village of | + |
| Sleepy Hollow | Village of | + |
| South Chicago Heights | Village of | + |
| St. Charles | Village of | + |
| University Park | Village of | + |
| Wheaton | City of | + |
| Wheeling | Village of | + |
| Winnetka | Village of | + |
| Woodstock | City of | + |