

AGENDA
GREENHOUSE GAS WORKING GROUP
May 28, 2026
3:00 P.M.
Village Hall, 850 Waukegan Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
Community Conference Room 206

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of April 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Recap of Midwest Organics Tour
6. Discussion of Climate Action Report: Waste
7. Recycle Rally: June 6, 9 a.m. to noon at Public Works
8. Wastewater Reclamation Facility Solar Array
 - Light Level
 - Ribbon Cutting: June 26 at 2 p.m.
9. Other Items for Discussion:
 - Social Media: Sustainability Sunday
 - D-tales: Green Line
10. Next Meeting: TBD
9. Adjournment

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ad Hoc Working Group
Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2026

A meeting of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ad Hoc Working Group was held on April 30, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at Village Hall. Chairperson Mary Oppenheim called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Present:

Trustee Mary Oppenheim, Chairperson
Camilla Dadey
George McClintick
Art Wilde
Andrew Worley
Matt White

Absent:

Josh Connell

Also Present:

Dan Nakahara, Planner II
Justin Keenan, Assistant Village Manager
Robert Phillips, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner Wilde moved, seconded by Commissioner Dadey to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026, meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

New Business

Update to Working Group Membership

The Working Group discussed recent membership updates and participation. Members emphasized the importance of maintaining active engagement and representation across stakeholder groups. Staff noted that two new Commissioners have joined the Group including Josh Connell and Matt White.

Review of Climate Action Report: Energy & Transportation Amendments

The Working Group continued its review of proposed amendments to the Energy and Transportation sections of the Climate Action Report. Members discussed the distinction between goals and implementation tactics, emphasizing the need to focus on high-level objectives while consolidating detailed action items elsewhere in the document. Discussion included ongoing energy initiatives, electrification efforts, transportation-related emissions reductions, and opportunities to improve clarity and organization throughout the report. Staff will continue refining the draft amendments for future review.

Ecosystem/Food/Goods & Services

The Working Group reviewed the Ecosystem, Food, and Goods & Services sections of the Climate Action Report and discussed opportunities to streamline and consolidate content.

Ecosystem

Members discussed strategies to encourage removal of invasive species, particularly buckthorn, and noted that education may be more effective than financial incentives in many cases. The group discussed the importance of highlighting the ecological benefits of replacing invasive species with native trees and shrubs, including improved biodiversity, habitat creation, seasonal interest, and stormwater benefits.

The group reviewed efforts to expand native planting areas throughout the Village. Staff provided a map of existing native planting locations and explained that additional sites are continually evaluated. Members discussed public perception challenges associated with native plantings and the importance of educational signage and outreach. Staff noted that while native areas reduce mowing requirements and provide environmental benefits, some highly visible locations continue to generate resident complaints.

The Working Group also discussed existing regulations related to naturalized landscapes and native gardens on private property. Members expressed interest in further reviewing how neighboring communities address native landscaping and whether code modifications or pilot programs should be explored. Staff agreed to research current practices and report back at a future meeting.

Discussion also included stormwater management, stormwater user fees, and related infrastructure funding mechanisms. Members noted that stormwater fees are primarily a public works and infrastructure funding issue rather than a direct sustainability strategy and agreed that the topic may not warrant inclusion as a stand-alone Climate Action Report goal.

The group reviewed tree canopy goals and discussed the importance of maintaining a healthy and diverse urban forest. Members agreed that several items currently listed as goals are more appropriately categorized as implementation tactics and should be consolidated under broader tree canopy objectives. Staff will reorganize these sections accordingly.

The Working Group also discussed long-term goals related to reducing emissions from gas-powered lawn and garden equipment. Members acknowledged the environmental benefits of transitioning to electric equipment but noted that current commercial-grade technology and costs

present challenges for large-scale implementation. The group agreed that this remains a relevant long-term objective.

Food

The Working Group reviewed goals related to food systems and reducing emissions associated with food production. Members acknowledged the environmental benefits of encouraging plant-based diets but questioned the appropriate role of local government in influencing residents' dietary choices. The group generally agreed that food-related emissions are largely outside the Village's direct control and that educational efforts may be more appropriately led by community organizations rather than municipal government.

Members discussed opportunities to support local food access through initiatives such as the Farmers Market and noted that food waste reduction efforts remain an important sustainability focus. The group agreed that the food section should be reviewed and potentially condensed or revised to better align with areas where the Village can have a measurable impact.

Staff will revise the Ecosystem, Food, and Goods & Services sections to reduce redundancy, distinguish goals from tactics, and present a more concise framework for future review.

Recycle Rally: June 6, 9 a.m. to Noon at Public Works

Staff reminded members of the upcoming Recycle Rally scheduled for June 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Public Works and requested volunteer participation. Members were asked to notify staff of their availability.

The group discussed opportunities to educate residents about proper recycling practices during the event. Topics included recyclable materials accepted through curbside programs, contamination reduction, proper disposal of small plastics, and the use of Hefty ReNew bags for hard-to-recycle materials. Members also discussed textile recycling and requested clarification regarding acceptable materials and end uses for collected textiles.

Staff additionally reminded members of the upcoming paper shredding event and encouraged participation.

Review of Native Plantings

Staff presented a map of Village-owned native planting locations and discussed ongoing efforts to convert appropriate turf grass areas to native landscapes. Members were encouraged to visit planting locations throughout the Village and provide suggestions for future sites.

Discussion highlighted the environmental benefits of native plantings, including pollinator support, reduced mowing requirements, improved stormwater infiltration, and habitat enhancement. Staff noted that several newer planting areas are still establishing and will become more visible over the coming growing seasons.

The group also discussed incorporating native planting locations into future educational materials and self-guided sustainability tours.

Other Items for Discussion

WRF Solar Array

Staff reported that the Wastewater Reclamation Facility solar array had recently received final interconnection approval and was energized. Members expressed enthusiasm regarding the project's progress and anticipated reviewing production data at future meetings. Staff noted that solar generation data will be available through monitoring software and shared with the Working Group.

D-Tales: Green Line

Staff provided examples of recent sustainability-focused communications included in D-Tales and the Green Line newsletter. Members discussed opportunities to continue educating residents on recycling best practices, composting, energy conservation, and other sustainability initiatives through Village communication channels.

Save the Date – Midwest Organics Tour: May 14 at 9 a.m.

Staff reminded members of the upcoming Midwest Organics facility tour scheduled for May 14 at 9:00 a.m. Members interested in attending were asked to RSVP. The group discussed the opportunity to learn more about the composting process and the facility responsible for processing Deerfield's residential organics collection.

Next Meeting Date

The next Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group will be held on May 28, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Commissioner Jacoby moved, seconded by Commissioner Worely, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Sciarretta
Management Analyst

Climate Action Report 2030 Goals *According to the Climate Action Report*

Overarching Goal: *The GHG reduction target is to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 compared to the 2017 baseline year.*

To achieve the target 2030 goal the following objectives are proposed:

- Electricity: 36% of total MTCO₂ (including municipal)
 - Convert 100% of electricity to renewable sources by 2030
- Transportation: 11% of total MTCO₂
 - Reduce transportation emissions by 55% by 2030
- Waste: 3% of total MTCO₂
 - Reduce waste emissions by 66% by 2030

Key:

In the works: ■

Completed: ■

Ongoing: ■

Waste:

- Establish baseline landfill diversion goals based on waste stream audits of various user types (e.g., residential, commercial, municipal)
 - Conduct waste stream audits for municipal operations to identify waste reduction opportunities. ■
 - Conduct waste stream audits for Residential and Commercial to establish baseline by waste source (mirror Lake County categories). ■
- Enact policies that support waste diversion goals including consideration for hazardous and non-curbide picked up waste
 - Collaborate with waste haulers for proper disposal of all types of waste (e.g. hazardous, pharma, electronics, textiles). ■
 - Create recycling/reuse outlets to recycle targeted items not accepted by the curbide program (e.g., plastic bags, sheet plastic, shredded paper). ■
- Establish year-round residential curbide composting ■

- Reduce waste by supporting the systems of a circular economy that regenerate natural systems, design out waste and pollution, and keep products and materials in use
 - Ban or discourage the use of products resulting in unmanageable waste (e.g., plastic bags, plastic bottles, other single use plastics). (2030)
 - Include composting at Village sponsored public events (e.g., Harvest Fest, Family Days, Winter Market). (2030)
 - Eliminate policy barriers to on-site composting. (2030)
 - Maintain construction and demolition recycling ordinance and establish incentives for reuse of homebuilding materials rather than disposal. (2030)
 - Require food service retailers to use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable packaging. (2050)
 - Require reusables for dine-in restaurants and sustainable takeout food wares. (2050)
 - Eliminate single use plastics in everyday use at Village facilities. (2050)
- Provide infrastructure, programs and policies that support composting and recycling materials across all sectors
 - Provide year-round curbside recycling/ composting infrastructure community wide. (2030)
 - Support Composting and Recycling Materials Across All Sectors (2030)
 - Ensure infrastructure (bin size and accessibility) is consistent with supporting composting, recycling, and landfill goals. (2030)
 - Structure waste pricing to be economically advantageous to compost/ recycle, and, economically disadvantageous to landfill waste. (2030)
 - Direct Waste Hauler contract savings to fund Waste diversion policies & programs.
 - Add public receptacles (Compost, Recycle, Landfill) in all Village buildings, including impactful visual locations that communicate the benefits/consequences of each. (2030)
 - Add plastic film to curbside pick-up program. (2050)
 - Encourage commercial & multifamily recycling and composting, including making receptacles easily accessible and clearly visible to tenants. (2030)
- Educate and engage the community in waste reduction, diversion and recycling
 - Conduct at least 2 community wide events per year to interact and educate residents on 3rd bin composting, plastics, and recycling (use large scale forums, such as shredding events, to interact with large groups of residents). (2030)
 - Partner with Park District, Library and other local government agencies to leverage waste education events. (2030)
 - Partner with School Districts 113 and 109 to develop a school wide annual "Zero Waste at Home" program. (2030)

- Plan comprehensive waste diversion events annually including 2X/year electronic collection events, 1X/year paper shredding event, and household chemical waste collection etc. (2030) ■
- At a minimum, achieve a waste diversion goal of 1.35 pcd by 2030 which is consistent with the 2019 SWALCO Waste Plan. (2030)
- Partner with Chamber of Commerce and other business groups to host peer-to-peer food scrap/composting education events for commercial business operators and restaurateurs. (2030)

RECYCLE RALLY



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL



VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD

Join the Village of Deerfield's Greenhouse Gas Working Group for the Recycle Rally, where residents can responsibly dispose of and give new life to everyday items.



Saturday, June 6



Public Works, 465 Elm Street



9 a.m. - noon



Bring electronics, gently used shoes and clothing. Shoes and clothing will be collected for reuse and donation, while electronics will be responsibly recycled. Scan the QR code for a full list of accepted items.

Electronics



Accepted electronics include computers and tablets, TVs and monitors, printers and scanners, phones, DVD/VCR players, gaming consoles, receivers and more.

Shoes



All types of footwear are accepted; please tie the laces together or secure pairs with a zip tie before dropping them off.

Textiles



New or gently used clothing, blankets, towels, tablecloths and stuffed animals will be accepted; items should be clean and bagged.

Brought to you in partnership by the Village's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group and Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

You are invited to the...

Deerfield Solar Array Ribbon Cutting

Powering a Brighter,
Cleaner Future

June 26, 2026

2 p.m. at Water Rec. Facility
1045 Hackberry Road



VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD



Village of Deerfield

Published by David Fitzgerald · May 24 at 10:00 AM ·

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Ready to recycle and declutter? Join the Village of Deerfield for the Recycle Rally on Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at Public Works, 375 Elm Street.

This free event for Deerfield residents is a great opportunity to responsibly recycle electronics and donate gently used shoes, clothing and other textiles for reuse. Shoes and textiles will be collected for donation, while electronics will be responsibly recycled.

The Recycle Rally is presented by the Village's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County.

Before attending, please review the full list of accepted and unaccepted items: <https://bit.ly/4f30lzi> #SustainabilitySunday See less

RECYCLE RALLY

Join the Village of Deerfield's Greenhouse Gas Working Group for the Recycle Rally, where residents can responsibly dispose of and give new life to everyday items.

SWALCO
SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD

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Brought to you in partnership by the Village's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group and Solid Waste Agency of Lake County



Village of Deerfield

Published by David Fitzgerald · May 19 at 9:38 AM · 🌐



Last week, Village staff and members of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group toured the [Midwest Organics Recycling](#) facility, which processes all of Deerfield's curbside residential organics. During the tour, participants learned how food scraps and yard waste are transformed into nutrient-rich compost soil. The facility, which opened in 2005 and is located in McHenry, processes organics into approximately 30,000 cubic yards of compost soil annually. See less



See insights and ads

Boost post

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Paulette Shimer

Yes. Our care ministry church group tour that facility last year. Those little buckets in your kitchen really fill up with lot... See more



1w Like Reply



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Village of Deerfield

Published by David Fitzgerald · May 7 at 11:27 AM · 🌐



Celebrate International Compost Week with us! 🌱♻️

Stop by the table at Village Hall to pick up countertop compost pails, liner bags, coloring sheets and more.

Then join us for our Compost Giveaway on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Metra parking lot at the corner of Jewett Park Drive and Robert York Drive.

Pick up nutrient rich compost to help your flowers, plants and garden beds thrive. Compost helps improve soil, retain moisture and support healthy plant growth.

Please bring your own container. There is a limit of 20 gallons per household. See less



[See insights and ads](#)

[Boost post](#)

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Santa 1206

I wonder if Cousin Joe will pick some up for his gardens! Ho, Ho, HO! ...

2w Like Reply



Comment as Village of Deerfield



THE GREEN LINE

The Village will host a compost giveaway in May and a free electronics recycling event in June

Compost Giveaway May 9

Reap all of the benefits of using compost soil for your spring gardening, flowerbeds, landscaping or lawn!

Complimentary compost will be available May 9 at the Deerfield Metra Lot at Robert York and Jewett Park Drive. Please bring your own buckets. There is a 10-gallon limit per household, while supplies last. Brought to you by the Village of Deerfield in partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County.

Recycle Rally Event June 6

Start setting items aside now for the upcoming Recycle Rally on Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to noon at Public Works. The event offers a convenient way to recycle unwanted electronics and donate gently used items. Accepted electronics include computers, tablets, TVs, monitors, printers, scanners, phones, DVD/VCR players, gaming consoles and more.

Residents may also bring all types of footwear and clean, bagged textiles for reuse and donation, including clothing, blankets, towels, tablecloths and stuffed animals. Please tie shoelaces together or secure pairs with a zip tie before drop-off.

The Recycle Rally is presented in partnership with the Village's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County. For a full list of accepted items, scan the event QR code.



Food Truck Wednesdays Return

Join your friends and neighbors on the first and third Wednesday of the month this summer for Food Truck Wednesdays.



The Village of Deerfield is excited to welcome back the popular Food Truck Wednesdays summer series at Jewett Park.

Building on last year's strong turnout and positive feedback, the series returns with another full lineup of evenings featuring great food, live music and family-friendly activities in a relaxed park setting.

This year, the events will once again be held in the Hazel Avenue parking lot near the park, giving attendees easy access to more shade, grassy areas for picnic blankets, and nearby picnic tables and

park amenities. The location offers a comfortable, convenient setting for families, friends and neighbors to gather and enjoy a summer evening outdoors.

Mark your calendars for the following Wednesdays: June 3 and 17, July 8 and 22, and August 5 and 19. Each event will take place from 4:30 to 8 p.m., offering a fun and easy way to enjoy dinner, entertainment and time in the park.

Each Food Truck Wednesday will feature a rotating selection of food vendors serving a wide variety of options, from savory meals

and snacks to sweet treats and desserts. Attendees can look forward to a mix of returning favorites and new vendors throughout the season, making each event a little different.

Bring your appetite, lawn chairs or a blanket, and enjoy an evening of food, music and community connection.

Food Truck Wednesdays continue to be a great way to make the most of summer in Deerfield.

For questions about Food Truck Wednesdays, please contact Public Works and Engineering at 847.719.7469.