

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 201

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Tejas Shah, Darryl Baker, Ramona Blaber, Cassandra West

Commission Members Absent: Lisa Boone, Madisyn Burke, Carly Provost-Rizor, Emily Neumann

Staff Present: Marcella Bondie Keenan, Chief Sustainability Officer; Abby Zielinski, Sustainability Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, it was unanimously approved with none opposed.
3. **Introductions:** Commissioner Shah joined for his first meeting as a commissioner, and the other commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
4. **Public Comment:** There was one public comment read by Staff Liaison Bondie Keenan. The comment is attached with these minutes.
5. **A motion to recommend the proposed amendment to the Oak Park energy code:** Chief Building Official, Steve Cutaia, presented on the proposed building energy code amendments. The presentation included the Building Code Advisory Commission's (BCAC) recommendation to adopt the 2021 ICC International Energy Conservation Code and amendments to require all new commercial and residential buildings to be fully electric. The presentation slides are attached with these meeting minutes. Discussion ensued including scenarios for remodeling and clarification on the exceptions to the fully electric requirements. Commissioner Blaber also asked about the potential impact of waiving permit fees for electrification projects, and Steve Cutaia replied that there would not be a significant impact in comparison to the total project cost.

The commission voted to recommend the proposed amendments to the Oak Park energy code with the following amendment to Appendix P: The minimum amount of electric vehicle (EV) ready parking spaces shall be provided at the rate of 1 EV ready space for every 5 parking spaces.

6. **Biodiversity policies & programs to achieve Climate Ready goals:** Staff Liaison Zielinski presented on Climate Ready Oak Park biodiversity policies and programs, including an overview of current biodiversity projects and a summary of the feedback received from the No Mow May Survey. Current projects include the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the Pesticide Free Pledge, and an upcoming initiative is a Community Biodiversity Survey. The presentation slides are attached with these meeting minutes.

Discussion included the following:

- The EEC agreed to use EEC budget for tabling materials towards having the wooden photo board repainted by an artist. The board will be used at events, including the Farmers' Market.
- Commissioner Shah recommended an educational component with the commitments described in the pesticide free pledge.
- Commissioners Lukehart recommended an educational campaign that prioritizes native plants in addition to No Mow May, if it is implemented in the future.
- Commissioner Lukehart would like ordinances to be updated to allow planting in parkways and to limit light pollution with respect to wildlife. Staff Liaison noted that these ordinances can be discussed at upcoming meetings.

7. **Incorporation of environmental justice into EEC work plan activities:**

Commissioners discussed potential strategies to address environmental justice issues within their workplan items. The EEC decided that environmental justice will be discussed with all workplan items as they come up on meeting agendas, and environmental justice discussions should include residents and any other impacted individuals such as business owners. The EEC also discussed the importance of supporting communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Commissioner Shah recommended continuing education for the EEC on environmental justice within Oak Park.

8. **2023 EEC Work Plan Troubleshooting:** There were no questions or concerns about workplan items. Commissioner Shah will need to be added to the work plan.
9. **New Business:** The EEC had no new business items to discuss.
10. **Adjourn:** At 8:28 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Zielinski, Abby

From: William Arnold <william.arnold@wea-design.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 6:35 PM
To: Sustainability
Subject: Environment & Energy Commission Meeting Public Comment

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Having looked at proposed SectionX301 I would like to endorse the following:

EV Readiness Provide One charging station for 20 parking spaces in multifamily. Single family homes should be ready for EV by minimally having adequate 220 V power supply available.

Solar-readiness Please require solar ready homes to be inclusive of roofs designed for the anticipated structural load.

Battery storage-readiness or installation Minimally require buildings to be ready to accommodate solar power and storage readiness.

Thank you,

Bill Arnold
1012 S Grove Ave, Oak Park, IL 60304



Electrification Code

Steven Cutaia
Chief Building Official



Introduction

- Steven Cutaia,
 - Chief Building Official
 - Permit Processing Manager
 - ADA Coordinator
- The Purpose of the presentation is to notify the proposed Electrification Ordinance recommendation by the Village of Oak Park Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC).

Building Code Overview

1. Codes are created for the people by the people.
 - There are no federal overall building codes
 - States vary on what codes they individually mandate
2. The International Code Council (ICC) creates various construction codes on a three year cycle, determined by building officials, fire officials, architects, and engineers etc. While some states adopt codes entirely from the ICC at their state codes, some states allow municipalities to adopt independently, sometimes with revisions.

Current Conditions

Currently while the State of Illinois only mandates the Plumbing Code and Energy Code(2018-ICC-IECC).

The Village of Oak Park had adopted the 2018 ICC editions of the following codes:

- International Energy Code
- International Residential Code
- International Mechanical Code
- International Building Code
- International Fuel Gas Code
- International Existing Building Code
- International Fire Code
- National Electric Code (NFPA)



Illinois Current Conditions

1. The State of Illinois is in the process of adopting or making the ICC's 2021 International Energy Conservation Code mandatory.
2. Furthermore, the State of Illinois is currently creating a "Stretch Energy Code", a code that stretches the current energy code to a more stringent document.
 1. One section of the unpublished stretch code will have
electronification.

Energy Codes vs Electrification

While the energy codes focus on energy reduction and energy savings, electrification focuses on the reduction or elimination of the use of fossil fuels.

BCAC Recommendations

1. The Building Code Advisory Commission(BCAC) recommends adopting the 2021 ICC International Energy Conservation Code before the State of Illinois mandates it.
2. Furthermore, the BCAC recommends requiring all new residential homes and commercial buildings to be entirely electric.

International Residential Code- Amendment

- **X101.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this appendix is to provide minimum requirements for enhanced environmental features in all new residential buildings regulated by this code.
- **X101.2 Objectives.** The objectives of this appendix are to reduce production of greenhouse gasses.
- **Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix have the meanings shown herein.
- **NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING:** A new residential building/structure is defined as a new independent or attached residential structure on a newly created foundation.
- **SECTION X301-ELECTRIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-X301.1 Electrification requirement for New Residential Buildings**

New buildings regulated under this code shall be designed to comply with the following:
Building energy source shall be all electric (no fossil fuel energy), except provided for emergency generators, solely for emergency power.

 - All heating and air conditioning shall be provided by cold climate air source or ground source heat pumps.
 - Provide Energy Recovery Ventilation system.
 - Design to include a Manuals J, and S calculations, or equivalent design by a registered design professional.
 - All refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers shall be Energy Star certified.
 - All clothes dryers shall be electric heat pump types.
 - Provide at least one Level 2 electric vehicle charging station at one parking location if as parking space/garage is in the scope.
 - Exterior fossil fuel piped gas fire pits and gas cooking grills are prohibited.

International Building Code Amendments

- **P101.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this appendix is to provide minimum requirements for electrification for all new buildings.
- **P101.2 Objectives.** The objectives of this appendix are to reduce production of greenhouse gasses.
- **P101.4 Violations.** Any violation of a provision of this appendix, or failure to comply with a permit or variance issued pursuant to this appendix or any requirement of this appendix, shall be handled in accordance with Section 114.
- **P201.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein.
COMMERCIAL KITCHEN. A kitchen provided to service commercial-type restaurants, institutional uses, cafeterias and similar dining facilities.
NEW BUILDING: A new building is defined as a new independent structure on a newly created foundation.
- **SECTION P301-ELECTRIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-P301.1 Electrification for New Buildings**
- Building energy source shall be all electric (no fossil fuel energy) except for emergency generators, solely for emergency use, and commercial kitchens.
- All heating and air conditioning shall be provided by cold climate air source or ground source heat pumps.
- Provide Energy Recovery Ventilation systems.
- Provide/perform a commissioning for all systems related to HVAC, lighting controls and service hot water systems, prior to final occupancy.
- All refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers shall be Energy Star certified.
- All residential cooktops shall be electric induction types.
- All residential ovens shall be electric types.
- All clothes dryers shall be electric heat pump types.
- Provide a minimum of Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at onsite parking areas at the rate of one charging station for every 20 parking spaces or fraction thereof in each separate parking area. One charging station may serve adjacent pairs of spaces.
- **Exceptions:**
- Electrical vehicle charging stations provided to serve Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies are not required to comply with this section.
- Electric vehicle charging stations used exclusively by buses, trucks, other delivery vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, and motor pools are not required to comply with this section.
- Exterior fossil fuel piped gas fire pits and gas cooking grills are prohibited.

Policy Scan

- Oak Park Electrification Code is expected to be the first electrification code in the Midwest.
- New York, Colorado, and California communities have various similar codes.
- Chicago has an electrification-ready code.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Month	PROGRAM
June 20th	Present recommendations at the Village of Oak Park Board Meeting
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue a press release and a Village Manager's Report. Reach out to the chamber of commerce, real estate association, and building owner's association. Establish an EngaugeOakPark.com page Update the web page
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek a Com Ed sponsored all-electric open house tour.
September	Hold an open house/coffee - Chat with staff, MEEA, & Com Ed
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold an International Building Code Seminar/ electrification. Hold an International Residential Code Seminar Electrification.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold an open house/coffee - Chat with staff, MEEA & Com Ed. Discuss review possible State of Illinois Stretch Code, if published.
December	Hold an open house/coffee - Chat with staff, MEEA, & Com Ed
January 1, 2024	Proposal become Law

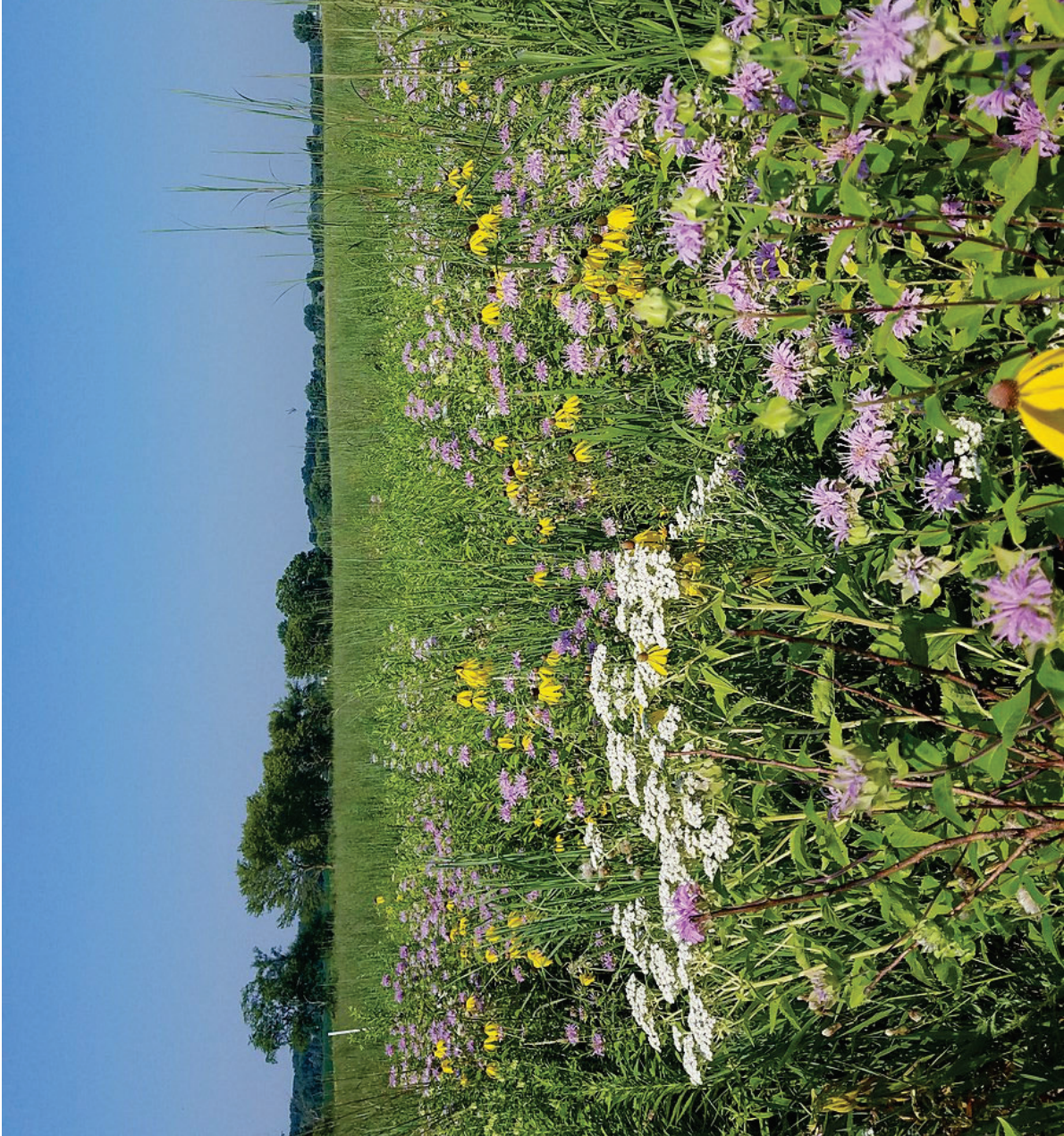
Anticipated Future Policy Actions

- The Building Code Advisory Commission (BCAC) anticipates reviewing and recommending the State of Illinois Stretch Code once it becomes published in 2024, which is expected to have much more detailed Electrification Appendix that will also apply to building additions and alterations.
- Furthermore the BCAC anticipates reviewing and recommending the 2024 International Energy Conservation code once it is published.

Conclusion

The Electrification Code Concept is a cutting edge pathway to a cleaner environment.

The Village of Oak Park shall continuously adapt and adopt accordingly to be a leader in this endeavor.



Climate Ready Biodiversity Policies & Programs

June 6, 2023



CROP: Parks, Plants, & Biodiversity

- Goal 1: Advance Equity in Parks & Plants
- Goal 2: Increase Plant & Tree Cover
- Goal 3: Prioritize Native Species Over Non-Native Species
- Goal 4: Increase Greenspace Connectivity and Access
- Goal 5: Protect & Enhance Biodiversity



Goal 5: Protect & Enhance Biodiversity

- Launch and participate in an advocacy campaign for State legislation that bans the sale and use of chemical pesticides except under defined essential circumstances, establishes a pesticide seller permit fee program, and dedicates the revenue for biodiversity programs.
- Implement sustainable landscaping practices that **eliminate use of chemical pesticides** except under essential circumstances.
- Conduct a **light pollution** mitigation study and integrate design and practices to reduce the impacts of refuge light on wildlife, especially bird, bat, and insect populations, and humans.
- Identify options to reduce urban wildlife conflicts and potential zoonoses. Coordinate recommendations with Public Health planning and strategies.
- Conduct an educational campaign to promote bird-friendly building design and retrofitting practices for residents and businesses.
- Conduct an educational campaign to discourage the planting of **harmful invasive species** that increase landscape maintenance costs and harm wildlife and habitats.



Current OSR Projects

- Mayor's Monarch Pledge
- Pesticide-Free Pledge
 - Yard signs
- Biodiversity in the Community Survey
- Release week of June 19th (National Pollinator Week)

Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals:

- To help protect the environment, my health, and the health of the community, I pledge to eliminate synthetic pesticide use on my lawn and garden.**

Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides and all other substances used to control plants or animals.

Optional:

- I will use only naturally derived organic fertilizers on my lawn and garden, such as compost, alfalfa meal and rock phosphate.
- I will use natural forms of lawn care, such as aeration, hand weeding, leaving grass clippings and mowing to a minimum 3-inch height.
- I will garden with native plants that are adapted to the area.
- I will water my lawn no more than 1 inch of water per week.
- I will fill out the Oak Park Community Biodiversity Survey.
- I will plant a monarch butterfly garden with milkweed in my yard.



No Mow May Survey

- 43 responses
- How often do you typically mow your lawn in the month of May?
 - 48% bi-weekly, 24% less than every 3 weeks, 17% weekly
- How important is it to you to support habitat for pollinators?
 - 76% very, 14% somewhat, 10% not

No Mow May Survey

- Would you be interested in participating in No Mow May in 2024?
 - 63% yes, 28% no, 9% maybe
- How many weeks would you be willing to delay mowing in May 2024? (31 responses)
 - 74%: 4 weeks
 - 16%: 3 weeks
 - 10%: 2 weeks
- Would you be willing to display a yard sign? (31 responses)
 - 81% yes, 3% no, 16% maybe



No Mow May Survey

Open-ended Comments

Comment Code	# of Comments	% of Comments	Comment Description
0	21	49%	No Comment
1	10	23%	Supports No Mow May
2	2	5%	Supports both No Mow May and increased native plantings
3	5	12%	Supports protecting pollinators and indicates issues associated with No Mow May, such as the spreading of weeds. Recommends planting native plants instead.
4	3	7%	General opposition to No Mow May
5	2	5%	Other
Total	43	100%	



ENABLING LANGUAGE	PROJECT	OUTCOMES/METRICS	OWNER/WORKING PAIR	TIMEFRAME	BUDGET	2023 UPDATES
The best methods of maintaining an environment beneficial to the Village	Biodiversity Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise on ordinance(s) and launch program(s). Board adoption of biodiversity-supporting ordinance(s), e.g., Quiet & zero-emission landscaping; Landscaping code update; Sustainable parkway gardening; Light pollution mitigation - Establish baseline measurement of community-installed green infrastructure - Establish baseline measurement of landscape-related enforcement 	Laura Derks / Emily Neumann	<p>Q1 - Q4. Develop & implement stakeholder engagement strategy for proposed ordinances and programs. Develop & implement community green infrastructure data collection strategy.</p> <p>Q1 Develop ordinance and implement before spring bird migration</p> <p>Q1 Zero – emissions ordinance feasibility and passage. Programmatic needs identified.</p>	<p>\$400 Tabling materials – Arbor Day, Earth month</p> <p>TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Q2 - Help develop educational materials for light ordinance, zero emissions lawncare and pollinator friendly lawncare for residential and commercial landscapes and for new greenways planting options. Work with VOP Communications staff to disseminate</p> <p>Q2. Engage in OP Arbor Day & Earth Month activities.</p> <p>Q3/Q4. Tabling/ speaking at DioV / other regional community events.</p>	

Questions?

