

Glencoe Sustainability Task Force 2021 Summary Report

Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic, the Glencoe Sustainability Task Force (GSTF) continued to elevate the community's focus on creating a sustainable future. The GSTF is grateful for the ongoing support of the Village Board, as well as our partners-School District 35, Glencoe Park District, Glencoe Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Glencoe Rotary, Glencoe Community Garden, the Friends of the Green Bay Trail, and the businesses in Glencoe.

In 2020, the GSTF established working groups focused on specific sustainability target areas. Each group is responsible for developing and implementing specific action plans in its area of responsibility. The working groups are focused on:

- Carbon Reduction
- Green Lawns
- Ravines and the Tree Canopy
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Sustainable Businesses
- Water Use, Protection and Conservation
- Public Awareness

The following are some of the 2021 GSTF accomplishments:

Carbon Reduction

- Worked with Village staff to obtain grant funding for the installation of EV charging stations in the Village. Two charging ports are in process of installation in the downtown Village Court parking lot.
- Encouraged and supported the Village's participation in the CS² Community Solar program, including the preparation of a blog article explaining the concept of Community Solar. To date, only 39 households and businesses have signed up for subscriptions which did not meet expectations. The passage of the 2021 Climate and Jobs Equity Act by the Illinois legislature will increase the opportunity for additional households to enroll in the program. The GSTF will renew efforts to drive community awareness and enrollment in this program during 2022.
- Sponsored and organized library webinar programs to reduce household carbon emissions. This included a webinar with Northshore Gas and ComEd Energy to explore audit programs and financial rebates supporting the installation of energy-conserving technologies and more in-depth energy audits available through a private vendor. Another webinar focused on the impact of beef consumption on the environment and examples of "Meatless Monday" alternative recipes.
- Sponsored a vigorous "Walk, Bike, and Roll to School" campaign in partnership with District 35. Planned in-school communications, provided signage, provided volunteers to conduct pre/post-counts, and acquired incentives from local businesses to encourage kid-powered transportation to school.
- Initiated a "no-idling" campaign aimed primarily at reducing idling around the Glencoe schools and Park District facilities. Designed no-idling signage for key locations as well as general awareness signage in downtown Glencoe. As part of this program, the GSTF

sponsored the passage of a no-idling proclamation by the Village Board of Trustees, making Glencoe a no-idling community.

- Assisted the Active Transportation Alliance in preparing maps of scenic biking routes in Glencoe.

Green Lawns

- Rolled out a campaign to focus on homeowners leaving the leaves to promote a healthier bio-sphere in our lawns. Launched a postcard campaign, created yard signs and other promotional materials and sponsored an educational webinar on methods and benefits of leaving the leaves. In conjunction with this program, the GSTF sponsored a Village Board action to develop a multi-community phase-out of the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. The Village of Glencoe has taken a leadership position among North Shore communities in establishing a 12-village consortium to develop a framework for a gradual phase-out.
- Sponsored and organized library webinar programs on green gardening, invasive species migratory birds and bird identification. GSTF collaborated with the Glencoe Community Garden and Friends of the Green Bay Trail for programs on growing plants from seeds and a brief history of trees.
- Conducted a contest for the selection of Glencoe’s “Most Im-Peck-Able Bird” in May 2021, in conjunction with School District 35 and with the webinar programming on birds. The winner of this contest, the ruby-throated hummingbird, will be used to further promote sustainability ideas and practices.

Ravines and Tree Canopy

- Maintained contact with the Lake County Storm Water Management Commission as they developed the Lake Michigan Watershed Ravine Management Plan, seeking their guidance on the condition and needs of the Glencoe ravine system. Their draft planning document was due in the spring of 2021 but has been repeatedly delayed due to the Covid pandemic.
- Prepared and made available a ravine management educational brochure for ravine property owners. This effort is part of our ongoing project to finish work initiated several years ago to establish a ravine alliance to get owners vested in the stewardship of the ravines.
- Evaluated tree protection ordinances from surrounding municipalities and the Morton Arboretum and supplied recommendations to Village staff on “best practices”.

Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Organized the 2021 Donate and Recycle Drop-Off Event. Glencoe residents had spent their days during the stay-at-home order going through their basements and attics as virtually every collection station at the event was inundated with materials. By the end of the event, nearly 3.6 tons of electronic waste, 2.5 tons of household goods, and 52 bikes were diverted from the landfill for recycling and reuse. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) also collected two 20 cubic yard roll-offs of construction debris and Flat Can Recycling collected 60 paint spray cans for



Bikes Collected at the Donate and Recycle Drop-Off Event

recycling. More items were donated to Evanston Rebuilding, Goodwill and Play-It-Again Sports. In addition, Glencoe hosted the regional U.S. EPA hazardous waste drop-off program and hosted a document destruction and electronic recycling event with SWANCC.

- Established a curbside textile recycling program with Simple Recycling for the pickup of fabrics and used clothing for recycling. Discussions with Terracycle for recycling materials not accepted by LRS such as beauty products and personal shaving razors are ongoing.
- Teamed up with the Glencoe Park District and local Scout troops to organize a cleanup day of the beach, parks and other open spaces in recognition of Earth Day for 2021.

Sustainable Business Initiatives

- Met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and the business community to obtain input on possible ways in which the GSTF can support their efforts to be more sustainable financially and environmentally.

Water Use, Protection and Conservation

- Posted several blog pieces on water conservation and prepared a poster supporting those efforts for 2021.
- As a part of the smart water meter replacement program, the Village identified some 300 homes that have lead pipe services. The GSTF recommended that the Village notify those homeowners regarding remediation and replacement of lead pipe services.
- The GSTF made recommendations to the Glencoe Park District concerning alternative wastewater management options in the renovation of Kalk Park and for future GPD park renovations.

Public Awareness

- Developed a more comprehensive approach to publicizing the various GSTF programs and initiatives. In connection with that effort, numerous articles were published via the Glencoe Anchor and the new GSTF blog, as well as #SustainabilityStar posts on Village social media recognizing various sustainability efforts by local businesses.
- Partnered with Glencoe Public Library, Friends of Green Bay Trail and Glencoe Community Garden to sponsor an ongoing Green Living webinar series which can be found on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3BdJX9d>
- Participated in the Friends of the Green Bay Trail Day, providing an educational “recycling game” and information on STF initiatives. Also attended the Glencoe Farmers’ Market.

EcoDistricts

- The GSTF presented the EcoDistrict planning concept to the Village Planning Commission, the Library Board and the Community Relations Forum. We made recommendations to the Plan Commission to craft an approach to planning that incorporates the concepts of the EcoDistrict Protocol and, most importantly, the degree of inclusivity contemplated the Protocol as a part of the upcoming Glencoe comprehensive plan process.



GSTF Booth at a Friends of the Friends of the Green Bay Trail Day