



MOUNT PROSPECT **SUSTAINABILITY** news

SUMMER 2025

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC UTENSIL REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Village successfully rolled out its new Single Use Plastic Utensil Reduction Program in March of 2025. The program aims to reduce the usage of single-use plastic utensils at restaurants, cafes, and other dining establishments. Businesses do not receive any financial incentive for participating in this program. Participants are voluntarily trying to make a difference in the community through their participation in the program.

The program finds its roots in the Sustainability Plan, which was made in partnership with the Mount Prospect Village Board and the Mount Prospect Sustainability Committee.

Participating businesses can be spotted in the community with the sky blue sign (pictured to the right) located on their store front. Trifold are also located at carryout areas specifically informing customers that they will not receive a



plastic utensil unless they ask for one. Employees at the participating businesses are also asked to refrain from automatically handing out utensils and ask customers if they need utensils. A list of participants and photos can be seen on the following page.

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S.U.P.U.R PROGRAM

Participating Businesses

- Amante Bakery
- Avanti Cafe
- El Famous Burrito
- E-Sushi
- Hongdae Bar & Grill
- Jameson's Charhouse
- Khepri Cafe
- Lady Dahlia
- Le Peep Cafe
- MIA's Cantina
- Mount Prospect Public House
- Shish Kabob & Grill
- Smoothie King
- Surf's Up
- Taco Bell
- The Red Barn
- Trezeros Kitchen & Tap
- Tru Bowl
- Wah Taj Indo-Pak Fusion



“My main reason for participating is that I think it's important to collaborate and learn early with all of the municipalities where we do business to find win-win-win solutions for business, Village, and the environment. This is possible to do by understanding the human condition and striving for realistic environmental goals.”

- JJ Kallergis, President of Fiesta Holdings Inc.



SOLAR IN MOUNT PROSEPT

Getting Started - Planning for Solar

Interested in learning more about solar panel installation or don't know where to start? No worries! the Village has been working to simplify the process for acquiring a solar panel permit at your

home or commercial space! Review the information in the following sections for more information about the requirements to install solar panels in the Village!

Rooftop Mounted PV Solar Systems Requirements:

- Cannot project higher than the maximum building height permitted for the zoning district. If mounted on an accessory structure, the system shall not project higher than the structure's permitted maximum height.
- If mounted on a pitched roof, shall be mounted flush with the slope of the roof and shall not extend further than twelve inches from the roof surface at any point. Solar PV system shall not extend beyond the ridgeline of the roof.
- Safely and securely attached to the rooftop in compliance with the Village of Mount Prospect building code.
- Installation of solar PV systems must be designed to avoid creating glare or reflection onto adjacent properties and adjacent roadways. Exterior surfaces need a nonreflective finish and be color coordinated to harmonize with roof materials and dominant structure colors.
- All solar PV systems structures, including roof mounted, towers, and accessory buildings, shall conform to the appropriate Village related rules and regulations pertaining to their construction, design, operation, and maintenance.

63 PERMITS FOR SOLAR PANELS ISSUED IN 2024

SOLAR IN MOUNT PROSEPT

Permits Needed for Solar Installation

Similar to other construction projects in the Village, permits are required to install solar panels. Permits must be approved prior to the start of any work. All permits can be filled out on the Village's permit application portal "Citizen Serve." Click the link [HERE](#) to access the portal.

Once on Citizen Serve, users will need to select the "apply online" option and begin the process. Part of the process will involve creating an online account. The account will be used in the future to monitor your permit status and the approval process!

Other Documents You Will Need:

- Drawings or a letter signed and sealed by an Illinois Licensed Design Professional that identifies the ability of the existing roof structure to accommodate the additional loads. Any necessary bracing or reinforcing is required to be identified.
- Manufacturer's specification sheets with installation instructions with the letter from the Design Professional.
- If a system were to be proposed outside of the principle structure of the building, the structural integrity of the stand or mounting system and the electrical requirements for connecting into the principle structure must be verified.
- Electrical system one-line diagram, service and sub-panel load calculations, and roof layout.
- Provide clear color pictures of the electrical panel, proposed sub-panel location and of the interior of the electrical and sub-panels with the cover removed. Indicate how the required [code clearances](#) are and will be obtained.
- Clear pictures of the meter socket enclosure, riser, masthead, and riser wire are required. Indicate how all required [code clearances](#) are met. Grounding electrode conductor and jumper must be code compliant with the 2014 NEC.
- Clear color pictures of the bonding wire between the hot water, cold water, and gas piping.



Cook County Sun and Save

Cook County Sun and Save installs solar photovoltaic systems at no cost for income-qualified residences and homeowners in Cook County. The goal of this program is to make solar installations more affordable and accessible to eligible Cook County residents.

Cook County Sun and Save fully covers the cost of residential solar system installations as well as some roof and electrical repairs on income-eligible owner-occupied homes in Cook County that meet the program's guidelines.

Benefits of solar panel installations for homeowners ultimately means the cost of utility bills will be lower over the lifetime of the solar system. This program also reduces barriers to clean energy for residents, reducing their energy burden and utility bills, as well as helping to reduce our region's carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.

Click the link [HERE](#) to visit the Cook County Sun and Save programs website!

Community Solar

Looking to make the jump to solar but worried about the up-front costs or don't have the space? The Village partnered with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to launch the state's largest community solar program called the CS2 Residential and Small Commercial Program, providing consumers easy access to community solar farms in northern Illinois.

Community solar projects generate electricity, and that power is delivered into the electric grid of the utility. The community solar project signs up subscribers and each subscriber receives

monthly net metering credits based on the size of their subscription, how much the community solar project generates, and the subscriber's electricity supply arrangement. Each subscription is tied to a specific community solar project.

Click the link [HERE](#) to join the waitlist. You are not obligated to participate by putting your name on the waitlist. The Program's Billing Administrator - MC Squared Energy Services, LLC - will be handling all of the sign-ups and account administration.

SUMMER WATER USE

Landscaping Water Usage

Why does it matter?

Smart watering is something that may not seem important, but making a few changes to your water use can lead to a wide range of benefits. The reduction of water use limits the stress put on our supplies of fresh water. Reduction can also do things like limit the run off of pesticides into waterways, improve planting conditions, and save homeowners money!

Watering How Often?

Plants typically only need one inch of water per week. This inch includes any rainfall that occurred in the past week. Determining how often to water does vary, so monitor the weather and stay up to speed on precipitation in the area.

Lawn Watering

Green lawns are not usually the preferred option for sustainable best practices, but there are many ways that you can help make your lawn be the greenest and most sustainable lawn in the neighborhood!

Take a break this summer and give your lawn a break from watering as well. Less frequent and properly timed waterings are two easy ways to help your lawn.

What Does an Inch of Water Look Like?

The Illinois EPA offers a suggestion for how to tell when you're at one inch of water:

“Place a few empty tuna cans around your lawn while you're watering and measure how long it takes your sprinkler to fill them with a half inch of water. Then, try watering that amount of time twice a week, gauge how your landscape responds, and adjust based on weather conditions.”



These two actions in conjunction cause the roots of grasses to reach deeper into the soil and lead to improved long-term growth. The best time to water your lawn is in the morning before 10 a.m. Watering at night can lead to fungus growth and watering during peak heat leads to evaporation and prevents water from going deep in the soil.

SUMMER WATER USE

What Are Aquifers?

Groundwater aquifers are layers of porous sediment or rock that can store and transmit water underground. In northeast Illinois, aquifers are not underground lakes or rivers. Instead, the water flows in the pore spaces between the grains of sand and gravel, or in the fractures of hard bedrock. Groundwater is replenished when rainfall or snowmelt soaks into the soil and is filtered as it percolates downward, filling in the pores and cracks of the soil and rock below ground. The size of the aquifer and how easily water can flow through it help to dictate the aquifer's ability to provide drinking water through wells.

Large areas of northeast Illinois have a unique geology that provides access to several forms of groundwater aquifers that are not found in many other parts of the state. These geologic formations include shale and gravel aquifers, shallow bedrock aquifers, and Deep Bedrock aquifers.

Source: "The groundwater guide: Where our water comes from and the challenges communities face", - **Scott Kuykendall**



Nothing says summer like a hot day and lounging by the pool. While enjoying those nice summer "vibes," pool owners can help the community and reduce the overall amount of water usage.

Pools take a massive amount of water to fill and can also use large amounts of water to maintain the needed water levels. Like any other water left out in the

sun during sunny days, pool water can evaporate out of pools and eventually be refilled. The solution to this can be incredibly simple and most pool owners already have the solution to this problem at their homes. If pools continue to be covered during the summer while not in use, this can reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation by over 95%!

Keeping the pool covered can also reduce the amount of chemicals used in the water and also limits the amount of general pool upkeep needed to keep it clean of other debris.



Mayors' Monarch Pledge

The Village of Mount Prospect officially pledged to take part in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge on April 22. The 2025 Pledge year began with a proclamation from Mayor Paul Wm. Hoefert. The pledge helps raise awareness for the declining monarch population, the need for monarch habitat, and a statement that

the Village will incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

The Village will contribute to the program by supporting a native plant or seed giveaway as well as continuing to maintain a pollinator and monarch friendly garden in the Village.

Why Sustainability Matters - Summer Heat

One of the most complex and daunting challenges facing the world is climate change and the subsequent global warming. As we look towards summer and the warming temperatures, it's important to also understand the impacts global warming is having on summer time heat and the dangers this causes to human health.

Global temperatures increased by 2.3 degrees in 2024 when compared to average temperatures between 1951 and 1980. Increases in daily temperature averages are leading to communities experiencing an increased amount of heat waves. These heat waves are increasing in intensity, duration, and frequency. All of

these variables are expected to increase if current trends are continued moving forward.

Heat waves lead to "hot days" or days that are in or above the 99th percentile of historical averages for a day. Hot days see an increased likelihood of heat related hospitalization and even death from weather related causes. Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather related death in the US.

As an example of these impacts, King County in Washington sees a 10% increase in hospitalization and 2% increase in deaths relating directly to weather related causes on hot days.

The data for this article came from an article written by the Climate Impact Group. Click [HERE](#) to access the full article.