

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
3/21/2023

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Greenest Region Compact	Dave Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

Discussion of participation in the Greenest Region Compact

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Strategic Goals include *Steward of Financial, Environmental and Neighborhood Sustainability*. The following is an excerpt from the 2021-2023 Long Range Plan:

Environmental sustainability refers to the Village's responsibility to deliver its services in a way that protects or enhances natural resources. The Village seizes opportunities to 'green' its operations when possible, whether by seeking grants to introduce new environmentally friendly practices or by seeking the most environmentally friendly option for existing services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of participating in the Greenest Region Compact varies based on the Village's level of effort. The potential financial and operational impacts of participation are described in the Background section below.

RECOMMENDATION

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION

This item was discussed at the March 7, 2023 Village Council meeting. Staff recommends action at the discretion of the Council.

If approved, further discussion on the Village's participation in and implementation of the Greenest Region Compact will take place during Long Range Planning discussions this summer. A resolution endorsing the Greenest Region Compact has been prepared.

BACKGROUND

At the January 10, 2023 meeting, the Village Council directed staff to explore joining the Greenest Region Compact and review the GRC documentation to determine the time commitment necessary to join and discuss as a Council adoption of the document. The Council also directed staff to prepare a report analyzing the extent to which Village environmental sustainability efforts comport with the Greenest Region Compact Framework (see attached report).

Because the GRC is not a prescriptive program and participating municipalities decide how to best implement the program, the financial and operational impacts are dependent on the level of effort and engagement selected by the municipality. Staff has identified and summarized four potential options for participating in the GRC.

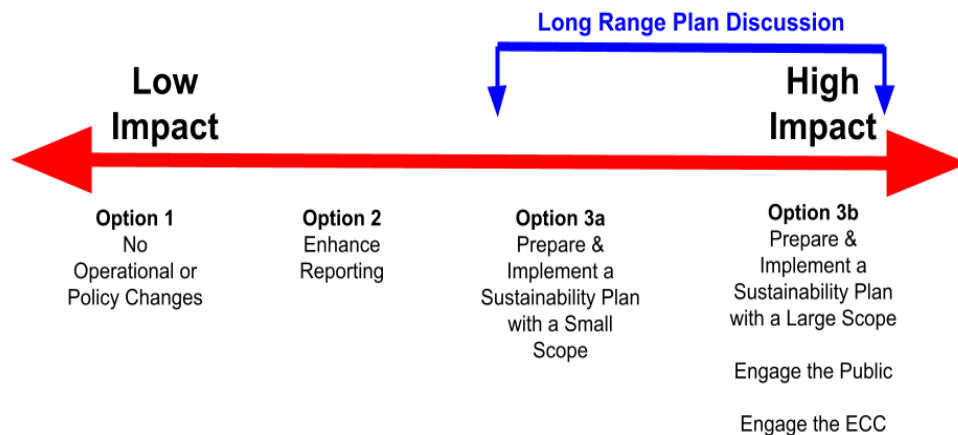
Table 1

Options for Participating in the Greenest Region Compact

Opt	Description	Actions	Impacts
1	No Operational or Policy Changes	The VoDG would adopt the GRC Resolution. No new actions would be undertaken. The VoDG would continue to undertake environmental sustainability efforts in the same manner currently employed.	No Impact
2	Report on Current Actions	The GRC framework would be used as a basis for reporting on the VoDG's environmental sustainability efforts. Staff would identify which of the goals and objectives in the GRC framework the VoDG has accomplished or is pursuing. Staff would report the findings to the Council.	Minor Impact Existing staff members would perform this work with no significant impact to operations.
3	Prepare and Implement a Sustainability Plan	The VoDG would use the GRC framework to create and implement a Sustainability Plan. The extent and complexity of the Sustainability Plan would be determined by the Council. The Sustainability Plan could range from a small document containing only a few goals, objectives and deliverables selected from the GRC framework to a very large document including all of the goals, objectives and deliverables in the GRC framework. Preparation of a Sustainability Plan should be considered a Priority Action Item and discussed as part of Long Range Planning.	
3A	Staff Only	Under this option, staff would prepare and implement the Sustainability Plan pursuant to the direction of the Village Council.	Moderate to Significant operational and financial impact.

			<p>Preparation of a large scale Sustainability Plan may prompt the Village to hire an environmental planner, scientist or engineer (\$100,000 estimated annual cost)</p> <p>Implementation of the Sustainability Plan would range in cost from small amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for large scale projects.</p>
3B	Staff and ECC	Under this option, staff would engage with the Environmental Concerns Commission to prepare and implement the Sustainability Plan pursuant to the direction of the Village Council.	<p>Moderate to Significant operational and financial impact.</p> <p>In addition to the impacts noted above, the Village would host monthly ECC meetings. A staff liaison would be assigned. It is likely that an additional staff member would be needed.</p>

GRC Implementation Options



RESOLUTION NO. ____**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE
METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS'
GREENEST REGION COMPACT**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus provides a forum for the chief elected officials of the Chicago region to develop consensus and act on common public policy issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' participating Mayors and their communities have a history of environmental stewardship, from energy efficiency, water conservation, urban forestry, and participation in Clean Air Counts; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Mayors and local governments throughout the United States to take leadership roles to advance sustainability both in their own communities and in concert with regional, national and global initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus created the Greenest Region Compact to address environmental sustainability issues of global importance at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact, an update to the original pledge and sometimes referred to as the Greenest Region Compact 2, is built on important environmental initiatives already underway in communities, in partnership with many non-profit, state, regional and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact synthesizes sustainability goals already adopted by leading communities in the region; and these consensus goals align with common regional, state, national and global objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Greenest Region Compact offers a companion Framework to guide communities of all sizes and strengths to assess their current efforts; develop a sustainability plan suited to local priorities; and will offer resources to help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, the consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact will guide coordinated efforts toward enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Downers Grove endorses the Greenest Region Compact proposed by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and agrees to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region.

Mayor

Passed:

Attest: _____
Village Clerk