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### Environmental initiatives earn accolades

Oak Park has been designated a *platinum* community by Clean Air Counts, a regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, City of Chicago and the Illinois EPA. The designation was based on Oak Park's demonstrated commitment to the environment and leadership with initiatives including:

- Creating the multi-modal station downtown that links mass transit systems
- Implementing the free Oak Park Shuttle
- Installing a compressed natural gas fueling station
- Expanding the municipal fleet of alternate fuel vehicles
- Purchasing *Energy Star* office equipment
- Conducting a gasoline-powered lawn care equipment exchange
- Maintaining natural grass plantings in commercial planters and landscaped areas
- Adopting seasonal leaf blower restrictions
- Using public education to encourage residents to reduce pollution on Ozone Action Days
- Adopting policies to use low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and cleaning products in public buildings
- Converting traffic signals and emergency vehicle lighting systems to LEDs
- Installing energy efficient induction street lights in select areas
- Increasing bike rack installations
- Adopting the International Energy Conservation Code
- Constructing a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rated Public Works facility
- Supporting the Suburban Bike Ambassador program in partnership with the Chicago Bike Federation
- Enhancing public education efforts to promote Clean Air Counts programs

Other environmental programs cited include the paint exchange, annual family bicycling event and creating a range of educational materials such as the *Recycling Resource Guide*.

For more information on the Village's recycling and environmental programs call 358.5700 or e-mail [public@oak-park.us](mailto:public@oak-park.us). Information about Clean Air Counts is available at [www.cleanaircounts.org](http://www.cleanaircounts.org).

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