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### Village President to join green cities panel discussion

Oak Park's leadership in raising awareness of the role of municipal government in fostering environmental sustainability earned Village President David G. Pope an invitation to join Mayors Richard M. Daley of Chicago, Gene Marks of Northbrook and Thomas Murawski of Midlothian for a roundtable discussion of Chicagoland climate change initiatives.

The panel, part of the [Chicago Humanities Festival](#), is scheduled for noon, Sat., Nov. 10, in Thorne Auditorium, Northwestern University School of Law, 375 E. Chicago Ave. The topic is *Green Cities of the Future* – how cities are working to meet the challenge of a more sustainable urban future. Attendance is projected to exceed 700.

“This invitation to participate on a panel with such distinguished individuals is recognition of the efforts and commitment of the Village Board and Village Manager to future leadership on the vital issue of sustainability,” Pope said.

“Visibility for Oak Park as a leading voice in sustainability stems at least in part from our support of the [GreenTown](#) conference, since only three of the five communities in the region to receive platinum level designation from *Clean Air Counts* were invited to participate in the Festival's program.”

*Clean Air Counts* is a regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, City of Chicago and the Illinois EPA. Oak Park's platinum designation was based on a range of initiatives, including the following:

- 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

More information on this year's Festival, entitled *A Climate of Concern*, may be found online at [www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org). For information on Pope's panel, [click here](#).

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