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Village honored for efforts to improve air quality

The [Village of Oak Park](#) has been honored by environmental policy advocates for its efforts to improve air quality, including building the state's first green public works facility and having one of the region's largest fleets of alternative fuel vehicles.

Oak Park was the only municipality among the five organizations honored last week by *Partners for Clean Air*, a Chicago-area coalition of more than 300 businesses, local governments, state agencies and environmental organizations.

The award was presented as part of the PFCA's 13th anniversary meeting. Other recipients were Abt Electronics, Jewel-Osco, Motorola Inc. and Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet.

The [Oak Park Public Works Center](#) also was recently honored as Project of the Year by [Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the American Public Works Association](#). The new facility at South Boulevard and Lombard Avenue was designed to be energy efficient, environmentally friendly and at home in its predominantly residential neighborhood.

Low-emission paints, adhesives, coatings, sealants and carpeting were used throughout, while nearly 90 percent of the materials from the demolition of the old facility was recycled. The new Public Works Center contains 155,000 square feet of space and features large windows for natural light, low-energy fluorescent lighting and high-efficiency heating and cooling to be 40 percent more efficient than the old building. Low-flow faucets and landscape design also reduced water usage by 20 percent.

The Village's alternative fuel fleet includes 110 vehicles that use natural gas or biodiesel fuel, earning the [Illinois Green Fleets](#) designation by the state [Environmental Protection Agency](#).

For more information on the Oak Park Public Works Center and other environmental initiatives, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

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