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Media Release

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FRANKLIN PARK WINS GOVERNOR'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD Village Selected for Achievements in Environmental Protection

Franklin Park, IL – The Village of Franklin Park was awarded with the Governor's Sustainability Award as a result for its commitment to excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

"This award is a great achievement for Franklin Park," stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "Our Village has embraced the notion that sustainable practices are not only beneficial to our planet but must be fiscally responsible too. The Board and I have made it a priority to adopt sustainable practices when addressing municipal functions whenever possible and we have worked hard to encourage our residents and businesses to also embrace sustainability."

Mayor Pedersen has demonstrated a passion for protecting the environment and has undertaken many initiatives that work toward sustaining our environment and our economy with renewable, sustainable practices.

"It is a great honor to receive the Governor's Award for Sustainability," added Mayor Pedersen. "Under Governor Quinn's leadership, the State of Illinois has implemented and supported more sustainability projects than at any time in our state's history."

The Village utilized a \$985,000 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) grant in 2012 in the building of the Village's LEED Gold Certified police station. The grant allowed for the creation of cutting edge storm-water management practices which utilize green infrastructure to capture, filter, infiltrate and detain storm-water runoff at the new facility.

The new police station incorporated innovative, sustainable energy features, including a high efficiency ventilation system making the building 96% energy efficient. LED lighting systems were utilized with motion switches in every room, helping to reduce energy costs. Local and recycled materials were utilized during construction. Rainwater from the roof is collected into a cistern and used for irrigation and in the public restroom fixtures to reduce water use. Permeable pavers and porous pavement were utilized in the driveway and parking lot to limit runoff and therefore reduce sewer overflows. These permeable surfaces also help to reduce the heat island effect.

The Village was also recognized for our efforts to replace outdated vehicles with energy efficient Electric Vehicles and for installing charging stations at Village Hall, the Metra Train Station and encouraging Walgreens to do the same. By adopting an aggressive public information campaign to encourage residents to more fully utilize the existing community-wide recycling program, the Village has increased the amount of recycling per household from 8.2 to 10.9 pounds per week. An anti-idling policy restricts police vehicles from idling on area streets resulting in gasoline savings of \$40,000 and eliminated the release of 27,818 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere annually.

“As government leaders, we have the opportunity and the obligation, at the state and local level to make our communities to curb and end the practices that are devastating our planet,” said Pedersen. “In Franklin Park, we believe that everyone can do their part to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses we put into the environment. Together, we can work together to sustain our precious earth, air and water.”

The Governor's Sustainability Awards are presented annually in partnership with the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center at Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois. The awards are given to organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.