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## **Media Release**

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### **MAYOR BARRETT PEDERSEN WINS PRESTIGIOUS GREEN INTELLIGENCE AWARD**

#### **Mayor is Recognized for His Commitment to Sustainability by the West Central Municipal Conference**

**Franklin Park, IL** – Mayor Barrett Pedersen was presented with the 2014 Green Intelligence Award by the West Central Municipal Conference at their annual dinner recently. The award was presented to Mayor Pedersen by Governor Pat Quinn who praised the Mayor's sustainability accomplishments and commitment to preserving our environment.

"This Green Intelligence Award is a testament, not only to the dedication of our Village government, but to our residents and businesses who have worked with us to embrace sustainability," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "This award will go a long way toward inspiring more initiatives, not only in Franklin Park, but throughout our region and state."

Since taking office, Mayor Pedersen has demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment and has undertaken many initiatives that work toward sustaining our environment and our economy with renewable, sustainable practices.

"It is an incredible honor not only to receive this award, but also have it presented by Governor Quinn," said Pedersen. "Governor Quinn and I share a passion for protecting the environment.

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 Mayor thanked the Governor for a \$985,000 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) grant awarded to the Village in 2012 which was utilized 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 and LED lighting systems 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 has also implemented several sustainability projects of note including replacing outdated vehicles with energy efficient Electric Vehicles, installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations at Village Hall, the Metra Train Station and at Walgreens, replacing inefficient lights and motors in Village facilities with high efficiency equipment and provided residents with new 64 gallon recycling bins to help decrease tonnage that goes into landfills. Natural lawn care is utilized on all Village owned properties and whenever possible, the Village purchases energy from renewable sources and encourages the removal of impervious surfaces to help reduce flooding.

The Mayor concluded his remarks by referring to the concrete evidence and data that climate change is real and noting that we have had one of the hottest decades on record.

"I believe we will face far more environmental challenges in the near future, as severe weather continues, including more droughts, super storms and wildfires," added Pedersen. "As government leaders, we have the opportunity and the obligation, at the state and local level to make our communities more resistant to these dramatic changes and to curb and end the

practices that are devastating our planet. We can work to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses we put into the environment by reducing driving time and driving more energy efficient vehicles and taking simple steps like reducing our energy consumption by turning off lights. I encourage all of us to continue to work together to sustain our precious earth, air and water.”