

GO GREEN SKOKIE SENT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO MAYORAL AND TRUSTEE CANDIDATES WHO ARE RUNNING FOR ELECTION IN 2025.

1

Where does climate change mitigation fit into your list of priorities for the Village?

2

If you had a magic wand that could immediately implement 5 action items from the Environmental Sustainability Plan for free, which 5 would you choose and why?

3

What sustainability measures have you implemented in your household in the last 5 years?

4

How will you promote environmental education and awareness among residents, especially the younger generation, to foster a culture of sustainability?

5

Describe what you would like Skokie to look like in 2040 (15 years from now) in terms of the following categories:

- A. Building arrangement and efficiency
- B. Community
- C. Transportation
- D. Commerce
- E. Walkability
- F. Green spaces
- G. Waste management
- H. Food

Go Green Skokie

6

What do you see as the Village Board's role in realizing this vision of Skokie? How does that fit with the 2022 Environmental Sustainability Plan and its current implementation process?

7

Given that a certain amount of additional warming is inevitable now, what measures would you like to see to make Skokie more resilient to extreme weather events?

**The following pages are to inform the public about the candidates' answers, not to endorse the candidate.
Not all candidates returned their answers.**



Select the names of the mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025 to see their answers.

If there is no link, the candidate didn't return their answers.

Go Green Skokie sorted them by position and alphabetical order of the candidate's first name.

Position	Candidate names
Mayor	Ann Tennes Charles Marbena Isho David "Azi" Lifsys
Trustees: At-Large	Gail Schechter Joseph S. Nowik Keith A. Robinson Khemarey "Khem" Khoeun
Trustee: District 1	Kimani Levy Patrick Blackwell Samantha Abraham
Trustee: District 2	Alison Pure-Slovin Nathan Norman
Trustee: District 3	Lissa Levy (unopposed)
Trustee - District 4	Edward Olivieri James Iverson



Go Green Skokie sent 7 questions to all mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025. The following 5 pages are to inform the public about the following candidate's answers, not to endorse the candidate.

Ann Tennes, Mayoral Candidate

1

For too long, many have seen climate change mitigation as a “nice to have,” rather than a “must have.” The truth is that preparing for and minimizing climate impact is critical to ensuring that Skokie continues to be a place where people want to live, work, dine and shop.

Skokie's 2022 Environmental Sustainability Plan lays out a number of important steps the Village can be taking now and in the years ahead. I am proud to have been involved in shaping the plan shortly before my retirement from the Village. To the credit of the Village staff, led by Public Works, the Village Manager, and Sustainability Coordinator, there has been a good effort to execute the plan's action items. Still, there's also more we can be doing on these three areas of priority for sustainability:

- I. Preparing the Village for direct climate impacts – extreme weather events and stormwater management. These disruptions impact residents and businesses alike - and have an impact on Skokie's economy and livability. The mitigation strategies identified by the stormwater task force must be a continued focus.
- II. Promoting sustainable practices, adaptability and resiliency through policies and operations.
- III. Engaging the public, enlisting participation and mobilizing the community's collective creativity to address environmental and sustainability issues.

In addition to explicit sustainability initiatives, sustainable practices should be baked into the functions and operations of the Village government.

2

The fact that there are so many wonderful actions laid out in the plan made this particularly difficult. As mayor, I want to ensure we keep moving the ball forward on a number of the actions that Skokie's just started to get underway, as well as embark on other ones that haven't yet been initiated. To this end, I selected actions that are not yet deemed “complete” in the Skokie Sustainability Plan Updates document.

I. TM 1- 3: Conduct a Sidewalk and Bike Path Quality Assessment and Master Plan to identify needs to accelerate bike paths, building sidewalks, crosswalks, and other walking infrastructure, particularly in high-need areas and areas serving vulnerable populations. Create an implementation plan establishing annual increases in the total miles of sidewalks, on-road bicycle lanes and multi-use paths.

Residents are concerned about traffic, pedestrian and bike safety. Not only have there been multiple recent examples of vehicles crashing into houses, but residents also tell me that drivers are speeding through neighborhoods and ignoring traffic signs. Unsafe driving endangers us all – kids on the way to school, families on their way to houses of worship, workers on their way to public transit and folks on their way to the shop down the street. It also discourages us from walking or biking, eco-friendly habits that keep us healthier, more connected to our neighbors, and creates a sense of community. It's time to take this concern seriously.

II. LH 1- 6: Reconsider Village parking requirements and establish revisions which support the goals of this plan such as reducing overall parking requirements, establishing parking maximums, elimination or reduction of parking minimums, establishing minimum EV and bike parking requirements or incentives. Particular focus should be given to the Transit Oriented Development areas within a ¼-mile radius of train station and transit stops. Incorporate bicycle parking requirements in commercial districts.

Not only can updated parking requirements encourage more people to use more eco-friendly and healthier forms of transit, we've seen how overly strict parking minimums have impeded small business development. This is particularly true for restaurants, both in downtown and neighborhood settings.

[Answer to be continued on next page.]

Ann Tennes, Mayoral Candidate

2

III. LF 1- 2: Collaborate with schools and park district to establish a “Grow Skokie” program increasing community garden plots and establishing a “market garden” concept supporting garden and urban agriculture training and internship opportunities for youth. Program to work with local restaurants, food shelves, or others working directly with food-insecure individuals in the community for distribution of food grown in the “market garden.” Explore potential of partnering with Oakton Community College.

This action is such a creative way to increase community gardening, support young people in developing healthy habits and work experience, decrease food insecurity, and build community ties. People often ask me why I’ve chosen to dedicate my career to local government or why I’m running for mayor. The simple answer is it’s the opportunity to put plans like this into action that can have a real and lasting impact for so many.

IV. HS 2- 3: Develop and deploy early-warning response and community-alert plans and systems to notify residents and businesses, especially those most vulnerable, of poor air quality days, extreme weather events, extreme temperature events, potential energy and communication infrastructure failure, or other events which may pose health risks. Communication plan to include pathways for when community power and communication systems are non-functional.

Crises are a given, so the Village leaders need to be ready, whether it’s extreme weather or infrastructure failures, like we saw with the catastrophic water main break here just this past week. It’s paramount that we’re able to reach people quickly with the information they need to stay safe and protect their homes from damage. We also need to make sure that we’re getting the word out about where people can find up-to-the-moment critical updates from the Village.

V. EC 1- 2: Enlist the existing EDC, SEAC or a Green Economy Task Force to conduct a study to identify economic opportunities possible through the successful implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan and achievement of its goals, especially those which can provide opportunity for the community’s vulnerable populations.

Skokie’s Sustainability Plan lays out a set of actions with benefits that go far beyond sustainability – job creation, housing affordability, community-building, public health and safety, and economic development, to name just a few. The list goes on and on! But we need to make sure that these benefits reach all corners of Skokie. A study like this will help us not only identify new economic opportunities, but ensure these opportunities are being extended to those who can most benefit.

6

The present Village Board has taken a very passive approach to promoting sustainability. It’s time to take a much more proactive approach to executing on our excellent sustainability plan, which has so many good ideas for activating sustainable practices. There are also numerous examples of effective policies and practices throughout the country and globally that can be implemented in Skokie. Trustees should be leaders and advocates for sustainable practices and promote innovation and creativity.

Ann Tennes, Mayoral Candidate

3

Having served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) from 1992 to 1998, and working for a small, environmentally-focused non-profit in Des Plaines from 1989 to 1992, I began incorporating sustainability practices into my household more than 35 years ago. There's always more that can be done, but here are some highlights of both my long-term practices and a few new ones:

- I shifted to a vegan diet in 2019, and my husband did so in 2020. We purchase no animal products unless I am making baked goods for others or have guests visiting, which happens a few times each year.
- I regularly take vegetable scraps to Village composting drop-off locations.
- When we moved to Skokie in 2010 and rehabbed our home, we put in an energy-efficient HVAC system that we have regularly maintained for continued efficiency.
- We also installed new energy-efficient windows throughout the entire house. While this was done at a significant construction cost, we knew it was important for continued energy efficiency.
- Our appliances are energy efficient and all laundry is washed with cold water.
- We utilize mostly LED lightbulbs throughout our home.
- Except for very large events, I never use paper napkins in our home - as has been my practice since the late 1980s.
- When paper goods are necessary due to group size, I purchase products with post-consumer recycled content whenever possible. With large campaign events, I have been using compostable paper goods.
- To the extent possible, we use non-toxic cleaners in our home. White vinegar is a staple cleaning product in our home. We purchase liquid soap in bulk and refill containers.
- Since 1989, I have used cloth/reusable bags for grocery shopping and as many purchases as possible. I have quite a collection - some might be considered 'vintage' at this point! I request 'no bag' if it's just a few items and I don't have one of my own bags handy.
- We recycle everything feasible with the current Village program, and I'm careful to not utilize plastic bags during set out.
- All unwanted household items are given to someone who can use them or donated to Goodwill or another charity.
- Errands and outings are routed for efficiency, and I walk to local shops whenever possible. We also focus strongly on shopping and dining locally, which reduces car trips.
- Over the past 15 years I have converted all food storage items to glass rather than plastic. I avoid purchasing plastics whenever possible.
- I reference SWANCC's guidance on its website - which I first developed when I was with the agency - to recycle electronics and other items.
- For several years, I never throw away spent indoor or outdoor plants, instead just placing them above the soil in a back garden where they can decompose.
- I am now in the habit of taking a refillable water bottle and reusable cloth bag while traveling.-
- We play lots of tennis and make sure to give unused tennis balls to neighborhood pets or see that they're recycled.
- My goal for the coming year is to install some native plants in our gardens and continue to expand this over the next few years. I don't know if I'll achieve the full 'prairie lawn' that my young-adult daughter envisions, but we'll make progress.

Ann Tennes, Mayoral Candidate

4

The Village has a good municipal communications apparatus in place, but there are many competing messages about important initiatives, of which sustainability is just one. To better reach residents, it will be important to streamline and amplify sustainability messaging and leverage community resources. To this end, the Village could:

- Review the messaging around recycling, composting, etc., for accuracy, clarity, and simplicity and accessibility.
- Partner with SWANCC, the Park District and Library to promote themes and recurring, consistent messaging in the community.
- Work with local schools, school boards, and PTA groups to promote Village sustainability initiatives and support school-based initiatives. I started this work with SWANCC and am excited to continue it in Skokie.
- Proactively reach out to community groups, religious, social and business groups to support their initiatives with information and educational materials.
- Engage the business community to highlight their sustainability initiatives.
- Continue to promote and highlight sustainable practices at the Backlot Bash, Skokie Festival of Cultures, Skokie Farmers' and Winter Markets and more.
- Coordinate with the Niles Township Government and Food Pantry to promote food waste reduction.

7

- See question 1 regarding climate mitigation. We have a very good public works department, and we must make the requisite infrastructure improvements to mitigate stormwater runoff and heat island effect.
- We should also work with the public health department and commission to put into place and/or strengthen existing plans and responses to extreme weather events that would most adversely impact vulnerable populations.
- We should have an emergency management plan that coordinates all Village services, including first responders during extreme events, that is reviewed annually, and updated accordingly.
- The Village should promote education on what extreme weather events are possible and probable in Skokie, what public and private resources and services are available to respond and how local residents and businesses can be prepared for these events.

Ann Tennes, Mayoral Candidate

5



Building arrangement and efficiency

- All new construction and adaptive re-use of buildings includes state of the art energy efficiency and sustainable building practices.



Community

- An identifiable sense of place where residents and the business community engage with each other face-to-face and build a shared sense of community.



Transportation

- Reduced car dependence, much greater walkability and active transportation.
- Better access and utility of transit services within, as well as to and from, Village destinations.



Commerce

- The Village is a hub of local business and entrepreneurship.
- Larger retail, cultural and institutional enterprises are thriving regional centers recognized for their quality, innovation and excellence.
- The Village hosts innovative and active incubators for new businesses and creative enterprises.
- A healthy and robust industrial and logistical sector that is located and organized to minimize adverse impacts on neighboring commercial and residential areas.



Walkability

- An activated and meaningful complete streets ordinance and development practices that put people first.
- Traffic calming and pedestrian oriented design around all schools and parks.
- Road diets in commercial areas and community centers (e.g. Oakton Niles Center, Main near Crawford) to enable widening of sidewalks.



Green spaces

- Skokie has an integrated plan that incorporates public and private green spaces into a cohesive urban ecosystem that helps manage stormwater runoff, reduces the heat island effect, and promotes native plant and animal life (except rats).
- Working with the park district Skokie has a portfolio of publicly accessible green spaces that are equitably distributed throughout the community and are connected to local neighborhoods through a low-stress transportation network.
- Public green spaces feature native plants and abundant, diverse tree canopy
- Public recreation facilities are designed to enable healthy outdoor activity (e.g. appropriate shading, sufficient drinking water and hydration) with minimal maintenance requirements for effective use.



Waste management

- Local policies that promote reduced material consumption (minimize or eliminate disposables and single use products)
- Robust recycling and composting services for all residents and businesses.
- An active culture and support system for repairing goods rather than replacing with local businesses offering repair services and repair cafes.
- Skokie has implemented state-of-the-art building waste recovery and recycling practices for construction and building maintenance.



Food

- Skokie promotes and supports backyard and community vegetable gardens
- Skokie is supportive of urban gardening, including vertical gardens, hydroponics and greenhouses.
- Skokie has a network of composting and surplus food redistribution among restaurants and food stores.

David "Azi" Lifsics, Mayoral Candidate

1

Climate change mitigation is, of course, a high priority. We can take practical, cost-effective steps that improve our quality of life while encouraging sustainable choices. My priority is to make sure any environmental initiatives are effective, in accordance with the Sustainability Plan, and serve the needs of the residents of Skokie.

I've had many conversations about the environmental impact of any given policy change. We can and should be mindful of how our decisions on a personal as well as municipal level impact the environment. For example, encouraging the use of green building materials in new construction and discussing the ability to invest up front to realize long term savings in tandem with environmental wins.

2

If cost weren't a factor, I'd focus on the most practical, widely beneficial improvements:

- W 2: Update design standards and implement plans to meet projected climate change storm water and flood mitigation requirements. Upgrading storm water infrastructure to reduce flooding, helps in the immediate and long term.

- HS 3: Ensure that the Village's mission-critical, emergency services, and health care facilities are prepared for impacts of air quality, extreme heat, and cold, flooding, and power/infrastructure failure.

- HS 4: Strengthen community response capacity and social support networks for populations who are vulnerable to air quality, extreme temperature, flooding, and power/infrastructure failure impacts. As we have seen most recently this past week, HS3 and HS4 priorities help us in the immediate as well as the long-term.

- LF 3: Reduce food waste and hunger, achieve a 50% reduction in food insecurity community-wide by 2030. Food waste is an underreported issue. But it is a shame – and immoral – that people go hungry while food is thrown out. An egregious example of this is the reports of \$500 million in crops grown by US farmers being left to rot, while millions around the world face malnutrition, due to the overnight destruction of USAID. This issue is deeply important to me, at a local and national level.

- BE 7: Improve total municipal building energy efficiency by 15% by 2030 (electricity and natural gas). Our municipal government should lead the way on this issue and set an example for the private sector.

3

Like many residents, I've taken practical steps to reduce energy use and waste, such as:

- Switching to LED lighting and energy-efficient appliances to lower my electric usage. I am upgrading smart switches with automation functions, so lights and electronics do not stay on any longer than necessary.
- Being more cognizant of recycling and reducing waste where possible.
- Using a smart thermostat to optimize heating and cooling during multiple times of the day and night. My thermostat automatically lowers the temperature after bedtime, and when people are not at home, so as not to heat an empty house or when people are already asleep.
- We invested in a Gardyn for Mother's Day a few years back and were able to grow a variety of lettuces and vegetables indoor all year long.
- Supporting local businesses and farmers' markets when possible. The places I need to go to outside of Skokie have become fewer and fewer over the years, and I am perfectly happy staying here saving on fuel costs and producing less emissions.

4

The best way to encourage sustainability is through education. I'd support:

- Community programs that show residents how small changes can lead to cost savings, like weatherproofing homes. Partnering with local hardware stores to showcase what residents need, and how to install it, in order to encourage these changes while supporting local businesses. Partnering with local hardware stores to showcase what residents need, and how to install it, in order to encourage these changes while supporting local businesses. **(continued)**

David "Azi" Lifsics, Mayoral Candidate

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency: A variety of development types including price, size, and category, such as senior housing. This keeps costs down, supports property values, and allows residents to stay in their community longer. There needs to be a sufficient incentive for developers to create efficient buildings, they will make it more efficient if we make it worth their while.

B. Community: I am hopeful that by 2040, there will be sufficient interactions between neighbors, neighborhoods, and areas of Skokie that big issues can be discussed without getting too fired up.

C. Transportation: A well-maintained road system, all of which had been upgraded on a worst-to-best system. Protected bike lanes that make sense for both drivers and bikers. Safe, shady sidewalks, with better traffic flow on the streets. Mass transit improvements including free intra-village electric trolleys on main streets, an extension of the yellow line farther north, and rapid transit busses to farther points of interest like already exist with O'Hare.

D. Commerce: A thriving local economy where businesses are booming because the residents have the choices they want without needing to leave Skokie. A diverse range of options for retail, restaurants, grocery, and entertainment, that will turn visitors into residents.

E. Walkability: More ways to connect more parts of the Village. Improved shady sidewalks, and safe crosswalks where necessary. Zero injuries or pedestrian fatalities.

F. Green spaces: Green space, like parks and tree planting, is good for the environment and for property values. It makes the village more enjoyable. I would like to see green space used within the structure of some buildings when possible.

G. Waste management: A low or zero-emission fleet of trucks that can be used for both waste management as well as snow removal.

H. Food: Support for local businesses and year-round farmers' markets. If Skokie can have a winter market in 2025, spring or fall markets should follow.

4

- Partnering with local schools to engage in a friendly competition to determine which school can compost the most.
- Recognition programs such as awards or highlights in the village newsletter for businesses and residents who adopt sustainable practices above and beyond what is normally done.
- I liked the idea of free coffee for a month when buying a Skokie mug. In addition to encouraging patronizing local businesses, think of how many single-use cups went unused. I'd like to see something like this as a year-round endeavor such as a discount for customers bringing their own multi-use mugs, or bags.

The Village Board's role is to promote sustainability efforts that protect our local environment, contribute to the global effort to reduce emissions, and enhance quality of life (in particular clean air and water) for our residents. I will have an open door policy and am willing to consider any ideas that achieve these objectives. In particular I would focus on:

6

- Supporting incentives for energy efficiency and waste reduction.
- Deep research into all available State and Federal grants to invest in storm water infrastructure, flood mitigation upgrades, tree planting, emergency services, and community response to emergencies, which are needed.
- Education for Skokie residents to participate in any way they can and are able. Even a small change in a large enough portion of residents can add up to have a big impact.
- Smart sustainability means following the data and focusing on what works; this will be the guiding principal for my administration writ large as well.



Go Green Skokie sent 7 questions to all mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025. The following 5 pages are to inform the public about the following candidate's answers, not to endorse the candidate.

Gail Schechter, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

1

Climate change – or more pointedly, climate catastrophe – is one of the most urgent issues facing not only Skokie but the entire globe. There is not one facet of our lives that is not affected by weather-related disasters, the warming of our oceans, and the extinction of many and varied forms of wildlife. In Skokie, prolonged periods of high heat in a Village that has just 25% tree canopy cover affects everyone's health, especially our most vulnerable residents. Excess flooding from rain and windstorms, trapped car and truck exhaust fumes, and the proliferation of diseases like bird flu all affect our quality of life in Skokie. I have built my campaign around an overarching vision for Skokie that defines a high quality of life as one that is accomplished by putting our people and our natural environment first, before any other consideration. Within that foundational framework, I have nine policy priorities for the Village of Skokie and implementing the Environmental Sustainability Plan is among them.

2

I appreciate that the Environmental Sustainability Plan team developed a set of criteria as a framework by which to evaluate goals and action steps. In undertaking the challenge of distilling 200 action steps into my top five for immediate implementation, I considered those four criteria in the Plan (impact, equity of implementation, potential for success, and “game-changer”) and layered my own, as follows:

- Can this action be **scaled up**? What is the potential for a broadened benefit in meeting the overall GHG reduction goal?
- Will this action contribute to a **culture shift** that weaves ecological sensitivity, energy conservation, and mindfulness of neighbors into a new way of life in Skokie?
- Does the action **promote connection and connectivity** in Skokie? In other words, does it contribute to connecting land, people, and wildlife to one another, and in as close to a “net zero” way as possible? This has implications not only for the environment but for promoting a sense of community and even a spirit of civic engagement.

Accordingly, I selected these five action items, ordered as they are in the Plan:

1. TM 1- 8 Determine appropriate locations for “shared streets” and car-free pedestrian zones in high-density areas. Evaluate feasibility of limiting vehicles on certain days of the week and implementing congestion parking pricing, where appropriate. Revisit the Active Transportation/Niles North demonstration on Lawler Ave. Conduct a pilot project to evaluate implementation potential and strategies.

The beauty of this action step is that it serves multiple functions. The development of shared streets alone pulls residents of all ages into the planning, so it reinforces a communal engagement ethic. It also serves to promote a sense of place – that is, Skokie as a destination, not a way-station. Finally, this initiative promotes public safety by facilitating walking and bicycling. By making it easier to ditch our cars, scaling up to many neighborhoods throughout the Village, this action step can change our transportation culture in Skokie, for keeps.

2. LH 1- 1 Assess the community's affordable housing needs and determine how housing for low and moderate income households can become sustainable in accordance with the Sustainability Plan.

It is the residential and commercial sectors of the economy that emit the most greenhouse gases when including end-use electricity, according to the EPA. This is why it is critically important that we prioritize housing. Thirty-eight percent of Skokie's land use constitutes single- and multi-family housing. With three-quarters of Skokie's housing built more than fifty years ago, upgrades are essential for many reasons in addition to mitigating climate change: economic efficiency (it's cheaper to preserve existing housing than to build new), resident preference (most people prefer to age in their own homes or communities), affordability (energy efficiency through better sealing of the building envelope, upgraded appliances, and HVAC, for example, can make a huge cost difference for low-income people), public health (to withstand extremes of heat and cold), and overall safety and comfort. Effecting these upgrades can easily incorporate accessibility improvements for people with disabilities as well.

Attention to sustaining low- and moderate-income Skokie residents can also help to preserve the Village's economic diversity, which has declined over the last twenty years. Particular drivers of this trend include the mortgage meltdown of 2008, ...**[Answer to be continued on next page.]**

Gail Schechter, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

2

...the Village's active push for luxury rental housing, and the overall escalation of housing prices at a higher rate than incomes. Finally, with an intentional policy of mixed-income housing in new construction, we can begin to reverse the steep decline of the percentage of Skokie residents who also work in the Village, thereby reducing automobile trips and emissions.

This needs assessment will have to factor in the costs of upgrades to landlords renting out older rental stock, which houses the vast majority of Skokie tenants. We already know that most tenants are paying more than they can afford (that is, "shelter-burdened") in Skokie, so we must ensure that property managers do not pass the full cost of retrofits to tenants, even as we know that ultimately these upgrades will pay for themselves.

3. LH 3- 2 Establish a policy to include climate risk and vulnerability considerations into capital planning and budgeting.

To ensure that sustainability is incorporated into every Village action, embedding an assessment of climate risk and vulnerability into capital planning and budgeting is essential. With this, we raise public and private awareness that all decisions have an environmental impact. Bricks-and-mortar construction and roads have an obvious climate risk connection, from impacting wetlands or promoting flooding, to creating heat islands. But so too does the approval of drive-through businesses and parking lots; land use decisions that may sever wildlife corridors; and permitting a culture of privatized, redundant amenities per building, rather than shared public spaces.

4. BE 2- 4 Develop competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for effective and innovative Net Zero pilot projects. Focus on "Net Zero building in every neighborhood" to establish visibility of strategies within the community. RFPs should encourage high-quality mixed-use redevelopment on infill properties and existing surface parking lots along transit-oriented development corridors. RFPs should focus on equity, affordability, livability, and compliance/support of Sustainability Plan goals. Goal: minimum of 1 successfully completed pilot project of at least 25 homes (single-family or multi-family).

This action step is innovative, scalable, and visionary. To have Net Zero neighborhoods is inspiring, holistic in the sense that it incorporates several systems on a human scale, and can help Skokie become a model community to others. It would be exciting to see the Village quantify in real terms the benefits of "equity, affordability, livability and compliance/support of Sustainability Plan goals" for a neighborhood. I envision a community that houses a diversity of people including by income and age, with housing, stores, public shared spaces, and transit. Moreover, this action step is measurable.

5. GS 1- 3 Establish a tree planting plan to meet the goals of the Environmental Sustainability Plan. Prioritize tree replacement programming in neighborhoods based on factors outlined in the Village's Ground Cover study including those with low-income households, vulnerable populations, street and boulevards with less than 30% sidewalk/curb length shade coverage. Include a focus on increasing shade trees areas where people congregate (picnic areas, bus shelters, etc.). See Village's 2022 Ground Cover, Tree Canopy, and Carbon Sequestration Study

Wherever I go, Village residents express their desire for more trees and greenery generally. This is a thoughtfully crafted action step that takes into account public spaces, low-income residential areas, and the value that tree replacement and addition brings to improving the environment, mitigating heat and flooding, and overall beautification. According to the Morton Arboretum, the Village has the capacity for a 68% tree canopy, over double its current 25%.

Beauty improves morale, especially in lower-income multi-family neighbors where residents, disproportionately immigrants and people of color, feel forgotten. In that sense, it's a matter of environmental justice. We need more welcoming public spaces in Skokie. A walkable downtown, Main Street, and other mixed-use pockets encourage congregating and benefit the local economy. We can give young people places to go in addition to the mall or the gym. Bringing in shade trees where people congregate even promotes multicultural understanding and sparks civic engagement in Skokie because people are drawn out of their homes and cars.

Gail Schechter, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

3

I have lived in my Skokie duplex for nearly 21 years. I literally brought with me my compost bin from my prior residence and continue to use it. Not long after I moved to my Keating home, I converted about a quarter of my sizable yard (previously entirely lawn) into a garden of native plants, working with the late and legendary Art Gara of Art and Linda's Wildflowers. Within the last five years, I have worked with Art's mentee, Monica Buckley of Red Stem, to devote more of my garden to native plants and replace my concrete patio with slate tiles. I am always mindful of sustainability. I set my thermostat at 68 during the day while I am at home, and lower when I am out and overnight. For years I have used my own bags for groceries; used non-toxic house cleaners; mowed my own lawn with an electric mower; used a rake for yard clean-up; used cloth napkins; eschewed weed killers; and used a reusable water bottle. For events, I always use a water urn with compostable cups. Also, over the last five years, I have replaced plastic food containers with glass. I minimize car travel as much as possible by taking the El twice a week to my office in Lakeview (I drive to Evanston and hop on the purple line). During the other weekdays, I either work from home or from the affordable, intergenerational residence that my organization owns and operates (Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly, or H.O.M.E.) My car itself has decent gas mileage. It's a small Scion XA with a manual transmission that I bought used in 2012. All this said, while my own individual action shows personal commitment, as Trustee I know that the most sweeping and efficacious action derives from government policy-making – and I am determined to push forward with that action.

4

Young people today are extremely worried and frustrated about the state of our environment, almost certainly more than other generations were. They want to see others act and they want to do something meaningful themselves. I have found that young people especially learn by doing. The best way to foster a culture of sustainability outside the home is to fold a respect for the environment and good habits of care into school and camp curricula. I am old enough to remember the first Earth Day. I recall being in elementary school in Queens, New York and taking a field trip to Manhattan to visit Theodore Roosevelt's historic birthplace as part of something called the T.R.E.E. program, which I believe stood for Theodore Roosevelt Environmental Education. Funny that I don't remember much about grade school, but this I remember, because my mother came too. I learned, for one, to hold wrappers rather than to toss them heedlessly. Giving young people, perhaps also including their parents and grandparents, a plot of land on which to grow vegetables and flowers can be especially influential in creating new habits. Perhaps "adopting" a newly planted parkway tree could be made fun; I have heard that unfortunately, many residents do not (or perhaps cannot) take care of fledgling trees during their first two vulnerable years. I would create paid high school and college internships with the Village, similar to what I personally experienced: as a college senior, I was awarded the opportunity to participate in a Summer Management Internship Program of the City of New York. As fate would have it, I chose the Office of Energy Conservation of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. It was a life-changer for me. My project was to assess the extent to which the installation of new boilers, burners, roofs, or windows had an impact on reducing energy consumption and fuel costs in City-owned, multifamily, low-income buildings. I made an important discovery, which was that securing the building envelope through windows and roofs was much more effective than new heating plants. As for adults, I would try to make "doing the right thing" as convenient as possible. Cleaning up litter around my house every day, including single-use water bottles, candy wrappers, and fast food containers, is demoralizing. How about giving out reusable bottles? Placing more trash and recycling cans around the Village? Skokie should continue to model the behavior it wishes to see. This includes rigorous enforcement of property maintenance standards throughout the Village so renters of all ages have their right to a livable, safe home upheld.

Gail Schechter, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency: In my ideal Skokie, in 2040, the Village will have residents of all income levels living in safe, sanitary, and energy-efficient housing. That's because small landlords will have taken advantage of tax incentives, grants, forgivable loans, or repair programs to help upgrade their properties without passing the cost onto their tenants. Homeowners will also retrofit their homes and help make them livable for multiple generations. Preservation is prioritized, as is long-term housing affordability through a Community Land Trust, a nonprofit established by Skokie to own and conserve land. (The Village Board is now considering creating a "Skokie Community Land Trust," thanks in large measure to my own housing advocacy with Skokie Neighbors for Housing Justice, but it needs to have a more expansive scope than single-family homeownership for households at the median income.)

New construction itself – commercial as well as residential – will meet strict standards for emissions production, public green space and trees, energy conservation, low-flow fixtures, reduced required parking, and efficiently combine housing, shops, and services such as childcare in proximity. Moreover, new residential buildings will be designed such that they interact with the rest of Skokie, without exclusive courtyards, and would accommodate people of all income levels, strictly adhering to design and construction standards for accessibility under the Fair Housing Act. Developments themselves will be relatively low in height (too high and buildings are energy inefficient) and allow for maximum light and air for all that surrounds them.



B. Community: Skokie's neighborhoods will be fully and safely connected to one another. We will have safe bike paths and sidewalks that accommodate strollers and people who use assistive devices; pollinator corridors; pedestrian-only zones; and plenty of pocket parks. We would foster a sense of an environmental community through activities like Village sponsored trash pickup outings and continuing our "Spring Greening" day; public participation in environmental planning processes; and creating new parks out of former parking lots. We can resurrect communal dinners as when we had "Know Your Neighbor" coffees throughout the Village, with a special celebratory event for all the participants. We can use the annual "Festival of Cultures" to our advantage and actually have multicultural food establishments involved, and incorporate environmental goals.



C. Transportation: Skokie residents of all abilities will feel comfortable crossing any street. More residents will take the El or electric buses because service will be plentiful. Bike paths will crisscross the Village, accommodating commuters and recreational cyclists alike. Skokie will have Divvy bike stations. Private vehicles will be electric (charging stations will be plentiful), hybrid, or have exceptional gas mileage. More of our streets will be turned into landscaped pedestrian malls, and be relaxing to stroll.



D. Commerce: Skokie will have disincentivized commercial enterprises from locating in the Village that depend on heavy, polluting truck traffic on its streets. Instead, Skokie will intentionally attract businesses and manufacturers that produce or sell products and services for people of all income levels that promote a sustainable lifestyle and serve as good neighbors, including paying living wages. In an ideal Skokie, dollars will recycle within Skokie from consumers to businesses to manufacturers or service providers to workers.



E. Walkability: Skokie will follow Age-Friendly City guidelines, as developed by the World Health Organization, with safe lighting, adequate and plentiful rest areas, curb cuts, and sidewalks in good repair. It is essential that there be stop signs, speed bumps, and traffic signals where most needed, with enough time allotted for individuals to cross the street. Skokie will also add and maintain trails in the nature preserves, working closely with Cook County and our neighboring suburbs. Skokie will make crossings for walkers and bicyclists through Sculpture Park safer as they cross the major east-west streets. Skokie will coordinate with surrounding suburbs and the City of Chicago around connecting with the Green Bay Trail, for example.

[Answer to be continued on next page.]

Gail Schechter, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

5



F. Green spaces: Without doubt, Skokie will have more trees and more residents taking care of them. The Village will make it easier by subsidizing resident water costs for taking care of parkway trees. Underutilized parking lots will be converted to parks with native plants. Homeowners and landlords will take advantage of incentives to convert concrete or black tar driveways or backyards into green spaces. The Village will promote and provide technical support for community gardens. Public plazas are created between buildings.



G. Waste management: Skokie will continue in its trajectory of reducing waste overall through more residents reducing their use of single-use items or buying less. The Village will continue to pick up separated trash and recycling. Composting is incentivized, as now, through drop-off areas or in yard. Residents of multifamily buildings will have as easy a time of recycling or composting as single-family homeowners. Skokie will continue its “Spring Greening,” which is an excellent service. With an all-electric vehicle fleet, the Village may even bring back the second weekly garbage pick-up if needed.



H. Food: Fast-food and other carry-out restaurants will use less and more environmentally-friendly packaging – for example, replacing Styrofoam with biodegradable, unlined paper. Customers who now have a true culture of sustainability no longer toss their cups and wrappers into the street. More residents will grow their own food at home or in community garden plots, or will purchase directly from our and neighboring farmers markets. Skokie will financially support and promote the Talking Farm as it supplies restaurants and school groups.

6

The Village Board’s role is central. The Board must provide the leadership to actually implement the Plan. The Village Board should make the word “Advisory” in the Sustainable Environmental Advisory Commission (SEAC) meaningful, taking its counsel seriously. The Village Board should also appoint members with a passion for mitigating climate change, and with expertise in the various sectors. At least two members of the Village Board should attend every meeting as a liaison. Environmental Sustainability Plan quarterly updates should be standing discussion items on the Village Board’s agenda.

I would also suggest that when a new Comprehensive Plan is authorized by the Village, the Village Board should insist that sustainability goals run as a through-line in the Plan.

Environmental goals must be integrated throughout the Comprehensive Plan, and the Village Board should monitor progress annually in a public process. Thus incorporated, sustainability considerations would stand firmly within the Village’s visionary framework.

7

I would like to see the Village concentrate more attention to permeable surfaces for storm runoff, with a preference for using more natural absorbents like native plants. Skokie could promote light-reflective “green roofs,” perhaps through resident “fairs” with vendors and contractors. The Village should devote personnel and outreach to older people, people with disabilities, and limited English speakers who will need extra help in case of emergency. I would also like to see the Village of Skokie adopt a cooling ordinance as in Chicago to make it a requirement that property managers provide air conditioning, in the same way that we have a heat ordinance. The Village should make it a priority right now to identify and mitigate “heat islands” and ensure that bus stops or other areas where people congregate have shelters against the hot sun.

Finally, the water main break that occurred on February 14th, immobilizing Skokie and thwarting the best laid plans of restaurants and other businesses preparing for Valentine’s Day commerce, shows that the likely cause may relate to climate change if, as the Village suspects, flooding may have stressed the system. Skokie’s infrastructure is aging as an older “inner ring suburb” and this accident may be the wake-up call to audit all our public works systems. The Village could host a set of local hearings for residents to share their concerns about climate conditions and come up with solutions. For example, if people are afraid of basements flooding, the Village could host a workshop about sealing basements and offer grants to low-income homeowners.



Go Green Skokie sent 7 questions to all mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025. The following 2 pages are to inform the public about the following candidate's answers, not to endorse the candidate.

Joseph Nowik, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

1

Climate change mitigation is an important priority for Skokie. I believe that by integrating sustainable practices into community planning, we can improve residents' quality of life while also supporting economic growth. My approach balances environmental responsibility with fiscal prudence, ensuring that sustainability initiatives are both effective and financially sound.

2

If I could instantly implement five sustainability measures, I would choose:

Expanding Renewable Energy Infrastructure –

Installing more solar panels on municipal buildings and supporting community solar programs would cut energy costs and reduce Skokie's carbon footprint.

Enhancing Public Transportation – Improving Skokie's transit options would reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and make travel more accessible.

Developing Green Spaces – Increasing parks, community gardens, and native landscaping on parkways would improve air quality, provide recreation opportunities, and support local wildlife.

Strengthening Recycling and Composting Programs – Expanding waste reduction efforts would decrease landfill waste and make sustainable practices more convenient for residents.

Encouraging Energy-Efficient Buildings – Incentivizing energy-efficient home and business upgrades would help lower utility bills and reduce emissions

3

In the past five years, I've made several environmentally friendly upgrades at home and in my business:

Switched to LED lighting to reduce energy use and lower electricity costs.

Installed a newer smart thermostat to optimize heating and cooling efficiency.

Upgraded to water-efficient faucets and fixtures to reduce water waste.

Added a solar panel system to my home in June 2021. So far, it has saved 43,480 pounds of CO₂ emissions—the equivalent of planting 329 trees—and has generated 28.1 MWh of energy.

Upgraded to a more fuel-efficient vehicle (27 MPG) and replaced an older, less efficient car (17 MPG) to reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

4

As a D219 school board member and Facilities Committee Chair, I've worked to integrate sustainability into our schools. We've:

Installed **solar panels** at Niles North, Niles West, and the Transportation Center.

Ensured new buildings, like **Niles Central** and the **Addition to Niles West**, use **energy-efficient heat pump** technology.

Proposed converting some **school lawns into native prairie landscapes**, reducing water and fertilizer use while supporting pollinators.

Currently looking at possibly transitioning our bus fleet from **propane powered buses to electric buses**.

To further promote sustainability education, I would support:

School partnerships that incorporate environmental topics into science and civics curricula.

Community workshops on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and eco-friendly landscaping.

Youth engagement programs like recycling drives, community gardens, and sustainability fairs.

By engaging students and residents alike, we can build a culture of environmental awareness that benefits everyone.

Joseph Nowik, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency: I'd like to see more energy-efficient buildings with green roofs, better insulation, and designs that maximize natural light—reducing energy use while making homes and businesses more comfortable.



B. Community: Skokie should continue to be an inclusive, vibrant place where sustainability and economic growth go hand in hand. Community events, shared spaces, and local initiatives should strengthen our sense of connection.



C. Transportation: A more robust and safe public transit system, safer bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly walkways will make it easier for residents to get around without depending on cars. Expanding EV charging stations and electric bus fleets would also cut emissions.



D. Commerce: I envision thriving business districts along Main, Oakton and Dempster where local businesses embrace sustainable practices, and Skokie attracts green startups and eco-friendly entrepreneurs.



E. Walkability: Well-maintained, shaded sidewalks, better pedestrian crossings, and new mixed-use developments will make Skokie a more walkable community.



F. Green spaces: Parks, community gardens, bike paths, and natural reserves should be expanded so residents have easy access to nature. These spaces improve air quality, promote recreation, and support biodiversity.



G. Waste management: A stronger focus on waste reduction, composting, and efficient recycling programs will help minimize landfill use and encourage sustainable habits.



H. Food: Farmers' markets, urban / community farming, and community-supported agriculture programs will make fresh, local food more accessible while supporting sustainable food production.

6

The Village Board plays a key role in guiding sustainable growth by setting policies, securing funding, and ensuring that environmental initiatives are both practical and cost-effective. I support: **Strengthening partnerships** with businesses, schools, and community groups to advance sustainability goals.

Encouraging smart development that balances environmental impact with economic opportunity.

Ensuring transparency and accountability in how sustainability funds are used.

The 2022 Environmental Sustainability Plan provides a solid foundation, and I'd work to ensure its goals are met in a financially responsible way.

7

Skokie must take cost-effective, realistic steps to prepare for extreme weather, including:

Improving drainage and rainwater storage systems to prevent flooding and property damage.

Strategically increasing tree coverage to provide shade and reduce heat while keeping maintenance costs manageable.

Strengthening emergency preparedness plans for extreme heat, storms, and power outages.

Encouraging weather-resistant infrastructure in new developments and municipal projects.



Go Green Skokie sent 7 questions to all mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025. The following 2 pages are to inform the public about the following candidate's answers, not to endorse the candidate.

Keith A. Robinson, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

1

Climate change mitigation is a top priority for the Village of Skokie. The climate crisis is already impacting our health, economy, and overall quality of life of Skokie residents. We are already behind. Skokie must take aggressive, proactive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy, and build a more sustainable community. Our efforts should align with the established global and national 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. Unfortunately, with the current administration, there may be a slow start.

2

1. Transition to 100% Renewable Energy for Municipal Operations—This would include an all-electric staff/police fleet, solar panels for Village Hall and fire stations—setting an example for the community while significantly reducing Skokie's carbon footprint.
2. Expand Bike Path Infrastructure—Reducing car dependency is key to lowering emissions and improving air quality. Expanding bike paths would encourage more residents to bike safely throughout the Village, and seek services like electric Divvy bike and scooter access.
3. Expand Community-Wide Composting Program—The Village is off to a great start with our composting program. An expansion would include businesses, schools, and multi-unit buildings to keep organic waste from landfills and reduce methane emissions.
4. Increase Public Charging Stations—Adding more EV charging stations in public areas—municipal properties, parks, shopping centers—and incentivizing businesses to install them would make electric vehicles more practical and accessible.
5. Invest in Green Infrastructure—Expanding the use of permeable pavers, green alleys, and planting more trees would improve water management, reduce flooding, and enhance air quality.

3

In my household, we've taken several steps to reduce our environmental impact:

- Switched to energy-efficient appliances and LED lighting.
- Recycle goods and textiles at Goodwill and secondary stores quarterly
- Reduced water usage with low-flow fixtures and rain barrels for gardening.
- Weekly Composting service (Orange Bucket) for food waste and recycle mindfully.
- Grow fresh vegetables in my garden and share the harvest with neighbors, friends, and colleagues.

4

As a 30 year educator, I am a believer that education is the foundation of lasting change. To promote environmental awareness, I would:

- Partner with local schools to form Green Teams—bringing together students, staff, and administrators to collaborate with the Village staff, SEAC and community on sustainability efforts.
- As a qualified educational professional, work with other local governments to support and integrate sustainability into school curricula, including hands-on projects like school gardens, composting, and recycling programs.
- Partner with established and credible non for profit agencies/organizations to promote community workshops on topics like composting, energy efficiency, and sustainable gardening, etc.
- Create a Youth Advisory Council/Green Team with our SEAC Commission or Public Works department to engage young people in shaping Skokie's environmental policies.
- Use Village Newsletters and social media and community events to share tips, resources, and success stories and benefits of sustainability efforts.
- Collaborate with local experts, nonprofits and businesses to offer incentives for sustainable practices, such as discounts for residents who install rain barrels or compost bins, steel coffee mugs/water bottles, etc.

Keith A. Robinson, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

5



A) Building Efficiency: Skokie's buildings would be net-zero energy, with solar panels, green roofs, and energy-efficient designs. Affordable retrofits would be available for older buildings.



B) Community: Skokie would be a tight-knit, inclusive community where residents, schools and business actively participate in sustainability initiatives and support one another.



C) Transportation: The Village would have a robust public transit system, extensive bike lanes, and walkable neighborhoods, reducing reliance on gas cars. Perhaps electric scooters and bike rentals all around the Village.



D) Commerce: Local businesses would prioritize sustainability, offering eco-friendly products and services while thriving in a green economy. There would be no plastic bags, or styrofoam containers in restaurants.



E) Walkability: Skokie would be a pedestrian-friendly village with safe, accessible sidewalks and trails connecting neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas.



F) Green Spaces: Every resident would have access to parks and fresh food from community gardens and refrigerators.



G) Waste Management: Skokie would achieve zero waste through comprehensive recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs and the village would own at least two electric waste management trucks.



H) Food: Skokie would have a thriving local food system, with urban farms, farmers' markets, and programs ensuring all residents have access to fresh, healthy food.

6

The Village Board plays a critical role in setting policy, allocating resources, and fostering collaboration to achieve Skokie's sustainability goals. My approach would include:

- Supporting recommendations from SEAC by passing ordinances that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable development.
- Funding and incentives to secure grants and provide financial incentives for residents and businesses to adopt green practices.
- Community engagement to ensure that all residents—including those from historically marginalized communities—have a voice in shaping Skokie's future.
- Accountability by monitoring progress on the Environmental Sustainability Plan and making adjustments as needed.

7

To build resilience, I would prioritize:

- Infrastructure assessments and upgrades to strengthen stormwater systems and prevent flooding—critical given the recent extreme weather events.
- Heat Mitigation by planting more trees and expanding green spaces to reduce heat islands and improve air quality.
- Emergency Preparedness with clear, community-wide plans for extreme weather events, including communication systems and resource distribution.
- Community Support Networks to ensure vulnerable residents receive aid and support during local and climate-related disasters.
- Green Infrastructure through investments in permeable pavements, green alleys, and rain gardens to improve water management and reduce urban heat.
- Continue to explore grant opportunities through all county, state and federal agencies to support the pressing sustainability needs of the Village.



Go Green Skokie sent 7 questions to all mayoral and trustee candidates who are running for election in 2025. The following 3 pages are to inform the public about the following candidate's answers, not to endorse the candidate.

Khemarey "Khem" Khoeun, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

Climate change is real and we see evidence of this every day - rising temperatures, melting ice glaciers, rising sea levels, and changes in precipitation patterns such as more floods, droughts or intense rain.

Sustainability plans are comprehensive road maps that outline the specific strategies and actions that the community will implement to improve sustainability. In 2022, the Village of Skokie Board unanimously approved an aggressive, yet attainable new environmental sustainability plan with the goal of reducing community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 35% below 2020 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2025.

The plan provides a framework for the Village to continue working across all Village departments, and in partnership with the community at-large, inter-governmental and business leaders to achieve our goal. It requires innovation, an infusion of new ideas so that Skokie can take aggressive, proactive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy, and build a more sustainable community.

The plan should be reviewed quarterly and annually to understand the progress being made and continually assess ways that we can focus on actions that deliver the most impact.

- 1. Enhance village-wide composting program:** To support those in need and reduce landfill waste, continue to explore partnerships that redistribute unused food while expanding our composting program Village-wide for household pick-ups, expansion into schools, businesses and multi-unit buildings. Increasing community adoption of composting will divert more food scraps and compostable products from landfills.
- 2. Transition to 100% renewable energy:** This includes implementing an all-electric fleet for staff and police, electric tow-trucks as well as installing solar panels on Village Hall and all other municipal buildings, such as fire stations. By leading through example, the Village can demonstrate the benefits of renewable energy and encourage community adoption.
- 3. Improve walkability and bike path infrastructure:** Expanding bike paths within the Village would encourage more residents to bike, fostering social connections, increased activity, and improved community health. This would also reduce reliance on cars, leading to lower emissions and better air quality.
- 4. Increase public charging stations and reduce barriers to EV infrastructure investment:** To increase the practicality and accessibility of electric vehicles, add more EV charging stations to public areas such as municipal properties, parks, and shopping centers. Additionally, we should make it easier for businesses and households to install EV charging stations.
- 5. Improve communication to our most climate vulnerable population:** The recent water main break highlighted the disparity between those connected to the Village's Smart 911 system, who received timely alerts, and those who were not and remained disconnected and anxious. This experience underscores the critical need to establish a communication system that can efficiently disseminate relevant and time-sensitive information to all residents in an easily accessible manner.

In the past five years, we've:

- Installed solar panels on rooftop
- Started vegetable gardening and rain water collection
- Planted pollinator garden
- Compost food scraps weekly
- Drive significantly less

In the past 10 years, we've also,

- Installed energy efficient windows
- Purchased hybrid vehicle
- Reduce/ Reuse/ recycle (plastic, paper, glass, textiles, electronics, battery)

Khemarey "Khem" Khoeun, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

Environmental education begins at home. My husband and I believe it's crucial to instill eco-conscious values in our children from a young age. We emphasize the significance of Mother Earth and the necessity of preserving our planet. Our family actively practices recycling, composting, and repurposing materials whenever possible. As guidelines for recycling evolve, we make an effort to stay informed and share this knowledge with our children.

This environmental education extends to schools, social media, and peer groups as children grow older. Starting early and collaborating with schools and parent groups ensures that what is taught is practiced and sustained. Our youth needs to genuinely believe that climate change is real and that they can positively impact our planet.

4

To foster environmental awareness within the community, I encourage the following initiatives:

- Partnering with local schools to develop collaborative sustainability programs involving students, staff, and administrators. This may include hands-on projects in collaboration with our local partners, such as the The Talking Farm, Skokie Public Library, Skokie Park District and Niles Township Government to support school gardens, composting, and recycling programs.
- Establishing a Youth Advisory Council or Green Team to engage young people in shaping Skokie's environmental policies.
- Leveraging media in a way that is fun and accessible to young people, such as e-magazines, podcasts, social media, and community events to share benefits sustainability tips, resources, and success stories

The Village Board plays a pivotal role in achieving Skokie's sustainability goals through a multifaceted approach. This includes:

- **Policy Development:** The Board can enact and amend local ordinances, resolutions, and regulations that promote sustainable practices in areas such as energy use, waste management, transportation, and land use.
- **Resource Allocation:** The Board holds the power to allocate funding and resources towards sustainability initiatives, such as renewable energy projects, energy efficiency programs, public transportation improvements, and green infrastructure development.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** The Board can foster partnerships with other government agencies, community organizations, businesses, and residents to leverage resources, expertise, and support for sustainability efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** The Board can actively engage with the community to raise awareness about sustainability issues, gather input on sustainability initiatives, and encourage community participation in sustainable practices.
- **Leadership and Advocacy:** The Board can demonstrate leadership on sustainability issues by setting ambitious goals, adopting innovative policies, and advocating for sustainability at the regional and state levels.

6

To build resilience, I would prioritize:

- Strengthening our stormwater systems to prevent flooding by assessing our infrastructure and making necessary upgrades.
- Expanding green spaces and plant more trees to mitigate heat and improve air quality.
- Community-wide emergency preparedness plans for extreme weather events, including communication systems and resource distribution.
- Establishing community support networks to aid vulnerable residents during local and climate-related disasters.
- Investing in green infrastructure, such as permeable pavements, green alleys, and rain gardens, to enhance water management and mitigate urban heat island effects.
- Seeking grant opportunities from all county, state, and federal agencies to fund the Village's urgent sustainability needs.

7

Khemarey "Khem" Khoeun, Skokie At-large Trustee Candidate

5



A. Building Efficiency: Skokie's buildings would be retrofitted or built to be net-zero energy utilizing solar panels, green roofs, and energy-efficient designs.



B. Community: Skokie would be a close-knit, inclusive community where residents, schools, and businesses actively participate in and support each other in sustainability initiatives.



C. Transportation: The Village would have a robust public transit system, extensive bike lanes, and walkable neighborhoods to reduce reliance on gas cars. The village would also explore additional options such as electric scooters and bike rentals.



D. Commerce: Local businesses would prioritize sustainability by offering eco-friendly products and services and eliminating single use plastics such as bags and Styrofoam containers.



E Walkability: Skokie would be a pedestrian-friendly village with safe, accessible sidewalks and trails connecting neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas.



F. Green Spaces: Every resident would have access to parks and fresh food from community gardens and refrigerators.



G. Waste Management: Skokie would achieve zero waste through comprehensive recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs and by investing in electric waste management trucks.



H. Food: Skokie would have a thriving local food system, with urban farms, farmers' markets, and programs ensuring all residents have access to fresh, healthy food.

Alison Pure-Slovin, District 2 Trustee Candidate

1

Climate mitigation is a high priority for me as I am concerned about the local impact of climate change and how it affects our weather, water supply, and air quality. Reducing gas emissions can improve air quality and public health. We want Skokie to remain an affordable place to live that has the best interest of our residents population which needs to include our environment.

2

- We need to work toward an all electric fleet for our village vehicles to reduce emissions in the village.
- We need to evaluate our biking and walking infrastructure to create safe spaces to encourage riding and walking within the village. In addition, we need to encourage residents to use public transportation.
- Our composting plan has been successful; however, we need to broaden it through additional information to encourage greater participation. We also need to identify more drop off points throughout the village.
- Expand the requirement of solar panels on municipal buildings and new developments.
- To mitigate flooding and extreme heat, we need to enhance our green infrastructure.

3

In my own home life I have:

- Switched to LED lights.
- I am a diehard recycler!
- Since learning about the benefits to the environment of composting - I have been an avid composter.
- Reduced my purchase of water bottles.

4

The younger generation needs to be educated on the necessity of environmental concerns and responsibility:

- Incorporate sustainability in education. Schools should integrate sustainability topics into their curriculum.
- Hands-on learning: workshops, field trips, and community service projects focused on environmental conservation such as recycling drives, clean-up events and tree planting.
- It is also critical that local environmental organizations partner with students to provide guest speakers, resources and real-world experiences.

Alison Pure-Slovin, District 2 Trustee Candidate

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency: /



B. Community: a diverse community with a strong commitment to sustainability and the continuation of working toward a cleaner environment.



C. Transportation: an increase in public transportation, bicycle lanes, walking paths and electric vehicles.



D. Commerce: a major increase in businesses who prioritize a green environment with a ban of plastic bags and Styrofoam containers.



E. Walkability: walking paths that are safe, well lit and lush with greenery.



F. Green spaces: an increase in native landscaping, additional parks, and additional trees.



G. Waste management: with proper and increase education we MUST get to the point that the village has a strong increase in recycling and composting.



H. Food: local sourcing - encourage the consumption of locally grown food (urban gardens) to reduce transportation emissions. An increase in farmers markets, plant based diets (need to educate residents of the health value), foster the idea of community gardens, and encourage consumers to purchase brands that prioritize sustainability.

6

The Village board plays a crucial role in realizing Skokie's goal:

- The board needs to ensure the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan.
- We need to review zoning regulations that encourage green building and spaces.
- Education is crucial to all of this work and we need to find stronger messages to the residents and encourage better waste management practices.
- Partnerships with businesses, community organizations and agencies are crucial.

7

The Village can take additional measure to be resilient to extreme weather impact. First and foremost is the need for community education and training. Residents need to understand the risks of extreme weather. We need to promote sustainable agricultural practices that enhance our soil, conserve water and diversify crops. Upgrading, where needed, our stormwater infrastructure to prevent flooding. Not just the increase in tree canopy and green spaces but the important education on WHY and how this helps with the impact of weather.

Nathan Norman, District 2 Trustee Candidate

1

Climate change mitigation is a top priority for me because it affects Skokie's long-term sustainability, public health, and economic resilience. Addressing climate change isn't just about reducing emissions; it's about creating a healthier, more livable community. In order to achieve the Village's sustainability goals, I believe we need to:

- Expand renewable energy adoption for municipal and residential use.
- Improve public transportation and bike infrastructure to reduce vehicle emissions.
- Enhance stormwater management to mitigate flooding risks.
- Encourage green building practices for new developments and retrofits.
- Educate and engage the community on sustainable living practices to provide residents with the necessary information to make informed decisions.

A sustainable Skokie is a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous Skokie.

2

If cost were no barrier, I would focus on high-impact, long-term solutions:

1. Transition Skokie to 100% renewable energy – A clean energy grid would significantly reduce our carbon footprint.
2. Create a fully connected pedestrian and bike network – Safe, accessible paths encourage more car-free travel, improving air quality and public health.
3. Launch a zero-waste initiative with universal composting and expanded recycling – Diverting organic waste from landfills reduces methane emissions and enriches local soils.
4. Upgrade municipal buildings and homes with energy-efficient technology – Lowering energy consumption saves money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Expand tree canopy and green spaces – Trees absorb CO₂, reduce urban heat, and enhance mental well-being.

Each of these directly benefits Skokie's residents while positioning the village as a leader in sustainability. Lastly, I would work with Village staff to offer incentives for local businesses to adopt sustainability practices.

3

I believe sustainability starts at home, and I've made the following changes:

- Energy Efficiency – Installed LED lighting, a smart thermostat, and energy-efficient appliances.
- Waste Reduction – Committed to composting, recycling, and minimizing single-use plastics.
- Sustainable Transportation – Walking, biking, and using public transit whenever possible.
- Water Conservation – Installed low-flow fixtures and use rain barrels for outdoor watering.
- Supporting Local and Sustainable Food Sources, such as shopping at farmers' markets and reducing food waste.
- Reached out to the Village to have my home's lead service line replaced.

By making these small changes, I aim to set an example and inspire others to take action.

Nathan Norman, District 2 Trustee Candidate

4

Educating and engaging the community, especially young people, is key to long-term success. In an effort to achieve this, I would prioritize:

- Eco-Education in Schools – Work with school districts to integrate climate science, sustainable gardening, and waste reduction programs.
- Community Workshops – Offer free classes on composting, home energy efficiency, and sustainable living.
- Youth Leadership Programs – Support young leaders in sustainability efforts, from tree-planting initiatives to climate advocacy.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Use social media, village events, and digital resources to share sustainability tips and local success stories.
- Green Volunteer Opportunities – Organize park clean-ups, habitat restoration projects, and educational eco-tours.
- Work with Village staff to educate young people on Skokie's native plants.

By empowering the next generation, we build a Skokie that values and protects the environment.

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency:

- Net-zero energy buildings powered by solar and geothermal.
- Smart grids to optimize energy use.
- Green roofs and rainwater collection for municipal and commercial buildings.
- Establish an ordinance that supports health building development for contractors who do business with the Village.



B. Community:

- A thriving, inclusive population engaged in sustainability efforts.
- More local events and farmers' markets that encourage sustainable living.



C. Transportation:

- Expanded public transit options with electric buses and light rail.
- Comprehensive bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets.
- Widespread EV charging stations to encourage electric vehicle adoption.



D. Commerce:

- Incentives for sustainable businesses that minimize waste and use clean energy.
- A circular economy approach where businesses prioritize reuse and recycling.



E. Walkability:

- A walk-first design where residents can access daily needs without a car.
- Safer pedestrian crossings and wider sidewalks to make walking enjoyable.



F. Green spaces:

- More parks, urban forests, and community gardens throughout Skokie.
- Expanded green infrastructure to manage stormwater and improve biodiversity.



G. Waste management:

- The goal is to achieve zero waste with universal composting and enhanced recycling programs.
- Smart waste bins that optimize collection efficiency and reduce landfill use.



H. Food:

- More urban agriculture and rooftop gardens to promote food security.
- Sustainable school lunch programs featuring locally sourced meals.

Skokie, in 2040, should be a model for sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Nathan Norman, District 2 Trustee Candidate

6

The Village Board plays a key leadership role in driving sustainability by:

- Passing policies that align with the 2022 plan and setting measurable goals.
- Allocating funding for sustainability initiatives and securing state/federal grants.
- Holding developers accountable to energy efficiency and green building standards.
- Facilitating partnerships with businesses, schools, and community groups.
- Ensuring transparency and public involvement in decision-making processes.
- Making sure residents have the necessary information regarding healthy sustainability practices.

The 2022 Environmental Sustainability Plan is an excellent roadmap but requires strong commitment and continuous adaptation to meet Skokie's needs. As Trustee, I will work collaboratively with Village staff to implement the current plan efficiently.

7

We must prepare Skokie for climate impacts now to protect public health and infrastructure. Key resilience strategies and methods I would employ include:

- Flood Management – Expand permeable pavement, rain gardens, and stormwater retention systems.
- Extreme Heat Mitigation – Increase tree canopy and implement cool roofing programs.
- Emergency Preparedness – Strengthen public communication and response systems for severe weather events.
- Upgraded Infrastructure – Improve power grids, roads, and drainage to withstand climate impacts.
- Cooling and Resilience Centers – Ensure vulnerable populations can access safe spaces during heatwaves.
- Home Resilience Programs – Offer incentives for weather-resistant building materials and energy efficiency upgrades.
- Work collaboratively with both staff and residents to create “community-centered” feedback loops to help advise the Village’s suitability practices and priorities.

Finally, a climate-resilient Skokie is one that plans ahead and protects its residents from future environmental challenges. Environmental sustainability and policies supporting our environment's health and prosperity are paramount to me. Climate action cannot wait. By implementing bold, innovative, and forward-thinking policies, we can ensure that Skokie remains a leader in sustainability and a wonderful place for future generations to live, work, and play.

James Iverson, District 4 Trustee Candidate

1

Climate change is an important concern for me, but my approach to policy would be pragmatic. I worry that large capital expenditures have costs that are not fully acknowledged and benefits that are not fully understood. I would want to prioritize steps to reduce the use of plastics and other waste, adjust zoning to allow smaller footprints, and encourage walking, biking, and public transportation while discouraging driving.

2

As I write these down, I see that they will all make our Village more beautiful and a more pleasant place to live and work in. These actions are not sacrifices for a good cause; they directly improve our Village, and the costs are not outrageous.

1. Transportation: less driving, more walking, biking, and public transportation.
2. Housing: zoning changes that allow more options for people to live sustainably and affordably.
3. Waste: composting, reducing the waste of packaging, minimizing waste as much as possible, including recycling.
4. Local: getting food and other things as locally as possible.
5. Green Spaces: they are beautiful, and virtually everyone is in favor of them. I am more inclined towards more natural spaces than more manicured, because I prefer them, but also because we can deliver more with less.

3

My sons grew up without air conditioning (though that was more than 5 years ago), and we have lived very locally all these years. We have composted for many years, and we all drive very rarely. My wife bikes 3 miles each way to work, and my son walks 3 miles to work or takes the bus. Most of our shopping is done on foot – no driving. Now, my wife and I live with a very small footprint. Of course, we take advantage of the recycling provided by the Village. We certainly avoid plastics.

4

Young people have always had an easy understanding and appreciation of the need for better environmental stewardship, and least I always thought so. In my youth, I went door to door for Illinois Public Interest Research Group (they have a new name now), and I think that is still effective, though I suppose social media is an important way to share information now. As trustee, I would have regular meetings for my district, so issues can be discussed and understood.

6

The board constantly makes choices that directly affect the implementation of this plan. We need to listen to the people of Skokie and consider the long and short term affects of our decisions

7

I was an engineer, but I still feel out of my depth on this, so I'd need educated advice. It seems to me that moving water is a major issue for us, and options to deal with that are expensive but completely necessary.

James Iverson, District 4 Trustee Candidate

5



A. Building arrangement and efficiency: fewer large projects, and more smaller multi-unit buildings, more affordable homes.



B. Community: events – we already have a good many, but more and more, small as well as large, and plenty of public spaces suited for gatherings.



C. Transportation: less driving. We have all the elements to encourage walking, biking, and public transportation, but we are still overwhelmed by traffic – people driving through and seeing nothing.



D. Commerce: small business is what makes Skokie special – real loyalty instead of loyalty cards, real investment in and concern for our neighbors instead of imitations of interest.



E. Walkability: sidewalks full of people, some walking, some sitting at tables or benches. That would make a huge difference for our small businesses.



F. Green spaces: we are already in a good place, but we have room for more. Instead of investing heavily in a large development, a property can often be converted to green space for a fraction of the cost.



G. Waste management: plastics and packaging waste is eliminated to a great extent. People routinely carry shopping bags and granny carts. Garbage cans are way less full and need to be emptied less often.



H. Food: better food in smaller quantities – fresher and provided by a neighbor