

# A Government in Green: *Sustainability for Local Government*

Presented by Kelly D. Shelton, President  
*Shelton Solutions, Inc. | Quercus Consulting, Inc.*



# A Government in Green

**We INHERIT this  
earth from our  
ancestors and  
BORROW it from our  
children.**

# A Government in Green

- ▶ Creating Sustainable Communities
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Accessible Options

# Creating Sustainable Communities

- ▶ A Definition
- ▶ A Goal
- ▶ A Plan
- ▶ A Reason

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► A Definition

Making cities sustainable means creating **career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies**. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in **participatory and inclusive** ways.

*-United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #11*

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► *Poll Question #1*

Which of the three points is **most** important in **YOUR** community?

career and business opportunities

safe and affordable housing

resilient societies and economies

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► A Goal

A word cloud of Chicago neighborhood names, each in a different color and orientation, arranged in a grid-like pattern. The names are: elmhurst, dekalb, brookfield, naperville, lake zurich, west chicago, carol stream, mount prospect, north chicago, tinley park, carbondale, grayslake, barrington, wheaton, countryside, normal, hampshire, deerfield, galena, sugar grove, and skokie.

elmhurst  
dekalb  
brookfield  
naperville  
lake zurich  
west chicago  
carol stream  
mount prospect  
north chicago  
tinley park  
carbondale  
grayslake  
barrington  
wheaton  
countryside  
normal  
hampshire  
deerfield  
galena  
sugar grove  
skokie

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► 23 Communities





# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ▶ A Plan

- ▶ Net Zero
- ▶ Energy Reduction
- ▶ Waste Reduction
- ▶ Government Facilities
- ▶ Residents & Businesses

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► *Poll Question #2*

Has **YOUR** community established a *concrete, measurable* plan with a focus on **Sustainability**?

**Yes or No**

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► *Poll Question #3*

*(for those who have a plan)*

Does your **Sustainability** plan:

Focus on Energy Reduction?

Focus on Waste Reduction?

Focus on Both?

Focus on Neither?

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► *Poll Question #4*

*(for those who have a plan)*

Does your **Sustainability** plan:

Set Targets for Your Government Facilities?

Set Targets for Your Residents & Businesses?

Set Targets for Both?

# Creating Sustainable Communities

## ► A Reason

WHY??

*If you have a Sustainability Plan  
OR if you want to have a  
Sustainability Plan, please share  
your **reason** using the chat  
feature*

# Creating Sustainable Communities

- ▶ A Definition
  - ▶ Define it for YOUR community
- ▶ A Goal
  - ▶ Establish it for YOUR community
- ▶ A Plan
  - ▶ Develop it for YOUR community
- ▶ A Reason
  - ▶ Do it for YOUR community

# A Government in Green

**We INHERIT this  
earth from our  
ancestors and  
BORROW it from our  
children.**

# Environmental Justice

- ▶ What is it?
- ▶ Illinois Solar for All
- ▶ CEJA vs FEJA



# Environmental Justice

## ► What is it?

Environmental justice is the **fair treatment and meaningful involvement** of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

-US DOE and US EPA

# Environmental Justice

## ► What is it?

**Fair treatment** means that no population bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or from the execution of federal, state, and local laws; regulations; and policies.

-US DOE and US EPA

# Environmental Justice

## ► What is it?

**Meaningful involvement** requires effective access to decision makers for all, and the ability in all communities to make informed decisions and take positive actions to produce environmental justice for themselves.

-US DOE and US EPA

# Environmental Justice

## ► *Poll Question #5*

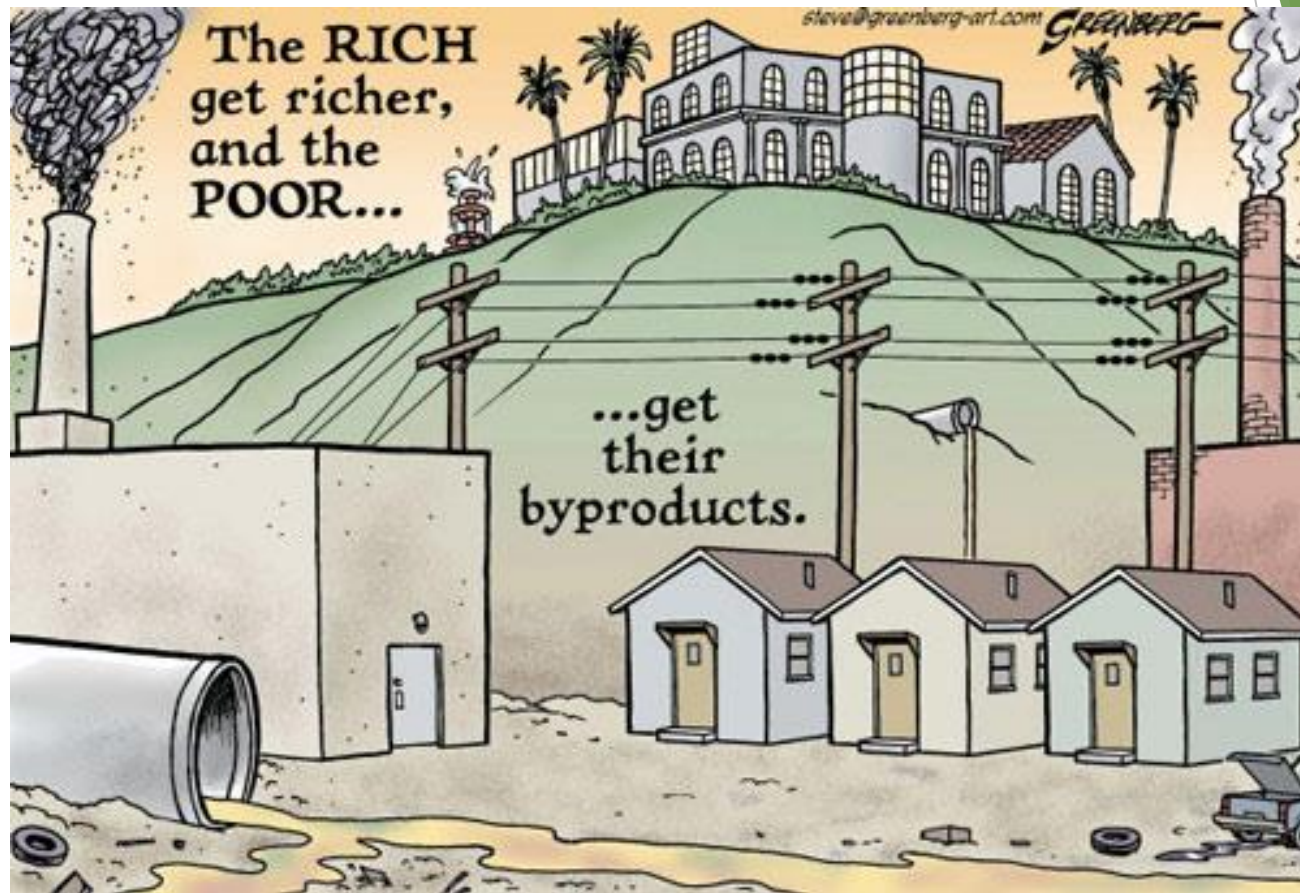
Are there areas within your municipality that have been designated or that you would consider “Environmental Justice Communities”:

**Yes or No**

# Environmental Justice



# Environmental Justice





# Environmental Justice



# Environmental Justice

- ▶ Illinois Solar for All
  - ▶ Funds earmarked for EJ Communities
  - ▶ Designation and Self-Designation



# Environmental Justice

- ▶ projects are focused in areas that stand to benefit the most from access to solar energy
- ▶ all people should be protected from pollution
- ▶ all populations have a right to a clean and healthy environment.
- ▶ a quarter of all program incentives are targeted to projects that are in or serving environmental justice communities

# Environmental Justice

- ▶ Designation Process
- ▶ Self-Designation Process

# Environmental Justice

**FEJA... now CEJA**

# Environmental Justice

## ▶ FEJA

- ▶ Expand Energy Efficiency Programs
- ▶ Expand Job Training Programs
- ▶ Expand Renewable Energy Programs
- ▶ Zero Emissions Standard

# Environmental Justice

## ▶ CEJA

- ▶ Eliminate Carbon Emissions
- ▶ Ensure Investments in the Clean Energy Economy Reach All Communities
- ▶ Keep Energy Costs Affordable
- ▶ Hold Energy Companies Accountable

# A Government in Green

**We INHERIT this  
earth from our  
ancestors and  
BORROW it from our  
children.**

# Accessible Options

promotion and inclusion of  
sustainability within  
municipalities and counties

# Accessible Options

**Studies show a  
connection  
between \_\_\_\_\_  
and exposure to  
environmental**

\_\_\_\_\_.



# Accessible Options

- ▶ Sustainability Councils, Commissions
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Reporting
- ▶ Community Participation
- ▶ Community Outreach and Education

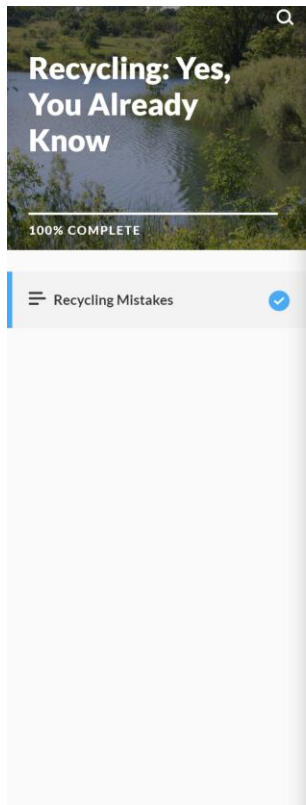
# Accessible Options

## *Poll Question #7*

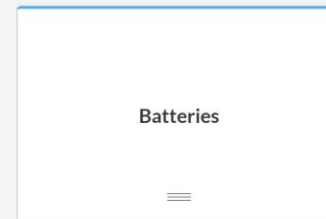
Does your municipality have a Sustainability Council/Commission/Committee with defined, measurable goals and objectives?

Yes or No

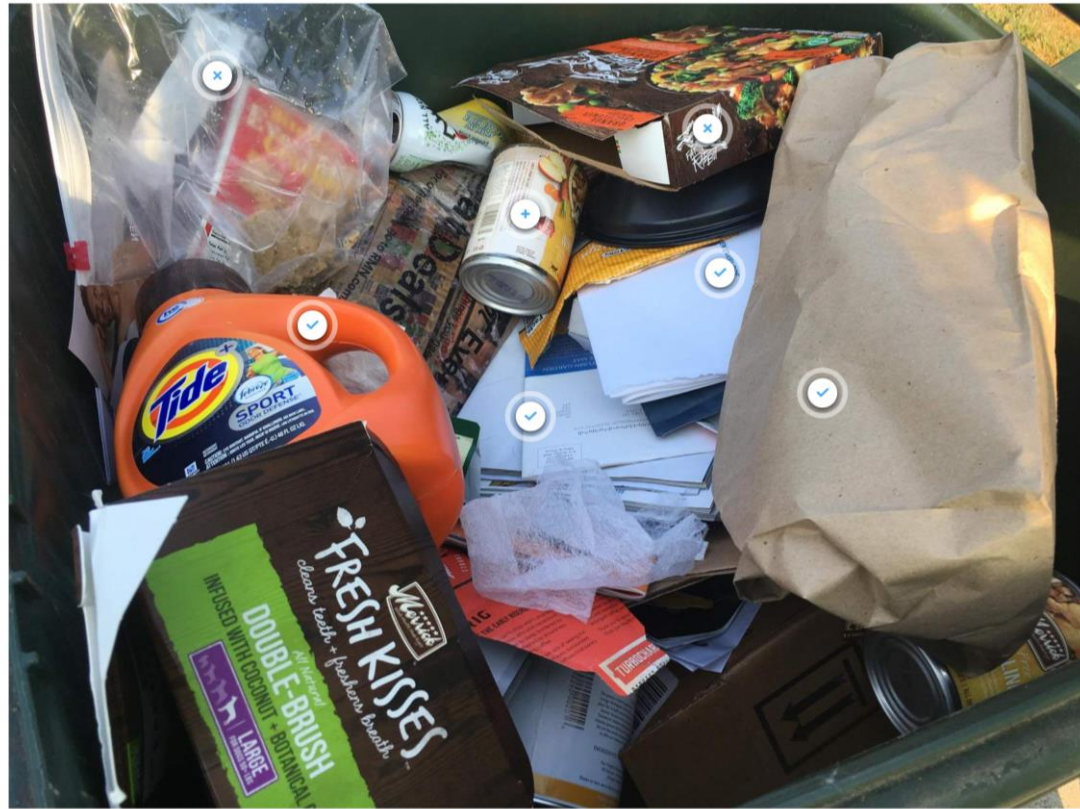
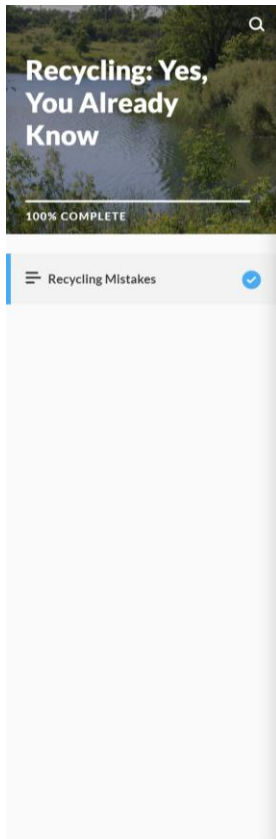
# Accessible Options



**Sorting Activity:** Click and drag to indicate if the item on the card:  
1. **Goes** into the Recycling Bin or 2. **Does not go** into the Recycling Bin .



# Accessible Options



# A Government in Green

**We INHERIT this  
earth from our  
ancestors and  
BORROW it from our  
children.**

A Government in Green

**Thank you!!**

**Kelly Shelton**

*Shelton Solutions, Inc. | Quercus Consulting, Inc.*

**[Kelly.Shelton@QuercusConsult.com](mailto:Kelly.Shelton@QuercusConsult.com)**

**(773) 209-6868**