Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

Project Name: PlanItGreen: Solar for All Project

- **Year Complete:** 2019
- **Local Government:** Village of Oak Park, IL
- **Local Foundation:** Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

**Project Purpose**

To drive action, education and outreach on solar development and procurement in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding low and moderate income (LMI) communities toward meeting PlanItGreen’s goal of 25% renewable energy procurement through newly created projects by 2020 and toward influencing and catalyzing similar efforts in other Chicago metro area counties and communities.

**Key Lessons Learned**

*Lessons learned about tools and tactics through the project that other sustainability directors could use to advance their work.*

The key lessons learned from this project have been:

- Recognize the efforts of all partners, share ideas and successes, and foster a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.
- Establish a sense that everyone is working toward the same goal and affirm efforts through meetings, forums and events for all the stakeholders.
- Work toward getting institutions to act – as opposed to head nodding in agreement. This was the biggest challenge and drove the development of other strategies to spur action.

**Additional Information and Resources**

Project staff have secured continued support for the Park District of Oak Park for a 25kw solar project installation and other sustainability measures. Find out more about the [Village of Oak Park’s Environmental Initiatives](#) and the [PlanItGreen Sustainability Plan](#).