

GROW Third Quarterly Report

July – September 2024

Newsletter Articles:

- July 2024 – Reduce Emissions and Save Money While Traveling by Kari Roberg
- August 2024 – Use a Carbon Footprint Calculator to Save Money and Save the Planet by Walt Wojcik
- September 2024 – Repurpose, Reduce, Rejoice: A Guide to Landfill Diversion by Nikki Way

Commissioner Changes: None

Accomplishments/Events:

- Electric Vehicles (6 cars) in Westchester's 4th of July Parade.
- National Night Out Event on August 6th at Elementary School had GROW booth handing out information on GROW's mission and information on Air Quality. One Electric Vehicle was on display for residents to see and receive information on vehicles that are approved for federal and local tax credits.
- Concert in the Park had an Electric Vehicle Show on August 28th at Mayfair Recreational Center with residents able to discuss with owners pros and cons of ownership and received information on vehicles approved for federal and state tax credits.
- GROW handed out information about GROW's future events and on local air quality at Prairie Fest on September 7th.
- Reuse A Palooza was successfully held on September 21st and 22nd and had 120 participating locations.
- Movie Night in Board Room on September 19th showing BBC' Documentary *Climate Change: The Facts* with David Attenborough.

Policy and Infrastructure:

- **Climate Action Plan:** Evaluation of climate action plan by the Village has begun. Village to provide updates.
- **Recommendation for bike lanes on Westchester Blvd, Canterbury, and Mayfair:** Westchester is part of a consortium with four other towns working with CMAP to improve bike path safety and access. In 2024, plans will be made and finalized in 2025. In 2026, implementation would begin based on resources and grants.
- **Parkway planning proposal:** Subcommittee made up of residents to provide GROW a plan to educate residents on the benefits of adding native plants to their yards. Info would include types of plants to use and possibly coordinate a native plant sale. Because the parkway may have infrastructure below it, plans for the Village owned parkway will fall back to the village which has infrastructure plans that include parkways

Events in progress:

- **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District:** Tour of the Stickney site has been postponed and now planned for spring of 2025.

- **Education in schools:** GROW has provided information to the Village on programs to provide education to middle school students regarding global warming's causes, effects on the earth, and plans to mitigate its progression. These programs are in discussions with Westchester school administration.
- **Plant based diet:** GROW recommended listing vegetarian/vegan recipes in monthly newspaper. Plant based diet is healthy, affordable and has a low carbon footprint.
- **Talk on incentives for electric appliances:** GROW to invite electrician to talk on this topic.
- **Update on climate crisis:** GROW to invite a speaker to address recent changes in climate change/crisis.
- **IBEW Powering Chicago Training Facility:** GROW discussing potential tour of IBEW.