



## Quarterly Report - July to September

Dated September 30, 2023

### GRC Theme Key

Climate	C	Mobility	M
Economic Development	ED	Municipal Operations	MO
Energy	E	Sustainable Communities	SC
Land	L	Water	W
Leadership	LS	Waste & Recycling	WR

### July:

GROW began the month participating in Westchester's 4th of July Parade for the second year in a row. We tried to have a table set up at the end of the route though there wasn't a large enough gathering space to connect with residents. **Opportunity: Would love to have an educational table after the parade when there is large enough space to have a table.** Electric Vehicle Car Show event outside of the parade, maybe at Park District. GRC Objectives: **L4, SC6, SC7, SC35**

**Solar APP+** is a free Solar Automated Permitting Process software application developed by the Natural Renewable Energy Agency in collaboration with numerous stakeholders including UL Solutions, the International Code Council, and the International Association of Electrical Inspectors. It is endorsed by the US Mayors Caucus. Solar APP+ is designed to save building departments time and money, ensure safety and code compliance, and allow municipalities to accelerate residential solar deployment rapidly while accommodating 5-14-fold growth in municipal solar permitting requests when compared to traditional permitting processes. **Opportunity: Utilize software in municipal activities.** GRC Objectives: **E22**

Welcomed Barry Krumstok to attend the first GROW meeting. Interviewed for Commissioner vacancy to fill 7th seat. GRC Objectives: **L40, SC6**

MWRD donated 5 rain barrels and GROW collaborated with CAB on Native Plant Murals. **Opportunity: Roll out rain barrel art project in Spring 2024 to raffle off.** GRC Objectives: **SC1, SC2, SC3**

Voted to approve “Earth Hour” at the Library to have a continuous conversation with the community on a variety of topics **Opportunity: Create monthly or quarterly educational opportunities on-site at the Library, Schools, and Park District.** GRC Objectives: **C16, ED1, L38, L39, L42, SC39, W59**

End of July Liz Wiseman-Chase made the village aware of Air Quality Alerts in our area as a result of the Canadian wildfire smoke. Approved \$75 Air Pollution Brochures. **Opportunity: Consistently utilize Code Red when an Air Quality Alert arises. Education on the “why” and where to find the information.** GRC Objectives: **C18**

Hosted July 29th Event “Our Climate Crisis” with Kent Taylor was well attended with 24 people. **Opportunity: Have better directional signage as where to go has been confusing.** GRC Objectives: **C5, C9, C16**

Adopted new GROW logo, as seen above.

[July Newsletter](#) was written by Liz Wiseman-Chase titled “Introduction to Climate Change”. The article discussed what the climate crisis is, what the Greenhouse Gas Effect is, and how it’s connected to our human activities. Ad for July 29th Event “Our Climate Crisis” with Kent Taylor. (Pg 10). Reuse-a-Palooza sale registration ad. (Pg 24) GRC Objectives: **C5, C9, C16**

### **August:**

Approved purchase of reusable signage for Reuse-a-Palooza sale. GRC Objectives: **WR22, WR24**

Costume Swap idea was mentioned as a future 2024 event. **Opportunity: Plan an event during Reuse-a-Palooza month in early September when residents are preparing for sale.** GRC Objectives: **WR5**

Discussion of Social Media Policy that GROW will adhere to.

Executive Session ended in a vote to recommend the appointment of Mariana Nicolae as Commissioner.

Solar Switch Chicagoland event presentation with CUB and WindFree discussing benefits of solar, solar basics, incentives, options of buying vs. leasing, Illinois Solar For All program, and community solar group buy program. **Opportunity: Plan a Solar Walk event in the village.** GRC Objectives: **E13, E17, E25, E33**

[August Newsletter](#) written by Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase titled “Reducing Westchester’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions” uses the CMAP Municipal Emissions Summary data and connects to what residents can do to reduce energy usage (especially natural gas), utilizing alternative modes of transportation, and how to “green” the electrical grid (pg 10). Solar Switch Chicagoland - Solar Power Hour ad (pg11). Reuse-a-Palooza sale registration ad (pg 20). GRC Objectives: **C5, C16**

### **September:**

Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution, one of our original objectives, was discussed as Mark Pruitt of The Power Bureau and advisor through MMC gave a presentation to the Board. The goal is to get more renewable energy onto the grid. **Opportunity: Approve Resolution, get approval, and have staff send out opt-in for a waiting list.** GRC Objectives: **E17**

Discussion of Reuse-a-Palooza sale marketing. Takeaways from Reuse-a-Palooza event include a clearer signage strategy and switching from a monthly meeting to more specific volunteer task meetings. **Opportunity: Use existing avenues like our village digital billboard, website, Facebook and connect with surrounding communities to advertise events. Move partner events outside of the weekend, like a weekday leading up to or the Friday before, as they weren’t very well attended.** GRC Objectives: **WR22, WR24**

Tour de Proviso route planning with Westchester Bicycle Group and GROW table at the event on composting. Approved funds of \$200 to purchase reusable x-frame banners for composting information. Additionally, approved funds of \$200 to purchase reusable “Pumpkin Smash” signage. **Opportunity: Continue to have GROW engage in the annual Tour de Proviso event in various villages and utilize composting banners at more events.** GRC Objectives: **WR21, M34**

LeeAnn Kruszynski assisted with a buckthorn grant opportunity. Found out that we did not receive the grant due to an email issue as our application was great. **Opportunity: After a year of education, consider the Buckthorn Ordinance. Tree Walk opportunity based on details from our recent tree inventory.** GRC Objectives: **L14, L14b**

[September Newsletter](#) Reuse-a-palooza article, including additional events happening during that weekend and ad (pg 12). Partner Events full-page ad (pg 13). GRC Objectives: **WR5, WR22, WR24**