



Quarterly Report - October to December

Dated December 31, 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

October:

Mariana Nicolae began her term as commissioner and provided the Inspiration for the month.

Tour de Proviso event was larger this year as the 4th annual. A little cold of a day and had 370+ riders plus volunteers. Composting banners looked great, and Barry printed out materials to pass out during the event.

Opportunity: Continue to have GROW host a table at this event each year. Have general GROW commission information at outside events we have a table at to promote the commission and provide GROW email so outside communities can have contact information. GRC Objectives: **M34, WR21**

“Learn to Compost” event at the Library was attended by a few residents. **Opportunity:** Form a better presentation that can be displayed visually in conjunction with banners. GRC Objectives: **WR21**

Waste Management contract renewal discussion of review GROW performed. Composting was an opt-in option, but the village did not advertise and there was no awareness of how to access the program.

Opportunity: Better advertise opt-in services to residents. Maintain current service level expectations.

GRC Objectives: **WR21**

Engagement on Climate Action discussed hosting a field trip to the Climate Action Museum which is one of six museums in the world. Additionally discussed ETHELO software which is a community engagement platform that allows a municipality to engage and plan with the community. **Opportunity: Organize a Climate Action field trip to the museum and have the village consider software for more organized planning and engagement.** GRC Objectives: **C5, C9, C16**

[October Newsletter](#) was written by Matt Downs titled “Pumpkin Smash - Green Your Halloween”.

Westchester’s 5th year putting on the event, now at two locations, and why it is important to compost our pumpkins and not throw them into the trash (pg 11). “10 Reasons to Compost” events ad (pg 18). GRC Objectives: **WR21**

November:

Milestone moment for GROW as we had 7 commissioners present for the first time since inception.

Discussion to roll out more regular “Club Mend” events on reusing or repurposing items or even how to mend your lawn in a more ecologically friendly way. More of a hobbyist event, not a professional one.

Opportunity: Combine this type of event with Earth Hour and consider quarterly. GRC Objectives: **WR5, WR22**

Pumpkin Smash success with two locations collecting 3.24 tonnes (one “tonne” equals 1,000 kg or 2,204.6 lbs) of pumpkins that will be composted and not go to the garbage dump. **Opportunity: Continue to promote composting during this event and host more events on composting awareness.** GRC Objectives: **WR21**

Per our ordinance village should have a Westchester Climate Action Plan and now that the village is fully staffed GROW would like to reengage this topic. **Opportunity: Liz, Mariana & LeeAnn to work with staff, MMC, and C4 to produce a Westchester Climate Action Plan.** GRC Objectives: **C1a, L2**

[November Newsletter](#) written by Lee Kaufman and Nicole Molinaro titled “Buckthorn Considered the Fast Food of the Natural World” went into detail on why buckthorn is harmful, the money invested into green infrastructure projects, why we need to protect our native species and call to action to remove the invasive buckthorn. (pg 19). Pumpkin Smash ad (Pg 12). GRC Objectives: **L14b, WR21**

December:

Christmas in Proviso event mentioned though GROW did not attend formally. **Opportunity: Could this be an opportunity to partner with the Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA) not-for-profit in the future to expand general ecological information and awareness to advance sustainability within the Proviso-Leyden communities?** GRC Objectives: **L11**

Presentation by Victoria Vann on Cross Community Climate Collaborative initiative and mission. Connect with surrounding communities and drive large-scale projects. Victoria, Liz, and Nicole attended the En-ROADS Climate Action Simulation Game hosted by Riverside and was very insightful in needing a collective of solutions to move the needle in a better direction (<https://www.climateinteractive.org/en-roads/>). **Opportunity: GROW to be an intermediary in transferring initiatives brought by C4 to the Village Board as a village advisory commission.** GRC Objectives: **C12**

MWRD rain barrel donation discussion and how to move forward with an educational event. We could paint barrels with Grassroots Garden Group, partner with Dave from I Love Native Plants, and sell through the village not-for-profit foundation when formed and set up. **Opportunity: Identify the timing of the event and coordinate with MWRD Rain Ready Program to guide residents on the installation of rain barrels.** GRC Objectives: **W24a**

2024 GROW Meeting Dates published 1/11/24*, 2/1/24, 3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/2/24, 6/6/24, 7/11/24*, 8/1/24, 9/5/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24, 12/3/24*, asterisk shows dates not on the first Thursday of the month.

[December Newsletter](#) written by Mariana Nicolae titled “Water Sustainability At Home” goes into facts about water usage and ways to conserve water in your home (pg 13). Road to 2050 Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) event ad (pg 22). GRC Objectives: **W51, C12**