



GROW Ecological Commission  
Quarterly Report  
July – September 2025

***In Quarter 3 of 2025 (July-September), the GROW Ecological Commission continued its mission*** to advise the Village of Westchester and help educate the community in environmental programs and practices to improve the quality of our air, water, land, reduce greenhouse gases, minimize waste, and reduce energy consumption. The following was accomplished in Q3 2025:

**GROW Goals 2025**

Commissioners discussed priorities for 2025 and focuses on: Education/Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan

**Commissioners**

- Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase, Chair (Commissioner: Feb 2022 to Feb 2028, Co-Chair Feb 2022 to Feb 2023, Chair: to Feb 2026)
- Nikki Way, Co-Chair (Commissioner: Feb 2023 to Feb 2025, Co-Chair: to Feb 2026)
- Mariana Nicolae (Sept 2023 to Sept 2026)
- Walt Wojcik (Feb 2024 to Feb 2027)
- Kari Roberg (March 2024 to March 2027)
- Demitrus Evans (March 2025 to March 2028)
- Alexandra Silva (March 2025 to March 2028)

**Community Engagement**

**Events**

- Six Westchester residents riding Electric Bikes and five residents driving Electric Vehicles (EVs) took part in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade – (EVs included: a Tesla Model S, Chevy Equinox, BMW i4, Ford Mustang Mach-e, and ComEd’s Ford Lightening F-150).
- GROW Table at the Westchester 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event at Community Park on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- GROW Table at National Night Out at Westchester Intermediate School August 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm.
- Movie at Westchester Library showing Wall-E on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- Grow Table at Prairie Fest on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm.
- Reuse-A-Palooza Yard Sale September 20-21 with 164 residents participating.

**Newsletter Articles**

GROW continued to utilize the Village of Westchester newsletter and e-news to reach residents. The newsletter is delivered monthly to 7,200 residences, and the e-newsletter is emailed weekly to 3,700 subscribers. Topics covered in Q3 include:

- July 2025 –Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase wrote [How to Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke](#)
- August 2025 – Alexandra Silva wrote [It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s a – million migratory birds?!](#)
- September 2025 – Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase wrote [Last Chance for Federal Tax Savings on Electric Vehicles, Solar Panels, and More](#)
- Monthly features: Recipe of the Month, Green Facts, and event promotions



## **Grants**

- The Westchester Village Board used the Community Energy Grant to fund a Village wide survey of residents by paleBluedot consultants which will provide information to the Village Board on residents' views on future energy plans.

## **Policy and Infrastructure**

### *Greenest Region Compact (GRC)*

The Commission formed two-person subcommittees for the topics of Climate, Energy, Municipal Operations, and Water. Steps were established to review all line items of the GRC, identify action items, regularly review status, and share updates with residents. The GRC is a framework established by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Currently, work on the GRC is on hold until summary of Westchester's energy plan, formulated by palebluedot, is completed and reviewed.

## **In Progress**

Additionally, a number of events and projects are in the planning stages.

- Planning for fall and winter events and community engagement.
- Creating tabling opportunities and providing residents with education materials.
- Sustainable Purchasing Statement is under review by Village as part of responsible bidder ordinance overhaul.
- Evaluation of Climate Action Plan and Energy Plan by the Village continues.

Visit [www.westchester-il.org/grow](http://www.westchester-il.org/grow) to see GROW's meeting agendas, meeting minutes, articles, and presentations. Meetings are generally held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Village Hall. Please join us then and/or reach out to [GROW@westchester-il.gov](mailto:GROW@westchester-il.gov) to share your environmental priorities for the Village of Westchester.