

GreenSpot eNewsletter

December 2016

“Kindness is like snow-It beautifies everything it covers.” –Kahlil Gibran



Topics in this edition:

- Turn Those Winter Holidays Green
- I GreenSpot because I love to...
- GreenSpot Backyards
- Climate, Faith, and GreenSpot
- Waste Wizard at Your Service
- Did you know they are a GreenSpot? Ohio Dept. of Youth Services

Turn Those Winter Holidays Green

Did you know Americans throw away 25 percent more trash during the holidays than any other time of year? The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or about one million extra tons per week. Give without guilt by going green. Here are a few easy steps you can take to limit the amount of trash created this holiday season:

- o Bring your own bag when you go shopping.
- o Buy rechargeable batteries for all those great electronics you are giving.
- o Use a timer on the holiday lights to save energy.
- o Repurpose comics, posters, maps and fabrics to wrap the gifts.
- o Reuse ribbons, bows and gift bags.



The holidays provide many opportunities to be creative and reduce waste.

I GreenSpot because I love to...

Do you want to show off your GreenSpot? There is a new campaign that can help you do that! Simply hold up an “I GreenSpot because I love to [fill in the blank]” that you can download www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org and either tag GreenSpot on Facebook or email GreenSpot@columbus.gov. We will be sharing some of these pictures on our social media and website.



GreenSpot Backyards

Thank you to all those that participated in the GreenSpot Backyards program. The program is a joint effort with several jurisdictions (including Columbus) and is administered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. Columbus residents who are GreenSpots members were eligible for a \$50 rebate on a compost bin, rain barrel or native plants. You could also get up to \$100 rebate on native trees. Overall, nearly 800 rebates have been issued through the program. We look forward to continuing the program next year.



Climate, Faith, and GreenSpot

Columbus Public Health offers “Climate Change and Faith Communities” presentations through a partnership between the City of Columbus, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, and African American and Hispanic area congregations that want to learn more about climate change and the positive steps they can take to protect their health, protect the environment, and save money. Interested congregations will:

- Start with a “Climate Conversation” that explores and encourages shared values, connections and responsibilities around health and the environment.
- Church congregations or individual members can then adopt climate change action strategies that relate to their values. The impact of these actions is calculated so that participants can see how their actions are helping their families, friends and community.
- Through these actions, congregations and their members will make positive changes to their health, their community, and the environment.

Columbus Public Health also offers a “Climate Change in Schools” program where participating Columbus-based schools can be designated a “GreenSpot School” by either completing environmental actions at the facility level, or through actions taken by students in individual classrooms.

If your congregation or school is interested in learning more about climate change, its impacts, and what you can do to help, contact Rebecca at RKMellino@columbus.gov.

Waste Wizard at Your Service

Do you have an old refrigerator, oil cans, paint, or other item you do not know what to do with? The city of Columbus has a waste wizard you can ask. Type in the item and get information on where to drop it off. Try the [Waste Wizard today!](#)



Did you know they are a GreenSpot? Ohio Department of Youth Services

Each month we highlight one of our GreenSpot business members and their success. For December our highlight is Ohio Department of Youth Services. Check out what they are doing!



Teaching youth at the Ohio Dept. of Youth Services to make amends and give back through community service is an important focus for preparing youth to be successful and contributing members of society. Staff provide a number of opportunities for youth to give back in meaningful ways, including facilities offering a 10-module environmental literacy and job readiness program called Roots of Success- which is co-taught by staff and youth, Roots of Success, focuses on preparing youth for environmental careers and improving conditions in their communities.

Youth also have the opportunity to participate in aquaponics, recycling, and in-vessel composting programs. In addition the agency has earned \$10,000 through participation in a demand response program, developed a formal sustainability policy and strategic plan, and encourages e-meetings to save on travel expenses. DYS is excited to continue to grow its sustainability initiatives to continue to give youth the chance to gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the earth.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

STAY CONNECTED:



City of Columbus Public Utilities,
910 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215