

GreenSpot Household eNewsletter

March 2017

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance." -Theodore Roosevelt



Topics in this edition:

- GreenSpotLight Awards Celebration
- Earth Day Volunteer Sign Up
- GreenSpot Community Backyards
- Lawnmower Exchange
- Tree Giveaway!
- I GreenSpot Because I love to...
- Drive Electric
- Did you know they are a GreenSpot? CeraNet

GreenSpotLight Awards Celebration

Join GreenSpot and Councilmember Elizabeth Brown in a celebration of our community's GreenSpot achievements. Being recognized:

- *Three GreenSpot businesses (small, medium, and large) that have demonstrated exemplary environmental performance;
- *GreenSpot Sustainability Initiative graduates;



New this year, will be a special Climate Change Education Session. Jason Cervenec with OSU's Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center will discuss climate change impacts to Columbus and climate preparedness efforts underway and David R. Celebrezze and local organizations will share tips and available resources to help you reduce your carbon footprint at home.

Admission is free, but please RSVP by emailing GreenSpot@Columbus.gov or click "going" on this [Facebook event](#).

The celebration begins at 9:00 am and ends at 11:00 am at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library, Reading Room, 96 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215.

Event Sponsor: City of Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbia Gas of Ohio, AEP Ohio, and SWACO.

Earth Day Volunteer Sign Up

Be part of the largest volunteer-led Earth Day celebration in the U.S.! Choose from dozens of Earth Day service sites being hosted around the Greater Columbus area. Activities range from tree planting to litter pickups and more. Then after the trees have been planted and the litter has been collected, celebrate Earth Day Columbus' achievements on April 22, 2017 outside during the day at Columbus Commons and inside during darkness at Brothers Drake. All details are available at EarthDayColumbus.org.



GreenSpot Community Backyards

Last year, the partnership between Franklin Soil and Water, the City of Columbus, Franklin County and participating communities provided over 750 rebates to participating residents that brought home rain barrels, compost bins, or native plants and trees through the GreenSpot Community Backyards Rebate Program. In addition, over 200 rebates were given to residents who purchased native trees such as shingle oaks, sugar maples, or magnolia trees. The City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water appreciate the positive difference these trees make in our urban tree canopy!



Community Backyards will once again offer \$50 or \$100 reimbursements to residents after participation in the program and purchase of an approved backyard conservation item. Participation is necessary to receive a rebate, and participants must live in an eligible tax district. The program will relaunch its 3rd season on April 1, and will extend through October 31, 2017. So get ready for spring!

For more information on Community Backyards, a full list of participating districts, and information on how to participate and eligibility, visit: www.communitybackyards.org

Lawnmower Exchange

Columbus Public Health and Lowe's Home Improvement is teaming up to hold a lawn mower exchange on Saturday, April 29th from 10am to 1pm at the Lowe's store on 2345 Silver Drive, Columbus, OH. Those that participate in the exchange must be Columbus residents and provide proof of address in the form of a driver's license or utility bill. A working, gas mower must be exchanged at the time of purchase. The Kobalt mower will then be sold to the customer for \$175, which is a 50% discount. For more information click [here](#).



Tree Giveaway!

Thanks to Branch Out partners, Kurtz Bros and SWACO, the city is offering 1,000 free trees and compost to Columbus residents to plant on their property. The trees are seedlings, in 2 gallon pots.



If you would like to register for a tree to be picked up on Saturday, April 15, you can register [here](#) and further details will be provided soon. Note- city employees are not eligible to receive free trees; tree must be planted in the City of Columbus to be eligible; limit of two trees per household.

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.



Drive Electric

GreenSpot member Clean Fuels Ohio and Columbus, among other partners, have teamed up to educate and provide tools to increase the number of electric vehicles in Columbus. Benefits of EVs include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower fuel cost, and increased convenience of vehicle fueling. Clean Fuels Ohio is committed to educating consumers about how fun and affordable these cars can be through programs and ride-and-drive events. Their Drive Electric Ohio initiative provides resources for consumers interested in purchasing an electric vehicle as well as for businesses looking to install their own EV charging station. Right now, the Clean Fuels Ohio and Nissan Electric Vehicle Group Buy partnership is offering special discounts on one of the nation's best-selling EVs. New Nissan LEAF purchases or leases also come with two free years of DC fast charging! [Learn more.](#)

Did you know they are a GreenSpot? CeraNet

For over 20 years CeraNet has provided flexible green data center solutions for clients looking to get more out of their IT infrastructure. Their team of experts help clients discover opportunities and create innovative solutions to complex business problems that are both economical and environmentally sustainable.



In the past year, CeraNet worked on several energy efficiency programs with AEP of Ohio to define over 500,000 kWh of power savings. These awards also include financial incentives that we use to fund programs that pay their clients to make technology upgrades and to help them use power more wisely. In addition to the AEP programs they've also revamped the cooling systems in our Gahanna facility to provide spot cooling to specific equipment vs cooling the entire facility and installed 'Cool Roof' coating, these projects help them save energy and reduce electricity costs associated with cooling the building.

CeraNet is working with clients to save 1,000,000 kWh of energy in 2017 by committing \$100,000 to help clients pay for upgrading their IT infrastructure. To jumpstart upgrades, CeraNet is paying clients up to \$500 per server (up to \$1000 for GreenSpot members!) to upgrade to high efficiency cloud computing. When clients upgrade to more efficient equipment, they are not only helping the environment but also saving time, money, and capital outlay for servers and infrastructure.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

STAY CONNECTED:



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