

Get Green Columbus 2007 Summary



*Environmental Stewardship
in the 21st Century*

City of Columbus • Michael B. Coleman, Mayor



Dear Friends;

My Get Green Columbus initiative is now three years old, and we have made much progress toward the goals set in 2005. This report outlines some highlights of the work we've done together to protect our environment, encourage green jobs and construction, and set a good example for others on this important issue. For a more complete report, please go to www.GetGreenColumbus.org and check out our Progress to Date section.



We created the Green Team in 2006 as a part of the campaign, and I want to say a special thanks to the members for their work as advisors and advocates in the community. The Green Team has been particularly effective at communications and outreach, hosting conferences, participating in festivals and generally helping get the green word out.

Of all of our accomplishments, one of the most meaningful is also the hardest to quantify – showing how our local efforts compliment the national green movement. But, while we aren't there yet, every day I'm proud to see new ways that Columbus' citizens of all ages, students, businesses and others are getting involved and Getting Green. To foster that involvement, this year I am going to launch Get Green Columbus **Project GreenSpot**. This Project will encourage businesses, schools, churches, and individual citizens to turn their businesses, buildings and homes into "GreenSpots." GreenSpots will be launched by July – keep an eye on our web page for more information. Together we can make all of Central Ohio a GreenSpot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. B. Coleman".

Michael B. Coleman, Mayor



ENCOURAGING BIKING

2007 was the year that biking made it onto the public agenda in a big way in Columbus. Currently, under our current plan, the City's existing greenway trail system of 62 miles will be expanded to 110 miles, but Mayor Coleman is also asking MORPC, residents and bike advocates to help the City plan for more bike and fitness trails and paths for the future through the Bicentennial Bikeway Plan. This plan, which should be final in the Spring of 2008, will look at not just how the City should grow its trail system, but also what other steps the City can take to become more bike friendly. Recommendations for connecting existing trails and making roads safer will be included. Even before the plan is done, the City continues to expand its network, including a new bridge over the Olentangy River at Broadmeadows Drive, allowing greater east-west connections.





PEDAL INSTEAD

Making Columbus more bike-friendly is one of our highest priorities. Biking is not only great exercise, which contributes to making our city more fit, it also can reduce air pollution when people use bikes to commute. In 2007, the City partnered with Central Ohio Biking Association to set up free bike corrals at seven festivals and three OSU football games to encourage commuting by bike. The bike corrals were very successful. We parked more than 2,300 bikes. By not driving their cars, those bikers saved almost 1000 gallons of gas, and over 18,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.



INCREASING FREE NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING

In the fall of 2007, Columbus partnered with Columbus Public Schools and SWACO to add 121 new recycling drop off locations – almost tripling the number of available sites. The drop off program is going well. The amount of recycling in 2007 increased over 2006 by more than 1,100 tons to a total of 10,756 tons. To find the nearest location to you, go to www.SWACO.org and enter your zip code.



CENTRAL OHIO GREEN PACT

Green Pact Signers

Columbus
 Bexley
 Dublin
 Gahanna
 Grandview Heights
 Grove City
 Hilliard
 MORPC
 New Albany
 Powell
 Upper Arlington
 Westerville
 Worthington

Mayor Coleman and 11 other central Ohio Mayors joined with MORPC in signing the Central Ohio Green Pact, a 10-point common sense approach to creating a more environmentally sustainable community. This Pact represents an historic, multi-jurisdictional commitment to Get Green with policies that enhance and protect the quality of life, environment and economic vibrancy of the region. Together these thirteen jurisdictions to take practical steps to protect the air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce our consumption of raw materials and increase recycling.



BUILDING GREEN

The City continues to LEED the way with green buildings. The City has six buildings, including two fire stations, a police station, a health center, that are in design or construction will be LEED certified, and another six that are being built with green elements, such as energy efficiency, added to their design.

2007 also saw two of the City's green projects win national recognition. The downtown Lazarus Building was awarded a Gold Level LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, making Lazarus the largest LEED building in Ohio and among the largest internationally to achieve LEED certification for the complete renovation of an older building. The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) selected the Lazarus Building for its annual Green Development Award. In addition, Greenview Estates was selected by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for its Inspiring Energy Efficiency Impact Award. Greenview Estates is an affordable green subdivision, with energy efficient homes that will save residents money for years to come.



View of the roof of the former Lazarus Building.

INCREASING RECYCLING AT CITY BUILDINGS

Columbus' expanded Employee Recycling Program includes much more than paper – employees can now co-mingle and recycle paper, plastic, aluminum and steel. In 2007, the expanded program resulted in 373 tons of material being recycled, which is a more than 10% increase over 2006. Starting this year, each City building will have a Recycling Steward appointed to every building to further promote the Employee Recycling Program.



PROTECTING OUR CLIMATE

In February, Mayor Coleman signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. In doing so, Mayor Coleman joined 600 mayors from across the country in making a commitment to reduce the City's impact on global warming. Once the agreement was signed, the first step for the City was to complete a baseline emission inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions. This baseline was recently completed, and now the City is working on establishing reduction goals and an action plan.

The City worked with the Ohio State University to create a new inventory tool that is geared towards municipalities. The City is making it available for free to the rest of the Central Ohio Community, so that other cities may more easily complete a baseline inventory.

GREEN FLEET POLICY

The City of Columbus has approximately 3,100 on-road and 2,800 off-road vehicles, which consumed approximately 3.6 million gallons of fuel in 2007. As part of Mayor Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative, the City is working to reduce vehicle fuel consumption and emissions. The City adopted an update to the City's Green Fleet Policy, effective January 1, 2008. The goals of the policy are to cut fuel consumption, retire or retrofit pre-2002 diesels, and educate drivers about how to drive smart.



PROTECTING THE BIG DARBY CREEK

In 2007, Mayor Coleman and other elected officials celebrated the one year anniversary of the Big Darby Accord Masterplan. Six jurisdictions, representing 95% of the planning area, have adopted the plan. Since adopting it, the jurisdictions have been busy implementing the plan, establishing the Big Darby Accord Advisory panel, and starting the planning on the Town Center.



City of Columbus
Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

