



Each year, the City of Columbus honors three organizations who demonstrate excellence in sustainable business practices; going above and beyond the requirements of the GreenSpot program. The 2017 GreenSpotLight awards are being presented to three outstanding businesses.

*Congratulations...*



The Dawes Arboretum

This document describes the efforts each organization underwent in 2016 to help make Columbus a beautiful, healthy, and prosperous city.

Please consider becoming a member of the GreenSpot program for your home, business, school or community group online at [www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org](http://www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org). Interact and share your accomplishments throughout the year with our online community at [www.facebook.com/ColumbusGreenSpot](http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusGreenSpot) and on Twitter [@GreenSpotCbus](https://twitter.com/GreenSpotCbus).

### Sponsors of the 2017 GreenSpotLight Celebration:



**Category:** Offices, Educational Institutions, & Nonprofits  
**Size:** Large business  
**Employees:** 115  
**Member since:** 2015



The Ohio History Connection incorporates sustainability measures into their day to day activities which add up to large environmental benefits and cost savings. To conserve and protect water, they have upgraded their plumbing fixtures with water efficient ones; improved their chilled water system to maximize re-use of process water; and closely monitor water meters to catch any leaks right away. Their top activities to conserve energy include upgrading the hot and chilled water systems, installing demand control ventilation measures, replacing inefficient exhibit lighting, conducting an energy audit, and securing funding to continue energy conservation efforts in 2017. To support green commuting, the Connection created a bike storage room and encourage staff to participate in the MORPC Commuter Challenge and National Bike to Work Day, give preferential parking to low-emission vehicles and carpools, and facilitate means for employees to car pool or bike together. They've achieved waste reduction with deskside recycling bins and multiple recycling stations throughout the Connection (funded by SWACO and Columbus Foundation), hosted the Columbus Green Purge (four years in a row), performed a waste audit, and set up a common re/freecycle area for hard-to-recycle items (batteries, etc.) and office supplies. To inform and engage staff, the Connection formed an internal green team which holds regular "green bags," encourages GreenSpot household membership, and posts green tips on their intranet/staff eNewsletters.

They've shared their successes with the GreenSpot Sustainability Initiative Class, Green Drinks, and the Design Columbus conference. Other sustainability success include staff participating in a CSA, creating an on-site garden, adopting green clean products, working with OSU Byrd Polar Climate and Research Center for a weekend of activities around climate change, and planning 7 more energy audits at their sites around the state. Their efforts have saved more than 6.9 million kWh, 40,000 mcf of gas, and more than \$800,000 since their baseline year.

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**Category:** Offices, Educational Institutions, & Nonprofits  
**Size:** Medium business  
**Employees:** 45  
**Member since:** 2012



#### The Dawes Arboretum

The Dawes Arboretum has a history of environmental stewardship. Located on nearly 2,000 acres, they provide resources and education to thousands on a yearly basis. They've held many programs that promote clean water and environmental conscientiousness including vernal pool (seasonal wetlands) workshops which educate the public about the role keeping our waters clean plays in ecosystems. In addition, The Arboretum maintains several wetlands on its property. To conserve energy and cut down on emissions, they've purchased an electric golf cart that can give tours of the grounds (as opposed to a van). Another way they reduce waste is through composting their kitchen scraps and plant clippings. They use some of their downed trees as mulch for the grounds. Education is a core tenant of their work, which is why they host more than 260,000 visitors free of charge, annually and nearly 16,000 people participate in their free or low-cost educational programming to learn about trees and nature. They've partnered with the Monarch Butterfly Project, Columbus Branch Out, Columbus GreenSpot, and Columbus Green Team, the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, and Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. Moving forward, they will be installing a green roof on a storage shed as a demonstration project, improving a bioswale, and planting more trees! They will also be continuing to serve the community by answering plant questions via their free Plant Clinic, which can be reached at 800.44.DAWES.

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**Category:** Offices, Educational Institutions, & Nonprofits  
**Size:** Small business  
**Employees:** 15  
**Member since:** 2008



CeraNet invests considerable time and money to minimize environmental impact and improve energy efficiencies for their clients. According to the US EPA, a highly efficient data center uses 250+ gallons of water per square foot per year. CeraNet uses zero; saving massive amounts of water and energy by using an enclosed system for their chillers. Their data center has a white coating on the roof which reduces the solar heat buildup saving 100,000 kWh of energy. In 2016, they worked with clients to help them upgrade their IT infrastructure to new high efficiency Cloud Servers saving over 450,000 kWh of energy per year and installed spot cooling equipment (vs. using a larger main cooling unit) to save an additional 600,000 kWh per year. They continue to be green by investigating the use of renewable energy sources to power their data centers and have a goal of helping their clients save 1,000,000 kWh of energy in 2017.