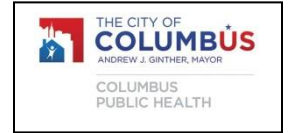


Become a “GreenSpot School!”



Help students learn how to make Columbus cleaner, healthier and more environmentally sustainable.



Participation options are as 1) **Classroom** or 2) **School Facility**

Option 1: **Classroom Enrollment**

- Class enrolls via *GreenSpot* website and selects at least 3 commitments from “Community Group” options
- Students complete assigned home activity with their families (provided)
- Class selects one or more class projects (below). One Climate Change action is required.

Schedule class presentation on climate change *	Build a school composting bin
Reduce car miles (bike or walk to school) *	Class / school recycling (cans, paper, etc.) *
Safe Routes to School/ Walking School Bus *	Visit Rumpke MRF *
Take a COTA bus ride (learn how) *	Class / school plastic bag recycling
Map your COTA route from home to school *	Class / school clothing, electronic donations
Unplug appliances when not in use *	Map / visit SWACO recycling drop-off centers *
Turn off class lights when not in use *	Class / school yard sale
Class rain barrel workshop / demonstration	Class printers default to double-sided printing
Plant a school garden	Science Fair projects on climate change *
Visit a community garden	Climate change poster / poster contest / book *

Note: * = Climate Change action

Option 2: **School Facility Enrollment**

- Schedule climate change presentation to one participating classroom with Columbus Public Health Staff
- Students share provided information with their families at home
- School enrolls through *GreenSpot* website and works to fulfill building facility requirements listed in “Office, Educational and Non-Profit” option. At least 2 must be from actions below:

Replacing bulbs with CFLs or LEDs	Install programmable thermostat
Purchase / use EnergyStar appliances	Dial down thermostat
Purchase / use electric maintenance equipment	Clean refrigerator coils
Install weather stripping, caulking	Install high-efficiency water heater
Plant a rain garden	Install insulating curtains
Plant a tree / native plants	Purchase / use recycled products
Establish “meatless” lunch day options	

Questions? Please Contact:

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 Columbus Public Health
 Office of Environmental Protection & Sustainability
 614.645.6189 / ricks@columbus.gov

St. Mary is First *GreenSpot School* – Is Yours next?

Saint Mary School, 700 S. Third St., is the first school in Columbus to be designated as a “*GreenSpot School*,” after students there spearheaded a number of environmental projects this past academic year. Students at the Catholic Preschool – 8th grade school developed a school-wide recycling project, a school garden, and a composing project as part of a pilot program designed to teach kids about the issue of climate change. *GreenSpot Schools* was developed as an offshoot of *GreenSpot*, a city program that offers participants a chance to pledge online to actions that improve the environment. *GreenSpot Schools* is coordinated by Columbus Public Health and the Department of Public Utilities.

Christina Hickey, Saint Mary’s Director of Marketing and Community Relations and art teacher, coordinated a kick-off assembly, where Jerry Freewalt (Diocese) and Public Health staff spoke about the importance of environmental stewardship, and Hickey told the excited kids about the opportunity to become a *GreenSpot School*. Students picked from projects that included recycling, composting and gardening projects.

Kids worked first with a school-wide recycling project. Hickey tapped school student council representatives to spearhead the project. Volunteers used a portion of their lunch recess time each day to collect recyclables from around the building and take them to the school custodian, who placed them in a dedicated outside trash container for pick-up. The kids wore *GreenSpot School* necklaces created by Hickey to identify them to other teachers as having permission to go throughout the building each day and gather the recyclables. A *GreenSpot* poster was placed in the school gym so that the student helper contributions could be noted each day. Hickey also created *GreenSpot School* certificates that were awarded to participating students at a year-end assembly. In the 4 months since the program was started, Saint Mary students collected over 8,000 gallons of recyclable material.

The creation of a school garden was completed as the school year drew to a close. A group of Saint Mary 8th graders created the garden, which was dedicated to the school as their class project. The garden will focus on growing tomatoes and cilantro that students can harvest and turn into salsa.

Hickey says that the opportunity to become a *GreenSpot School* has been a positive experience for all Saint Mary students. She says it’s been a great opportunity for the kids to gain experience in the concept of “service learning.”

She and program staff are working on ideas to refine the school’s recycling program and expand its garden. And a number of new possible projects that can help the climate change problem are on the drawing board. These range from students volunteering to plant trees, to building outdoor bat boxes – boosting bat populations.

If you are interested in learning more about the *GreenSpot School* program, please contact Richard Hicks, Columbus Public Health, at 614.645.6189 or rickh@columbus.gov.