



**SUSTAINABLE
COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

CITY OF COLUMBUS SUSTAINABILITY

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2019**



Image source: MKSK

“Working together we can lessen the harmful effects of climate change, help lift our communities, and create greater opportunity for all residents.”

–Mayor Andrew J. Ginther



SUSTAINABLE COLUMBUS

A COMMUNITYWIDE EFFORT

Recognizing the role a healthy environment plays in contributing to the City of Columbus continuing to be America's Opportunity City, the City has established the Sustainable Columbus initiative.

This initiative, under the leadership of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, focuses on optimizing city operations and working with external stakeholders from all corners of our community to enhance and push environmentally-friendly policies for our region. The City of Columbus strives to be a regional, state and national leader in sustainability.

Learn more about the city's environmental efforts at www.columbus.gov/sustainable/.



**SUSTAINABLE
COLUMBUS**
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The City of Columbus continues to be a leader in sustainability.

Sustainability is not just a “buzz word” that we use to feel good about things. It’s a core belief in our city and a key priority of my second-term as Mayor of the great City of Columbus. It goes to the very fabric of what it means to be America’s Opportunity City, a city that prides itself on clean water for our residents to drink, clean air for our residents to breathe and a culture that promotes conservation and a responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Through our Sustainable Columbus initiative, we have changed how city government operates, breaking down the walls between city departments on areas that impact our environment. The city has embedded sustainability as a lens by which government functions, always with an eye on how the city’s actions impact our city’s most vulnerable residents and how city government can help promote more prosperous neighborhoods.

And through Sustainable Columbus, city government is working more closely with environmental groups, business and industry and residents to provide a venue where city environmental goals can be vetted and where concerns can be heard.

It’s working well and we are achieving real results, which you will see in the pages of this annual sustainability report documenting our progress as a city in 2019.

I’m very proud of the work my administration has accomplished in keeping Columbus as a leader in sustainability in our state, region and nation.

Our work is not done. The best is yet to come.

THE HONORABLE ANDREW J. GINTHER
Mayor, City of Columbus

KEY PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Sustainable Columbus helps the city achieve Mayor Ginther's environmental goals including these by the end of 2020: Increasing the number of GreenSpot memberships to 20,000; Reducing greenhouse gases by 30 percent from city operations; Increasing the number of city parks to 400; adopting a tree canopy strategic plan, providing greenspace within a 10-minute walk of all city residences and supporting local food initiatives; and increasing illegal dumping case resolutions by 10 percent and increasing the recyclable materials collected per participating household by 5 percent.

At the end of 2019, the city accomplished the GreenSpot membership goal and the city increased the illegal dumping case resolutions by 300 percent as compared to 2018!

KEY PRIORITIES

GREENSPOT

GreenSpot asks households, businesses and community groups to make pledges to conserve energy, conserve & protect water, and reduce waste.

GOALS

- Increase the number of GreenSpot members to 20,000
- Reduce the environmental impacts of daily life by motivating behavior change

RESOURCE PROTECTION & CONSERVATION

Through our Recreation & Parks and Public Health initiatives we connect our people through the power of nature, wellness and creativity.

GOALS

- Increase the number of city parks to 400
- Adopt a tree canopy strategic plan
- Greenspace within a 10-minute walk of residences
- Support local food initiatives

WASTE REDUCTION

To build stronger, safer communities, we are working with residents in our opportunity neighborhoods to address illegal dumping and activate recycling.

GOALS

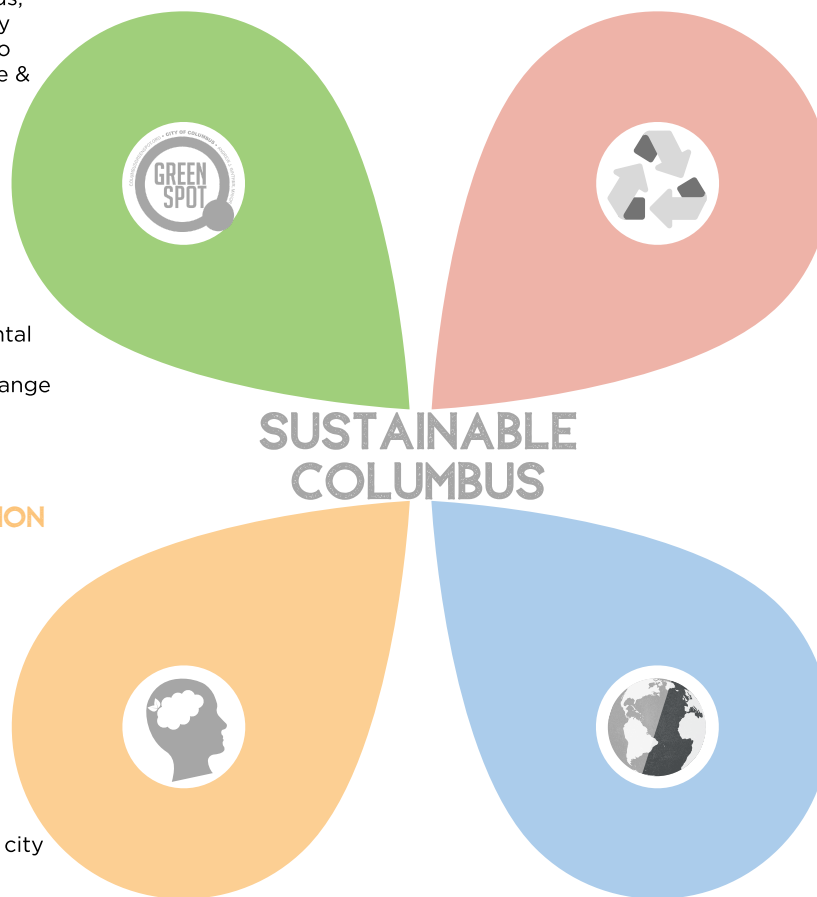
- Increase illegal dumping case resolutions by 15%
- Increase recyclable materials collected per participating household citywide by 5%

CLIMATE & ENERGY

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do our part to help the U.S. meet the Paris Agreement, we are working to become a carbon neutral city.

GOALS

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from City operations
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from the community



THE 2030 PLAN

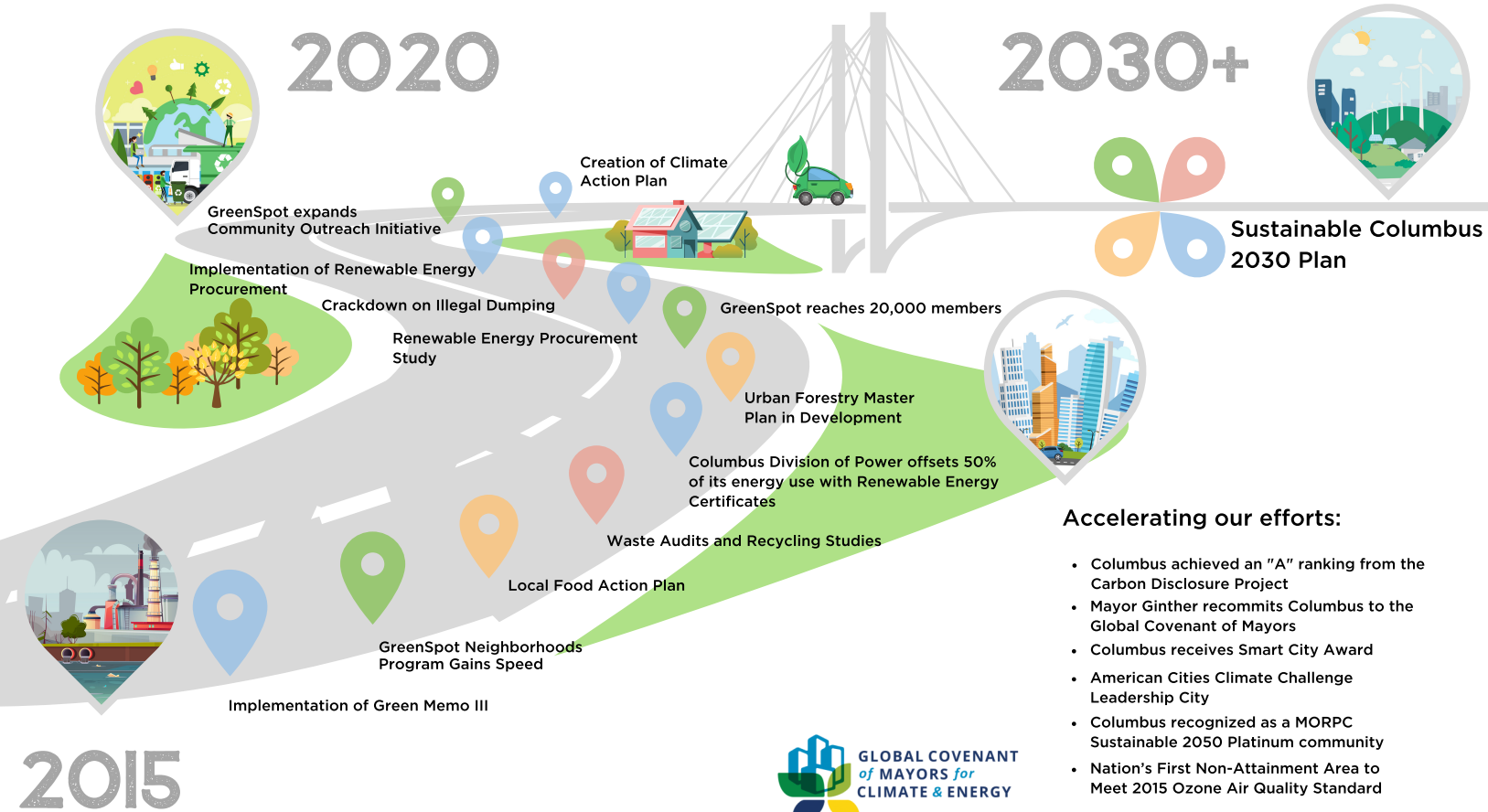


**SUSTAINABLE
COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

The Sustainable Columbus 2030 Plan will set a framework to shape the City's sustainability efforts from 2020 to 2030. The plan will focus on high impact practices that advance our four key priorities: GreenSpot, Waste Reduction, Resource Protection & Conservation, and Climate & Energy and will incorporate each program's detailed plans to achieve its goals.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES TIMELINE



YEAR IN REVIEW



WORKING GROUP AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2019, Sustainable Columbus held 11 meetings of its Internal Working Group comprised of representatives from many internal city departments who deal with sustainability issues. Internal workgroup members work on making the Mayor's environmental agenda a reality, working through internal policies and coordinating efforts.



In 2019, Sustainable Columbus held four quarterly meetings of its External Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of the environmental community, business and industry and others. This group of external stakeholders assists the city in vetting the city's environmental plans and priorities and serves as a venue where environmental concerns can be brought to the city's attention.

**“WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN LESSEN THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, HELP LIFT OUR COMMUNITIES, AND CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS”
—MAYOR ANDREW J. GINTHER**

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public education and engagement on environmental issues serves as a key component of the Sustainable Columbus initiative. To that end, the Sustainable Columbus team organized several public outreach events and interacted with many constituents and others on environmental issues.

PARIS TO PITTSBURGH

On June 20, 2019, Sustainable Columbus, in partnership with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and the Nature Conservancy of Ohio, held a public screening of Bloomberg Philanthropies' documentary Paris to Pittsburgh, about the issue of climate change and the evolving US role in it. The event, which was open to the public and attended by nearly 100, featured an expert panel on the topic after the showing.



LAUNCHING SUSTAINABLE STEPS

As a component of Sustainable Columbus, a new city behavioral change program was launched in 2019 called Sustainable Steps, which seeks to educate the public on small, achievable steps that can be taken to support the city's environmental efforts.

30,000

HOME ENERGY AUDITS
BY THE END OF 2020

20,000+

ALREADY COMPLETED
IN 2019!

The behavior change program was put into play with supporting the city's efforts to have 30,000 home energy audits done in the city by end of 2020 and on July 21, 2019, the Sustainable Steps Launch Party was held on the grounds of the Land-Grant Brewing Company in the Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus. People packed the event to learn more about home energy audits and the city's efforts surrounding that push.



GETTING THE WORD OUT

Sustainable Steps Launched a Web site and distributed social media content via the Sustainable Columbus platforms on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter.

Sustainable Columbus also coordinated the city's data responses to the CDP and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy annual requests for environmental program information as well as compiled the city's Annual Sustainability Report.





EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT



KEY PRIORITY 1

GREENSPOT

GreenSpot was created in 2008 as a way for people to learn about living and working greener.

In 2019, the program experienced significant membership growth, which now totals more than 20,000 homes, businesses and community groups, each committing to behaviors promoting responsible stewardship of the environment.

Some of the projects they completed were creating a New Home Owner Green Guide, Recycling videos, green tip videos and a restaurant leave-behind card.

BY THE NUMBERS...

20,000 MEMBERS

Including homeowners, renters, businesses, & community groups



1,300 HOUSEHOLDS

Participated in the GreenSpot Backyard Conservation cost share program to receive either a rain barrel or native tree or plant.



3 GREENSPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to:

- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Corporate Cleaning, Inc.
- Sunny Glen Wellness/Sunny Glen Garden

27 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Worked on various projects to promote GreenSpot in the community

50 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS



6 BUSINESSES

Graduated from the GreenSpot Sustainable Business Course

2 RECOGNITIONS

GreenSpot spearheaded efforts in the city winning the Most Waterwise award from the Wyland Foundation's National Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge.



KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL



Keep Columbus Beautiful is a City of Columbus community-improvement program and a national affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. KCB focuses on public education and volunteer service related to quality of life environment issues including litter, recycling and beautification projects.

The program is a division of the Department of Public Service offering residents resources and opportunities to improve their neighborhoods through community-based efforts.

BY THE NUMBERS

481

CLEANUPS &
BEAUTIFICATION
PROJECTS

8,690

KEEP COLUMBUS
BEAUTIFUL
VOLUNTEERS

20,237

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

331,310

POUNDS OF
DEBRIS



CLIMATE & ENERGY

KEY PRIORITY 2

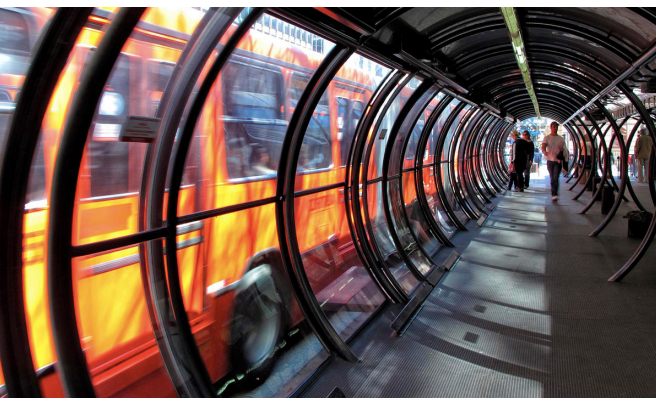
ENERGY

In 2019, the City of Columbus started the process of developing a first-in-the-state policy to require certain building owners in the city to publicly disclose energy and water usage.

The proposed energy benchmarking ordinance would make the City of Columbus the 30th city in America to have adopted this policy towards transparency and sustainable energy and water usage. The ordinance will be voted on by City Council in early 2020.



Where energy comes from matters. Fossil fuels, like coal and oil, contribute to climate change and negatively impact communities. Cleaner energy, like wind, solar, hydro, natural gas and energy efficiencies can improve our climate, health and economy. In 2019, the City continued efforts to move towards clean energy that will pay dividends for our community. Energy efficiency is a quick and easy way to save money and go green.



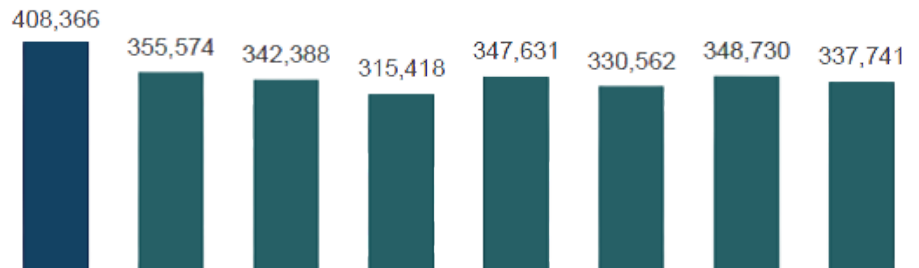
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther has signed onto the Global Covenant of Mayors. Under this compact, the city has agreed to build and conduct a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory with a breakdown of emissions for buildings and the transportation sector; identify climate hazards and to publicly report on its progress.

The City of Columbus participates in the Carbon Disclosure Project, an initiative that supports cities and companies disclosing the environmental impact of major corporations. The project aims to make environmental reporting and transparency and risk management a business standard and to drive disclosure, insight and action towards a sustainable economy.



2019 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

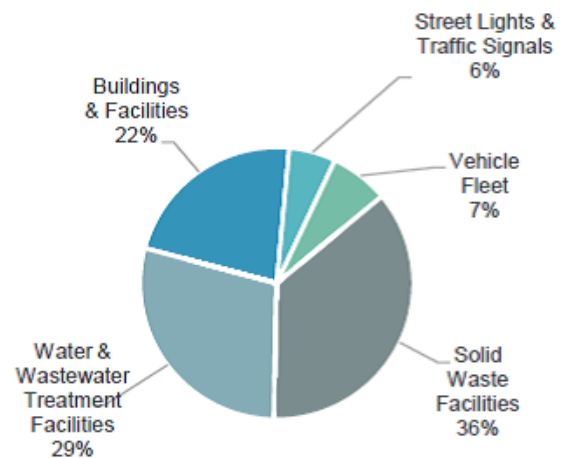
Whereas the population of Columbus has grown 20% since 2005 (the benchmark year), total emissions for government operations have decreased 17% over the same time period.



Government Operations Annual Emissions	2005	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Buildings & Facilities	87,931	76,431	87,309	79,818	88,451	81,284	86,011	75,347
Street Lights & Traffic Signals	29,134	26,749	32,442	31,788	30,471	21,616	25,265	18,733
Vehicle Fleet	33,965	30,281	29,459	26,184	23,587	22,564	23,473	23,445
Solid Waste Facilities	97,245	97,218	98,597	102,290	108,272	110,308	111,721	122,917
Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities	160,091	124,895	94,582	75,337	96,851	94,790	102,259	97,300
Total Emissions (Metric tons CO₂e)	408,366	355,574	342,388	315,418	347,631	330,562	348,730	337,741

Government Operations Emissions	Percent Change in Total Emissions 2005 to 2019	Percent Change in Emissions per Capita 2005 to 2019
Buildings & Facilities	-14.3%	-28.9%
Street Lights & Traffic Signals	-35.7%	-46.6%
Vehicle Fleet	-31.0%	-42.7%
Solid Waste Facilities	26.4%	4.9%
Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities	-39.2%	-49.6%
Total Emissions	-17.3%	-31.4%

Sector Percentage of Total



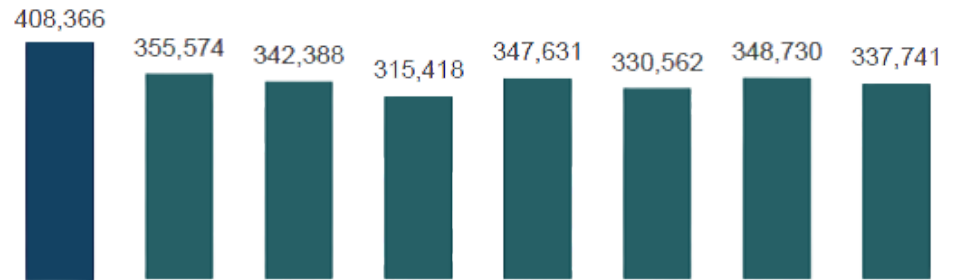
KEY TAKEAWAYS: GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

- On a per capita basis, greenhouse gas emissions for government operations have decreased 31%.
- All sectors show a significant decrease in emissions with the exception of solid waste. A portion of this growth is due to a methodological change in this year's inventory.
- Solid Waste and Water and Wastewater Facilities continue to contribute the most to total emissions for government operations (36% and 29% respectively).
- The majority of emission reductions are due to less carbon intensive fuel sources being used to produce electricity.



2019 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY CONTINUED

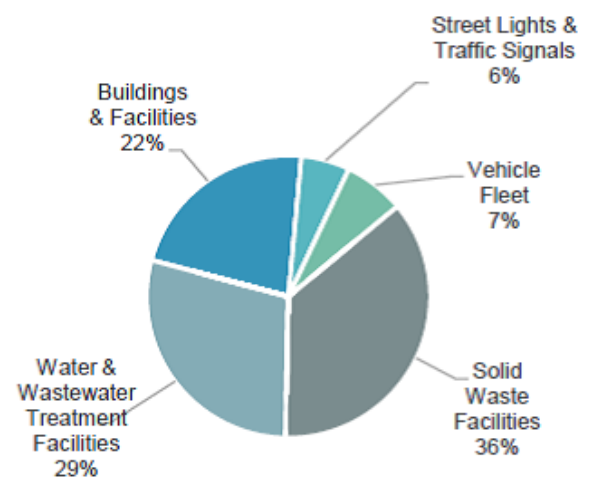
Total greenhouse gas emissions across the City are nearly 3% lower than the benchmark year of 2013, despite an 11% growth in population and regional GDP during the same time period.



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Total Emissions	-17.3%	-31.4%

Sector Percentage of Total



KEY TAKEAWAYS: COMMUNITY WIDE

- On a per capita basis, emissions are nearly 13% lower than they were in 2013.
- Transportation continues to be the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions for Columbus at 39%, having grown by 27% on a per capita basis since 2013.
- The increase in fugitive emissions is primarily due to a change in methodology, bringing it closer in line with US EPA estimates

AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE

In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies awarded the City of Columbus as a winning city in the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge.



American Cities Climate Challenge



Reduce building energy use

+



Increase renewable energy

+



Reduce vehicle travel

+



Electrify Vehicles

=



Cities Reach Paris Climate Goals

THE BLOOMBERG AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE IS A \$70 MILLION PROGRAM THAT WILL ACCELERATE 25 AMBITIOUS CITIES' EFFORTS – INCLUDING THE CITY OF COLUMBUS – TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR RESIDENTS.

Through the Climate Challenge – which is part of Bloomberg's American Cities Initiative, a suite of more than \$200 million in investments to strengthen city halls and advance critical policies – Columbus was accepted into a two-year acceleration program and will be provided powerful new resources and access to cutting-edge support to help meet or beat the city's near term carbon reduction goals.

COLUMBUS: A LEADER IN CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Bloomberg Philanthropies selected the City of Columbus as a winning city because of its innovative and ambitious climate action plans to reduce air pollution and city-wide emissions with specific projects aimed at reforming their respective transit and building sectors, areas which are typically responsible for more than 80 percent total of all city-wide emissions



AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019 BASED ON KEY CITY OF COLUMBUS/BLOOMBERG PRIORITIES:

PRIORITY ACTION

Workforce Development

implement a workforce development program to train community energy advocates and deploy in tandem with Community Energy Savers

PROGRESS TO DATE (2019)

Hired and trained 7 community energy advocates in Linden, Franklinton, and the Hilltop.

Energy audits

Complete 30,000 home energy audits in the residential sector with a focus on neighborhoods with the highest rates of energy burden.

Completed more than 23,000 home energy audits. Launched the Sustainable Steps program, providing residents with simple and actionable ways to improve their lives and the health of their environment.

Clean Energy Financing

Accelerate \$15 million in new clean energy financing through commercial and residential property assessed clean energy financing (PACE).

Financed 23 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through PACE financing in 2019.

Benchmarking

Pass a commercial and multifamily energy and water benchmarking ordinance for large buildings.

Conducted robust stakeholder engagement with more than 50 organizations including more than 90 meetings and presentations to solicit input from building owners, managers, and tenants.

AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE



2019 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

PRIORITY ACTION

New Mobility Options

Create a framework for implementation of a high-capacity transit corridor(s) and encourage the use of alternative mobility options by adding 3,000 units of bikeshare, e-scooters, and e-bikes.

Incentives For Low-Carbon Mobility

Provide incentives and behavior nudging for employers to offer new mobility benefits for employees.

Parking Management

Adopt and implement a strategic parking plan with the goal of reinvesting \$250,000 of annual revenue into alternative mobility.

Increase Public Transit Ridership

Expand the high-frequency public transit network to achieve a 5% increase in ridership.

PROGRESS TO DATE (2019)

Added 1,500 micro-mobility devices and reduced single occupancy vehicle travel from large employers by three percent. Worked with City Leadership to identify several corridors to advance high-capacity transit planning.

Through Smart Columbus, worked with 31 large employers to offer new mobility benefits to employees and held a record-setting 120 electric vehicle ride-and-drive events.

Published a Strategic Parking Plan that analyzes existing conditions and recommends parking management strategies and parking demand management tools Downtown, in the University District, Franklinton, and the South of Downtown neighborhoods. Reinvested \$225,000 into alternative mobility, including the downtown C-PASS.

Through Smart Columbus, continued development of a multi-modal trip planning application to make it easier for people to find and pay for the best way to get to their destination using multiple modes of transit including bus, bike-share, scooter-share, etc. and increased COTA ridership by 1.5%.



RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITMENTS

In 2019, the City of Columbus hired a Renewable Energy Owner's Representative. After a procurement process, the city hired Go Sustainable Energy to fill that role.



Go Sustainable Energy identified available sites and scrutinized their potential for renewable energy deployment and researched the renewable energy technologies to understand which would optimize operations and made recommendations to the city about options to pursue.

In 2019, City's Division of Power purchased over 30 percent of its energy from renewable energy resources for its nearly 15,000 customers. The EcoSmart Choice program continued as an option for customers to voluntarily offset up to 100 percent of energy with Renewable Energy Certificates, or RECs. RECs are market-based instruments that represent the property rights to the environmental, social and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy resource.

We have 33 projects in Columbus which represents \$89,550,525 in financing and \$2,122,404 in annual energy savings.

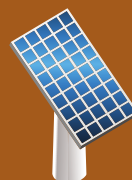
SOLAR POWER STATS



2,183

SUNNY HOURS

The average number of sunny hours in the City of Columbus is 2,183 hours per year and solar power continues to take root in Columbus.



195

SOLAR ENERGY PERMITS

In 2019, the City of Columbus issued 195 permits for solar panel installation, a big increase from the 61 installed in 2018.



PACE FINANCING

In 2019, the City of Columbus approved 23 PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing) projects representing nearly \$34 million in clean energy financed. Our portfolio of projects continues to grow each year as well as a substantial increase in the size of each project.



An example of this was the PNC Plaza Downtown. The Finance Authority helped the property owner save nearly \$200,000 a year in energy costs through various improvements. You can find more info here:

<https://columbusfinance.org/services/energy-program/>

In addition, for City tax incentives (direct job incentives or commercial tax abatements) energy efficiency is one factor that is considered on each project. Businesses or developers would need to demonstrate that they are going beyond normal new construction or renovation requirements to meet this evaluation criteria.

PNC PLAZA DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS



\$34
MILLION IN
CLEAN ENERGY
FINANCED

WAYS THE FINANCE AUTHORITY HELPPED PNC PLAZA:

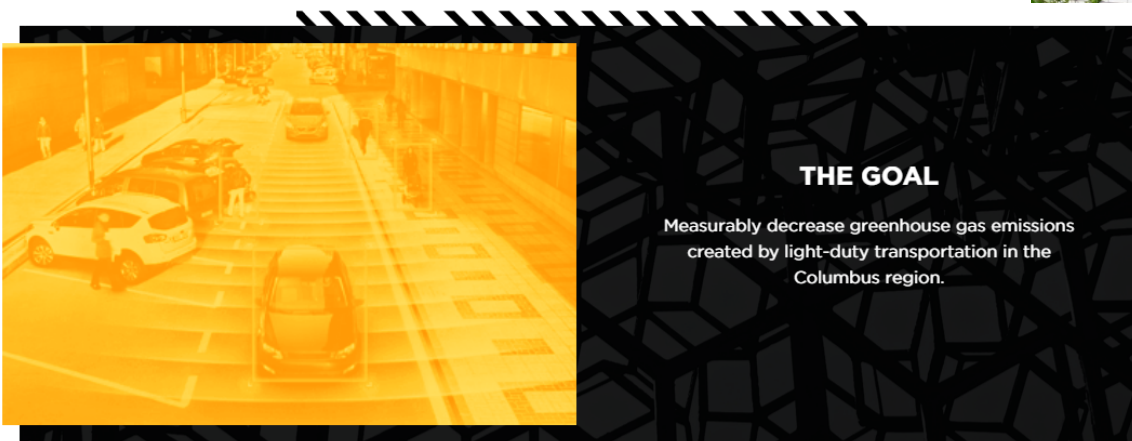
- **\$3.2 MILLION
IN FINANCING**
- **HELPPED PAY
FOR ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
IMPROVEMENTS**
- **15% IN ENERGY
COST SAVINGS
PER YEAR**



SMART COLUMBUS

Smart Columbus, the city's public-private partnership that is harnessing technology to enhance transportation and provide for more environmentally sustainable ways to get around the city, continued to make progress in 2019.

The project was funded initially by a \$10 million Paul G. Allen Philanthropies grant — which accompanied its \$40 million Smart City Challenge grant from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) — as well as from state and corporate sponsorship.



SMART COLUMBUS IS ABOUT ENVISIONING A FUTURE FOR OUR CITY THAT BENEFITS US ALL, AND TRANSFORMING MOBILITY TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER, MORE EQUITABLE, MORE VIBRANT AND MORE SUSTAINABLE.

As part of the approach to promote the use of electric vehicles in Columbus, Smart Columbus is working closely with the city's large employers. In fact, this is a unique feature of Smart Columbus and is widely considered a new model for increasing electric vehicle adoption across the nation.

**SM
RT
COLUMBUS**

SMART COLUMBUS

2019 STATISTICS



75 CITY OF COLUMBUS ELECTRIC VEHICLES PURCHASED

107 CITY OF COLUMBUS ELECTRIC VEHICLES PLACED IN OPERATION

15 CITY OF COLUMBUS DC FAST CHARGING BY AEP INSTALLED

102 CITY OF COLUMBUS LEVEL TWO PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS BY AEP INSTALLED



GHG REDUCTION

275,741 MTCO2

AS A RESULT OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE TRANSITION OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES TO ELECTRICAL VEHICLES:

- GREEN POWER SOLD BY THE DIVISION OF POWER
- ENERGY SAVED FROM PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS
- THE INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS IN THE CITY AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

**DRIVE
ELECTRIC**



By 2020, we'll increase electric vehicle adoption by 486%. Help meet the goal by considering a plug-in electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle as your next car. [SEE YOUR OPTIONS](#) →



CITY VEHICLES

Columbus Fleet Management continues to be a front-runner in the nation in “greening” our environment. The last year has yielded significant accomplishments toward this end goal.

The City of Columbus Fleet Management Division maintains over 6160 pieces of equipment:

3034

Number of on-road vehicles like cars, trucks, & suv's

3,127

Number of off-road vehicles such as construction equipment, etc.

56%

Percentage of on-road fleet using alternative fuel.

3,435,521

Total gallons of fuel consumed in 2019.

27%

Percentage petroleum use reduction since sustainability initiatives were put in place in 2010.

In the area of electric vehicle policy, through the Smart Columbus program, the City of Columbus is offering rebates to help central Ohio-based taxis, transportation network companies (TNCs), TNC drivers, car sharing, ride sharing and limo services make the switch to electric vehicles. Thirty incentives of \$3,000 each (\$90,000 total) are available to transportation service providers who purchase new, fully electric vehicles between Nov. 20, 2018 and April 15, 2019. Earlier in 2018, the City awarded another \$30,000 in rebates to Columbus Yellow Cab during a similar incentive program.



SMART MOBILITY



The City of Columbus in 2019 continued to move strategically to manage the influx of new ways in which residents, visitors and others can get around the city including using e-scooters, electric bikes and other innovative shared mobility devices.

There were three authorized private vendors renting e-scooters to customers in the City of Columbus in 2019: Bird, Lime and Spin) and each was permitted to deploy up to 500 devices citywide.



City-adopted rules and regulations require a minimum of 20 percent of a vendor's active fleet be deployed in neighborhoods designed by Mayor Ginther as "Opportunity Neighborhoods" and a maximum of 25 percent of the fleet deployed downtown.

PARKING SERVICES

The Parking Services Division, created in 2018 within the Department of Public Service, continued to implement in 2019 several initiatives to more efficiently manage parking for motorists and to help them better plan their travels so as to limit the length of time spent searching for parking.

SHORT NORTH PARKING PLAN

The division implemented the Short North Parking Plan, named after the dense neighborhood north of Downtown in which it is being used. This included implementing the ParkColumbus application, demand-based pricing and a parking benefit district in which a portion of parking meter revenue derived in the district can be used for transportation-related projects determined by the neighborhood.

RESOURCE PROTECTION & CONSERVATION



KEY PRIORITY 3

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

As a growing city, we also recognize that protecting and conserving our natural resources is critical to maintaining our natural eco-systems, preserving our quality of life, and protecting public health. Through our natural resource protection and conversation programs we connect the people of our community through the power of nature, wellness, and creativity.

Parks, Waterways, and other natural areas reduce stress, provide habitat for thousands of species and contribute to a thriving city. The City of Columbus continues to develop and preserve these assets, and implement protective measures to reduce our footprint.

Through critical partnerships with various community organizations, the City of Columbus was able to host or participate in a variety of events that helped connect citizens with sustainable education and resources.

EARTH DAY 2019

Earth Day 2019, brought together by a large scale volunteer effort, was another successful celebration of our planet at Genoa Park. The City of Columbus was a proud sponsor of the events coordinated by the non-profit organization, Green Columbus. More than 6,200 volunteers came out to over 175 service sites, contributing more than 17,400 hours of citizen green service to improve the Central Ohio community.

In addition, a highly visible festival with over 50 partners was held for the event on April 20, featuring bands, food trucks and kids activities and booths of all kinds.



WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION



CENTRAL OHIO CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

The Department of Public Utilities once again partnered with local environmental professionals to engage with about 640 local fifth grade students in the 2019 Central Ohio Children's Water Festival on May 15, 2019. The festival uses fun-filled, hands-on activities to educate students on the importance of conserving and protecting this vital natural resource. Fun presentations about drinking water, storm water and wastewater are provided by the City of Columbus Divisions of Water and Sewers and Drains.



EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS:

- Planted and distributed 20,100 trees that will increase the region's tree canopy fighting urban heat island effects.
- Collected over 2,000 bags of litter and 300 bags of recyclables.
- Cleaned 60 miles of roads and trails, as well as 335 acres of parkland and public spaces throughout the region.
- In addition, two tree nurseries were started producing over 1,250 trees for the community
- Prepared 35 community gardens for the growing season



OTHER SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE DIVISION OF WATER IN 2019 INCLUDE:

145 SITE VISITS

Provided educational materials on storm water best practices, spill prevention and response to 86 businesses located along critical waterways immediately upstream of water plant intakes. This effort aims to minimize threats of spills and encourage proper and timely reporting of spills with potential to affect the raw water supply.

17,500 PET WASTE BAGS

Distributed bags, including 16,600 PUP bags and 900 "Thank You" Bags.

575 INSPECTIONS

Inspections of reservoir landowner properties were conducted under the Land Stewardship Program.

343 LAND STEWARDSHIP CONTACTS MADE

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

DPU's Call Center also assist and educate customers about how to detect and fix water leaks and provide leak detection kits to residents, further promoting strategies to help individuals do their part to protect our water resources.

300,000 CUSTOMERS PROVIDED WITH NEWSLETTERS

The Department of Public Utilities provided quarterly newsletters to customer to help them learn about simple practices that conserve and protect water; volunteer storm drain marking opportunities; and free or discounted tools available to help implement strategies such as rain barrels, rain gauges and pet waste bags.

AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

A lawnmower exchange program, a partnership with the Columbus Department of Public Health and the Lowe's retail company continued to give discounts on 36 zero emission mowers to qualified buyers. Using zero emission mowers helps lower air pollution. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, gas-powered lawnmowers produce as much volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxide emissions in one hour of using as 11 new cars each being driven for an hour.

IN 2019, AFTER DECADES OF COLLABORATION AND WORK THE COLUMBUS AREA IS THE FIRST NONATTAINMENT AREA TO MEET FEDERAL NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR THE 2015 OZONE.



Blueprint Columbus is the alternative to portions of the Wet Weather Management Plan, submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in 2005, to address sewer overflows and consent orders with the state in 2002 and 2004.

The final Blueprint Columbus integrated plan was approved by the agency in 2015. The plan utilizes greener alternatives and residential infrastructure improvements to solve wet weather problems instead of building more costly sewer tunnels or “gray solutions”. The four main strategies, or pillars, of the plan include: residential home sewer lateral lining, roof water redirection, sump pumps, and green infrastructure.

423

RAIN GARDENS

ONE

**WETLAND IN
WHETSTONE PARK**

1084

**SEWER LATERALS
LINED**

1009

**DOWNSPOUT
REDIRECTS**

646

**SUMP PUMPS
INSTALLED**

CLINTONVILLE 1

The first of 21 Blueprint project areas broke ground in 2017. Construction of 423 rain gardens and a wetland feature in Whetstone Park wrapped up in 2019, and the project began the second phase of implementation: lining individual home sewer laterals and assessing and implementing solutions for roof water redirection. In 2019, 1084 sewer laterals had been lined and 1009 homes had some or all downspouts redirected.



In 2019 Blueprint Columbus began installing sump pumps in the North Linden 1 project area, which will also begin green infrastructure construction in winter 2020. As of 2019, Blueprint has installed 646 sump pumps in residential homes in Clintonville 1 and North Linden 1.

For more information about Blueprint, please call (614) 645-1253 or visit www.columbus.gov/Blueprint.



PUP AND GET GRASSY!



The Department of Public Utilities continued its PUP (Pick Up Poop) campaign to increase awareness about the harmful effects of dog waste on our waterways and encourage dog owners to pick up after their pet.

The PUP (Pick Up Poop) program encourages pet owners to clean up after their pets, which helps protect stormwater quality. The program gained 428 new pledges in 2019, bringing the new PUP pledge total to 6,340.

[WATCH THE PUP VIDEO!!](#)



Several partnerships to promote water quality awareness continued. Through its agreement with the City of Columbus, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District implements several Stormwater education programs for Columbus residents. In 2019, 5,117 Columbus students participated in various programs and activities related to stormwater pollution, water quality, soils, and soil erosion. 1,486 Columbus residents participated in the GetGrassy! lawncare education campaign and the GreenSpot Community Backyards program, which provided 596 rebates for rain barrels or native plants.

ENCOURAGING LOCAL AGRICULTURE



In 2019, Columbus Public Health held three Farmers' Market Days – July 25, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 – which attracted 16 vendors and 6,692 patrons. The Farmers' Market provided 1,700 free lunches, \$95,300 of fruits and vegetables vouchers to Women, Infants and Children program participants and \$6,252 worth of tokens for fruits and vegetables to Ohio Directions Card users.





NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WYANDOT LODGE

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Net-Zero Wyandot Lodge operates as a teaching tool and provides programming space, including an audio and visual room as well as a hands-on science lab in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED)-certified, Silver designation building. Beyond the building walls, participants learn about outdoor activities and many other things at this center. The program also partners with the 29 community centers to foster an appreciation of outdoor experiences for youth throughout this great city.

1799 VISITORS

4 BEAVERS & DAM
BUILDING ACTIVITIES

ONE NATURE ART
INSTALLATION

8 BIRDS & BIRD
OBSERVATION PROGRAMS



14 FOSSILS & GEOLOGIC
HISTORY ACTIVITIES

7 REPTILES

ONE PRESCHOOL-AGED
WILDLIFE PROGRAM

5 TRACKING & WILDLIFE
PROGRAMS



277 VOLUNTEERS

32 PARK CLEAN UP DAYS

3 POLLINATORS &
GARDENING PROGRAMS

11 STREAM STUDY
OPPORTUNITIES

20 PRESCHOOL SUMMER
DAY CAMP SESSIONS

ONE GREEN BUILDING TOUR



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

In 2019, Columbus City Council, under the leadership of Council Member Emmanuel V. Remy, the chair of council's Environment Committee, focused on supporting national environmental policy, continuing the fight against litter in Columbus and reviewing internal city processes to help make them more environmentally friendly.

2019 ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

On March 25, 2019 Columbus City Council unanimously passed resolution 0091X-2019: To urge that Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), under the administration of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, be maintained at their current levels. Defend Our Future, a project of the Environmental Defense Fund, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that asked Columbus City Council to help urge the federal government to protect our environment and defend the Clean Air Act.

Councilmember Remy launched the Cleaner Columbus Litter Mitigation Campaign Mascot Contest with Columbus City Schools. The submissions had to represent one or more of the following themes: Pride in My City, Green and Clean, and The "Litter" of the Law.



MASCOT CONTEST WINNING DESIGN



THE WINNING SUBMISSION WAS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 29, 2019 AS "SCARLET THE CARDINAL"

DESIGNED BY JAYLA LEWIS OF FORT HAYES ARTS AND ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL.

FORT HAYES WAS AWARDED \$1,500 TO SUPPORT OR CREATE ANY SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS AT THE SCHOOL. THE SCHOOLS OF THE SECOND AND THIRD PLACE WINNERS EACH RECEIVED \$500 EACH.

2019 ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

In support of the city's inaugural Columbus Litter League, Columbus City Council hosted a Litter League Team named the "City Council Sluggers" and scored 13 points, or collected 26 bags of trash on the South Side of Columbus. This included a number of Councilmembers and City Council staff. In addition, Councilmember Emmanuel V. Remy sponsored the Columbus Litter League baseball caps at \$5,000.

Council President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown, Chair of Council's Recreation and Parks Committee, heard from residents with concerns about the City's use of pesticides in Columbus parkland, and asked the Department of Recreation and Parks to reduce and regulate its use pesticides. As a result, the Department performed its first internal review of pesticide application, created an Integrated Pest Management Policy subject to annual review, and eliminated the Sports Division's use of Roundup to maintain sports and recreational fields.

Councilmember Rob Dorans, Chair of Council's Public Utilities Committee, helped promote the PUP (Pick Up Poop) Campaign to encourage Columbus residents to pick up dog poop to help keep our water clean and prevent pollution in our rivers and streams.



WASTE REDUCTION

KEY PRIORITY 4



FIGHTING ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is a persistent problem with extensive economic, social and environmental impacts in cities across the U.S. The City of Columbus is no exception. In order to be responsive to our neighborhoods and to combat the increase in illegal dumping, Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther in 2018 unveiled a wide-ranging plan focused on prevention, enforcement and education. It is called the Clean Neighborhoods Initiative.

In 2019, Division of Refuse Collection personnel removed 6,143 tons of litter and illegally dumped material from city alleyways including 5,761 tires totaling 53 tons.

Additionally, city solid waste inspectors probed 11,456 requests about possible refuse code violations, including 439 complaints specifically about illegal dumping.

In 2019, Refuse Collection personnel also replaced 1,364 300-gallon trash containers around the city with 3,701 90-gallon containers to help reduce illegal dumping. The 300-gallon trash containers were widely recognized as “magnets” for illegal dumping.

LOADS OF LITTER



6,143

**TONS OF LITTER AND
ILLEGALLY DUMPED
MATERIAL REMOVED IN
2019**



53

**TONS OF TIRES
COLLECTED.
THAT'S 5,761 TIRES!**





REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

The chasing arrows recycling symbol represent “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.” Even with all of the City’s measurements to quantify recycling, we have few viable methods to measure “reduce” and “reuse” activities, although we know people are engaged in all three activities.

The more residents reduce and reuse, the more the recycling waste stream shrinks.

Not only is recycling good policy, but the activity also helps the city reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. When products are dumped in the landfill, the energy used to make them is lost. Recycling organic waste also helps the city reduce its impact on the climate by reducing the amount of methane gas released into the atmosphere.

RECYCOLUMBUS



Residents continue to embrace RecyColumbus and other efforts to keep Columbus green.

RecyColumbus, the city’s popular recycling program, included 201,326 households. In 2019, the program captured 30,869 tons of material that previously would have been taken to the Franklin County landfill, saving city taxpayers more than \$1.66 million in tipping fees. The program also captured more than 21,600 tons of yard waste in 2019.

With the support of City Council, the program entered the first of its five implementation phases in April 2012 and concluded in February 2013 with 187,926 single family households. Recycling and yard waste were collected on alternating weeks. In March 2014, the program was expanded to service low-density condos, townhouses and apartments and the schedule was altered to increase efficiencies for Rumpke as well as reduce confusion among our residents. Now, under the recycling program, recycling and yard waste are collected on the same day, every other week.



City staff has regular conversations with Rumpke, the city’s recycling contractor, to find ways to increase the types of materials that are recyclable in the residential program. In addition, the City will continue to encourage residents to fit more material in the carts by compacting the recyclables. The City will also continue efforts to encourage signing up for collection reminders and will target outreach to specific neighborhoods to increase participation.

**THE CITY OF COLUMBUS IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THE
FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WHO MAKE SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO FURTHERING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF
OUR CITY:**

Audubon Society of Ohio
Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative
Clean Fuels Ohio
COTA
Columbus Audubon
Columbus Green Building Forum
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
COSI
EarthShare Ohio
Franklin Park Conservatory
Friends of Alum Creek and Tributary
Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW)
Friends of the Scioto Watershed
Grange Insurance Audubon Center
Greater Columbus Growing Coalition
Green Columbus
Green Energy Ohio
Impact Community Action
Local Matters
The Nature Conservancy
MetroParks
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaboration
Ohio Chapter Sierra Club
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio EPA
Ohio to Erie Trail
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Sierra Club Central Ohio Group
Simply Living
Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)
Yay Bikes!



SUSTAINABLE COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

910 Dublin Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
<https://www.columbus.gov/utilities/>