

2011 Year in Review



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

A MESSAGE from our Mayor



Dear Friends:

The Get Green Columbus initiative has been a cornerstone of my administration since its inception in 2005. It brings me great pride to see it develop each year - gaining the respect of environmental professionals nationwide. Momentum builds with each new endeavor, making a positive contribution to quality of life, the economy and, of course, the environment in our city.

Prior to now, and despite the many progressive and successful projects of Get Green Columbus, one vital component of our green strategy has been missing: residential recycling. This shortfall will soon be remedied as Get Green Columbus embarks on its most important task to date. Starting this spring, a convenient residential recycling service will launch in the first of five phases. I have looked forward to announcing the launch of this program with great anticipation for quite some time. By adding recycling into our portfolio of basic city services, Columbus will finally be able to stand with confidence amongst world class green cities.

Thanks are due to the many environmental stewards living and working throughout our city who have advocated for sustainability to remain a top priority. There are many city employees, community volunteers, businesses, GreenSpot members, and program funders who rally around us each time we embark on a new green initiative. I am truly appreciative. I especially want to express my gratitude to the members of my Green Team for their guidance and insight as well as the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio for its ongoing support of the Mayor's Office of Environmental Stewardship.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Coleman

Mayor

Residential Recycling Snapshot:

Eligible households: 227,000 (four attached units or less)

Cart: 64 gallon blue cart

Materials accepted: Aluminum and steel cans, glass and plastic bottles, paper and cardboard.

Collection schedule: Every other week alternating with yard waste collection.

Implementation: Five phases starting spring 2012 with households that have Monday yard waste service. Those with service on Tuesday, Wednesday and so on will follow.

2011 recycling rate: 7.3%

Projected 2015 recycling rate: 22-25%



RECYCOLUMBUS

We were meant for each other.

Operating as a green city is multifaceted touching the work of every city department and encompassing a range of topics. Together with the Mayor's Office of Environmental Stewardship, city employees and the Mayor's 35 member Green Team identify and implement projects to reduce impact on the environment through the city's influence. These opportunities range from the obvious, like recycling and planting trees, to the obscure, such as revising parking codes and finding a new use for specific waste streams. A summary of a few of these projects completed in 2011 are shown below. To view a full report of accomplishments, visit www.GetGreenColumbus.org.

Resource Protection & Conservation



- Columbus GreenSpot Backyard Conservation Program: 800 rain barrels were distributed to Columbus residents at the discounted rate of \$45 (valued at \$139) through a partnership with the Department of Public Utilities, Earthminded (a subsidiary of Greif), Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and local watershed groups. In order to obtain a barrel, residents attended a workshop or participated in an online quiz. The program proved successful in providing stormwater education and empowering residents to save money on utility bills.
- As part of the Wet Weather Management Plan, structural improvements and modifications were made at the Whittier Street Storm Tanks and facility. These improvements will significantly reduce the frequency, duration and volume of sanitary sewer overflows into the Scioto River.
- The Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan was completed and adopted by all participating jurisdictions. The plan provides detailed recommendations for future development including a full range of residential, retail and office uses as well as open space for the protection of natural resources.
- Approximately \$60,000 in community garden grants were awarded from the city and Franklin County along with \$30,000 in kind product donations from The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Additionally grant recipients received free access to educational programming at the Franklin Park Conservatory.
- 71.5 acres of parkland were acquired; 6,416 native trees were planted; 1,800 trees were removed largely due to Emerald Ash Borer.

Renewable Energy

- Installation of the city's largest solar array was delayed in 2011, but will proceed in 2012 through a power purchase agreement. Approximately 2,782 solar panels covering much of the roof space at the city's Fleet Management Facility will be installed. The project is intended to produce approximately half of the electricity used by the building by generating approximately 812,862 kilowatt hours per year. This will be the largest government roof solar project in Ohio and perhaps the Midwest.
- The O'Shaughnessy Dam generated 7,400 megawatt hours of electricity.
- A geothermal system was installed on the City Hall Campus for heating and cooling.
- Solar panels were installed on the roof of the restaurant and restroom buildings at the new Bicentennial Park on the Scioto Mile.

Green Buildings

- The city's Green Columbus Fund awarded seventeen grants, totaling \$999,797 as an incentive for companies to pursue brownfield redevelopment or LEED, green building certification. In addition, the city obtained a \$3 million Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant for the former Timken site in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood of Columbus. The project will stimulate a \$12 million investment and the construction of 150,000 square feet of mixed-use retail, office and warehouse expected to generate approximately 150 new jobs.
- Through the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants, the city and partner Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission have performed energy efficiency measures on 52 households and have projected savings for these households at 45,876.77 kilowatt hours. In addition, 80 homes were constructed in accordance with AWARE Green Building Standards and over 360 green homes are under construction. Six of the green homes under construction are located in the American Addition neighborhood, which was featured on ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition television program that aired in December.
- Numerous city facilities (fire and police stations, City Hall, water and waste water treatment plants, etc.) were retrofitted with energy efficient lighting, roofing, doors, windows and HVAC systems.
- Following city policy, incandescent bulbs in intersection signals are continually being replaced with light-emitting diode bulbs (LED). 216 pedestrian and traffic-signals were completed in 2011, resulting in an electricity savings of \$16,377 and 218,000 kilowatt hours. In addition, by using funds from the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program, the City replaced 997 inefficient pedestrian signals with LED bulbs, including the countdown features at 137 intersections, expected to save the City approximately \$50,000 and 489,000 kilowatt hours annually.

Education & Outreach

- Mayor Coleman's successful public education tool, GreenSpot, continued to grow in 2011 from 2,010 members to 3,570. In addition, program members: ms consultants, The Nature Conservancy and First English Lutheran Church were recognized for going above and beyond GreenSpot commitments at the annual GreenSpot Light Awards Ceremony.
- An Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant allowed the GreenSpot program to expand in 2011 to a younger audience. Materials including a website, teacher resources and a children's book titled *GreenSpot and the Dots* were developed for first grade Columbus City School students. Visit GreenKids.Columbus.gov to access these resources.
- Keep Columbus Beautiful conducted 387 cleanup events with 8,971 volunteers who collected 338,709 pounds of litter. Fifty nine beautification projects were executed using 1,411 volunteers, with labor valued at \$102,539. The Adopt an Area program currently has 109 groups engaged citywide. Keep Columbus Beautiful staff also gave 89 educational presentations that reached 4,775 people.
- Through the Franklin County Environmental Court, 98 individuals were assigned to fulfill community service hours and collected over 14 tons of litter.
- The Columbus Ecological Restoration Program was created to remove invasive species from parks, utilizing a special unit of Forestry staff and volunteers. With the help of 668 volunteers 15.8 acres of invasive honeysuckle were cleared and 2103 native trees, shrubs and perennials were planted.
- Properly trained employees minimize the risk of spills and the improper disposal of waste and sustain compliance with environmental regulations. The city continued to inventory facilities for environmental compliance and identified measures to reduce the city's environmental footprint. A number of workshops and training seminars were held for staff. All applicable agencies within the city were engaged in a fuel site assessment to review all compliance processes at each of the 52 city owned fueling locations. Site improvements as well as employee training will continue in 2012.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Through subscription service with Rumpke and utilization of SWACO's drop box program, Columbus residents recycled 19,064.73 tons of material. Through the city's curbside collection of yard waste, residents recycled an additional 26,953.53 tons. This equates to a combined 17.8% diversion rate of waste that would otherwise have gone to the landfill. Columbus' goal is to increase diversion of recyclables and yard waste to 35% by 2015.
- City staff worked to conserve resources and recycle. Many of the departments utilized online operations to reduce paper use. In the Civil Service Commission alone, they saved 763,500 sheets of paper by providing electronic communications and online access to materials. This equates to saving approximately 91 trees. Additionally, the citywide office recycling program resulted in over 598.29 tons of material collected; this is a 25% increase over 2010 tonnage.
- 43.4 tons of recycled asphalt from city projects was used to repair potholes, berms and shoulders.
- Through the waste water treatment process, approximately 2,700 dry tons of biosolids were sent to the Quasar Solids to Energy project which generates electricity using waste materials.

Transportation

- The city participated in a statewide effort to prepare for the new generation of automobiles, plug-in electric vehicles. Next year the city plans to install two public electric vehicle charging stations downtown.

Bicycle infrastructure was further developed throughout the city with 3.6 miles of trail, 10 miles of on road accommodations and 60 parking facilities.

- 9.65 miles of sidewalk were constructed.
- The city's Fleet Management Division continued to improve performance and efficiency using alternative fuels including 24 heavy-duty dedicated CNG vehicles. These vehicles will displace 55,000 gallons of diesel fuel reducing carbon dioxide by 490 metric tons. In addition, GPS tracking units installed on over 500 city vehicles have decreased fuel and maintenance expenses.
- Crews broke ground on what will be the largest publicly accessible compressed natural gas (CNG) station in the Midwest, with two more stations projected, allowing the city to keep CNG prices low.



Get Green Columbus and its many initiatives have been recognized both locally, nationally and internationally. This attention is encouraging and serves as an indicator of progress being made towards building an increasingly sustainable community. In 2011, the City of Columbus proudly received the following distinctions:

- **Green Energy Ohio Public Official of the Year Award, Mayor Michael B. Coleman.**
- **Government Fleet Magazine ranking of the #1 Greenest Fleet in North America.**
- **Clean Fuels Ohio Green Fleet Certification and Clean Fuel Champion Award.**
- **Keep America Beautiful Distinguished Service Award, Keep Columbus Beautiful.**
- **Siemens Sustainable Community Award finalist presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center.**



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Support Get Green Columbus by becoming a business or residential member of GreenSpot today at ColumbusGreenSpot.org

