Get Green Columbus

Environmental Stewardship in the 21st Century

City of Columbus • Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

Dear Friends:

As we move into the 21st Century, it is becoming ever clearer that we must think and act in new ways that are sustainable, environmentally friendly and that respect the natural world. That's why I launched Get Green Columbus two years ago. Since that time, the City has taken many steps to make Columbus not only the best, but also a greener place to live, work and raise a family. We have invested in green homes, green buildings and green businesses, and we have changed our operations to improve air and water quality and encourage more recycling.

Please read and share this update on our Get Green Campaign. Many of our accomplishments would not have been possible without all of the partners who have been working with us, in particular Mike Long's team at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). I would also like to thank the Green Team, our advisory committee that includes 35 business, environmental and community leaders who meet monthly to work on making this community more Green. The Team is co-chaired by David Brehm, principal architect with the firm Design-Group, and Meera Pathasarathy, executive director of the Columbus Green Buildings Forum.

There is great green momentum going in this Columbus, and I urge you to get involved. To learn more, and to learn what you can do to help, please visit GetGreenColumbus.org.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Coleman, Mayor

GROWING GREEN JOBS

The City is investing in green companies. Last year, we used tax incentives for three companies that will create or retain about 100 jobs. The companies will invest nearly $20 million in personal and real property.

One of the new businesses, Rastra, is a manufacturer that uses a "green" building system for houses, apartments, commercial and industrial buildings. Rastra manufactures alternative building materials that can be used in place of most types of conventional construction methods. The material is derived from post-consumer plastics and is mixed with concrete and has been used in Europe for 30 years and in the U.S. for 10 years and are seven-times stronger than wood-frame construction. The company plans to lease space at SWACO on Jackson Pike and will invest $3.9 Million, and create 47 new jobs. Heartland Refinery, LLC has been operating locally since 1948. Heartland Refinery acquires used petroleum products and recycles them into clean oils that can be used for productive use. The City invested in expanding this operation, which will result in a $10 Million investment in real and personal property, and create 20 new jobs and retain 11 jobs.

In addition, Craft American is a distributor of Crafts products. They plan to acquire land and build a "green" distribution center. This will represent a $3.4 Million investment in real and personal property and create 21 new jobs.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – PROTECTING THE DARBY

In 2006, after two years of negotiations, the City of Columbus was the first jurisdiction to adopt the Big Darby Accord Plan. This plan, which recently won the American Council of Engineering Companies' Outstanding Achievement Award, helps guide future development in a way that will protect one of Central Ohio's most environmentally sensitive areas – the Big Darby watershed. The Accord will focus development in sustainable, planned areas, with resources set aside in advance for critical infrastructure and more than 15,000 acres of preserved green space. The City is now working with Franklin County and neighboring jurisdictions to make the plan a reality and encourage adoption by all the partners.

Mayor Coleman and Councilwoman Maryellen O'Shaughnessy examaine wildlife found in the Big Darby Creek

ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING

In February, Mayor Coleman, with the support of City Council, signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. With this step, the City of Columbus has joined more than 300 cities across the nation in taking a stand on the threat of global warming by working to reduce the amount of emissions from City operations by 2012.

GREENING OUR NEIGBORHOODS AND COMMITTING TO BE FIT

Getting Green matters in all of our unique neighborhoods - whether it is getting rid of litter, increasing recycling, improving and adding parks, protecting our rivers and drinking water, or even helping clear the air. One clear example is the on-going expansion of our fitness and biking trails. Within the next 5 years of our Greenways plan, more than 48 City Parks, 7 Metroparks, 2 major reservoirs, and 6 suburban communities will be tied into the Columbus Greenway Network. Our goal is to connect trails and parks, so that almost every family lives within a few minutes of this fitness and park system. This effort is also adding significantly to our river parklands. Not only are we opening up many miles of paths to exercise, commute to work, or simply take a break from urban life, we are preserving hundreds of acres of beautiful open space for the next generations to enjoy.

PEDAL INSTEAD

LEADING THE WAY WITH LEED

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a national certification process that recognizes "green" elements in new construction and rehabilitation projects. The certification awards points for items such as energy efficiency, site selection, and using recycled materials. The City is aggressively incorporating green design into new public facilities - in fact, more than half of the LEED certified buildings in the works in Columbus are the City's projects. Currently, the City is designing two fire stations and one police substation that will be LEED certified, and has plans to build a green Environmental Education Center at Three Creeks Park. In addition, the City is rehabilitating the historic Hilltop firehouse to be a new community health center and will be LEED certified.

The biggest and most visible Green project in Columbus is the rehabilitation of the historic downtown **Lazarus** building. The building is being transformed into a million square feet of Green office space in one of the largest LEED certified historic rehabilitation efforts in the country. The building includes a green roof, reuse of stormwater, and many recycled construction materials. The stormwater recycling program is particularly innovative, as it will result in zero discharge of stormwater to the City's combined storm sewer system, will allow the green roof to be irrigated without the use of City water, and will allow much of the building's gray-water systems (toilets, etc) to be run using stormwater. This will save 2 million gallons of City water every year.

The restored Lazarus building is one of the largest green projects in the country

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD BUILT WITH GREEN HOMES

Greenview Estates is Columbus' first green neighborhood, made up of 30, affordable new homes that are being designed and built with green concepts. While not all the homes will be LEED certified, they will be green. The new neighborhood is already nearly sold-out, spurring the City to look for new sites for another green housing subdivision. It is estimated that the green elements built into the homes could save families up to $900 per year on utility bills.

In addition, City is partnering with the Columbus Housing Partnership, Worthington Kilbourne School, Columbus Green Building Forum to build a **BASE Home** on 21st Street, in the North of Broad area near King-Lincoln. This home will be LEED certified.

PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

Wetlands are a vital feature for a healthy ecosystem. They control and clean stormwater runoff, prevent erosion, and provide a great habitat for a variety of wildlife. The City has been very active in promoting wetland health in our community. In 2006, the City's Recreation and Parks Department conducted an Urban Wetland Study. The study included documenting the biotic quality and stormwater holding capacity of 22 wetlands, thanks to a grant from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the City turned 105 acres of the Three Creeks Park into a wetland prairie and built a 6-acre wetland along the Clover Groff ditch in the Big Darby watershed.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREEN 2007

The City will be moving full speed ahead in 2007 to continue to make Columbus a greener place. Some of the initiatives we are working on:

- Planting Trees: the Green Memo committed to planting 20,000 trees by 2010 — we are on track, having planted 8,000 so far, with plans to plant 4,000 more this year.
- Fighting to remove lead paint from homes: the City is using a federal grant to make homes lead safe - by 2008, we anticipate that at least 226 homes will have been made lead safe.
- The City, SWACO and the Columbus Public Schools are helping our kids learn the good habit of recycling, by placing recycling drop off boxes at every school in Columbus. This will bring free recycling to virtually every neighborhood.
- The City intends to adopt a Green Fleet Policy in 2007. Implementation of this policy will reduce air emissions by requiring alternative fuels, higher performing vehicles, and reducing miles travelled.
- The City will continue to engage local businesses in Get Green, from the development of a Green Business Plan that will provide incentives to grow green jobs to hosting a series of workshops to explore removing impediments to green buildings from the City's building and zoning codes.

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GET GREEN Columbus

SWACO
Smart Solutions for Reducing Waste

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