



2023 GreenSpotLight

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 2023 GreenSpotLight awards are being presented to three outstanding businesses.

Congratulations...



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

The GreenSpotLight Awards event was sponsored by Sage Sustainable Electronics and VS Engineering





Category: Large Business

As a 102-year-old company, White Castle System succeeds at selling sliders and incorporating environmental sustainability within its business strategies. When redeveloping their corporate headquarters one of their priorities was to create a long-lasting, energy efficient and sustainable space for their team members. The goal was to obtain LEED certification. The new building achieved a 19% energy cost savings with the installation of energy efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. The use of natural light was incorporated into workspaces to compliment long lasting and efficient motion sensed LED lighting throughout the building. Real time energy metering also helped detect any issues for quick trouble shooting.

To conserve water, high efficiency water and plumbing fixtures were installed in water closets, lavatories, filtered drinking water stations, breakroom sinks, and showers. These actions reduced water use by 36.1% without giving up comfort.

Green transportation and the health of their team members is important to White Castle. The new building includes covered bike racks/storage, on-site fitness room, sit-stand desks and the location is directly across from local multi-use trails. Additionally, there are three electric car charging stations which include discounted charging rates for team members.

The interior office spaces and conference rooms include moveable and demountable wall systems. These provide flexible floor plans for future and current configuration and less waste and demolition when retrofitting spaces. There are customizable waste and recycling collection centers in all office areas as well as a waste room on the first floor for storage and handling. Additionally, their café strives to be waste free by offering reusable silverware, dishes, glasses and take out containers and monthly they compost around 450 pounds of food scraps.

All these improvements and additions to their new home office resulted in achieving LEED gold certification for Interior Design and Construction: Commercial Interiors.



Category: Medium Business

MJ Design Associates has made great strides in reducing waste, conserving energy and water. They made the commitment and followed through with converting 56 fluorescent bulbs to LEDs. They have installed motion detection lights, programmable thermostat, and purchase EnergyStar-labeled equipment. This will go a long way in reducing their energy consumption. They instated a robust reducing waste program whereby recycling plastic bottles/containers, cans, paper/cardboard, metal, steel, glass, and compost food & yard waste. To make it easy for employees to recycle, many bins are provided in the office and shop areas. They teamed up with Terracycle and East Jordan Plastics to recycle over two tons of plastic plant pots and fertilizer bags. They compost and reuse all yard waste materials from landscape installations to enhance soil prior to planting and to make mulch.

To maintain the culture of sustainability they regularly include commitments to their employees and clients in their newsletters as well as on social media.

To green up their transportation, employees utilize RideShare which removes about a dozen cars from the daily commute.

They are in the process of changing paper products made from trees, to those made from Bamboo plants, for office and shop needs.



Energility



Category: Small Business

Energility is a combination of the words “energy” and “sustainability” which fits as they are focused on energy conservation and energy efficiency for themselves and their clients. Energy conservation measures taken by the Energility team are to turn off office equipment when not in use (i.e, computers, monitors, lights, and printer). Energy efficiency measures include using ENERGY STAR® rated products and equipment when feasible as well as LED lighting in all fixtures. Their office also has an Ecobee smart thermostat and additional sensors to enable proper control of heating and cooling to match the occupancy of their office space.

Energility takes other steps towards sustainability that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energility team members use COTA or carpooling for events, business travel, and commuting. Walking to local meetings or close establishments is another common practice. These actions have reduced at least 1,000 miles of single occupancy vehicle travel. The team has access to a bike rack at their office location. Water conservation is addressed by encouraging the team to report leaks in the building and to use reusable water bottles for drinking. The office building’s landscaping uses mulch, drought-resistant shrubs and plants, and a rock base which minimizes water evaporation from the soil surface and rainwater runoff.

Reducing waste is the norm for the team at Energility. They use reusable food and beverage containers, reducing the use of over 780 disposable products. The office reuses or recycles as much as possible, with containers available in all common spaces. Communication of client reports and other deliverable services prioritizes the use of electronic media. Marketing handouts are printed on recycled paper. Promotional items are chosen for their usefulness, recycled content, and with a look into the sustainability practices of the supplier.

Energility encourages the team to participate in events and groups outside of work that work towards sustainability. Several Energility team members participated this past summer in a heat mapping study of Columbus and they also have a team member who is on the board at Green Energy Ohio.

The impact of their services providing Energy Plans to clients has resulted in 33,130 metric tons of carbon emissions reduced. Energility walks the talk on sustainability, not just as it pertains to their delivered services but also actions in their office culture.

