



2020 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 2020 GreenSpotLight awards are being presented to three outstanding businesses.

*Congratulations...*



This document describes the efforts each organization underwent in 2019 to help make Columbus a beautiful, healthy, and prosperous city.

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





**Category:** Large business

Sustainability is critical to OhioHealth's healing mission. Over the past several years they have made significant changes that demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship.

In 2019, they completed installation of 54 electronic vehicle-charging stations across the counties that OhioHealth serves—in central Ohio alone, it represents the largest charging station infrastructure. To support this work, a new purchasing policy was created that requires all new vehicle requests to be vetted for electrification potential, and purchased their first fully electronic vehicle.

OhioHealth purchased Renewable Energy Credits – ensuring 21% of their electric consumption is offset with clean energy technologies. Energy efficiency projects were implemented at OhioHealth Riverside and Dublin Methodist Hospital, including LED lighting conversion and installation of Operating Room HVAC setbacks. LED and occupancy sensors are now required to be installed in every new construction and gut renovation.

OhioHealth started recycling programs on a number of its campuses. Unwanted furniture and supplies are donated to local organizations rather than thrown away. Composting pilots have been implemented at Riverside Methodist Hospital and the Blom Administrative Campus - resulting in nearly 20 tons of food waste diverted from the landfill. Waste and water audits are performed to better understand opportunities for reduction.

OhioHealth was awarded a grant with Smart Columbus for a pilot program, whereby they encouraged the use of COTA, carpooling, and biking/walking for their Riverside Hospital associates. Nearly 200 associates signed up to participate during the three-month pilot. Over 1,700 sustainable trips were taken (approx. 18,000 miles), resulting in over 55,000 calories burned, 3.5 million pounds of CO2 saved, and over \$5,000 saved for their associates.

OhioHealth continues to find ways expand their efforts towards a healthier community and a more sustainable health system.





**Category:** Medium business

E.P. Ferris and Associates have taken numerous steps to reduce their environmental impact. Their plans for the construction of the Quarry Trails Mixed Use Development Project prevents contaminants in stormwater runoff from affecting surface water quality. This project is located in an area that was once a solid waste landfill. It is intended that the site be encapsulated with an engineered waste cover that would support the mixed-use development. In 2019, they established a business-wide recycling program and successfully engaged their staff in numerous ways. E.P. Ferris and Associates added recycling bins to their offices, provided stainless steel water bottles and coffee mugs to all employees, and offered “lunch and learn” seminars to educate the staff on the latest sustainable infrastructure engineering methodologies. In addition to these efforts, they buy office supplies made with recyclable materials, recycle electronics, insulated water heaters, and encourage their employees to report water leaks. The newly added EV outlet allows employees to charge their electric vehicles. E.P. Ferris and Associates developed a commuting by bicycle program that provides a \$1,000 grant to those who commute to work by bicycle at least 12 times per year; seven employees have been awarded grants.





## **Category: Small business**

MAD Scientist Associates may be considered a small business, but their green impact is huge. First and foremost, MAD is conscientious regarding resource and energy use in their development of effective and impactful environmental restoration, which is the company focus. For example, they have been working with seasonal precipitation trends to schedule their restoration planting projects, thus saving water. They involve students and volunteers in native tree planting projects, invasive species removal, and wildlife monitoring in communities around Columbus, and they engage the public through regular wetland tours and education events. Their investment in solar-powered wildlife cameras contributes to the reduction of energy use and waste. To support green transportation, they encourage carpooling when traveling to field sites and use of cars instead of trucks when feasible for their work. MAD encourages team members to use teleconferencing when possible and to ship supplies by mail to further reduce travel. Additionally, they reduce waste by developing wetland restoration plans that leave soil and coarse woody debris on site rather than have it trucked away and dumped elsewhere.

Simultaneously, they also strive to be good stewards of resources within the office. To reduce energy used, they worked with their landlord to upgrade to more efficient lighting and to install a programmable thermostat. Team members also wear extra clothing layers instead of turning up the heat. They use recycled content office paper, and re-use extra printed pages for scratch paper. They are also invested in recycling and composting of personal and business materials. MAD Scientist Associates has generously donated their used furniture and phones along with other supplies. In support of a nonprofit watershed protection organization, MAD is sharing a portion of their rented storage unit (for free) for tool storage, and they often loan their own equipment for conservation-related work. Lastly, other green actions include participating in Lights Out Ohio, using native plants in their office's landscaping, and encouraging team members to serve on non-profit boards to widen their impactful green footprint, such as with Friends of the Lower Olentangy River, Columbus Audubon, Environmental Education Council of Ohio, and the Ohio Wetlands Association.

