

BECOMING A GREENSPOT NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor



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Are you ready to take the next step? Turn your GreenSpot homes and businesses into a GreenSpot neighborhood.

Why? Your neighborhood will stand out. Residents and businesses will unite to make commitments that are unique to your neighborhood. Commitments that help everyone live and work a little greener.



Ready to Get Started?

What is considered a neighborhood?

Any existing and recognized organization such as an area commission, civic association or neighborhood watch can qualify.

Process

Becoming a GreenSpot Neighborhood is achieved by following the steps outlined below:

1. **Getting Started:** Contact the City of Columbus GreenSpot Coordinator (greenspot@columbus.gov) to discuss how your neighborhood can get started. The GreenSpot Coordinator will be your resource and guide throughout this process.
2. **Get Together**
 - Invite businesses, community groups and individuals in your neighborhood to choose commitments that will help everyone live a little greener. Include existing GreenSpot members, area commission members, chamber of commerce, churches, libraries, etc.
 - From the list provided, identify two action steps your neighborhood will commit to in each of the five priority areas. This will be your Action Plan. There is a three year time frame. You do not need to cover all priority areas in year one to complete the Action Plan.
3. **Implementing your plan**
 - Submit your Action Plan to the GreenSpot Coordinator to make sure you're on the right track and have the resources you need to move forward.
 - Determine who on your team will be taking the lead to complete each selected action.
 - Set measurable goals and time frames for each action step.
4. **Reporting successes and challenges:** At the end of the year your group will submit a brief report to the GreenSpot Coordinator documenting progress made on each of the action steps. If any challenges have slowed progress, you will note those as well.
5. **Recognition for your success:** After one year, the GreenSpot coordinator will determine if your neighborhood is ready to be designated a GreenSpot based on progress made toward stated goals and an ongoing commitment to sustainability. Signage will be provided to identify GreenSpot Neighborhoods. The neighborhood will then be able to market itself as a GreenSpot Neighborhood, and the City will assist in promoting the accomplishment.

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greenspot@columbus.gov

CREATING YOUR ACTION PLAN

Provide Neighborhood Information

Neighborhood Name: _____

Neighborhood boundaries:

North: _____

South: _____

West: _____

East: _____

Neighborhood organization: _____

Main contact:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Household and Business Recruitment

Recruit 300 households and businesses to become GreenSpot members.

Identify Action Steps

From the list provided, identify two action steps your neighborhood will take in each of the five priority areas. This will be your Action Plan.

Submit Plan

Please submit your Action Plan to the GreenSpot Coordinator at greenspot@columbus.gov.

PRIORITY AREA 1: INFORM & ENGAGE



Select two options from the list below:

- Partner with local organizations and experts to share information with your neighborhood about topics related to sustainability such as: how to become a Green Spot; the benefits of rain barrels and composting; touring the recycling plant; how to bike ride; etc.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote topics related to sustainability using your Facebook page, neighborhood listserv, flyers, etc. Possible topics include: how to ride COTA; how to recycle; weatherizing your home.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Have at least one neighborhood representative attend the annual GreenSpotLight Awards (usually held in March).

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Foster at least 2 Green Ambassadors that help neighbors become GreenSpots and are knowledgeable about green activities and solutions.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote Air Quality Alert notifications via social media and word of mouth campaigns.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Host a green-themed block party.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- What other options can you think of?

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

PRIORITY AREA 2: CONSERVE ENERGY



Select two options from the list below:

- Work with our neighbors to hold energy conservation competitions.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Encourage residents and businesses to have energy audits.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Support local food programs like farmers market, Community Supported Agriculture.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote LED holiday lights in your neighborhood.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Plant native trees in your neighborhood.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- What other options can you think of?
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVE & PROTECT WATER



Select two options from the list below:

- Work with neighbors to install ____ number of rain barrels and/or rain gardens.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Conduct ____ number of household and business water audits.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Educate neighbors about storm drain locations, proper disposal of liquid materials and water conservation ideas.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Work with neighbors to commit to using sustainable yard practices and/or butterfly/wildlife gardens and/or community gardens.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Maintain at least one public area in our neighborhood through clean ups, plantings, identify native plants in our neighborhood and remove invasives.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Keep litter out of our waterways by organizing a regular litter cleanup or by adopting an area under the "Keep Columbus Beautiful" program.
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- What other options can you think of?
Target Implementation Date: _____
Assigned to: (name/email): _____

PRIORITY AREA 4: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



Select two options from the list below:

- Identify recycling dumpsters in your area and educate those who are not part of the city residential recycling program.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote bulk recycling programs.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Educate ___ neighbors on benefits of composting and proper composting practices.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Hold ___ yard sales.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Identify and train at least 2 residents as Recycling Ambassadors.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Establish a community Facebook page or listserv for the exchange of reusable items.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- What other options can you think of?

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

PRIORITY AREA 5: TRAVELING GREEN



Select two options from the list below:

- Reach out to local pedestrian and cycling groups to see how our neighborhood can become more walker/cycling friendly.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Hold a Walking School Bus event for children (a group of children walking to school with one or more adults).

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote Share the Road, CoGo, and/or other campaigns through our neighborhood listserv, Facebook page (if you have one), at meetings and other means.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Coordinate trips to parks and other natural areas in our neighborhood and/or throughout central Ohio.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- Promote/create/request Columbus Public Health walking programs including Columbus Art Walks, Neighborhood Walking Maps, and Walk With a Doc.

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____

- What other options can you think of?

Target Implementation Date: _____

Assigned to: (name/email): _____