

GreenSpot Business eNewsletter March 2016



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."

-Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

Enjoy the first GreenSpot eNewsletter of the year!

Topics in this edition:

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GreenSpot Business Highlight: Horizons Companies

Every time the sun shines in Columbus, [Horizons Companies](#) is generating electricity. Even on a mostly overcast day like today, the solar panels on the roof have captured enough sunlight to produce almost 35 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. And, since the panels were installed in 2009, Horizons has generated more than 225 megawatt hours (mWh) of clean, pollution-free, renewable energy - enough to power 74,250 homes for an hour (or enough to power nearly 4,000 homes for an entire day).



The environmental impact of this clean energy is significant: it has eliminated the equivalent of almost 700,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere...along with nearly 125 pounds of nitrogen dioxide and more than 240 pounds of sulfur dioxide. The solar energy generated by Horizons has offset as much carbon as more than 65 acres of pine forest.

Since its inception in 1983, Horizons Companies has been all about sustainability. An early adopter of recycling, energy efficient lighting, rainwater collection - even a community garden, the corporate culture has always been to strive for the smallest environmental footprint possible.

Horizons is proud to be a member of Columbus' GreenSpot initiative, working arm in arm to protect our planet...one ray of sunshine at a time.

GreenSpotLight Celebration 2016



Please join the City of Columbus and The Ohio State University's School of Environment and Natural Resources for the annual GreenSpotLight celebration on Tuesday, April 12th. The program is scheduled to begin at 7:30am and end at 10:30am. This year's celebration will be held at The Ohio State University 4-H Building, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive and is sponsored by Columbia Gas of Ohio, AEP Ohio, and White Castle. Six awards will be given to businesses and organizations that have demonstrated leadership towards sustainability; the new MyGreenSpot tracking tool and website will be revealed, and The Ohio State University will showcase their green initiatives.

[Register today!](#)

Earth Day Volunteer Opportunities

Join the largest Earth Day volunteer effort on the planet! Earth Day Columbus 2016: Branch Out presented by the City of Columbus and the Columbus Foundation Green Funds marks a decade of the Central Ohio week of events. From Saturday, April 16 through Saturday April 23, Central Ohioans are invited to volunteer a couple of hours of time at service sites throughout the community. This year, the goal is to plant 20,000 trees towards the Branch Out Columbus 300,000 trees by 2020 goal.



Stretch your limbs and Branch Out by [volunteering at a service site](#), by [hosting a service site](#), by [donating funds to buy trees](#), and then celebrate by attending the citywide [Celebration](#) at Columbus Commons from 1-10pm on April 23.

MyGreenSpot Now Live

Since the inception of the program, GreenSpotters have asked for a way to log their progress online. We have good news, we have partnered with local company, Jade Track, to create the MyGreenSpot online tracking tool. The new MyGreenSpot website includes a metrics feature where you can track and benchmark your sustainability efforts. Through the new site, you will have the ability to:

- Review or change your GreenSpot commitments on a personalized dashboard
- Log your progress any time of the year
- Update your organization's contact information (name, location, contact person, etc.)
- See the cumulative environmental impact from all 14,000+ GreenSpot members.

To access your personalized dashboard you will need to create a password. To do

so, click: mygreenspot.columbus.gov.

GreenSpot to GreenSpot Benefits

GreenSpot member CeraNet is a premier GREEN data center and cloud computing provider in central Ohio. In an effort to promote and reward the best possible use of energy, they offer special incentives of up to \$500 per server for GreenSpot members who wish to migrate to the cloud. Contact [CeraNet today](#) to get started.



GreenSpot Backyards

Are you looking for a rain barrel, compost bin or native plants and trees to spruce up your yard? GreenSpot Backyards has you covered. Beginning April 1st GreenSpot members will be eligible for a \$50 rebate on a compost bin, rain barrel or native plants and up to \$100 rebate on trees (subject to address verification and specific criteria). Take an easy on-line quiz or attend a workshop hosted by Franklin Soil and Water. The kickoff workshop will be held on April 2, 2016 at 10:00 am at Franklin Soil and Water, 1404 Goodale Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43212.



To register or find out more information visit www.GreenSpotBackyards.org.

Questions or Comments?

If you have questions or comments please contact us at GreenSpot@Columbus.gov