



**For Immediate Release**

March 22, 2023

**Contact:**

Erin Beck, Assistant Director, 614-645-3522, [ebbeck@columbus.gov](mailto:ebbeck@columbus.gov)

David R. Celebrezze, Resilience & Behavior Change Manager, 614-645-6703, [drcelebrezze@columbus.gov](mailto:drcelebrezze@columbus.gov)

**City of Columbus GreenSpotLight Awards Returns to In Person**

*Celebration to recognize annual GreenSpot achievements and award businesses for sustainability action*

The 2023 City of Columbus' GreenSpotLight awards celebration event returns in person this Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will recognize three businesses for their outstanding sustainability practices. The large-, medium- and small-organization awards will go to White Castle, MJ Design Associates and Energility, respectively. Members of the GreenSpot Advisory Board selected the three awardees using information provided in the businesses' GreenSpot annual reports.

"I applaud these award winners and other local businesses for embracing sustainability in their practices, policies and actions," said City of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "Our community thrives when sustainability is represented as a core value, and we cannot achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 without the full support of all our neighbors."

These organizations use the MyGreenSpot online tool to adopt and track their sustainability successes in water and energy conservation, waste reduction, green transportation and educational outreach. Actions taken by award winners include installing energy efficient LEDs and motion sensor lighting systems to save energy, installation of low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce water usage, providing EV charging and discounted rates to employees to encourage sustainable mode shift, and providing workplace recycling and composting efforts.

"We are honored to receive the GreenSpotLight award and it's gratifying to have our LEED certified Gold Columbus Home Office recognized," said Shannon Tolliver, Social Responsibility and Environmental Manager. "White Castle is committed to a sustainable future for all our communities and our team members. As a family owned business, we take the long view and we will continue to work together for a tomorrow that's even better than today."

Columbus City Councilmember Rob Dorans will attend the event to recognize and honor the award recipients.

"As our community continues to grow, it's important for all of us to work towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Columbus. The GreenSpotLight awardees have demonstrated

that sustainability can be part of the core mission of any business,” said Columbus City Council President Pro Tem Rob Dorans, Chair of Council’s Public Utilities Committee.

The awards will be presented to the businesses at the Grange Audubon Center with the event starting at 5:30pm. This event is free and open to the public however RSVPs are encouraged at [GreenSpotLight.eventbrite.com](http://GreenSpotLight.eventbrite.com).

The GreenSpot Program began in 2008 to inspire, educate, and recognize those in the community who are taking steps to protect the environment. More than 23,000 households, community groups and businesses are currently members. Membership forms are available for download at [www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org](http://www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org)

-###-