



# Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

*Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years*

## 2015 GreenSpot Backyard Conservation Expansion Program

- 1) Franklin Soil and Water and the City of Columbus' intergovernmental working agreement have the following 2014-2015 goals:
  - a. Goal 1: To engage as many households in the City of Columbus in implementing backyard conservation practices as resources and interest will allow.
  - b. Goal 2: Incentivize implementation of conservation practices and GreenSpot membership by offering technical assistance with rain garden installation and reimbursable rebates on the purchase of select rain barrels, compost containers, and native vegetation.
  - c. Goal 3: To coordinate with related programs including Backyard Habitats with Audubon and community outreach through watershed groups.
  
- 2) Existing focus areas within Franklin Soil and Water's Backyard Conservation program include water quality, water quantity, backyard habitat, composting, and water conservation. GreenSpot members are interested in composting and additional backyard conservation practices, and welcome incentives.
  - a. Eighty-three percent of GreenSpot members surveyed are interested in a compost bin rebate. Of those who already compost, a majority (thirty-five percent) currently used enclosed bins. A majority (twenty-seven percent) is willing to expend between \$50 to \$75, and most (fifty percent) are unsure of what kind of composter they would prefer.
  - b. The majority of those surveyed (forty-eight percent) cited both environmental and soil enrichment as reasons to compost. A majority of respondents (thirty-eight percent), when asked, cited multiple concerns with composting, e.g. odor, rodents, and inconvenience.
  - c. See appendix for full survey results.

- 3) Six of the in-person workshops will be on overall backyard conservation with a focus on rain barrels and compost bins. These workshops will also include a brief introduction to rain gardens, native plants and lawn care. One of the in-person workshops will focus on rain gardens and another one will focus on composting. Franklin Soil and Water will also hold one rain barrel workshop specifically in a low-income area to target residents to take advantage of the City's water and sewer discount program and receive a free rain barrel.
- 4) All workshops will be targeted and available to Columbus residents. One of the eight workshops will be targeted to Clintonville residents to address composting practices with respect to rodents.
- 5) The name of the program can be revisited and revised before the start of materials development in January of 2015.

**Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services to the City of Columbus:**

Backyard Habitat Rebates and Stormwater Runoff/Water Conservation Education. Rebate program will include rain barrel, compost bin and native plant & tree reimbursements with rain garden assistance and education.

- 1) Rain Barrel program to continue as a rebate program with the following suggestions:
  - a. Interested GreenSpot Members within Franklin County must complete educational course to receive the rain barrel rebate either through:
    - i. Free in-person workshop facilitated by Franklin Soil and Water and partnering organizations including watershed groups & metro parks.
    - ii. Completing the online backyard conservation course & quiz.
  - b. In-Person workshop attendees will receive voucher of attendance (good through December 31, 2015). Online Course and Quiz users will receive certificate in mail after passing quiz (70% or better).
    - i. After online course completion, an email confirmation with residents contact information will be sent to Franklin Soil and Water. Residents address and participation will be verified and once approved, Franklin Soil and Water will mail rebate certificate with instructions for claiming rebate to resident.
  - c. Original receipt, certificate, and photo of rain barrel will be submitted to District to receive rebate check not to exceed \$50. Refund limited to one barrel per household per year.

- d. Franklin Soil and Water will select 1 targeted location for low income workshop. Qualified low-income GreenSpot members may receive free rain barrel after completion of workshop or online course (while supplies last).
- e. Rain Barrel reimbursements will be available on a first come first serve basis for an estimated 350 rain barrels. Once reimbursement dollars are expended reimbursements will not be available for the remainder of 2015.
- f. District will advertise availability of free rain sensors to homeowners with automated sprinklers.

2) Launch compost bin rebate program:

- a. Interested GreenSpot members within City of Columbus must complete educational course to receive the composting rebate either through:
  - i. Free in-person workshop facilitated by Franklin Soil and Water and partnering organizations including watershed groups, Franklin County Master Gardeners, SWACO, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Local Matters (partnership ensures consistency in education).
  - ii. Completing the online backyard conservation course & quiz.
- b. In-Person workshop attendees will receive certificate of attendance (good through December 31, 2015) Online Course and Quiz users will receive certificate after passing quiz (70% or better)
- c. Original receipt, voucher, and photo of assembled compost bin with appropriate rodent-abatement measures will be submitted to District to receive rebate check not to exceed \$50. Bins must be commercially manufactured with fitted lid/sliding doors (i.e. no homemade bins or piles). Refund limited to one bin/household.
- d. Franklin Soil and Water will select 2 targeted locations for low income workshops. Qualified low-income GreenSpot members may be reimbursed up to \$100 for a compost bin.
- e. Compost Bin reimbursements will be available on a first come first serve basis. Once reimbursement dollars are expended (current budget estimates 200 compost bins) reimbursements will not be available for the remainder of 2015.

3) Launch rebate program for plants & trees:

- a. Interested GreenSpot members within City of Columbus must complete educational course to receive the plant rebate either through:
  - i. Free in-person workshop facilitated by Franklin Soil and Water and partnering organizations including watershed groups, Franklin County Master Gardeners, SWACO, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Local Matters (partnership ensures consistency in education).
  - ii. Completing the Online Course & Quiz.
- b. Information on native plants and trees will be provided to potential participants along with information on the Gardening for Clean Water Program and participating nurseries.
- c. Information on invasive plants as obtained from the Ohio Invasive Plants Council will be provided to residents. District will not process or approve reimbursements for any invasive plant set by the council.
- d. Customers must submit an original receipt to the District with photo of planted tree(s), plants or shrubs for reimbursement not to exceed \$50.
- e. Plant & tree reimbursements will be available on a first come first serve basis for an estimated 150 reimbursements. Once reimbursement dollars are expended, funds will not be available for the remainder of 2015.

4) Rain garden assistance & education program with the following suggestions:

- a. Guidance from Franklin Soil and Water and onsite evaluations will be provided to help ensure proper placement of rain gardens away from the foundation and efforts will be made to avoid placement over lateral lines in SSO and CSO areas.
- b. Franklin Soil and Water will host 2 workshops focusing on rain gardens.

**The City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor and Department of Public Utilities will provide the following support to Franklin Soil and Water**

- 1) Public Utilities shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount not to exceed \$74,000. These funds will be distributed on or near January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

**It is Mutually Agreed:**

- 1) That all parties will review quality of service, coordinate activities, share expertise and address concerns as they arise.

- 2) That credit will be given jointly to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Columbus GreenSpot program in presentations and materials.
- 3) That this working agreement may be amended or terminated at any time by mutual consent or the agreement may be terminated by either party giving sixty (60) days' notice in writing to the other.

**SIGNATURES**

The below signatures certify consent on the above agreement.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Signature

CITY OF COLUMBUS

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Signature