

CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



Columbia surpasses renewable energy goal

Columbia has a renewable energy standard that requires increasing amounts of renewable energy. The ordinance states that in 2012, Columbia Water & Light had to supply 2 percent of the electric supply with renewable resources. The utility once again surpassed this goal by supplying 7.94 percent of the energy portfolio coming from wind, landfill gas, waste wood and solar. The requirement increases gradually to 15 percent in 2023.

The cost of the renewable energy mandated in the ordinance must not increase electric rates more than 3 percent higher than the electric rates that would be attributable to the cost of electricity generated from 100 percent non-renewable sources. For 2012, the additional cost of renewable energy was \$1,965,271, while the limit was \$3,219,624. The extra money spent on renewable energy was 61 percent of what was allowed according to the ordinance, so the cost impact on the electric supply was minimal.

In February, the draft of the 2013 Renewable Energy Report was made publicly available on the City's website. It will be reviewed by City boards and commissions and then sent to the City Council for approval.



Renewable energy and efficiency the focus of conference

The eighth annual Advancing Renewables in the Midwest conference is being held at the University of Missouri Thursday, March 28. The event is a way for attendees to discover how green energy works in the Midwest. Speakers will address how utilities, legislators and private entities are embracing renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The conference is hosted by Columbia Water & Light, the University of Missouri Atmospheric Sciences department and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. For more information about the conference please go to www.AdvancingRenewables.org.

*BRINGING
THE
GREEN
BACK!*

Did You Know?

Public Health and Human Services conducted more than 1,600 routine food establishment inspections in 2012. Learn more about how they're keeping your food safe at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/Food_Safety/food_safety_consumer.php.

City of Columbia begins occupancy limitation disclosure requirements

On Jan. 7, the Columbia City Council adopted an occupancy disclosure ordinance to raise awareness about how zoning limits the number of occupants in a residential unit.

The ordinance requires real estate agents, real estate brokers and property managers to provide the buyer or lessee of residential property information on the zoning district of the property and the occupancy limits found in Chapter 29 of City ordinance. It also requires anyone leasing or subleasing rental property to provide the tenant with the property's zoning district and the occupancy limits through the written lease or a zoning occupancy disclosure form provided by the City of Columbia. New or renewal leases, including month-to-month leases, written as of Feb. 1, 2013, must comply with this ordinance.

The definition of a family limits occupants in residential units. No more than three unrelated people can live together in property located in R-1 zoning and no more than four can live together in other zoning districts.

The City's website includes information on the new ordinance, including a link to the City map where zoning district information can be found. Search for "Occupancy Disclosure" at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or contact the Office of Neighborhood Services at 817-5050.

Neighborhood Watch Training

Please join Columbia Neighborhood Watch and the Columbia Police Department in keeping your neighborhood safe! Learn about the benefits of being part of Neighborhood Watch.

Training Dates & Locations

- Feb. 26 from 7-8 p.m.: First State Bank, Bethel & Nifong Boulevard
- April 3 from 7-8 p.m.: Oakland Junior High School, Oakland Place (enter through north doors, off Blue Ridge)
- Sept. 12 from 7-8 p.m.: Shepard Boulevard Elementary, 2616 Shepard Boulevard (Media Center)
- Nov. 12 from 7-8 p.m.: Parkade Center, 601 Business Loop 70 West (Suite 131)

Online registration is not required but is appreciated at www.ColumbiaNeighborhoodWatch.org.

The mission of Neighborhood Watch is to provide information and assistance which encourages neighborhood involvement to be effective, watchful neighbors with the goal of reducing crime.

Change your clock; change your battery

Daylight saving time (March 10, 2013) is not only the time to change your clocks but also a good time to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

NFPA recommends:

- using both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms, also known as dual-sensor alarms. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires.
- replacing all smoke alarms every 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.



Save with shade

Trees planted in the right place on your property can reduce your cooling costs by up to 30 percent in the summer. That's why Columbia Water & Light is offering a free 6-foot to 10-foot-tall shade tree for electric customers.

Sign up and a representative will come to your house to show you the best place for your shade tree. You will then receive a coupon for a free tree.

874-7325

ColumbiaPowerPartners.com

(limit one tree per electric meter)



Strategic plan guides city government

Last fall, the City Council approved a 2012 - 2015 City of Columbia Strategic Plan. The plan will guide "City Hall" decisions and actions over the next three years. The purpose of the strategic plan is to help city government define "how it does business." It documents purpose, sets strategic priorities, outlines actions, measures success and helps align budgets with priorities.

Our Mission

"We make Columbia the best place to live, work, learn and play by fostering a safe, equitable, sustainable, and healthy economy, community and environment through a democratic and fiscally responsible government."

Strategic Priorities

*Customer Focused Government • Economic Development
Financial Health • Growth Management • Health,
Safety and Well-Being • Infrastructure • Workforce*

Each strategic priority has a list of goals, actions and ways to measure success. Work on the plan began in May 2012 with the help of public input, employees, department heads, administrators and City Council. The plan was finalized in late September and implementation teams have been assigned to keep the plan on track. In addition, City departments have created department-specific strategic plans to help align department responsibilities with city-wide priorities.

You can view the strategic plan online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com/StrategicPlan. Copies are also available from the Public Communications Department, 874-7316.



Interested in the future of Columbia? Want to know how to contribute? Find out more about Columbia Imagined! Columbia Imagined will be the City of Columbia's new comprehensive plan, providing guidelines for citizens and decision makers in determining the City's future growth.

Columbia Imagined is currently in preliminary draft form and can be viewed at www.columbiaimagined.com. A series of public meetings on the plan will be held this spring to continue gathering input from citizens to enhance the final document. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to help shape the future of the City of Columbia.

For more information on Columbia Imagined, call 874-7239 or email planning@GoColumbiaMo.com.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Call 874-7460 for more information.

APRIL

3	Tons of Trucks, Rainbow Softball Center at Cosmo Park, 4-7 p.m., FREE
6	Kite Flying Day, Douglass Park ball field, 12-2 p.m., FREE
17	Family Fun Fest: Teen Fest, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., FREE
21	Earth Day, Peace Park, 12-7 p.m., FREE
27	Hershey Track and Field Meet, Hickman High School, 9 a.m. check-in, FREE

Earth Hour

Earth Hour 2013 will be held Saturday, March 23, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. A kickoff event will take place Thursday, March 21. Check out the website for more details.

In honor of Earth Hour, Columbia Transit invites you to leave your car at home and try transit for free on Thursday, March 21, and Saturday, March 23. Help Columbia show support for the environment by riding the bus, on us. For more information, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Columbia Water & Light estimated a two megawatt drop in Columbia's electric consumption during last year's Earth Hour. The two megawatts of electricity is equivalent to the amount of power used by almost 80 homes in Columbia in an average day. This worldwide event is held each year to increase knowledge about saving energy and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions. Visit the City's website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com and search "Earth Hour" to learn about events and activities.

Cultural ambassadors

Columbia's sister city, Suncheon, Korea, will host the 2013 International Garden Expo this summer. The Missouri Contemporary Ballet has been invited to perform as cultural ambassadors for Columbia. Suncheon will host local expenses. The ballet will launch a kickstarter campaign in March to cover travel to Korea. For information, visit www.missouricontemporaryballet.com.

March Volunteers of the Month—Columbia Insurance Group



Paris Road and Whitegate/
Heriford intersection

Perhaps you've noticed areas along Columbia's roads bursting with colorful plants during the growing season. These garden spots, located at intersections, roundabouts and medians, may be a City Adopt-A-Spot, where businesses, organizations and families donate their time and resources to create a little oasis of color.

When Paris Road and Whitegate/Heriford were widened about 10 years ago, Columbia Insurance Group adopted the two triangular beds at the intersection. Because one of Columbia Insurance Group's core values is being a good corporate citizen, employees wanted "to try and make a bright spot in people's commutes," says Judy Donnell, director of General Services. "Flowers make me happy, so I think it starts people's day off well and brightens Paris road up a bit."

If your family, business or organization would like to help beautify Columbia's streets by partnering with the City to maintain a small roadside area, Adopt-A-Spots are available and listed online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com. And if there is a specific roadside bed that makes you smile, leave comments for the adopter on the above website.

To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, contact Volunteer Programs at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com.

Written by volunteer Theresa Nelson

Cleanup Columbia will be held April 13

The 17th annual Cleanup Columbia, a citywide trash pickup event, will be held Saturday, April 13. During Cleanup Columbia, volunteers pick up litter along streets, in parks, on trails and in streams.

Cleanup Columbia is a wonderful activity for volunteers of all ages — individuals as well as groups of all sizes. The City will provide bags and gloves, have filled bags picked up and will assist you in finding a cleanup location! To register for Cleanup Columbia, visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com or call the City of Columbia Volunteer Programs at 874-7499.



Historic Preservation Commission unveils new page

The City of Columbia's Historic Preservation Commission has a Facebook page! For information on the commission's activities and Columbia's Most Notable Properties, visit Facebook and search for "City of Columbia Historic Preservation Commission." You can also follow the link from the commission's Web page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.



Boards & Commissions

The City is accepting applications for the following:

Application deadline: April 5 at 5 p.m.

- Airport Advisory Board
- Board of Adjustment
- Downtown Columbia Leadership Council
- Liquor License Review Board
- Planning and Zoning Commission

Application deadline: May 3 at 5 p.m.

- Board of Plumbing Examiners
- Columbia Housing Authority Board
- Disabilities Commission
- Environment and Energy Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission

Applications and information about current vacancies for City boards and commissions are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office. Call 874-7208 for information.

CITY SOURCE is published by the City of Columbia as a public service to the residents of Columbia, Missouri.

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City of Columbia
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MAYOR

Bob McDavid

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>First Ward</i>	Fred Schmidt
<i>Second Ward</i>	Michael Trapp
<i>Third Ward</i>	Gary Kespohl
<i>Fourth Ward</i>	Daryl Dudley
<i>Fifth Ward</i>	Laura Nauser
<i>Sixth Ward</i>	Barbara Hoppe
<i>City Manager</i>	Mike Matthes



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