



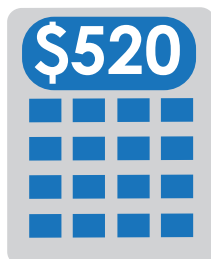
— City Stats —

Home Performance with Energy Star

Average house saves
23%
on energy



Average house receives



in rebates

Average house avoids



(metric tons of CO₂)
of Greenhouse gas
emissions per year

Water & Light honored for sustained excellence



As a municipal utility, City of Columbia Water & Light has prided itself on taking a community-centric approach in helping customers make energy efficiency improvements to their homes and businesses. Water & Light likes to ensure that, by offering a variety of programs, customers can participate at a level that fits them best.

To improve energy efficiency in Columbia, Water & Light needed to provide education and solutions, especially in hard-to-reach markets. That's why in 2021, Water & Light revamped its existing outreach programs by expanding access. These initiatives included diverse groups from low-income renters to high-usage customers.

This "whole community" approach earned Columbia Water & Light the 2022 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award—Sustained Excellence from the Environmental Protection Agency. It is the department's fifth straight Partner of the Year Award and the third straight nod for Sustained Excellence.

Columbia's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, established in 2008, uses a whole-house approach to energy efficiency and offers rebates and low-interest loans to help residents achieve their energy efficiency goals. Water & Light believes that when customers have control of their energy consumption, they have more flexibility about where or how to spend their money, have less stress and have a more comfortable home.

"We are honored to receive this distinguished award for a third straight year," Utilities Services Manager Brandon Renaud said. "Efficiency is a building block of the clean energy economy. We look forward to building on this achievement and continuing the tradition of energy efficiency in Columbia."

The Sustained Excellence Award is the highest honor bestowed by the ENERGY STAR program, celebrating a group that has made a long-term commitment to fighting climate change and protecting public health through energy efficiency. Applicants are evaluated based on collaboration with other utility providers, the accessibility of their programming and the extent of the "whole-house approach" being accomplished.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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City of Columbia, Mo. Government



@CoMoGov

Stormwater project ties residents to local waterways

Have you ever wondered where rainwater goes after it falls on the ground? In Columbia, runoff that pours into a storm drain flows directly into one of our local waterways.

The area of land from which precipitation drains into a specific body of water is known as a watershed. Within a watershed, each small body of water will flow into a larger body of water, creating an interconnected system.

In February, Stormwater Utility and Public Works staff finished putting up 150 roadside signs indicating local watersheds. Staff completed a seven-year education-and-outreach strategy as part of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. This program and other efforts of the Show-Me Stormwater Management partnership, which includes Boone County and the University of Missouri, were created to connect residents to the local waterways.

Every neighborhood belongs to one of Columbia's 15 watersheds. You can find an interactive map at [CoMo.gov/watersheds](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/watersheds). When precipitation falls, the water runoff carries pollutants from our yards and streets into our streams, lakes and groundwater, which threatens the aquatic ecosystem. A healthy watershed conserves water, promotes streamflow, supports sustainable groundwater sources, enables healthy soil for crops and livestock, and provides habitat for wildlife and plants.

Do your part to keep our waterways clean and watersheds healthy by using the correct amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides; disposing of oil and trash appropriately; mulching and composting grass and leaves on site.

Water Quality Report

The City of Columbia recently released the 2021 Water Quality Report. The consumer confidence report shows that Columbia's drinking water meets or exceeds all quality standards set by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

For a copy of the report, visit [CoMo.gov/Utilities/Water/](https://www.columbia-mo.gov/Utilities/Water/) and click on the Water Quality tab, call 573.874.CITY (2489) to have one mailed to you or stop by the Utility Customer Service office at City Hall, 701 E. Broadway.

Refuse, recycling vouchers scheduled to arrive in mid-June

Solid Waste residential curbside customers are expected to receive refuse and recycling bag vouchers in their mailboxes in mid-June. Customers will receive two vouchers for 26-count rolls of black refuse bags and one voucher for an 18-count roll of blue recycling bags.

If customers have not received their vouchers by June 16, they should contact the City's bag contractor, WasteZero, at 1.800.866.3954 or customerservice@wastezero.com. Vouchers are mailed to the service address regardless of who is paying for the utilities.

All trash placed on the curb for collection must be in official City-provided trash bags with a City of Columbia logo.

Residents can purchase additional refuse bags in rolls of five for \$10.

Bag vouchers are redeemable at the following Columbia locations:

- Gerbes Supermarkets
- Hy-Vee Supermarkets
- Menards
- Moser's Foods
- Schnucks/EatWell
- City of Columbia Utility Customer Service (City Hall)

New paratransit driver position to help solve Go COMO bus operator shortages



Go COMO bus operators are currently working long hours to get Columbia residents to the important places they need to go.

Operating a full-sized City bus is no easy job. It's one that requires training, qualifications and patience to perform effectively. However, it's an important duty that keeps the entire community functioning every day.

Because of the many requirements, bus operators are in high demand across the country. This includes Columbia, where our Go COMO transit service currently finds itself eleven full-time and seven part-time operators short. Go COMO bus operators are currently working long hours to get Columbia residents to the important places they need to go, such as to work, school, the doctor's office and the grocery store.

To help with the bus operator shortage, a new position, paratransit van driver, has been created. Because paratransit vans carry fewer than 14 passengers, operators would only be required to possess a Class E chauffeur's license to drive them.

Columbia Transit hopes to hire six paratransit van drivers to alleviate the operator shortage. These six new employees will then be encouraged to obtain their CDLs while they work as paratransit operators, giving them the opportunity to become full-time bus operators and increase their overall versatility.

Applicants interested in becoming a paratransit van driver should visit [GoCoMoJobs.com](https://www.go.comojobs.com), to review the requirements and fill out an application.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Rhea Rostine



Rhea Rostine was working at a factory when she received word that the City of Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department was looking for part-time seasonal help on its landscaping team. Rhea, who has a bachelor's degree in parks, recreation and tourism, decided to apply.

She got the job, and shortly thereafter, took on a role as a full-time groundskeeper technician.

That was in 1997.

Twenty-five years later, Rhea still works

for the City selecting plants, designing flower beds and maintaining the City's 75 parks. Evidence of her green thumb can be found all throughout Columbia, including places such as Cosmo Park, Rock Quarry Park, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Garden.

"Whether I am planting shrubs, watering annuals, or mulching beds; what I do each day can impact people in a positive way."

Rhea considers herself lucky to work in Columbia because of how much its residents love the City's parks.

"Columbia supports parks and trails. A lot of other places don't. And so I've always been so grateful and committed to keeping the parks looking nice because residents so much enjoy it."

Rhea plans on spending the rest of her career with the City. She loves working outside and appreciates how she can balance her work schedule with motherhood.

4th of July Fire in the Sky

The City encourages residents to attend its 70th Annual 4th of July Fire in the Sky celebration, which will be held at Stephens Lake Park.

The festivities, which will include live entertainment, crafts, inflatables and food trucks, will start at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display beginning at 9:15 p.m.

A vivid display of fireworks will light the night sky directly above the southeast corner of the park and will be synchronized to music simulcast on KBXR 102.3. Parking will be available nearby at Boone Hospital in designated parking lots.

Discharging and/or possessing fireworks within the City of Columbia limits is prohibited.

According to the City of Columbia Ordinances, "every person who shall...possess, use, burn, explode or set off any firecracker, torpedo, bomb, rocket, pinwheel, fire balloon, Roman candles or any other firecracker or fireworks other than a sparkler with the city shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor."

It's important to follow this ordinance for safety, as fireworks have the potential to cause serious injury, property damage or fires. The 4th of July Fire in the Sky celebration offers a safe alternative for those who want to enjoy fireworks.

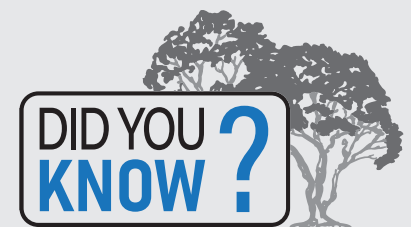
For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 573.874.7460 or visit CoMo.gov.

Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit CoMo.gov/ParksandRec or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/ParksandRec).

July 2022

- 4 Fire in the Sky, Entertainment at 6 p.m., Fireworks after 9 p.m., Stephens Lake Park, Free
- 8 Movies in the Park, Encanto, Cosmo Park, 8:45 p.m., Free
- 9 SPLAT! Junior Obstacle Course Mud Run, Gans Creek Recreation Area, Times vary according to wave, \$30
- 13 Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.
- 14 Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Columbia Community Band, 7 p.m., Free
- 16 DJ in the Park, Douglass Park, 4-6 p.m., Free
- 17 Lawn Chair Concert in the Park, Douglass Park, 3-5 p.m., Free
- 20 Family Fun Fest: Healthy Habits, Clary-Shy Community Park, 6-8 p.m., Free
- 27 Food Truck Roundups, MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park, 3-7 p.m.



This year will be Columbia's 70th Fire in the Sky event. The annual Fourth of July celebration will take place at Stephens Lake park, near Broadway and Old Highway 63.

Lenoir Woods Recycling Team – June 2022 Volunteer of the Month



Lenoir Woods Edgewood Recycling Team: Mary Jean Leeper, Sheillah Rogers, Pat Hansen, Janet Dierker, Connie Gray, Ken Hammenn, Jerry Sigmund, Larry Hogan and James Powell. Not pictured, Marilyn Hargrove.

For June, the Lenoir Woods Recycling Team is recognized for their outstanding service. The team is led by James Powell from the 2014 founding class of the City's volunteer Recycling Ambassadors program. James has shared countless hours promoting waste reduction and recycling. When he and his wife Marie moved to Lenoir Woods four years ago, he immediately inquired about the community's recycling efforts and joined the recycling team. The team is a dedicated crew committed to the Lenoir community and the environment as a whole.

Each Tuesday, residents at the Edgewood Community at Lenoir place their recyclables outside their doors. The recycling team comes by to collect them. The volume of recyclables collected each week is shocking. It takes the dedication of the entire crew to get the job done. By incorporating education into their mission, the team has virtually eliminated contamination of the building's recyclables.

What Pat Hansen enjoys most about being on the team is the satisfaction it brings knowing she did something good for our planet. With the negative impacts of all our waste in the news, Pat believes we should all think twice about what we can do to divert materials for reuse and recycling. Team member Sheillah Rogers has been volunteering her entire life and said, "when you believe in something and see that you can make a difference, it's gratifying to do something about it."

Thank you, Lenoir residents, for your commitment to recycling! To find out how you can volunteer with the City of Columbia, visit [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia.mo.gov).

Board and commission vacancies

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission
- Building Construction Codes Commission
- Railroad Advisory Board

The application deadline is Friday, July 8, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at [CoMo.gov](https://www.columbia.mo.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.



OUR VISION

Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public equitably through democratic, transparent and efficient government.

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CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS

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