

SUSTAINABLE COLUMBUS[★] CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Northwest Civic Association
March 1, 2023

Katherine “Swid” Swidarski
Climate Action Plan Implementation Manager



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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



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Say it Again. Climate change is real.

- It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land.
- Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.
- Limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions.

SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change





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Why We Need a Climate Action Plan



Climate Justice: equitable distribution of benefits from climate action planning across the diverse community



Human Health: improves public health through reduced pollutants and hazards, and increasing active habits



Environmental Quality: preserves and improves natural ecosystems and promotes biodiversity



Economic Prosperity: provides opportunity for funding revenue streams, reduced or stable energy costs, and/or job creation



“The Climate Action Plan is part of our community roadmap to equity, health, and prosperity for all Columbus families. Our plan leads with ambition, guided by science and centered in equity, as we build our net zero carbon future by 2050.”

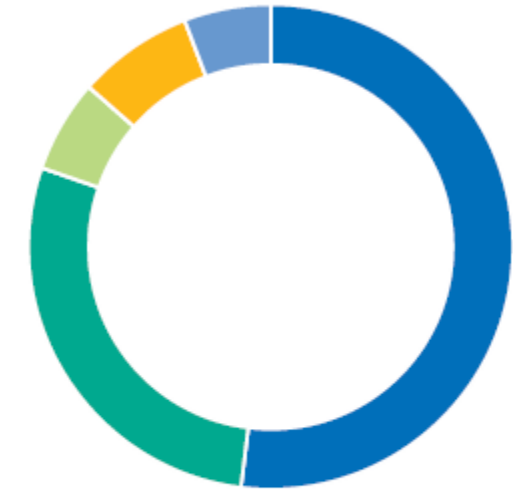
Leading with Equity

“Most people don’t feel safe. It’s hard to simply exist outside in our natural environment.”

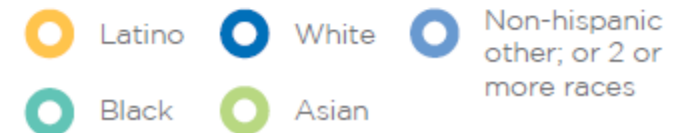
“All I remember is going outside every morning and smelling burnt plastic. I don’t know what it was but it was terrible to breathe in day after day.”

Focus Group Participants & Columbus Residents,
Equity Capacity Building with CommEN Strategies

RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF
COLUMBUS, OHIO



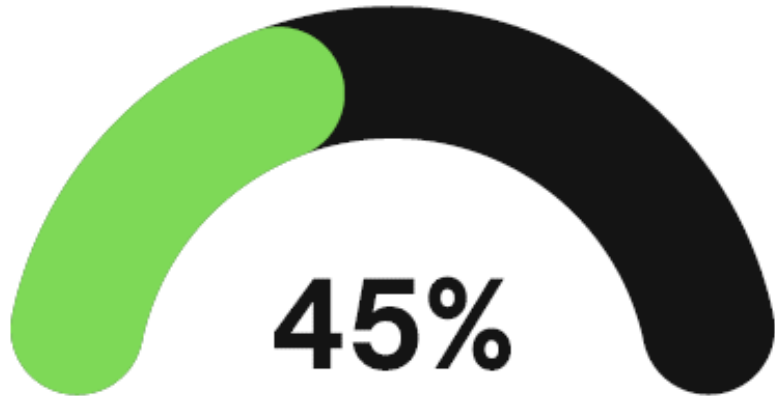
Source: U.S. Census 2020





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Our Ambition



2030 GHG Reduction Goal

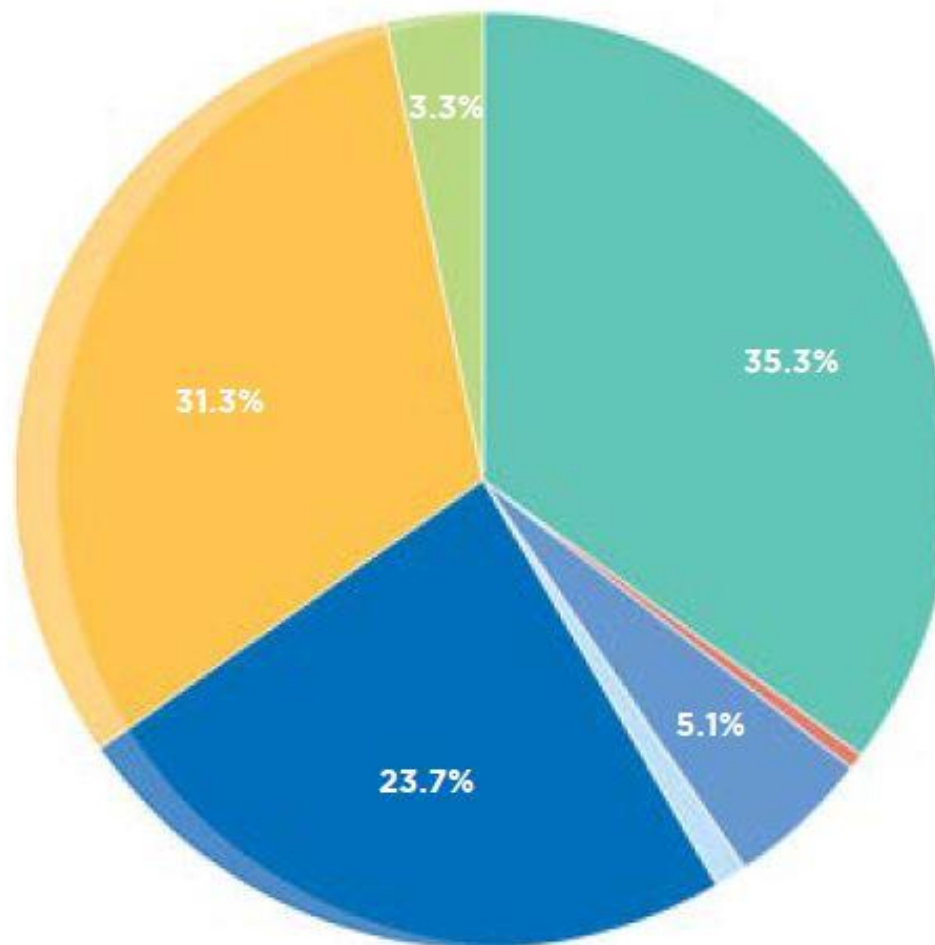


2050 GHG Reduction Goal



2013 BASELINE INVENTORY BY SECTOR

- Industrial Energy
- Commercial Energy
- Residential Energy
- Water & Wastewater (0.9%)
- Solid Waste
- Process & Fugitive Emissions (0.4%)
- Transportation





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What's in the Plan?



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: THE COLUMBUS WAY

- 1 Empower a community of climate leaders
- 2 Develop a clean energy economy
- 3 Enhance partnerships for preparedness efforts



SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

- 4 Support a healthy and resilient community
- 5 Implement land use planning strategies for healthy ecosystems
- 6 Prepare for warmer and wetter seasons



BUILDINGS

- 7 Increase renewable energy
- 8 Increase building efficiency
- 9 Adopt net zero and resilient building standards



TRANSPORTATION

- 10 Enable carbon free vehicles
- 11 Support equitable mode shift



WASTE

- 12 Reduce waste generated
- 13 Increase waste diversion rate



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What's in the Plan?



ad-ap-ta-tion
the process of adjustment to expected climate and its effects

mit-i-ga-tion
human interventions to reduce the sources of greenhouse gases

May 2020 Columbus flood event, rescue photo from Stormcroft Ave.

7.1 INCREASE RESIDENTIAL ON-SITE SOLAR

ROOFTOP SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PANELS GIVE RESIDENTS THE MOST DIRECT ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY

With the regional grid using a significant amount of fossil fuel electric generation, Columbus citizens will get the most reliable clean energy source directly from their own roof and credited to their utility bills through net metering. As the grid is anticipated to integrate more renewable energy and clean generation, the costs of PV systems are expected to continue falling. In the interim, bulk purchasing and incentives should be utilized to spur more adoption.

To improve access and equity to residential solar, the City Division of Power will be working to develop a community solar plan. This will allow residents that do not have a suitable rooftops for solar, such as renters, the benefits of clean energy sources and predictable energy prices.



Image Source: Third Sector Solutions

TARGETS	
Community Solar Plan	by 2025
50 MW installed	by 2030
500 MW installed	by 2050

GHG IMPACT	
2030 Reduction	Low - 19,629 MT
2050 Reduction	Low - 2,956 MT

AGENCIES INVOLVED	
Lead Agency	Building and Zoning
Supporting Agencies	Public Utilities, . . . Sustainable Columbus

EXPECTED BENEFITS	
Climate Justice	
	moderate
Environmental Quality	
	major
Human Health	
	some
Economic Prosperity	
	major

Terminology

7 | Increase Renewable Energy } *Strategy*

7.1 | Increase residential on-site solar } *Action*

- Community Solar Plan by **2025**
 - 50 MW installed by **2030**
 - 500 MW installed by **2050**
- } *Targets*

HOW IS THIS WORK ACCOMPLISHED?



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Climate Action Plan Launch

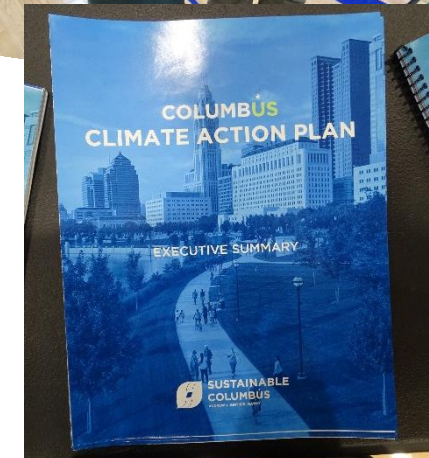


Event Speakers Left to Right: Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Heather Taylor-Misele (OEC), Kenny McDonald (OneColumbus/Partnership), Molly Jo Stanley (OEC Emerging Leader), Bo Chilton (IMPACT)

Press Conference w/ Mayor Andrew J. Ginther Held

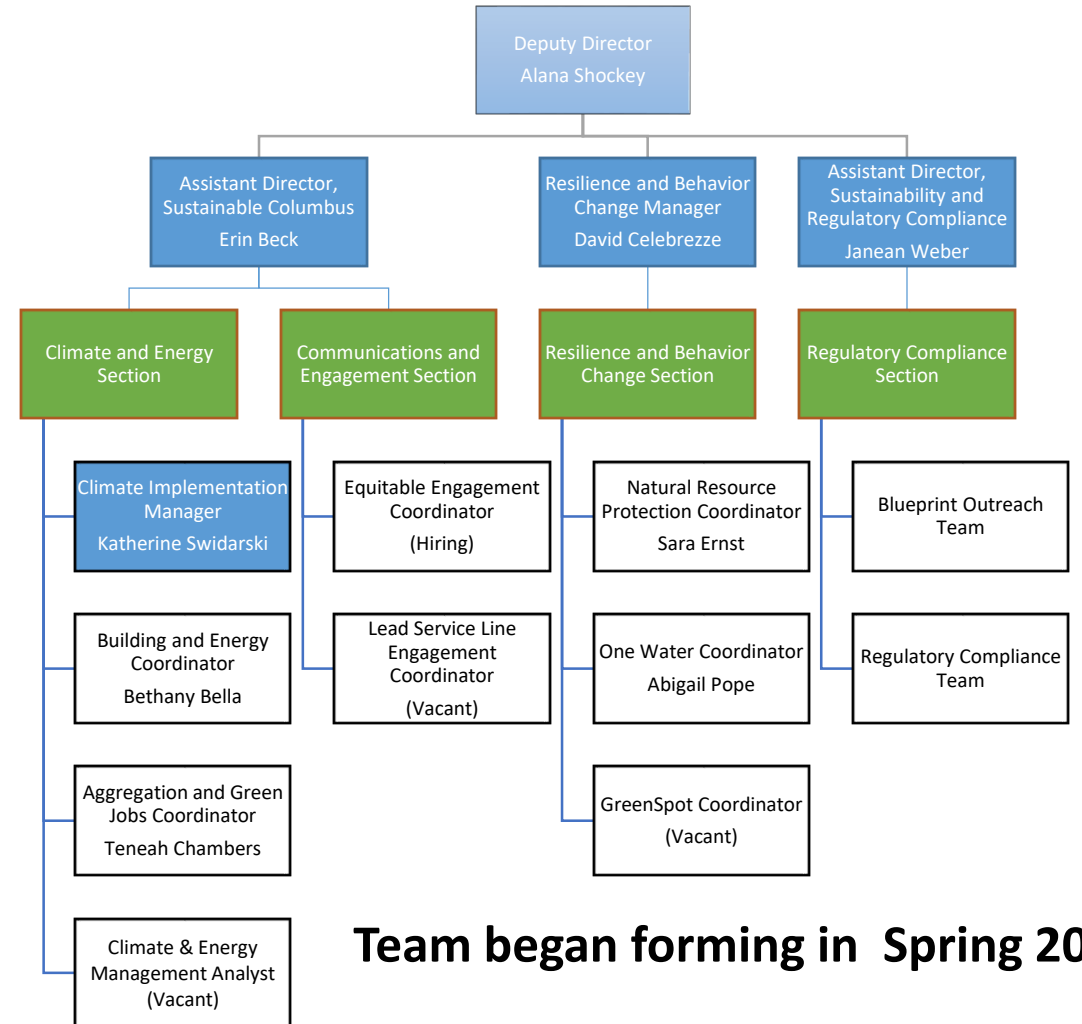
12/9/2021

[Watch Here](#)





Staffing and Structure



Team began forming in Spring 2022



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: THE COLUMBUS WAY

- 1** Empower a community of climate leaders
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BUILDINGS

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TRANSPORTATION

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WASTE

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Responsibilities & Partnerships

- Oversee all action progress and metric tracking for targets
- Coordinate and delegate resources for target implementation plans
- Track necessary budgets for targets to be achieved
- Coordinate with and report to Sustainable Columbus
- Participate in relevant Work Group meetings

TARGETS	
430 accessible green spaces by 2030	
500 accessible green spaces by 2050	
Access to green space within a 10 min walk for all residents by 2050	
GHG IMPACT	
2030 Reduction	Indirect
AGENCIES INVOLVED	
Lead Agency	Rec and Parks
Implementing Partners	Planning, Building and Zoning
EXPECTED BENEFITS	
Climate Justice	
	major
Environmental Quality	
	major
Human Health	
	moderate
Economic Prosperity	
	moderate

WHAT WORK IS HAPPENING?



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EMPOWERED! Workforce Development

Empowered! Press Conference with Mayor Ginther



[Watch Press
Conference HERE](#)

**April 7, 2022
@ IMPACT Community
Action**

Thank you to speakers JD Groves (Community Advocate), Jameka Humphries (Community Advocate), Mayor Ginther, Teresa Gary (IMPACT), and Brad DeHays (Connect Housing Blocks)!



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EMPOWERED!
Workforce Development

Program Goal

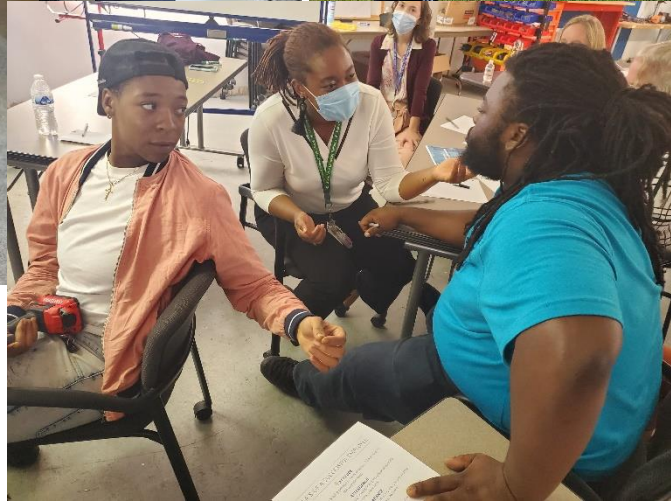
The goal of the *Empowered!* Program is to provide pathways to **good paying careers**, that lead to upward mobility, in the **construction and clean energy sector** for Columbus youth ages **18-24**, focusing on **People of Color, Women and people from Opportunity Neighborhoods**.





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EMPOWERED! Workforce Development





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Neighborhood Solar Co-Op

**SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS**

Go Solar with the Columbus Solar Co-op!

Open to Franklin County area.

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a national nonprofit helping people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights.



BUSINESS

Columbus co-op aims to help homeowners install solar panels

Patrick Cooley The Columbus Dispatch

Published 11:57 a.m. ET July 13, 2022 | Updated 1:48 p.m. ET July 13, 2022

[View Comments](#)



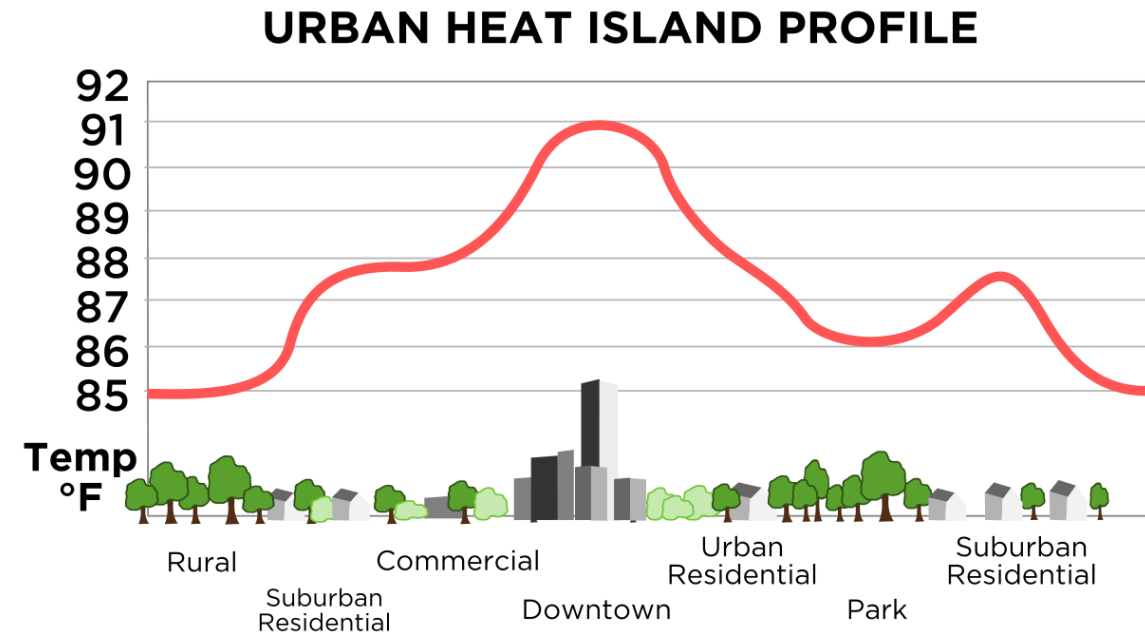
Solar panels installed on a Galloway house in 2020 by Solar United Neighbors. *Solar United Neighbors*

[Visit the Solar United Neighbors website for more information](#)



What is an Urban Heat Island?

US EPA: "Urban heat islands" occur when cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. This effect increases energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality.

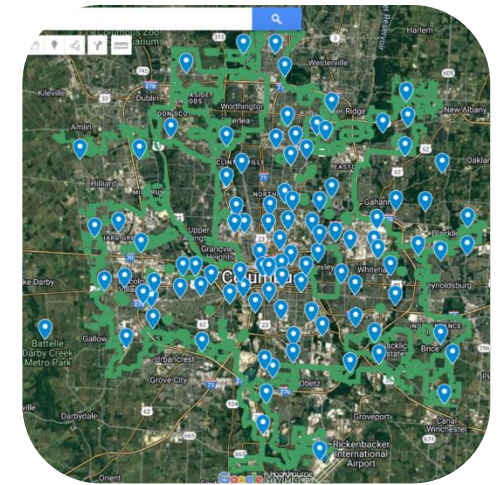
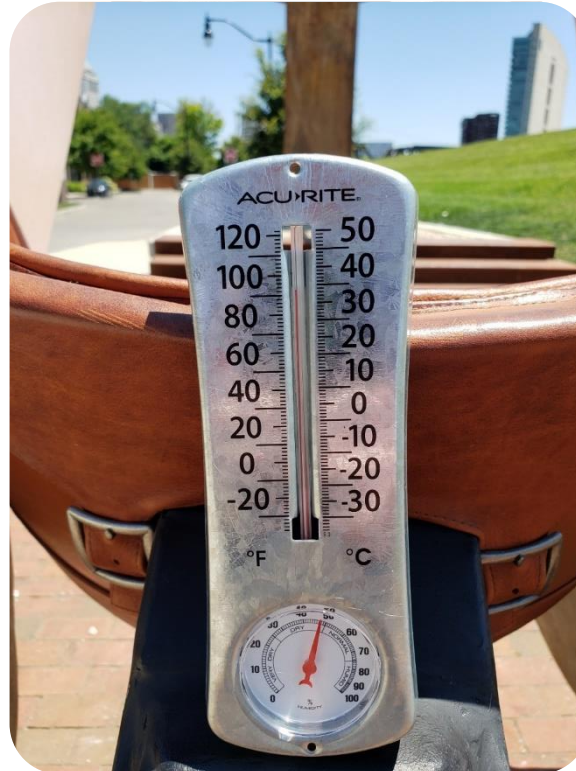
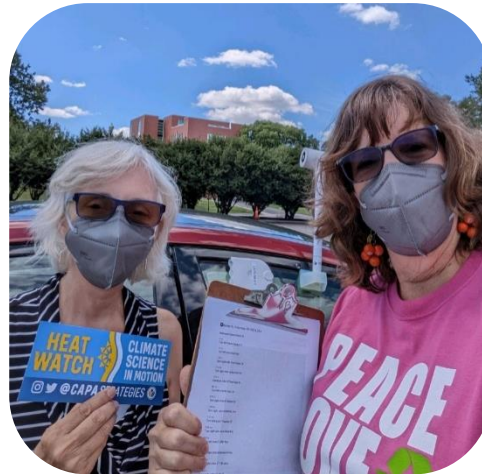




Data Collection

Friday, August 12, 2022

- 1 day
- 2 amazing interns
- 3 time slots
- 5 media stories
- 14 partner groups
- 22 routes
- 22 recruitment memes
- 78 volunteers rode the routes
- 225 interested volunteers
- 243.25 square miles



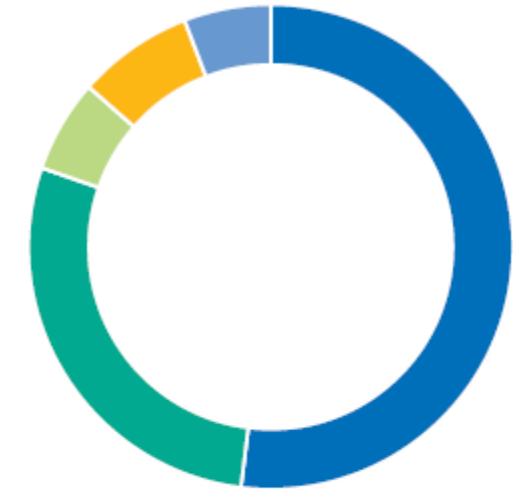
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RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF
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Source: U.S. Census 2020





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GreenSpot Program

Are you a member?

- 23,181 households
- More than 1,000 businesses
- Nearly 150 community groups

Support climate action as a neighborhood -

[Become a GreenSpot Neighborhood](#)



...Or, participate in the [Community Backyards](#) conservation rebate program to get \$50 for your yard!



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What questions do you have for us?



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THANK YOU!

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kaswidarski@Columbus.gov



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