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Community Backyards is “Springing” into the 2016 Season

With rebates, workshops, and new partnerships

3/24/2016 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— The GreenSpot Community Backyards program is set to launch April 1st and workshops are already underway. The program offers rebates to eligible residents for the purchase of a rain barrel, compost bin, or native plants and trees after they participate in an in-person workshop or an online course and quiz.

Franklin Soil and Water, along with area partners, continues to promote stormwater education, focusing on rainwater harvesting and infiltration. Keeping rain where it falls and using it as a resource keeps watersheds healthy and safe. The Community Backyards program promotes the use of rain barrels and rain gardens, while introducing residents to backyard conservation practices, including composting, using native plants and trees in landscapes, and maintaining lawns responsibly.

The GreenSpot Community Backyards program is available to City of Columbus residents, participating municipalities, and Franklin County residents who register to be a City of Columbus GreenSpot member. Continuing with the \$50 rebate program that began last year, \$100 rebates are now being offered on native trees for [eligible residents](#)* as well. The rebate program does re-start each year; residents that participated and received a rebate in 2015 can participate again in 2016 to receive another rebate. For the month of April, unused 2015 vouchers can be mailed in to receive a rebate. After April 30th, only 2016 rebate vouchers will be viable.

New this year, Franklin Soil and Water has partnered with Scioto Gardens, Rain Brothers, LLC. and City Folk Farm Shop to offer immediate discounts on eligible items purchased at their store. Residents can find native plants at Scioto Gardens, rain barrels at Rain Brothers, and compost bins and native plants at City Folk.

For questions, please call (614) 486-9613 or email Kristin Hilson, Program Coordinator, at khilson@franklinswcd.org. Visit www.greenspotbackyards.org for complete details, including upcoming workshops and the online course and quiz (available April 1st).

**Not all participants will qualify for each rebate. Some restrictions apply. Available rebates are based on residents' tax districts. Be aware that a tax district is not the same as a postal address.*

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.