

# City of Columbia



Columbia is the fifth-largest city in the U.S. state of Missouri and the largest city in Mid-Missouri. With an estimated population of 100,733 in 2008, it is the principal municipality of the Columbia Metropolitan Area, a region of 164,283 residents. It serves as the county seat of Boone County and as the location of the University of Missouri.

The college town is politically liberal and is known by the nicknames "The Athens of Missouri," "College Town USA," and "CoMO." Over half of Columbians possesses a bachelor's degree and over a quarter hold graduate degrees, making it the thirteenth most highly educated municipality in the United States.



## Mayor Darwin Hindman

Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman is serving his fifth term and was first elected in April 1995. He has lived in Columbia most of his life.

He co-chaired the Columbia 2000 and Columbia 2000 II long term visioning committees and headed many issue campaigns, including the wetlands wastewater treatment bond issue, Boone County Home Rule Charter, several Columbia beverage container deposit election campaigns, and the state wide citizen's campaign for the Katy Trail State Park.

Mayor Hindman is a strong advocate of parks and trails and alternative transportation including an interconnected non-motorized system and encouraging active healthy lifestyles.

Mayor Hindman practiced law for over forty years and served two tours of active duty as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Mayor Hindman and his wife Axie are enjoying their 50th year of marriage. They have two adult children, Ellen and Skip, and four grandchildren.

## Office of Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability (OS) was implemented in FY 2010 to further implement Resolution 160-06 A endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and to set forth a road map for sustainability in the community. As part of that overall plan, it was felt important to have a department and staff dedicated to spearheading all of the sustainability efforts for the community. This will ensure that all areas of the local government and community are working together to reach the same goals guided by this department and staff.

The City received a Department of Energy ARRA Stimulus Block Grant in the later part of FY 2009 with funding for a Sustainability Manager and start up costs for the Office of Sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability department will be responsible for administering the 3-year block grant; planning, directing, coordinating a business plan, integrating short and long term sustainable comprehensive action plans, resource conservation, and related sustainability programs and operations to advance a more sustainable, vital and well planned future for Columbia.

To learn more about the City's Sustainability Efforts and background information please see the related links [on this page](#).



## Recycling Model: Trash to Electricity

Columbia's landfill has received 2.8 million tons of trash since it opened in 1986. Biogas, or landfill gas, is created when waste decomposes. Columbia's landfill now generates sufficient quantities of gas to make it feasible to produce electricity.

On December 18, 2007, Columbia dedicated the Biogas Energy Plant at the City's landfill. Thanks to the biogas plant, the trash citizens leave at the curb can now be returned to them in the form of electricity, completing the recycling loop. Source: [USMayors.org](http://USMayors.org)

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