Internship with the City of Columbus Sustainability Office

Background:
I worked as an intern in the City of Columbus’ Sustainability Office, primarily with the GreenSpot program. The office is located within the City’s Department of Public Utilities here in Columbus. GreenSpot’s mission is to educate, recognize, and inspire households and businesses that adopt green practices. They do this through eNewsletters, tours of facilities such as the landfill and recycling facility, discounts and rebates on native plants and compost bins, social media, and community events. I found this job through Professor Jeremy Brooks, as the position must be filled by OSU students.

Responsibilities:
- Updating spreadsheets with current data
- Creating social media posts
- Attending meetings and recording discussion points
- Promoting GreenSpot and other sustainability initiatives at tabling events in the community
- Preparing welcome letters for new members

Achievements
- Organized over 100 volunteers for the Urban Heat Island Mapping Study
- Created a survey to better understand our members needs and focus GreenSpot efforts
- Constructed a poster informing DPU employees about green transportation options

Reflection:
This internship introduced me to careers in government and community development. I was previously considering this as my specialization, but I now know that I am more interested in the business and corporate side of sustainability. Moving forward, I would like to complete another internship in the private sector to explore that potential career path.