



# Make Earth Day Every Day

Stay engaged  
in your community  
year-round with  
these creative  
ideas

### **Plan an Open Streets Day**

Get involved with or start this nationally-recognized community initiative in your city or community where busy streets are closed for auto traffic for a day to allow neighbors to walk and bike. [Get more details.](#)

### **Adopt a local body of water or highway for cleanup**

Check with your state department of transportation or city's water authority for ways to help.

### **Get started with composting**

Whether it's food scraps you create in your kitchen or organic matter in your yard, you can turn waste into nutrient-rich material that can benefit the soil, prevent erosion, and eliminate landfill waste. [Learn more from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\).](#)

### **Monitor local wetlands**

Our wetlands serve many purposes and are important for maintaining biodiversity. [Find out how you can help from the EPA.](#)

### **Help plant a community garden**

Community and school gardens are a wonderful resource for providing fresh fruits and vegetables to individuals and families in your area. [The University of Minnesota has a great guide for getting started.](#)

### **Protect birds**

Birds species have been disrupted by development and growth. [The Audobon Society](#) works to protect birds and their environment and has a great list of resources for getting involved in ways large and small.

### **Plant trees**

Whether on your own or with your company, planting trees can have a huge impact on the environment. [The National Wildlife Federation](#) has tips and ideas for tree planting events, tree care, and more.

### **Visit your local farmers' market**

Buying local and organic products not only helps support local businesses, it can also help improve the earth by reducing emissions created by shipping.

### **Recycle right**

Do you know your community's recycling guidelines? Not all materials can be recycled. "Wishcycling," or putting materials into recycle bins that can't be recycled, costs communities time, energy, and money. Find out more about wishcycling from the University of Colorado at Boulder and look to your community's local waste management authority for details on what can and can't be recycled in your community.

### **Donate your birthday to your favorite local environmental organization**

Forego the presents this year and ask your friends and family to donate in your honor to your favorite environmental group. Some social media platforms make it easy to launch fundraisers with a few clicks.

### **Volunteer with the National Park Service**

In the U.S., our national parks are some of our most precious treasures. The National Park Service operates on a slim budget and is always looking for help from local communities. Individuals and

groups can apply to be Volunteer-inParks program participants and for one-time projects or on an ongoing basis. [Watch this video to learn more.](#)

### **Conserve water**

The average American household uses as much as 400 gallons of water per day. Small efforts can help you reduce that amount – shorten your shower by 2 – 3 minutes in the morning, turn off the tap water when brushing your teeth, only wash full loads of laundry, etc.

### **Pursue a healthy building certification**

Businesses can pursue a number of initiatives to make more sustainable operations and reduce their carbon footprint. Check out the new Healthy Buildings Certification Series from Ambius to learn more about popular certifications.

### **Take a ride**

Typically drive to work or the store? Commit to reducing your miles and use public transportation or your bike for a certain number of days per year. If you're on two wheels, check out [these tips for biking safely](#) from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### **Practice slow fashion**

The fashion industry has a huge impact on the environment through waste, carbon emissions, and resource use. "Fast fashion," or the mass production of clothing that lasts only a short amount of time, has added to those numbers. In fact, the average American consumer throws away more than 80 lbs. of clothing each year. Experts recommend buying fewer, more versatile, well-made pieces that last longer. [Learn more about fashion waste from Earth.org.](#)

