

Celebrating 50 years

OF EARTH DAY!

Choose and complete any 50 tasks from this list to show Mother Earth how much you care. Stop by Red Oak Nature Center any time on or before April 22, 2020 and show off your wonderful work to receive a small prize and be entered in to win an Earth Day Raffle Basket.

One entry per person. All entries must be received by April 22, 2020 at 5 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Good luck and make Earth Day, every day!

EARTH DAY TASK LIST:

EASY

- Go for a hike.
- Pick up trash, even if it wasn't yours.
- Turn off extra lights and power down electronics that are not in use.
- Don't let the water run when brushing your teeth.
- Take a shorter shower.
- Recycle paper, cans, and glass.
- Make a leaf and seed collection, remember not to pick anything growing, grab items already on the ground.
- Hug a tree.
- Make a thank you card for the Earth.
- Walk to a close destination instead of driving.
- Make a nature journal and write down what you see.
- Create your own nature drawing.
- Take a 10-minute nature walk in your neighborhood.
- Go outside and feel the grass between your toes!
- Bring reusable cups/bottles/ containers to work or school.
- Ride a bike instead of ride in a car.
- Check books out at your local library instead of purchasing.
- Bring reusable bags to the grocery store.
- Visit a local nature center or forest preserve to explore.
- Learn a new nature fact.
- Skip mowing the lawn for a few days; recycle the clippings in your garden or compost.
- Visit your local farmer's market and buy locally.
- Check out the EPA's Endangered Species Coloring book! Familiarize yourself with our species that need saving as well as have fun coloring! <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/endangered-species-save-our-species-coloring-book>
- Make your own bird feeder out of recycled material. <https://earth911.com/home/7-diy-recycled-bird-feeders/>
- Carpool with friends.
- Use both sides of the paper when you write or draw.
- Collect used or "gray" water to use on your plants or garden.
- Unsubscribe from junk mail.
- Find a rainbow of colors in nature - challenge yourself to find all seven colors in nature.
- Skip the herbicide and pull weeds by hand.

MEDIUM

- Visit this website to learn how you can become a Junior Forest Ranger and help work alongside Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl!
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/conservation-education/smokey-woodsy/junior-rangers>
- Find a new place to explore!
<https://discovertheforest.org/>
- Bring a zero-waste lunch to school/work each day for a week. Check out this website for tips:
<https://earth911.com/food/zero-waste-lunch/>
- Identify the trees in your backyard or neighborhood.
- Attend a local tree planting and plant some trees.
- Pledge to "Skip the Straw". Purchase a silicone or stainless steel straw and use it as much as possible!
<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/outreach-education/skip-the-straw/>
- Visit the Xerces Society page to sign the pledge to bring back the pollinators. Register a home garden or look for one to visit!
<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-protection-pledge>
- Calculate the value of the tree(s) in your yard! See just how "rich" your habitat is!
<https://www.arborday.org/calculator/index.cfm>
- Make your own pollinator garden.
- Fix or repair an item rather than throwing away.
- Purchase products that are environmentally/eco-friendly; ex. rainforest alliance.
- Donate any unwanted toys, clothes, or other items instead of throwing away.
- Switch to an eco-friendly shower head called an aerating shower head.
- Replace paper towels and paper plates with reusable towels and plates.
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products.
- Purchase face scrubs and other products that do not contain microbeads.
- Wash laundry with cold water.
- Take public transportation.
- Get outside every day for one week.
- Set thermostat 1-2 degrees lower.
- Turn old t-shirts into cleaning rags, grocery bags or something new!
- Reusable sandwich wraps.
- Pay bills online instead of receiving mailed copies.
- Fix any leaky faucets.
- Repurpose glass jars as leftover containers and bulk storage.
- Shop at thrift stores or consignment shops.
- Play online game matching items as renewable or non-renewable; "renewable or not".
<https://www.elsesapiens.com/educational-contents/info-resource/341/renewable-or-not>
- Sign up for a Red Oak Nature Center program and learn about conservation education.
- Visit your local recycling center to see how your items are made into something new.
- Reduce your dependence on single-use plastics like bottled water- purchase a reusable metal bottle like Kleen Kanteen or Hydro flask.

HARD

- Research whether you can sign up for local renewable energy from your utility company.
- Find a place to volunteer- local nature center or forest preserve. Help pick up trash or remove invasive species!
- Check out this group of students working to get plastics banned in their school. Use this website as reference on how to start a movement in your community.
<https://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/youth-climate-videos/team-marine/>
- Calculate your household carbon footprint and learn how you can reduce it.
<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
<https://www.conservation.org/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
- Start a weekly walk for trash clean-up in your neighborhood.
- Start a compost pile in your own backyard!
<https://bonnieplants.com/gardening/composting-101-how-to-create-a-compost-pile/>
- Switch out inefficient incandescent lightbulbs to energy efficient CFLs or LED bulbs.
- Put a rain barrel in your backyard.
- Have one zero-waste day a week, where everything you in your meals is reusable!
- Plant native flowers and other species in your yard/garden to help local wildlife.
- Try meatless Mondays and experiment with a new recipe.
- Replace plastic toothbrushes with bamboo or recycled/ecofriendly toothbrushes.
- Start a fruit or veggie garden with your favorite foods or purchase from a local farmer's market.
- Start a Green Club at school - meet up with likeminded students and make an impact with your friends.
- Purchase solar panels or a turbine for your house and help offset your reliance on electricity and natural gas.