

51 ideas to celebrate Earth day

This year marks the 51st anniversary of Earth Day.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans - 10% of the U.S. population at the time - took to the streets, college campuses, and hundreds of cities to protest environmental issues and demand change for our planet going forward. The goal of Earth Day is to raise awareness for climate change, protecting the world's resources, and environment. Earth Day is one of the largest civic events that takes place throughout the world.

Consider the following, to create a more sustainable Michigan, and contribute to a healthier and cleaner planet.

Here are 51 ideas:

1. Build a birdhouse or bird feeder.
2. Plant a pollinator garden.
3. Go bird watching.
4. Look out for [invasive species](#) (plant and aquatic)
5. Become a [Paddle Steward](#).
6. Bees – [beekeeping](#)/pollinators.
7. Butterflies – watch for/plant gardens, [raingardens](#)
8. [Clean up](#) your neighborhood.
9. Sign up for air quality [alerts](#).
10. Learn about [dunes](#).
11. Learn about [wetlands](#).
12. Visit a former [brownfield site](#).
13. Learn about [Michigan's geology](#).
14. Visit a Michigan brewery part of the [recycling co-op](#) (ages 21 and older).
15. Become a [shoreland steward](#).
16. Maintain your [septic system](#).
17. Check out the [Recycling Racoons](#) and learn how to recycle right!
18. Start [composting](#).
19. Take [household hazardous waste](#) to a collection event.
20. [Plant a tree](#).
21. Collect [electronic waste](#) to recycle.
22. Volunteer at an [environmental event](#).

23. Become a [Clean Water Ambassador](#).
24. [Fix a Leak](#).
25. Learn about [environmental justice](#) issues.
26. Learn about [climate change](#).
27. Upgrade your most used bulbs to [LED bulbs](#).
28. Upgrade to a [smart thermostat](#) to manage your energy.
29. Use [smart power strips](#) to reduce your energy usage.
30. Activate [sleep settings](#) on all office machines.
31. Recycle old refrigerator/freezer by contacting your electric utility about available rebate programs.
32. Schedule an energy consultation or rebate with your utility.
33. [Recycle](#) old books.
34. Get rid of old medicine at a [drug take back location](#).
35. Learn about [E-coli](#).
36. Check out [beach watch](#) so you know where it's safe to swim this summer.
37. Learn about old [lithium batteries](#) and why its important to recycle promptly.
38. Learn about [oil and gas wells](#) in MI.
39. Learn about Michigan's [open burning](#) requirements.
40. Learn how [landfills](#) work.
41. Check out the [recycling directory](#) to find locations nearby that recycle unique materials, like concrete, bricks, food waste, etc.
42. Learn about [asbestos](#).
43. Learn how air quality is [monitored](#).
44. Learn how [wastewater treatment plants](#) work.
45. Learn where your water [comes from](#).
46. Learn about Michigan's mineral mines.
47. Learn about Michigan's metal mines.
48. Learn about [raingardens](#).
49. Test your home for [radon](#) before summer.
50. Learn what EGLE is doing to help build a [charging network](#) for electric vehicles.
51. Learn about [ozone](#).