

Stay Engaged in Your Community Year-Round

Ideas for honoring the spirit of Earth Day every day



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.

Monitor local wetlands.

Our wetlands serve many purposes and are important for maintaining biodiversity. Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website for more details: <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/volunteer-monitoring-protect-wetlands>.

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. For guidance on getting started, visit: <http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/program-tools/>.

Protect birds.

Behaviors of bird species have been disrupted by development and growth. The Audubon Society works to help protect birds and their environment. Learn how you can get involved at <http://www.audubon.org/get-involved>.

Plant trees.

The National Wildlife Federation can help you plan a tree planting event, offers resources to help you plant and care for trees, and will even send you free seedlings. Learn more at: <https://www.nwf.org/Trees-for-Wildlife>.

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 put out via shipping.

Donate your birthday to your favorite local environmental organization.

Why not forego the presents this year and ask your friends and family to donate in your honor to your favorite environmental group? Facebook makes it easy to do this. Look for the Fundraisers icon in the main menu.

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-in-Parks program participants and for one-time projects or on an ongoing basis. Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>.

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 Green Building Certification.

Businesses can pursue a number of initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of their building operations. Learn more about Green Building Certification and involve your whole office: <http://www.worldgbc.org/about-green-building>.

For more ways to get involved locally go to: www.mountairymd.org/315/Mount-Airy-Sustainability-Commission