



Celebrate Earth Everyday!

by [Reina Di Nino](#), Citizen Volunteer

April 22, 2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! Since we can't celebrate in person, please join us virtually here! Click on the blue words to explore more. Wondering how it all started? Can you think of anyone today that is taking climate action to the news? Need ideas? This year's theme for Earth Day is **Climate Action**. We are taking action as a community and here's how:

YOUR Action

- Go on a nature [scavenger hunt](#).
- Start an indoor [herb garden](#).
- Go on a litter [scavenger hunt](#).
- Cut back on [plastic](#)!
- Easy [ways](#) to be kind to Earth
- [Movies](#) to learn more
- Get outside no matter the weather and practice social distancing.

STAMFORD Action

Stamford is committed to strengthening our environmental and public health. Amidst this difficult time, it is now more than ever we can take a moment to celebrate our planet and recognize how important health is. In 2019, Stamford started to divert more textiles from the waste stream by supplying pink bags to residents for collection with [Simple Recycling](#). In 2020, Stamford plans to launch the [Food Scrap Recycling Program](#) at the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center. Stay tuned for developments and information. To learn more about the effects of food scraps in our waste stream, click [here](#).

SCHOOL Action

Even though you aren't at school, **keep up the eco-conscious habits. How are you taking action with your family? What's your school up to?** Here are some ways schools in our community are doing their part:

- [Baystate Textile Recycling](#)
- [Crayola Marker Recycling](#)
- [School Gardening](#) and Composting
- Advocating for sustainable products
- Paper Recycling Stations
- After-School Science Programs
- Toner Recycling
- Battery Recycling
- Water Bottle Refill Stations
- No-Idle Car Lines



Join the World's Largest Citizen Science Campaign

WHAT IS EARTH CHALLENGE 2020?

“Earth Challenge 2020 is the world’s largest ever coordinated citizen science campaign. The initiative integrates existing citizen science projects and builds capacity for new ones – all to grow citizen science worldwide. Using mobile technology and open citizen science data, Earth Challenge 2020 empowers people around the world to monitor and mitigate threats to environmental and human health in their communities.” -earth day.org

Click here to learn more [Earth Challenge 2020](#)

Download the app to get started!



Gaylord Nelson with President John F. Kennedy, 1960

Source: Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day Collection, Wisconsin Historical Society,
http://www.nelsonearthday.net/images/nelson_with_jfk_at_table.jpg.

History of Earth Day

Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin came up with the idea for a national day to focus on the environment. He witnessed the consequences of a HUGE oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in 1969. Mr. Nelson believed in the power of our youth! College students pushed the message. It was an incredible time in our American history. He taught the country about our carbon footprint and how it affects our planet.

“On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans – at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States – took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies.”-[earth day.org](http://earthday.org)

Because of this movement, the United States made public and environmental health a priority. By the end of 1970, the United States Environmental Protection Agency was created! The passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were also created! **Ask a grown up at home if they remember living through this remarkable time! This [video](#) from the American Museum of Natural History takes a deeper look into then and now.**

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Xiye Bastida leading a chant at the Global Strike in New York City on Sept. 20, 2019. (Courtesy: Xiye Bastida)

Environmental Youth Activists Changing the World

We still have work to do! Greta Thunberg has inspired the next generation to speak out. She was even named Time Magazine’s [Person of the Year](#)! American youth activists, [Xiye Bastida](#) and [Vic Barrett](#) are among a fleet of national youths grabbing the world’s attention. They are reminding the globe that we can make better choices for the Planet’s health, our health! Read about [Xiya](#) or [Vic](#) in Spanish. **Discover more teen [voices](#) advocating for our environment and be inspired!**



Isn't she lovely?