

SCHOOLS

*Earth Day 2020
Menu of Engagement*



Schools provide safe, accessible places for students to learn about the world around them and build lasting connections with their community. Schools are in the unique position to integrate environmental content into students' day to day learning as well as provide resources and events to their community members. For **Earth Day's 50th anniversary**, we hope your school will help engage the community in a variety of fun, educational and impactful learning opportunities!

2020 Program Engagement Ideas

Global Teach-In

The first Earth Day was a nationwide [teach-in](#) for communities to learn about and discuss local environmental issues. Host an event on a campaign or Earth Challenge topic;

- Biodiversity loss
 - Plastic Pollution
 - Food Waste
 - Food Security
 - Air Quality
 - Insect Population
 - Water Quality
 - Local climate change impacts
- Host an assembly or speaker series on local environmental issues
 - Invite local leaders to talk about civic action

Plastic Pollution

[Plastics](#) are a huge part of our daily lives, but there are tons of great alternatives to use to help the planet! Schools can make a huge difference by changing what they buy and how they dispose of their plastic.

- Host a grocery bag repurposing workshop
- Take part in the [Great Global Cleanup](#)
- Invite a local speaker to teach-in about the impacts of plastic pollution
- Create a recycled materials sculpture project
- Collect difficult to recycle items (plastic markers, glue containers, etc.) to send off to be disposed of responsibly
- Find alternatives to plastic bags and other classroom supplies

Register your event at [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org)

Food and Climate

Only one thing can make students coming together to learn even more enticing...[FOOD](#)! Host an event to help build students' understanding of the impacts of our food system and introduce them to plant based alternatives.

- Host a book club on plant-based eating and climate change
- Plan a plant-based potluck
- Implement composting program
- Host composting workshops for students and parents
- Create a garden where cafeterias can source some of their produce
- Implement Meatless Mondays
- Host a local farmer's market and source food from local farmers

Artists for the Earth

[Art is a powerful tool](#) to communicate messages, trigger emotions and inspire action! Invite your community to participate in one of these activities;

- Repurpose unused lockers as space for eco-art installations
- Paint a mural in hallway, cafeteria, or outside wall
- Host an Earth Day poster contest
- Put on an eco-fashion show
- Arts and crafts night using recycled material
- Host an environmental essay or poetry contest
- Invite classes to perform eco-plays

Protect Our Species

[Countless species](#) on our planet inspire wonder and connection to Earth's habitats. Engage your students in learning that helps raise awareness to biodiversity loss and teach them how to help species local to their community.

- Create a special library display of species focused books
- Invite a beekeeper to speak at a teach-in
- Plan an act-it-out play to a fun animal book
- Plant a wildlife friendly garden space or designate no-mow zones around your school
- Host birdhouse building for your schoolyard
- Plan field trips to parks or nature centers to learn about local species
- Watch species related films or documentaries

Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for global citizens to contribute to valuable scientific research. Schools can support [Earth Challenge](#) by integrating the EC2020 data collection platform into lesson plans and providing opportunities for students to explore the opensource environmental database.

- Promote Earth Challenge in your network of educators
- Provide materials and resources for students to collect and enter data
- Utilize the app and database in lesson planning
- Encourage students to use the app and database in their projects

Register your event at [EarthDay.org](#)