

# HPL Earth Day 2020

## Celebrate Earth Day 2020 with these ideas from the Hopewell Public Library



April 22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. This day is remembered as the launch of the U.S. environmental movement in 1970, where public concern quickly led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air Act (1970), Clean Water Act (1972) and Endangered Species Act (1973). The theme of Earth

Day 2020 is Climate Action and while the planned large events will not take place this month, there are ways that each of us can make a difference. You can:

### 1. Plant a tree.

Trees store carbon which helps to slow the rate of global warming. Some scientists are suggesting that if a trillion trees were planted world-wide, we could reduce the atmospheric carbon by as much as 25%. New Jersey plant nurseries are now open or if you are self-isolating you can mail order.

Consider planting a native tree which will help support the birds and the insects that birds eat in our area. The website <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1140> has a list of native trees that grow well in NJ. For detailed information on planting a tree, [Arborday.org](http://Arborday.org) has an excellent video. Happy Planting!



### 2. Create a habitat for birds, bees and butterflies.

Create habitat for birds, bees and butterflies. The National Wildlife Federation suggests that we can nurture ourselves and our families in our backyards while helping the wild creatures that are part of the web of life. Check out their ideas at <https://blog.nwf.org/2020/03/de-stress-while-helping-wildlife/>



### 3. Help keep our waterways clean.

Take a solo or family walk along a local stream and collect trash as you go - wearing gloves and practicing social distancing, of course. Use reusable bags and straws so that plastics don't find their way onto our beaches and into our forests. Remember to pick up after your dog, so that waste does not end up in our streams. More ideas here at <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/6-ways-you-can-help-keep-our-water-clean>



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## 4. Start composting.

The average person throws away nine times their own body weight in waste every year. Composting is an excellent way to recycle food scraps and other material into a useful soil amendment for your garden and plants.

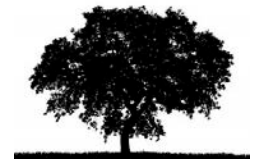
Put fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, shredded newspaper, and grass clippings into the compost. Compost reduces the amount of waste in landfills and when applied to the land, sequesters carbon. Check EPA for more <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>



## 5. Act locally.

Follow up with local conservation organizations, including:

- The Watershed Institute - <https://thewatershed.org>
- Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space - <https://www.fohvos.info>
- Sourland Conservancy - <https://www.sourland.org>
- D&R Greenway - <https://drgreenway.org>



## 6. Vote for leaders who promote environmental policies.

You can speak up for the planet by using your voice to vote for leaders who promote environmental policies that you support. The only way to make changes in favor of climate change is to vote on a leader's positions on climate issues. Check out the LCV website to see how your Senate or House representative has scored at <https://scorecard.lcv.org/members-of-congress> and take a careful look of policies of people running for office.

