WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT
Recycle America

Celebrate Earth Day

Earth
Day
April 22

A Good Planet
Is Hard to Find

Earth Day Facts

Why was Earth Day founded? People were upset over the damage human beings were causing to the Earth and its environment – damage such as air pollution, water pollution, soil erosion and deforestation. Americans wanted the Federal Government to take action.

The government did take action and on December 2, 1970 created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the environment.

EPA got right to work creating the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act – also known as RCRA, or the laws that address solid and hazardous wastes.

- First Earth Day April 22, 1970, more than 20 million Americans participated.

- Founded by Gaylord Nelson, an environmentalist and former Senator from Wisconsin.

- Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd. This year marks the 38th year anniversary.

- Earth Day falls around the day of the vernal equinox, meaning the day light and night hours are of nearly the same length. The delicate balance of our precious earth is in perfect harmony.

Do American's participating in Earth Day make a difference? Absolutely! The air we breathe is cleaner, the U.S. is gaining forestland, soil erosion rates are falling and we are gaining wetlands.

What Can You Do?

To help reduce the environmental impact of human activities, adopt the Waste Management hierarchy – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle ("the 3 R's").

- *Reduce - to avoid unnecessary waste generation*
- *Reuse - to use again*
- *Recycle - to convert materials into useful and marketable recycled products*

At Home

REDUCE

- Purchase products with less packaging.
- Purchase items in bulk quantities instead of smaller quantities.
- Purchase durable items that will last you a long time like rechargeable batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Buy and use cloth shopping bags instead of plastic or paper bags.
- Use cloth instead of paper towels for cleaning.
- Switch off lights and electronic appliances when not in use and turn off when done using them.
- Turn off all water taps promptly, don't waste water.
- Check for dripping taps and inspect taps and pipes to prevent water leakage.
- Wash only with full loads of laundry.

REUSE

- Use unwanted plastic bags to bag garbage.
- Use old clothing as rags for cleaning.
- Convert scrap paper into memo pads.
- Donate good quality but unwanted items to senior citizens' homes, charitable organizations, etc.

RECYCLE

- Participate in recycling program and deposit recyclable items into designated recycling bins.
- Purchase recycled products.

At Work

REDUCE

- Make a few copies of a document to share instead of making one copy for each individual.
- Use electronic mail to communicate or to send messages.
- Replace styrofoam cups/plates with ceramic or paper items.
- Circulate written or printed memos.
- Proofread documents on screen before printing.
- Print and copy on both sides of paper.
- Switch on light and electronic devices only when necessary and turn off when done using them.

REUSE

- Reuse used envelopes for sending internal mail.
- Use the other side of used paper for drafting, printing and taking notes etc.

RECYCLE

- Participate in your workplace recycling program, if you don't have one, start one.
- Discuss recycling with co-workers, ask what else can we recycle?