50 WAYS TO CELEBRATE *Earth* DAY APRIL 22

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

1. **Reduce.** Take actions to reduce waste. Use reusable bags when shopping. Stop unwanted mail. Donate unwanted items.
2. **Reuse.** Look for items you already own and repurpose them when possible.
3. **Recycle.** Recycle at home, work and school. If you cannot recycle while on the go, take your recyclables home. Get the **Recycle Here SC App** at your favorite app store to learn more or visit **des.sc.gov/recycle**.
4. **Buy recycled.** Look for items made from recycled material and that can be recycled. Many office supplies are made from recycled material.
5. **Consider using LED lightbulbs to save money and energy.** Remember, they should be recycled when they burn out.
6. **Compost.** It's easy to do. Learn how to get started at **des.sc.gov/compost**.
7. **Don't waste food.** Visit **des.sc.gov/dwfsc** for food-saving tips, storage ideas and donation information.
8. **Recycle computers and other electronics.** Many manufacturers, communities and retailers offer collection programs. Learn more at **des.sc.gov/e-cycle**.
9. **Recycle used motor oil, bottles and filters.**
10. **Use rechargeable batteries and devices safely.** Learn more at **des.sc.gov/bebatterysmart**.

SPARE THE AIR!

11. **Work a flex schedule.** A flexible work schedule allows you to avoid driving in peak rush hour traffic.
12. **Consider using a reel or electric mower** and other non-gas-powered equipment for yard work.
13. **Walk or ride a bike.** Burn carbohydrates instead of hydrocarbons.
14. **Shop by phone, mail or the Internet.** Fewer vehicle miles traveled will reduce air pollution.
15. **Carpool, van-pool or ride public transit when possible.** Fewer single-occupancy vehicles on the road reduces air pollution.
16. **Drive smart.** Slowly increase your car's speed and use cruise control on the highway.
17. **Don't burn yard trimmings** (e.g., grass clippings, leaves). Compost them to reuse in gardens and flower beds.
18. **Use water-based or low VOC solvents.** Low volatile organic compound (VOC) products reduces the release of harmful chemicals.
19. **Keep your vehicle tuned up and your tires properly inflated.** Both help save gasoline as well as make your car safer.
20. **Do not idle your vehicle.** Turn off your engine if you expect to be stopped for more than 30 seconds (except in traffic). Consider not using drive-through windows, instead park and walk inside.

CONSERVE ENERGY!

21. **Turn off the lights, TV, radio or computer when you leave the room.**
22. **Use the sun's light whenever you can.** Sit by a window to read or do activities.
23. **Decide what you want before you open the refrigerator door.** Holding the door open lets the cold air escape.
24. **Turn off the dishwasher after the wash cycle.** Let dishes air dry.
25. **Hang clothes on a clothesline or drying rack** instead of using the dryer.
26. **Save gas by encouraging your family to walk or bike to nearby places.**
27. **Enjoy a "No Cooking Day" once a week.** Eat cold cereals, sandwiches, fruits and salads. It'll save energy and it's healthy for you!
28. **Clean the lint trap of the clothes dryer after every load.**
29. **Try meatless Mondays.** Meat production uses a large amount of water, cutting meat out once a week can reduce water consumption.
30. **Use a toaster oven or microwave to cook small casseroles or dishes.**

PROTECT OUR COAST!

31. **Don't walk on sand dunes.** They help protect the beach from erosion. Use boardwalks, dune walk-overs and designated paths to the beach.
32. **Leave only footprints in the sand.** Remove all of your trash in addition to any you may see around you. Dispose of litter properly and be sure to recycle any paper, glass or plastic.
33. **Adopt-A-Beach.** Become a partner in this program to reduce beach litter. Participate and learn more by visiting **mycoast.org/sc/beach-cleanup**.
34. **Protect coastal water quality and shellfish beds** by cleaning up after your pet.
35. **Report high tides, flooding, abandoned boats and storm damage** with **MyCoast.org/sc**. You can help make an impact and protect our coast.
36. **Don't disturb sea turtle eggs on the beach.** Sea turtles are an endangered species.
37. **Respect the plants and animals that depend on a clean and healthy beach.** Don't pick beach plants or touch animals.
38. **If you see someone harming our coastal creeks, marshes or and beaches, report it.** Call **1-800-768-1516**.
39. **Keep storm drains free of trash.** Some empty into rivers and creeks.
40. **Learn more about our coastal environment.** The more you know about the coast, the better. Learn more at **des.sc.gov/bcm**.

SAVE WATER RESOURCES!

41. **Install water-saving showerheads, toilets and faucets.** Look for the WaterSense label to find water-efficient products.
42. **Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they have full loads.** Wash clothes in warm or cold water to save energy.
43. **Turn off the tap.** Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or washing your hands and face. Turn faucets tightly to avoid dripping.
44. **Dispose of hazardous substances properly.** Motor oil, paints and other chemicals should not be poured on the ground, down a storm drain or in a sewer or septic tank.
45. **Pick up after your pet. Pet waste runs off lawns and sidewalks, polluting nearby rivers and lakes.**
46. **Get involved.** Sign-up for a local beach, stream or wetland clean-up. Join a watershed protection group.
47. **Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator.** You won't have to let the tap run to get a cool glass of water.
48. **Install a rain barrel.** Collect rainwater runoff from your roof and use it to water your flowers and garden.
49. **Use native plants for landscaping.** Native plants and trees often need less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
50. **Wash your car only when you need to.** When you do wash it, try parking your car on gravel or grass to reduce runoff into the street.

des.sc.gov/earthday
Discover more ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and protect South Carolina's air, land, water and coast.

Earth Day
SOUTH CAROLINA

SC DEPARTMENT *of*
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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