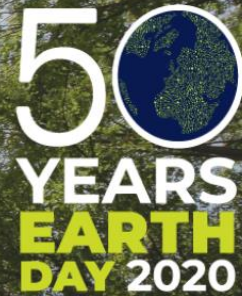


# HIGHER ED

*Earth Day 2020  
Menu of Engagement*



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Higher education provides students with new opportunities to challenge themselves and grow. Colleges can reach future leaders and host events at their schools that can foster discussion and activities to help students understand environmental issues. For **Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, your college can engage students in education, civic action and community stewardship opportunities!

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## 2020 Program Engagement

### 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
- Insect Population
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Local climate change impacts
- Show environmental documentaries and provide a panel discussion or Q&A
- Host a speaker series or panel discussion on local environmental issues

### Food and Climate

Only one thing can make students coming together to learn even more enticing...[FOOD](#)! Build students' understanding of the impacts of our food system and promote plant-based alternatives.

- Establish a garden where dining halls and students can source some of their produce
- Implement meatless Mondays
- Increase diversity of vegan options in dining locations
- Implement composting program and host workshops
- Host a local farmer's market and source food from local farmers

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



## 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:

- Invite local artists to exhibit work
- Paint a campus mural
- Host an Earth Day poster contest
- Put on an eco-fashion show
- Host an arts and crafts night series using recycled material
- Host an environmental poetry or essay contest

## Protect Our Species

Numerous [species face extinction](#) in the face of human development and climate change. Invite your students to learn about biodiversity loss and host activities and events to help protect species local to your campus.

- Invite a beekeeper or naturalist to speak at a teach-in
- Host a birdhouse building workshop
- Host outdoor movie screenings of animal documentaries followed up with panel discussions
- Build a rain garden with native species and informational signage
- Place insect hotels around campus
- Designate no-mow zones to create natural habitat
- Use eco-friendly lawn treatment methods

## Plastic Pollution

[Plastic](#) is a huge part of our daily lives, but there are tons of great alternatives to use to help the planet! Colleges can host events for the [Great Global Cleanup](#).

- Plastic items repurposing workshop
- Participate in the Great Global Cleanup
- Promote recycling habits
- Install bottle filling stations on campus
- Ban and replace single use plastics like straws and dishware
- Dorm recycling competition
- Conduct a campus-wide plastic audit

## Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for students to contribute to large scale scientific research. Support [Earth Challenge](#) by providing opportunities for students and professors to participate in data collection and use an opensource environmental database.

- Encourage professors to use the app and database in class or research projects
- Share EC2020 content and action items with students and network
- Provide materials and resources to collect and enter data
- Help interested students with data analysis
- Host a data collecting day for college students using EC2020 mobile app



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