

# MUSEUMS

*Earth Day 2020  
Menu of Engagement*



Museums have the public's support as trusted institutions, and they have the tools and the creativity not only to deliver the science, but to inform visitors of everyday practices that support the development of a world where all living things thrive in a healthy environment. From art museums to science and natural history museums, your institutions have unlimited opportunities to showcase all aspects of our planet and the many implications of climate change. Museums can host events and displays to educate the public on Earth's history and complex systems. For **Earth Day's 50th anniversary**, use your museum to engage your community in learning opportunities to inspire commitment to environmental stewardship! Register your event on our [global action map](#) today!

## 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 2020 campaign.

- Plastic Pollution
- Biodiversity loss
- Food Security
- Air Quality
- Light pollution
- Water Quality
- Insect Population
- Local climate change impacts
- Show environmental films and provide a panel discussion or Q&A
- Museum staff can visit local schools to serve as teach-in hosts on environmental topics

### Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for global citizens to contribute to valuable scientific research. Museums can support [Earth Challenge](#) by serving as a community hub for people to access and learn about Earth Challenge data and local environmental issues.

- Serve as an Earth Challenge site where people can come to with Earth Challenge (citizen science) questions
- Provide materials and resources like tablets to collect, enter and review data
- Help participants with data analysis
- Organize Earth Challenge data collection days and events

**Register your event at [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.

- Host an eco-art exhibit
- Present an Earth Rise/Earth Day poster contest
- Plan a scientist costume night with guest scientists from across the museum
- Create an interactive art workshop using natural or recycled materials
- Host performances in your auditorium spaces
- Provide a makerspace with tools and resources to create science projects

## Food and Climate

Only one thing can make communities coming together to learn even more enticing...[FOOD](#)! Host an event to bring people together to learn about the impacts of our food system and learn about delicious plant-based alternatives.

- Coordinate a catering event and promote sustainably sourced options
- Host a plant-based dinner and invite speakers to teach-in about climate change
- Provide composting bins in dining areas and host a workshop
- Show a film on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and rising global temperatures

## Protect Our Species

[Abundant species diversity](#) is vital for healthy and balanced ecosystems. Use your museum to help people connect with their local species and bring awareness to biodiversity loss around the world.

- Create a monthly call for action on endangered/threatened species
- Present shows highlighting the connections between species and their ecosystems
- Host a teach-in on a species migration
- Provide an immersive “time-travel” experience to be surrounded with extinct/threatened species
- Create a Junior Scientist training program

## End Plastic Pollution

[Plastic](#) is a huge part of our daily lives, but there are tons of great alternatives to use to help the planet!

- Host an event for the [Great Global Cleanup](#)
- Provide alternatives to single-use plastics
- Present films on the distribution of marine plastics
- Organize research opportunities on learning the effects of plastic
- Invite a local expert to teach-in about the impacts of plastic pollution
- Provide recycling bins and teach how to properly sort recyclables

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