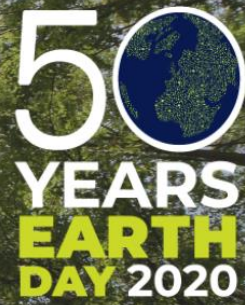


NEWSPAPERS

*Earth Day 2020
Menu of Engagement*



School newspapers provide students an opportunity to educate their peers on important community issues while developing writing, research and interviewing skills. Young writers and photographers played a key role in building momentum and spreading awareness for the first Earth Day. For **Earth Day's 50th Anniversary**, flex your journalistic skills and use your newspaper to engage your community in local and global environmental issues and initiatives.

2020 Topic Engagement Ideas

Food and Climate Change

In our experience students love food – but do your classmates know the [environmental impact of their food choices](#)? Write articles based on these prompts to educate readers on the impacts of our food system and introduce them to delicious plant-based alternatives.

- Showcase sustainable recipes in a cooking section of your newspaper
- Report on local initiatives for community gardens and farm-to-table eating
- Write about how food systems and climate are related
- Provide action items for how an individual reduce their FoodPrint

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! Newspapers are a great opportunity to explore your community's plastic usage, educate others on plastic pollution and invite peers to participate in [Great Global Cleanup](#) events.

- Interview attendees at a local event for the Great Global Cleanup
- Conduct an audit of single use plastics in your school
- Describe ways your school reduces waste and where you can find recycling bins in your community
- Write about how plastic pollution influences climate change and what an individual can do to make a difference

Register your event at EarthDay.org

Artists for the Earth

[Art is a powerful tool](#) to communicate messages, trigger emotions and inspire action! Publish students' environmental-themed pieces and photography in your newspaper.

- Publish pictures of local spaces facing environmental harm
- Host an environmental poetry contest
- Write a profile on a local environmental artist/art exhibition
- Publish a gallery of murals or art pieces in your community. If you can't find any – host an event for your classmates to create some!
- Host an Earth Day poster contest
- Report on eco-friendly fashion options
- Publish a list of environmentally friendly “life-hacks”

Global Teach-In

The first Earth Day was a nationwide [teach-in](#) for communities to learn about and discuss local environmental issues. Write an article about a 2020 campaign, Earth Challenge topic or nearby teach-in event;

- Biodiversity Loss
- Plastic Pollution
- Food Waste
- Food Security
- Insect Population
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Local climate change impacts

Protect Our Species

[Species around the world](#) can elicit a variety of feelings in readers. As journalists, you can connect members of your community with species local to your area and all over the world.

- Profile species that are endangered and inform readers on what human impacts threaten their survival
- Write about local native species and encourage readers to send in pictures if they spot them
- Interview individuals working to protect endangered plants and animals
- Publish information on how to pursue a career in the conservation field
- Publish a list of your favorite books and movies about animals and conservation

Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for global citizens to contribute to valuable scientific research. Newspapers can support [Earth Challenge](#) by sharing citizen science opportunities with their community and encouraging people to learn about local environmental issues.

- Write about how citizen science initiatives such as Earth Challenge can assess local environmental issues
- Interview individuals about what they are doing to participate and their data
- Share a story about Earth Challenge data collection events in your community

Register your event at EarthDay.org