



Earth Day 2018: End Plastic Pollution Countdown to April 22

Amelia County Department of Environmental Management

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What is Earth Day, you ask? The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection into the national political agenda. And it worked! The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, and is considered by many to be the birth of the modern environmental movement. Each year on April 22nd Earth Day is celebrated around the world with events held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

You may have seen the disturbing images of large “islands” of plastic waste floating in our oceans. This plastic poisons and injures marine life, disrupts human hormones, and litters beaches and landscapes. In response, Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behavior about plastic. To learn more and discover how to help visit www.earthday.org.

Or simply choose your own project to celebrate Earth Day: Plant a tree, pick up litter, start or increase your recycling, walk or bike to work, install a rain barrel to conserve water, donate clothes and household items to charity, buy products made from recycled materials, have your pet spayed or neutered, turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them, compost your kitchen waste and leaves, put up a bluebird nesting box. But most important of all, take a moment to value and appreciate your Earth. Treat it with respect and realize that the things you do every day can truly make a difference so that every day can be Earth Day!