

International Earth Day

From: www.earthday.org

Earth Day History

Earth Day seeks to highlight and promote efforts dedicated to the protection of the environment. As we enter the 21st century, we face many environmental crises, including global warming, deforestation, endangered wildlife, shortages of potable water and widespread pollution, all which negatively affect our planet's resources and can have adverse effects on our long-term lifestyle and health.

In 1970, a US Senator named Gaylord Nelson was inspired to bring about mass public awareness of environmental problems. He heavily promoted the day across the nation in an effort to gather the largest amount of public support possible and ultimately, in the hopes of elevating environmental protection onto the national political agenda. This day in 1970 marked the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Today, Earth Day is celebrated by billions of people around the world and is observed in over 190 countries. Worldwide, Earth Day celebrations utilize educational programs to inform people of ways that can help protect the environment and its natural resources. It is observed annually on April 22nd and is celebrated as International Earth Day.

Together, we have the power to Restore Our Earth.

EARTHDAY.ORG's theme for Earth Day 2021 is Restore Our Earth™, which focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. In this way, the theme rejects the notion that mitigation or adaptation are the only ways to address climate change. It is up to each and every one of us to Restore Our Earth not just because we care about the natural world, but because we live on it. We all need a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health & survival, and happiness. A healthy planet is not an option — it is a necessity.

More than 1 billion people in 192 countries now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. Today, we invite you to be a part of Earth Day and to help further climate action across the globe.

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On this page, you will find key messaging and resources on Restore Our Earth. The toolkit includes all necessary materials to post on social media, write your own op-ed, or send a note to your network.

The Canopy Project

\$1 = 1 tree. The Canopy Project partners with groups around the world to ensure that your donation sustainably plants trees for a greener future for everyone.

Key Messages:

- Reforestation efforts capture carbon, cool overheated places, benefit agriculture, support pollinators, reduce the risk of disease transmission and boost local economies.
- EARTHDAY.ORG recognizes that planting billions of trees across the world is one of the biggest and cheapest ways of taking CO2 out of the atmosphere to tackle the climate crisis. Not only do forests act as carbon sinks, but they also provide vital habitat for animals and ecological services for humans, such as purifying the air we breathe and regulating local temperatures.
- Responsible reforestation programs can stabilize land from erosion or natural disasters, improve soil health and groundwater recharge, promote native and endemic fauna, and provide economic development for nearby communities.

Food and Environment

To feed the world, we must adopt the latest techniques to support farmers, renew their land, and capture carbon through regenerative agriculture and sustainable food practices.

Key Messages:

- Regenerative farming offers solutions to transform farmers into environmental and societal heroes. It promotes the health of degraded soils by restoring their organic carbon. Regenerative agriculture sequesters atmospheric carbon dioxide, reversing industrial agriculture's contributions to climate change. Regenerative practices such as no till farming and cover cropping are reducing erosion and water pollution, and in turn producing healthier soils.

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- Regenerative agriculture counters climate change and promotes food security by restoring soil, organic matter, and biodiversity as well as reducing atmospheric carbon. It's an evolving holistic nature-based approach that boosts topsoil, food production and farmers' incomes. The robust soils and diverse ecosystems that its organic practices create yield more high-quality, nutrient-rich produce than conventional agriculture, fostering fruitful farms, healthy communities and thriving economies.

The Great Global Cleanup™

When it comes to individual action for the common good, one of the best ways that people can make an impact for our planet is by cleaning up our public spaces. Our pollution problem is getting out of hand and our environment is suffering for it. Open landfills emit dangerous greenhouse gasses, waste and pollution that enter our oceans and freshwater. Micro-plastics even make it into our food and the air we breathe.

Key Messages:

- By connecting with the Earth in a tangible way through cleanups, individuals experience firsthand the extent of our single-use plastic problem, and begin to recognize how systemic our pollution and waste challenges are.
- Through this global effort, cleanups reduce waste and plastic pollution, improve habitats, prevent harm to wildlife and humans and even lead to larger environmental action.
- The Great Global Cleanup advocates for both structural and individual change when it comes to pollution, promoting policies that reduce pollution and encouraging people everywhere to take individual actions that reduce waste.

Climate Literacy

Fifty years ago, the first Earth Day started an environmental revolution. Now, we are igniting an education revolution to save the planet. We are ensuring that students across the world benefit from high-quality education to develop into informed and engaged environmental stewards.

Key Messages:

- Combined with civic education, climate and environmental literacy will create jobs, build a green consumer market, and allow citizens to engage with their governments in a meaningful way to restore our earth.
- EARTHDAY.ORG™ believes every school in the world must have compulsory, assessed climate and environmental education with a strong civic engagement component.

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- The campaign encourages the governments attending the crucial UNFCCC Conference of Parties in 2021 to make climate change and climate literacy a core feature of school curriculum across the globe.

Global Earth Challenge™

Global Earth Challenge™ gives citizen scientists the power to make the world a better place. Global Earth Challenge™ is the world's largest-ever coordinated citizen science campaign. The initiative works to integrate existing citizen science projects, as well as build the capacity for new ones — all as part of a larger effort to grow citizen science worldwide.

Key Messages:

- The campaign uses a mobile app to collect billions of observations in air quality, water quality, insect populations, climate change, plastic pollution and food sustainability, providing valuable environmental insight and a platform for policy change and restoration efforts in these areas.
- Global Earth Challenge™ connects, builds and enables global communities to leverage the power of scientific research to drive meaningful change.

Editor's note: Due to Covid restrictions the BPI has not planned any action. We look forward to organizing a conference in 2022. In the meantime we urge you to take individual actions to bring attention to the need to clean up our planet and stop damaging our home so that scenes like the one below do not disappear. Remember to follow guidelines and be safe. Thank you.



The richer we have become materially, the poorer we become morally and spiritually. We learned to fly in the air like birds and swim in the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers,
Martin Luther King, Jr.

What a strange thing! Many scoundrels try to disguise their dirty deeds by their dedication to the interests of religion, or by their high morals, or by love for their motherland.
Heinrich Heine

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

Worried about Earth's future? Well, the outlook is worse than even scientists can grasp.

By: Corey J. A. Bradshaw: Matthew Flinders: Daniel T. Blumstein: Paul Erlich: January 13, 2021

Anyone with even a passing interest in the global environment knows all is not well. But just how bad is the situation? Our new paper shows the outlook for life on Earth is more dire than is generally understood.

The research published today reviews more than 150 studies to produce a stark summary of the state of the natural world. We outline the likely future trends in biodiversity decline, mass extinction, climate disruption and planetary toxification. We clarify the gravity of the human predicament and provide a timely snapshot of the crises that must be addressed now.

The problems, all tied to human consumption and population growth, will almost certainly worsen over coming decades. The damage will be felt for centuries and threatens the survival of all species, including our own.

Our paper was authored by 17 leading scientists, including those from Flinders University, Stanford University and the University of California, Los Angeles. Our message might not be popular, and indeed is frightening. But scientists must be candid and accurate if humanity is to understand the enormity of the challenges we face.

Getting to grips with the problem

First, we reviewed the extent to which experts grasp the scale of the threats to the biosphere and its life forms, including humanity. Alarming, the research shows future environmental conditions will be far more dangerous than experts currently believe. This is largely because academics tend to specialise in one discipline, which means they're in many cases unfamiliar with the complex system in which planetary-scale problems — and their potential solutions — exist.

What's more, positive change can be impeded by governments rejecting or ignoring scientific advice, and ignorance of human behaviour by both technical experts and policymakers.

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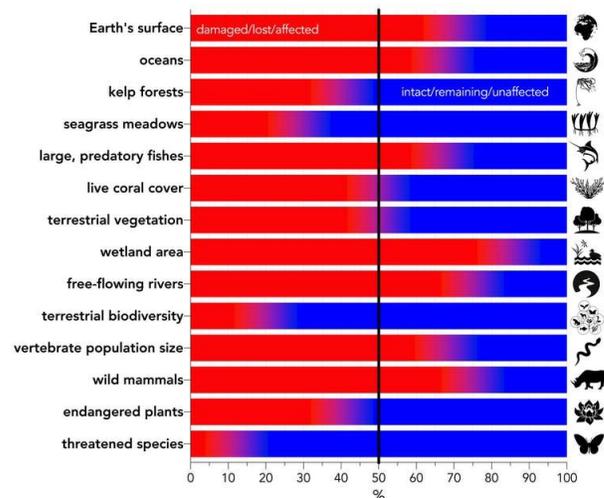
(From last column) Worried about Earth's future?

More broadly, the human optimism bias – thinking bad things are more likely to befall others than yourself – means many people underestimate the environmental crisis.

Numbers don't lie

Our research also reviewed the current state of the global environment. While the problems are too numerous to cover in full here, they include:

- a halving of vegetation biomass since the agricultural revolution around 11,000 years ago. Overall, humans have altered almost two-thirds of Earth's land surface
- about 1,300 documented species extinctions over the past 500 years, with many more unrecorded. More broadly, population sizes of animal species have declined by more than two-thirds over the last 50 years, suggesting more extinctions are imminent
- about one million plant and animal species globally threatened with extinction. The combined mass of wild mammals today is less than one-quarter the mass before humans started colonising the planet. Insects are also disappearing rapidly in many regions
- 85% of the global wetland area lost in 300 years, and more than 65% of the oceans compromised to some extent by humans
- a halving of live coral cover on reefs in less than 200 years and a decrease in sea grass extent by 10% per decade over the last century. About 40% of kelp forests have declined in abundance, and the number of large predatory fishes is fewer than 30% of that a century ago.



Major environmental-change categories expressed as a percentage relative to intact baseline. Red indicates percentage of category damaged, lost or otherwise affected; blue indicates percentage intact, remaining or unaffected. *Frontiers in Conservation Science.*

A bad situation only getting worse

The human population has reached 7.8 billion – double what it was in 1970 – and is set to reach about 10 billion by 2050. More people equals more food insecurity, soil degradation, plastic pollution and biodiversity loss.

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WHAT'S UP?



After careful consideration the BPI has **postponed Peace In, Peace Out! to Sept. 23- 24th 2022** at the Grand Forks USCC Community Centre. If you have a talent to share please contact Dave at dave@davesoroka.com or if you wish to volunteer, donate to the Silent Auction or for more information contact Laura at L4peace@telus.net.

The opposite of love is not hate, its indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, its indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, its indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, its indifference.

Elie Wiesel

A wise man loves not because he wants to profit from it but because he finds bliss in love itself.

Leo Tolstoy

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434** or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups: is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000 and CNANW.

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High population densities make pandemics more likely. They also drive overcrowding, unemployment, housing shortages and deteriorating infrastructure, and can spark conflicts leading to insurrections, terrorism, and war.

Essentially, humans have created an ecological Ponzi scheme. Consumption, as a percentage of Earth's capacity to regenerate itself, has grown from 73% in 1960 to more than 170% today.

High-consuming countries like Australia, Canada and the US use multiple units of fossil-fuel energy to produce one energy unit of food. Energy consumption will therefore increase in the near future, especially as the global middle class grows.

Then there's climate change. Humanity has already exceeded global warming of 1°C this century, and will almost assuredly exceed 1.5 °C between 2030 and 2052. Even if all nations party to the Paris Agreement ratify their commitments, warming would still reach between 2.6°C and 3.1°C by 2100.

The danger of political impotence

Our paper found global policymaking falls far short of addressing these existential threats. Securing Earth's future requires prudent, long-term decisions. However this is impeded by short-term interests, and an economic system that concentrates wealth among a few individuals.

Right-wing populist leaders with anti-environment agendas are on the rise, and in many countries, environmental protest groups have been labelled "terrorists". Environmentalism has become weaponised as a political ideology, rather than properly viewed as a universal mode of self-preservation.

Financed disinformation campaigns, such as those against climate action and forest protection, protect short-term profits and claim meaningful environmental action is too costly – while ignoring the broader cost of not acting. By and large, it appears unlikely business investments will shift at sufficient scale to avoid environmental catastrophe.

Changing course

Fundamental change is required to avoid this ghastly future. Specifically, we and many others suggest:

- abolishing the goal of perpetual economic growth
- revealing the true cost of products and activities by forcing those who damage the environment to pay for its restoration, such as through carbon pricing
- rapidly eliminating fossil fuels
- regulating markets by curtailing monopolisation and limiting undue corporate influence on policy
- reigning in corporate lobbying of political representatives
- educating and empowering women across the globe, including giving them control over family planning.

Don't look away

Many organisations and individuals are devoted to achieving these aims. However their messages have not sufficiently penetrated the policy, economic, political and academic realms to make much difference.

Failing to acknowledge the magnitude of problems facing humanity is not just naïve, it's dangerous. And science has a big role to play here.

Scientists must not sugar-coat the overwhelming challenges ahead. Instead, they should *tell it like it is*. Anything else is at best misleading, and at worst potentially lethal for the human enterprise.