

Haw River Assembly's Earth Day 2020 Challenge!

This April 22nd will mark the 50th annual Earth Day Celebration! This year's theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. Let's celebrate Earth Day by all sharing our efforts on how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and care about our planet - from home! Send us a photo, video, or description of your project between now and Wednesday, April 30th so we can share it here!

Please submit to info@hawriver.org

Reduce and reuse. Recycling is not going to save the planet - so much of what we buy can't be recycled at all, and ends up in landfills or our waters. Plastic manufacturing, particularly, is a heavy user of fossil fuels. We've got to do a lot more to reduce how much stuff we buy, and repair, repurpose and reuse what we have. There are lots of great online resources with ideas we can all use - here's a few for starters: <https://www.smallfootprintfamily.com/recycling-does-not-reduce-waste>
<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/reduce-reuse-recycle-most-all-reduce>
<https://www.livinggreenandfrugally.com>

Plant a tree, plant lots of trees! Make sure to keep them well watered through the summer (you can recycle water from bathtubs and other household uses for your trees).

Water & Energy conservation at home <https://matteroftrust.org/100-ways-to- conserve-water/>
<https://www.ecomall.com/greeshopping/20things.htm>

Grow a garden- for herbs, pollinators and vegetables. There are lots of resources online to help you start a garden. Growing organic food is good for you and the planet - and even more so if you conserve water and make and use compost to enrich the soil. Here's a monthly planting guide from NCSU for central NC
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs>

Using solar or wind power? Does your house have solar panels, hot water solar collectors or wind turbines? Tell us about it. How about making a small solar cooker? There are lots of instructions online.

Write a letter to Congress and elected officials, or a letter to the editor about climate change. Here's a guideline http://citizensclimatelobby.org/files/MLMtable_0.pdf

Tell us about plants and animals you have observed in your yard, [iNaturalist](#) is a great app to download and use to identify what you see. Make a picture, write a poem or sing a song with a climate change theme

Go for a hike along a waterway and take along a bag to pick up trash before it becomes a danger to water quality and wildlife. See our [list](#) of hiking trails in the Haw River watershed that are still open (with social distancing and face masks of course).

Make a picture, write a poem, or record a song with an Earth Day climate change theme

Want to get more deeply involved? Sign up to take part in the international [Earth Day 2020 Challenge](#)- a crowdsourcing citizen science project to help scientists around the world understand impacts of climate change.