



Earth Day 2008

Earth Day is April 22. The first Earth Day was in 1970. The co-founders of Earth Day are Gaylord Nelson (former U.S. Senator), and John McConnell. In 1970 groups were fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife. On Earth Day in 1990 the celebration gave a huge boost to recycling programs. Today, in addition to the previously mentioned issues, people are concerned about global warming, and energy consumption.

Staff at the USDA Ag Service Center of Chisago County were asked what they do to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Here's what they said:


- Recycle (Did you know this is a free service? Ask your garbage hauler if they provide this service.) 
- Replace all light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs – CFLs (Did you know if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. Ask your power company if they give rebates for purchasing CFLs!) 
- Reuse paper and plastic bags at the grocery store... or better yet, use a couple cloth bags that can hold more groceries! (Cloth bags are now available at many stores, some for as little as \$1)
- Turn the heat or air conditioning down when you are at work, and when you are sleeping.
- Look for products that come in less packaging at the store.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rain water and use to water plants outside.
- When buying new appliances look for the Energy Star label.
- Slow down... speeding reduces your fuel economy. (Calculate mileage to determine the most efficient speeds. Give your car regular tune-ups to make it work most efficiently.)
- Only do laundry when it is a full load. Use a line to dry your clothes.
- Buy "green" energy from the power company. For instance: wind or manure.
- Use reusable containers for lunches rather than plastic bags and disposable plates.
- Paperless billing. Get your bills e-mailed to you and have the money automatically withdrawn. This will also save money on stamps!

What do you do now?

What else can you do?

**Help conserve the Earth for future generations.
Do what you can today!**

Earth Day Everyday

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