

EARTH DAY 2021 – RESTORE OUR EARTH

Dear Members,

Earth Day is celebrated annually on the 22 April. The theme for Earth Day 2021 is **Restore Our Earth**, and it focuses is on Climate action. This year, an entire Earth Week has been planned from the 15 to 22 April to celebrate this event. It will include climate action summits with calls for more efforts towards global solidarity on urgent need to combat the growing climate crisis.

As the Don Bosco Green Alliance prepares to celebrate Earth Day 2021, we are happy to announce that in keeping with the Rector Major's call for *Accompanying the Young towards a sustainable future*, the entire alliance is now focusing on the following four priority areas:

- Green Campuses
- Eco Spirituality
- Ecological Education
- Youth Campaigns

More information about these priority areas can be found on our [website](#). Our celebration of Earth Day 2021 will draw inspiration from these priority areas.

The following are the three important dates for climate action during Earth Day 2021

Day 1

- 20th April 2021 – Global Youth Climate Summit – Earth Uprising (A 4-hour digital summit) <https://earthuprising.org/>
- 20th April 2021 – We Shall Breathe Virtual Summit – Hip Hop Caucus – Digital Event <https://hiphopcaucus.org/>

Day 2

- 21st April 2021- Teach for Planet – Global Education Summit – Education International – Multilingual Virtual Summit. <https://www.ei-ie.org/>

Day 3

- 22nd April 2021 – Global Climate Summit – US Biden Administration
- 22nd April 2021 – [Earth Day Live](#)

**More information about these specific events will be made available closer to the event dates.*

We suggest the following actions based on our priority areas and aligning with the theme for Earth Day 2021 – Restore Our Earth:

- **Reduce paper and plastic** in your institutions. Use this [calculator](#) to track the amount of plastic used and then take measures to reduce it. Share your findings on social media and encourage others to participate in reducing their paper and plastic usage.
- **Calculate your personal Carbon Footprint** and take steps to reduce it. Refer to this [online calculator](#). Speak to the staff and students at your institutions and ask them to calculate their own personal carbon footprints and share it with others on how they are going about reducing it.
- **Organise a clean-up drive** in your institution or in the surrounding neighbourhood. With the support of the local authorities organise a clean-up of your local park, garden, beach

or forest. Engage the community members to create sign-boards on key environmental messages and litter-free areas. Here are some [helpful tips](#) to organise a clean-up.

- **Plan a teach-in on environmental issues** in your community. Teach-ins are to be practical, participatory and oriented toward action along with the help of local experts. A suggested topic would be the importance of biodiversity and what steps the community can take to protect the local flora and fauna. Teach-ins can be held both in-person gatherings or via a virtual platform. Refer to the [following guidelines](#) on how to organise a teach-in.
- Take steps to **reduce food wastage** in your institution or campus. Producing, transporting and storing our food have a number of seen and unseen environmental costs from the natural resources consumed to the pollution produced from Green House Gas emissions. Here is a [guide](#) on how to go about combatting climate change by changing our diets. Additionally, you can also start composting your food waste on the campus.
- **Organise a nature walk** in your community. Spending time in nature has proven health benefits as well as it is a great opportunity to introduce people towards the wonders of the natural world. Building a community around nature walks brings together like-minded people who can work together to protect and preserve the community's open spaces and exchange ideas and support each other.
- **Join Citizen Science Initiative** and be part of the global network of citizens gathering important information about our planet. [Download](#) the Global Earth Challenge Application on your mobile phones to participate in the world's largest ever coordinated citizen science campaign.
- **Promote Climate and Environmental Literacy** in your institution. Climate and environmental literacy help creating green jobs, stimulate a green economy and build a culture of conscious consumerism. Check out the environmental education resources [here](#) to take action towards pushing for more environmental education and literacy
- **Establish green initiatives** in your parish to push towards becoming a green parish. Formation of a green team or eco-team is usually the best step to start towards the journey of greening your parish. The Green Team would be instrumental in organising green activities like clean-up, recycling processes, reducing water and electricity usage and waste management. The team will also be responsible for outreach and advocacy on environmental issues within the parish members. A few resources on green parish activities can be found [here](#).

We are happy to suggest that our members can participate in Earth Day 2021 by carrying out the above mentioned over the period of an entire month – **22 March to 22 April 2021**. Further, you could also use the occasion of Earth Day to launch your own local green initiative or project, which could then continue over the course of the year.

Also, do not forget to share details of your event or activity with the Don Bosco Green Alliance team. There are multiple ways to do this:

1. Fill up the [member activity form](#) and share details of your initiative with us.
2. Share your activity on your social media platform and use the hashtag #DonBoscoGreen.
3. You can email us at communications@donboscogreen.org with a short write-up (minimum 50 words) of your activity along with a few images or videos

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation during Earth Day. If you have any questions, kindly do not hesitate to write to us at alliance@donboscogreen.org