



50 Things You Can Do

to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

While Shopping...



1. Bring your reusable bags to the grocery store.
2. Request paper bags over plastic if reusable bags are not an option.
3. Decline single-use products (e.g. plastic grocery bags, plastic bottles, plastic cutlery, straws, singly wrapped snacks, etc.) when shopping or ordering takeout.
4. Choose and purchase cosmetics, lotions, and toothpaste without polyethylene to prevent microplastics in your local waterways.
5. Support local farms such as the [St. Pete Saturday Morning Market](#). You can pre-order produce and utilize drive-through pickup.
6. Support local businesses through online ordering or food delivery services.
7. Buy reusable batteries for your electronics.
8. Change your old incandescent bulbs to LEDs or CFLs.
9. Go meatless two days a week to reduce your carbon footprint. Meat production produces a significant amount of greenhouse gases.
10. Choose reef-safe sunscreen. Look at the active ingredients to determine if your sunscreen is reef-safe. If the sunscreen lists oxybenzone, avobenzone, homosalate, octinoxate, octisalate, octocrylene, and/or nanoparticles as active ingredients, it's best to avoid them.



Get Outside!

11. If you're working from home, make the outdoors your office for Earth Day.
12. Plant native plants or trees to help beautify your yard and support wildlife. [UF/IFAS](#) can help!
13. Plant your own herbs or garden.
14. Try [composting](#) food waste to use for fertilizer.
15. Use a reusable bottle in lieu of plastic water bottles.
16. Go on a bike ride.
17. Take your pet for a walk and be sure to pick up their waste.
18. Complete our scavenger hunt for moths, butterflies, and host plants in your yard or neighborhood. ([Click to download GUIDE | CHECKLIST](#))
19. Conserve water by only watering your lawn in the early morning or late at night. Doing so gives the water more time to soak in before midday sun increases evaporation.
20. Pick up trash in your neighborhood while out for daily walks.
21. Ride your bike, walk, or longboard to the store if you can do so safely.
22. Choose a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard trip on the water to reduce CO₂ emissions, and collect marine debris while out and about.
23. Sweep up yard waste and trash surrounding neighborhood storm drains to prevent it from being swept into our waterways.



Get Creative!

24. Create an art project using recycled material. [Here](#) are some fun examples.
25. Do an [at-home activity](#) from Tampa Bay Watch's Education Corner or Kid's Pages.

While Practicing "Safer at Home"

26. Turn off the water during your 20-second hand washes.
27. Take shorter showers. Cutting them by one minute could save gallons of water.
28. Limit flushing the toilet when possible. This can conserve multiple gallons of water a day.
29. Do not flush wipes down the toilet (even if the packaging says it is flushable). Wipes do not biodegrade, and they clog drains and wastewater management systems.
30. Turn off the lights when leaving a room or when you're not at home.
31. Turn up the AC one degree while at home. Set the AC to a warmer setting while you're not home.
32. Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees or less, to save money.
33. Let natural light illuminate your indoor spaces.
34. Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use. Use a surge protector for larger electronics and easy access to an on/off switch.
35. Save your old electronics and batteries for recycling.
36. Wash your clothes with cold water. Your clothes will release less microfibers and it saves energy.
37. If you are waiting for your water to get hot or have water that was used for cooking, collect that water and use it for your plants or yard.
38. [Make a new rain barrel](#) or show us your existing rain barrel.
39. Go a day without throwing anything away, or collect your waste for the week to measure your impact.
40. Fix any leaky pipes, toilets, and faucets around the house to avoid wasting water.
41. Collect your old clothes and home goods for donation, rather than throwing them out.
42. Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper ones.
43. Opt-in to paperless billing for monthly bills. You'll be saving trees and the fuel it takes to deliver your bills.
44. Read documents online instead of printing them.
45. Set your printer to print two-sided.
46. Run your dishwasher only when it's full to save water and energy.
47. Tell us how many miles you haven't driven/gallons of gas saved since safer-at-home began for you.
48. Check out our [local recycling guidelines](#) here to make sure you are recycling properly.
49. Pour your cooking grease into a container (aluminum vegetable or bean cans work well) and freeze until ready to throw away. Do not pour grease down the drain as it can clog drains and interfere with wastewater management.
50. Download the [Earth Challenge 2020 app](#) to your smart phone and participate in a global citizen science initiative.

