



# GREENER CHOICES, BRIGHTER FUTURE: CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AND BEYOND

Earth Day may land in April, but protecting our environment is a year-round mission. This spring, get inspired with creative, practical ways to make a positive impact on our planet.

## Encourage Local Businesses to Go Green

Get started early with National Plant a Flower Day on March 12. This is the perfect time to plant vibrant, California native flora around your home or in your community. Involve kids in learning about gardening and sustainability, or consider starting a community garden in your area.



## MARCH 12

**Mark Earth Hour on March 29.** Join millions around the world by turning off all non-essential lighting for one hour from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This symbolic event raises awareness about the need for energy conservation and climate action. Learn more at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org).

## MARCH 29



**April is Keep America Beautiful Month!** Take some time to beautify your community by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling whenever possible. Volunteer for a neighborhood clean-up event to pick up litter or plant trees to help restore local green spaces.



**Celebrate National Lawn and Garden Month.** April is also the perfect time to refresh your yard with drought-resistant, California-native plants. Not only will you help protect our natural Southern California environment, but you might also save on water and maintenance costs.



Many cities are encouraging residents to switch from gas-powered lawn equipment to cleaner, quieter electric models. Programs like South Coast AQMD's Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Rebate Program offer helpful incentives. Visit [www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower](http://www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower) for more information.

HAPPY  
EARTH  
DAY

## APRIL 22

## APRIL 25



**Celebrate Earth Day on April 22.** This year's theme, "Our Power, Our Planet" focuses on supporting the tripling of renewable energy by 2030. Visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) for more details.

**Plant a Tree for Arbor Day.** Wrap up your environmental efforts by planting a tree on Arbor Day, April 25. Trees provide critical shade, can help to reduce air pollution, and help combat the effects of extreme heat, especially in urban areas. Join a community tree-planting event to leave a lasting legacy of green spaces for future generations.

Spread the word! Volunteer for clean-air programs in your community and encourage others to do the same.