

APRIL 2019

2019 NIH Earth Day



Many Earth Day activities across NIH will focus on the 2019 Earth Day global theme, "Protect Our Species."¹ This year's theme has become a very important topic in recent years with the list of endangered or threatened species growing at an alarming rate.² The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently lists over 2300 species as being endangered or threatened worldwide.³ While it is difficult to know the exact rate at which species become extinct, experts estimate we are currently experiencing the highest rate of extinction since the disappearance of dinosaurs over 60 million years ago.⁴ The rapid destruction of plant and wildlife populations has been associated with deforestation, habitat loss, poaching and pollution, among other factors.¹ Congress passed the [Endangered Species Act](#) in 1973 in an effort to conserve the various species of fish, wildlife and plants facing extinction.

NIH annually celebrates Earth Day to encourage all NIH staff to contribute toward protecting the environment. Most Earth Day activities are combined with Take Your Child to Work Day, allowing us to educate and share information with NIH staff and their children about the impact they can have on the environment. Below is a list of Earth Day activities across all NIH campuses. We hope you will join us to celebrate Earth Day!

Research Triangle Park Campus (RTP) – The RTP campus in North Carolina is participating in a 5K Run (held jointly with the EPA). They are planning to conduct an Earth Day Nature Fun science fair activity and guided tours of the Net Zero Energy Building. In addition, they will share information about ways to protect the endangered red wolf, which is native to North Carolina. Click [here](#) to learn more about RTP campus events.

Rocky Mountain Labs (RML) – The RML campus in Montana is hosting many activities, including its 4th Annual Earth Day Poster Contest. Posters will be displayed throughout the campus and the winners will be announced on April 25. Exhibits will feature live animals from the Brining Zoo. Click [here](#) for more information.

Bethesda, MD – The Bethesda campus exhibits will be held at the Natcher Conference Center (Building 45) from 10am to 2pm on April 25. There are many exhibits including Montgomery County's Rainscapes and Recycling programs, the NICHD Noisy Planet trivia wheel, Seedling Giveaway, a live display of birds of prey and reptiles, and many more. For a full list of Bethesda campus event, click [here](#).

Bayview, MD – The Bayview campus is celebrating Earth Day on April 19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be information sessions about recycling, proper disposal of lab waste, and many more. In addition, there will be collection areas for electronic waste and recyclables such as batteries, cell phones, and more. Click [here](#) to see more information.

Shady Grove, MD – The Shady Grove campus will conduct a beginner's bird walk, host a kite demonstration; learn about "Beyond reduce, reuse, and recycle": the new R's for low-waste living, and many other activities. Click [here](#) to learn about Shady Grove campus events.

For more information, please contact the following Earth Day Coordinators: [Paul Johnson](#) (RTP), [Katrina Matten](#) (RML), [Joshua Haines](#) (Bethesda), [James Pitt](#) (Bayview) or [Lorna Patrick](#) (Shady Grove).

TAKE ACTION



Participate in Drug Take Back Day at NIH

The NIH frequently pairs with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and local Sheriff's offices to host Drug Take Back events. Take advantage of this safe method for disposing of pharmaceuticals drugs on April 24. Read inside for more detail.

[LEARN MORE](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Announcing the 2018 NIH-Certified Green Labs

The NIH Green Labs Program acknowledges NIH labs that prioritize environmental stewardship in their daily activities. Learn more about this program by clicking below and join us in recognizing the labs certified during 2018.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEMS TRAINING

Did you know? The NIH celebrates Earth Day each year to emphasize the importance of protecting our environment and to teach others about the many ways they can make a positive change. To learn more about environmental stewardship at the NIH, please visit the [NEMS Training webpage](#) to view a short (20 minute) NIH environmental awareness training video.