

MARCH 2021

Lights Out for Earth Hour

Would you like to join others in completing a simple task to raise awareness of environmental issues? The 2021 Earth Hour event does just that! Turn off all your lights from 8:30pm-9:30pm on March 27 to join the world in the 2021 Earth Hour!

Earth Hour is a global event founded by the World Wildlife Fund that aims to “unite people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet.”¹ Earth Hour is held annually on a weekend in late March, typically on a Saturday night after dark. The most well-known aspect of Earth Hour is the practice of turning off all nearby lights for the entirety of the hour-long event. This serves as a gesture of support for the environment and as a call to others to act. This practice started in Sydney, Australia in 2007 when the first Earth Hour was planned solely as a lights-out event. Since then, Earth Hour has expanded to work with millions of supporters and thousands of organizations to act in the interest of the environment, lobby for legislation, and expand environmental awareness. Each year, Earth Hour returns to its roots for the hour-long lights-out event, which has spread to more than 180 countries and millions of participants.



Please note that each time zone will go “lights out” separately from 8:30pm-9:30pm local time to ensure it is dark during Earth Hour. A list of activities to stay entertained with your family or friends without lights is available on the [Earth Hour website](#). This year will also feature the first Earth Hour Virtual Event. A wide variety of virtual activities, meetings, and discussions will be hosted in support of Earth Hour for participants around the globe. The full list of virtual offerings will be released on the [Earth Hour website](#) at a date closer to the event.

We would like to encourage everyone interested in supporting the environment to join us in turning off our lights for the 2021 Earth Hour. Events like Earth Hour make people ask questions, which leads to a more informed and motivated community. Raising awareness of environmental topics is a crucial piece of addressing issues like energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and many others. These issues can often be greatly impacted by our individual actions and decisions. A single hour of our weekend is a relatively small amount of time to dedicate to the environment, but it could inspire others to join you! Awareness and education form the foundation that Earth Hour is using to promote positive environmental change around the world.

TAKE ACTION



Make Earth Hour Year-Round

Earth Hour lasts only a single hour per year. There are many ways we can take the lessons from Earth Hour and apply them to our everyday lives. Read the full article to learn a few ways to start saving energy!

[LEARN MORE](#)

EVENT



2021 World Water Day

World Water Day is a global event on March 22 to recognize the importance of water in all our lives. Water sources are being threatened by pollution and overuse, making clean, drinkable water an increasingly valuable resource. Read the full article to learn a few ways you can help preserve water!

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEMS TRAINING

Did you know? Earth Hour began the “lights out” tradition as a symbolic gesture to draw attention to environmental issues. However, turning off your lights is also one of the easiest ways to save energy in your home and at your workplace! To learn more about energy conservation at the NIH, please visit the [NEMS Training webpage](#) to view a short (20 minute) NIH environmental awareness training video.