

Every Day Can Be Earth Day

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Earth Day started after the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill. On the first anniversary of this incident, January 28, 1970, Environmental Rights Day was created. Earth Day was started by Wisconsin senator Gaylord Anton Nelson and was called Environmental Rights Day. On September 20, 1969, Senator Nelson first announced his plans for an "environmental teach-in" at the University of Washington. With this, however, came 2 problems. The first being that teach-ins have become outdated, the second being that people thought the war was a distraction from topics such as the rise of communism and the cold war.

The solution to these problems came unexpectedly. The answer to the first one came when Julien Koenig came and volunteered to help. He was an advertiser and made the Volkswagen "Think Small" advertising campaign which was later dubbed "The greatest advertising campaign of the 20th century" Koenig later produced many ideas for a rename such as "Ecology Day", "Environmental Day", and "E Day". The one that finally stayed was Earth Day. The reason he chose "Earth Day" was because his birthday happened to be April 22, and "Birthday" rhymes with "Earth Day".

Anyway, now that I talked about some history, I think I should say that caring for our planet should not be restricted to just one day. We should care for it every day, no matter what happens. I am not saying this is not the case, because many movements are being made to help the planet every day. However, if we want to make an even bigger difference, every day should be earth day.

There are many approaches to this, and I think one thing we can start with is to limit the use of fossil fuels and even put a fee or tax for companies to use them. Next, we should focus on renewable energy like wind turbines or solar panels. I particularly would strive towards solar panels, as they are cheaper than a big wind turbine and occupy a smaller space. I understand that not everyone can afford solar panels, but I say get to the root of the problem. Why should you have to pay to help the planet? I think the government should focus on solar panels and not the people.

Now, all these changes are not very easy. For my family, we do things like recycle or use solar panels but do not have time for big plans. Some things you can do at home are recycling, cleaning up your yard or street, planting trees or plants, and many more. Another

big problem is that most of these things only adults can do. If you tell an 8-year-old to plant a tree, they would be clueless. Therefore, I think schools like my school (PEARLS Hawthorne) should have garden classes to help kids know how to plant trees. I also think that a video game or activity kit could help even more because these days lots of kids like to play video games over reading a book.

I hope you enjoyed this essay I wrote, and I truly hope that some changes can be made to help the planet before it gets too late. I like to remember that even the littlest change can make a difference. No change aiming for the better is too big or too small. Thank you for your time.