



iNatureWatch Foundation
Presents

ECO DAYS

How and Why Planet Earth Needs Them

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What is earth day?

Earth day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

A healthy environment plays a key role in meeting many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world will need to pick up the pace and put greater efforts in finding better solutions to pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss in order to truly transform societies and economies





The History of Earth Day

Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis — oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire.

The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement, and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.

Theme of the Year - 2020

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge and the vast opportunities of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable

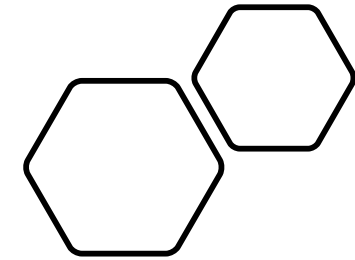




2020 is also The International Year of Plant Health

The United Nations has declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).

In 2020, you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development.



The Impact

Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly



The Human Fingerprint on Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gases occur naturally and are essential to the survival of humans and millions of other living things, by keeping some of the sun's warmth from reflecting back into space and making Earth livable.

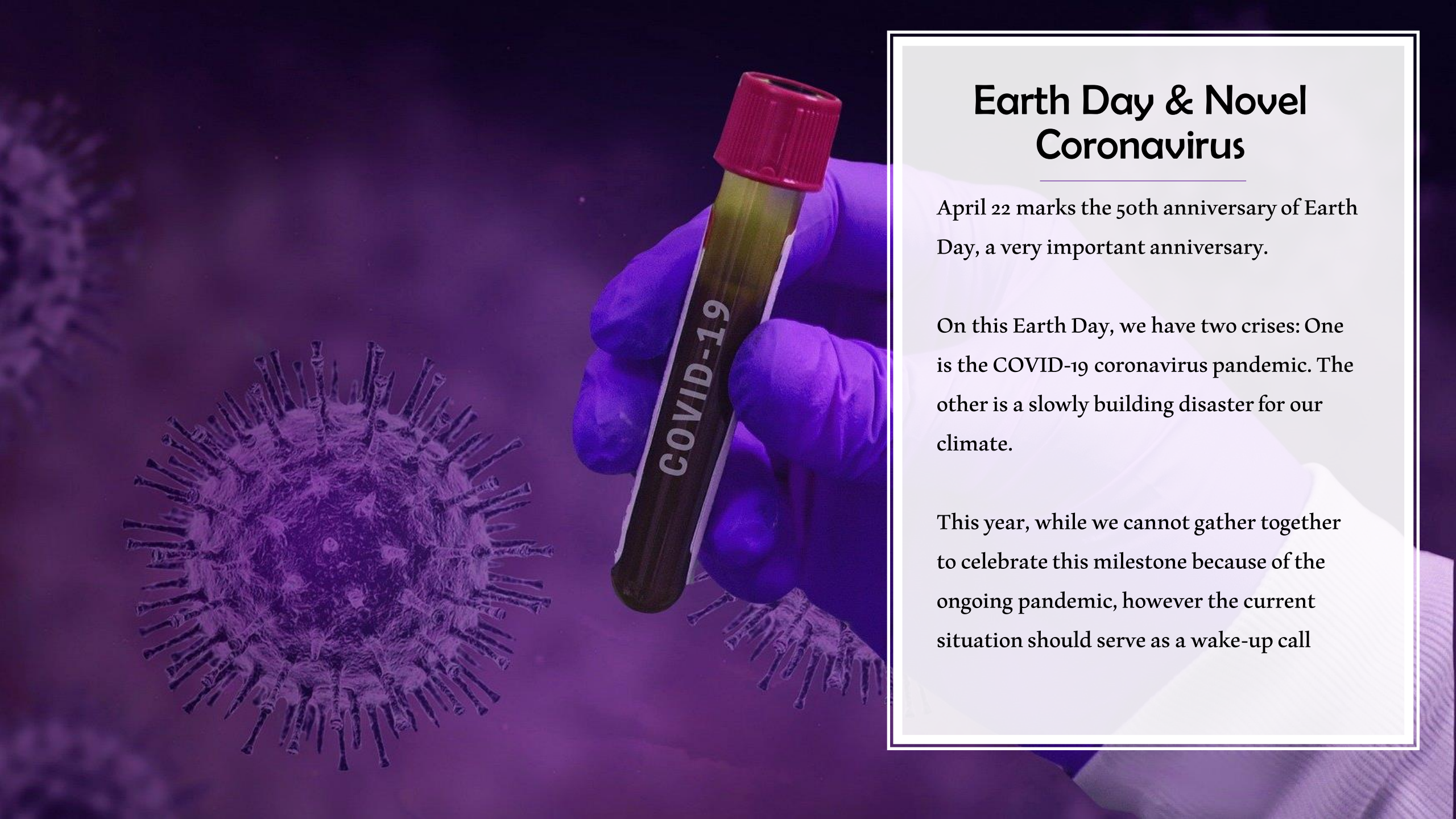
But after more than a century and a half of industrialization, deforestation, and large scale agriculture, quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have risen to record levels not seen in three million years.

As populations, economies and standards of living grow, so does the cumulative level of greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions.

The Hard Truth

- The concentration of GHGs in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth;
- The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution
- From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85°C
- Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and the sea level has risen
- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities.



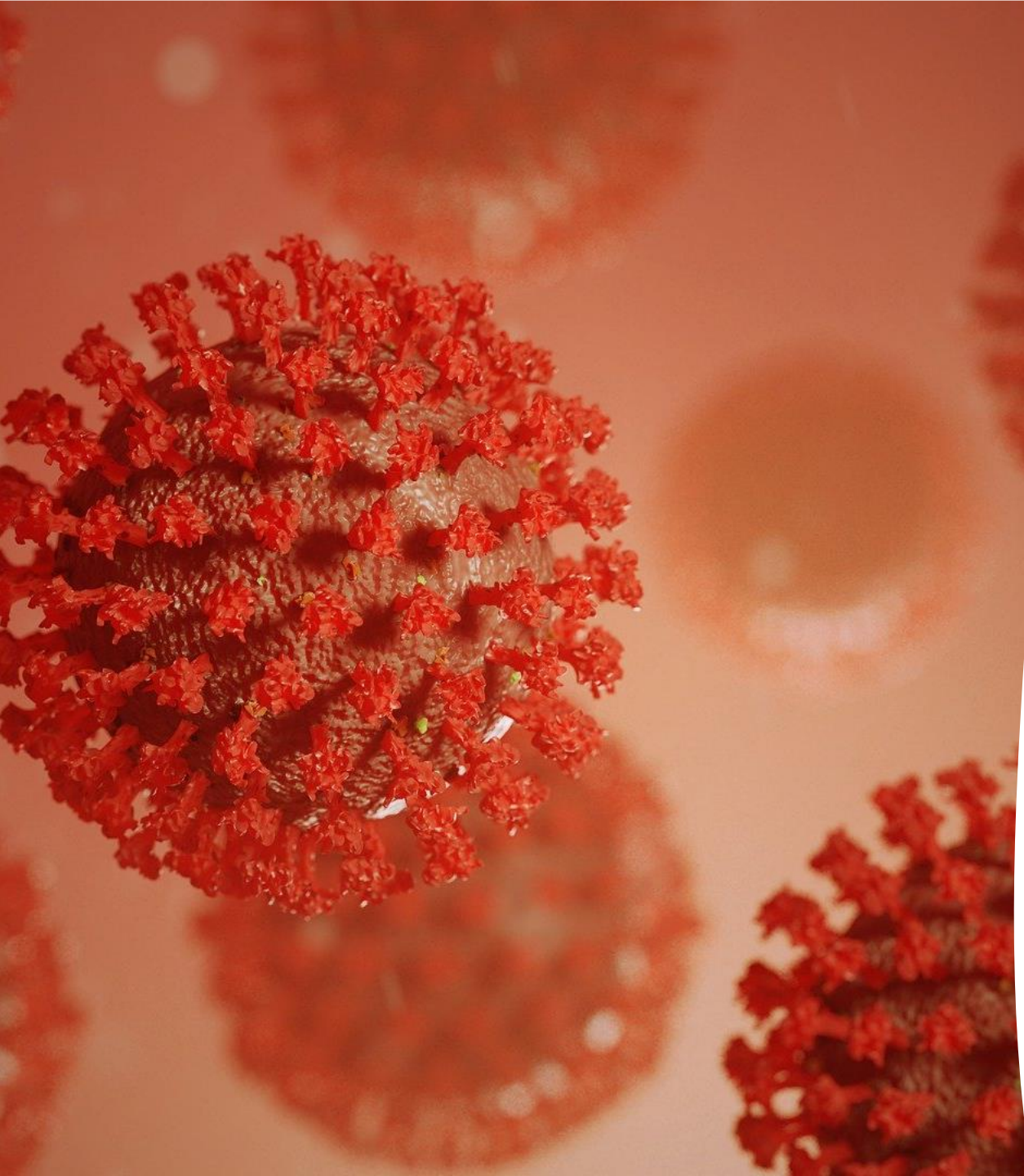
The background of the slide features a gloved hand holding a test tube labeled "COVID-19" next to a detailed illustration of a coronavirus particle. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of virus particles.

Earth Day & Novel Coronavirus

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, a very important anniversary.

On this Earth Day, we have two crises: One is the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The other is a slowly building disaster for our climate.

This year, while we cannot gather together to celebrate this milestone because of the ongoing pandemic, however the current situation should serve as a wake-up call



Relevance in Current Situation

The coronavirus pandemic does not shut us down. Instead, it reminds us of what's at stake in our fight for the planet.

If we don't demand change to transform our planet and meet our climate crisis, our current state will become the new normal a world where pandemics and extreme weather events span the globe, leaving already marginalized and vulnerable communities even more at risk.

Social distancing potentially undermines communities. We can no longer go to the farmer's market, attend local gatherings, or visit the local library. Earth Day discussions should help us think about what it means to be a member of a community in times of major crises

This 50th Earth day is more important than ever.

You can help!



Implementing Learned Lessons

Climate change is described as a tragedy of the global commons. Coronavirus may have brought out compassion. There are reports of people helping their elderly neighbors. Many are donating to food banks, realizing the huge economic toll this pandemic is imposing on underprivileged.

Social ties will be tested, and social bonds will come under enormous strain. This is why social solidarity is essential to ensure that societies can cooperatively handle climate challenge.

The virtual Earth Day gatherings should involve collective reflections on how the low-carbon lifestyles forced upon us by Coronavirus could continue.

They should allow us to catalog the ways we came together and how these bonds could be nourished to confront the climate crisis.

How Earth Day is usually Celebrated around the globe - Japan

In Japan, Earth Day is a two day celebration, on April 22 and 23 in Yoyogi Park.

Around 100,000 people get together to enjoy family activities and learn about businesses that use sustainable methods and materials and organizations that promote environmental protection.

There is usually plenty of vegetarian food and music from socially conscious entertainers. Admission is free.





How Earth Day is usually Celebrated around the globe - Spain

New Earth Nation in Lanjarón, Granada, Spain, holds a 24-hour Global Unity and Regeneration Gathering with presentations and workshops on environmentalism, healing, and awakening. People can learn how to cultivate spirulina pools or make a self-regenerating water system for use at home.



How Earth Day is usually Celebrated around the globe – San Francisco

San Francisco staged their street festival for Earth Day at the San Francisco Civic center. Events included the sustainable chef showcase and organic food court, an eco fashion show, DIY workshops, activities for kids, an art gallery, and lots of live music.

South Africa is among the countries that call April 22 International Mother Earth Day. The Rand Show is the biggest consumer exposition in South Africa, held from April 14-23 in Johannesburg, and a big part of the exposition is Earth Expo, which is sponsored by several environmental organizations.

Earth Expo presents educational forums on topics like nutrition, fashion, and technology, and discuss entrepreneurship and developing skills with those who want to make their businesses more sustainable.

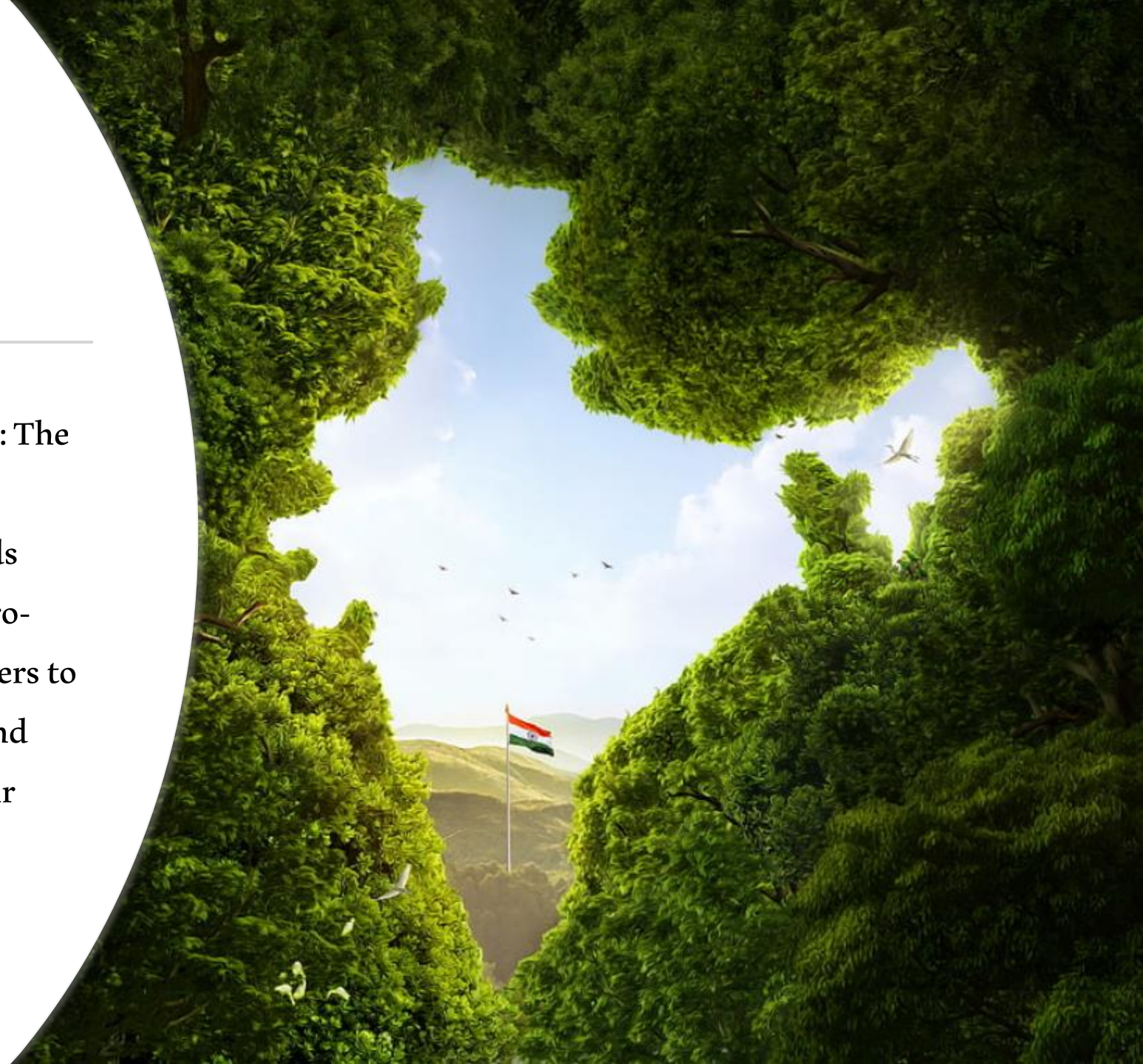


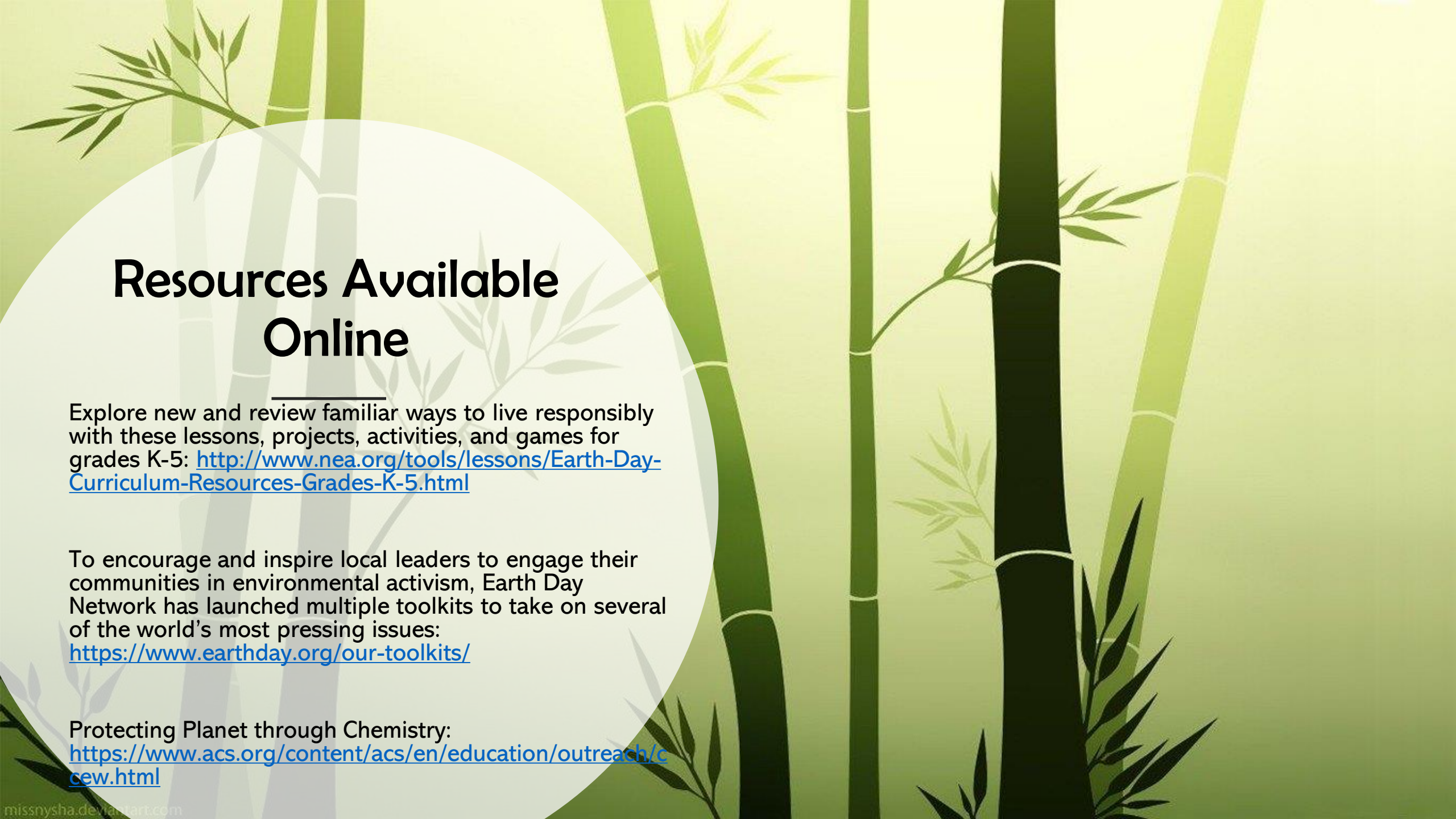
How Earth Day is usually Celebrated around the globe – South Africa



How Earth Day is usually Celebrated around the globe – India

No-Plastic” Pop-up in Karnataka State in India: The event brought together organizations that champion environmental sustainability in fields including electric vehicles, solar power, and zero-waste living. Workshops were led by these leaders to discuss their journeys in low-pollution living and sharing tips with the audience on reducing their own waste production.



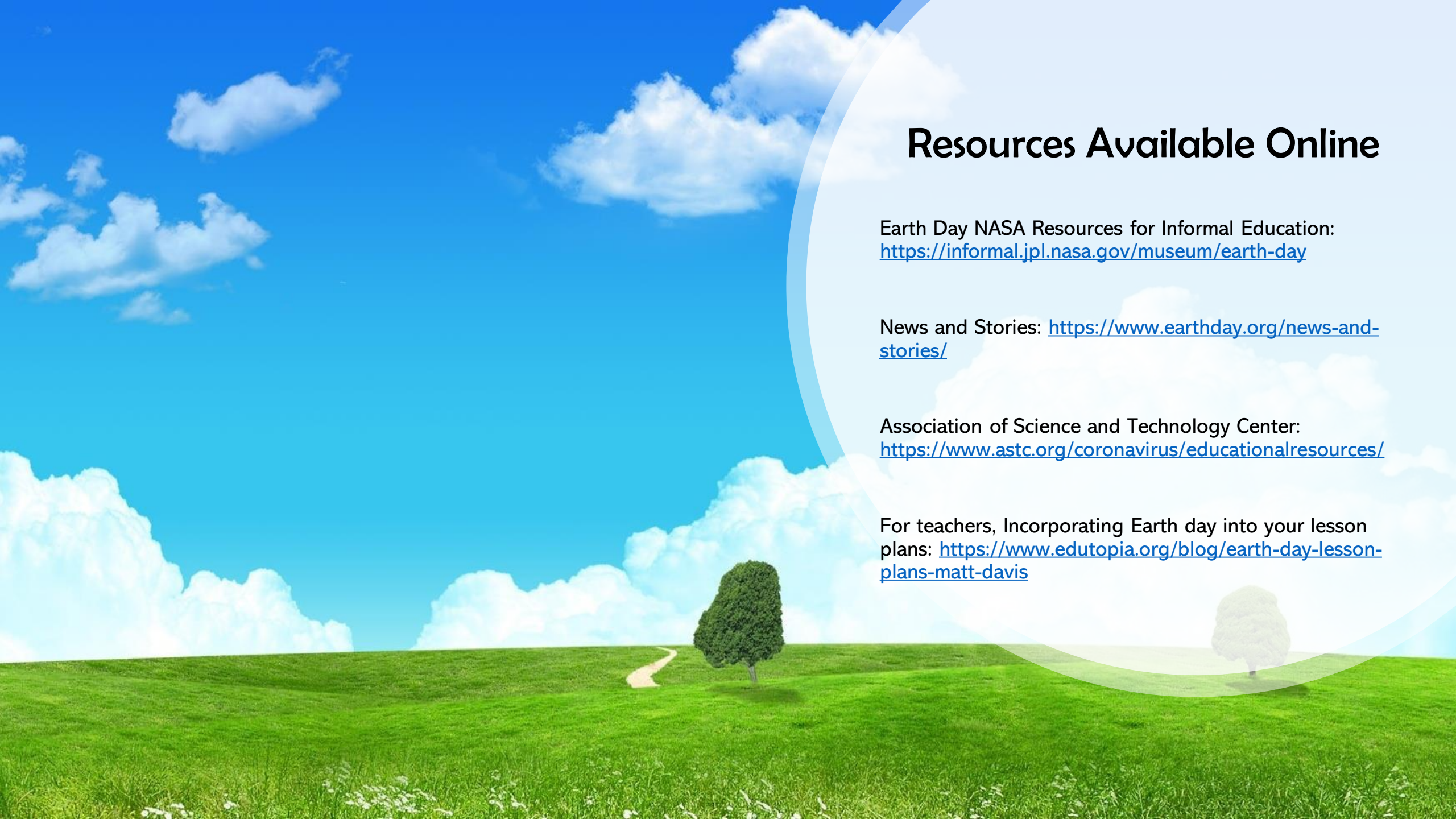


Resources Available Online

Explore new and review familiar ways to live responsibly with these lessons, projects, activities, and games for grades K-5: <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/Earth-Day-Curriculum-Resources-Grades-K-5.html>

To encourage and inspire local leaders to engage their communities in environmental activism, Earth Day Network has launched multiple toolkits to take on several of the world's most pressing issues:
<https://www.earthday.org/our-toolkits/>

Protecting Planet through Chemistry:
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/cew.html>



Resources Available Online

Earth Day NASA Resources for Informal Education:

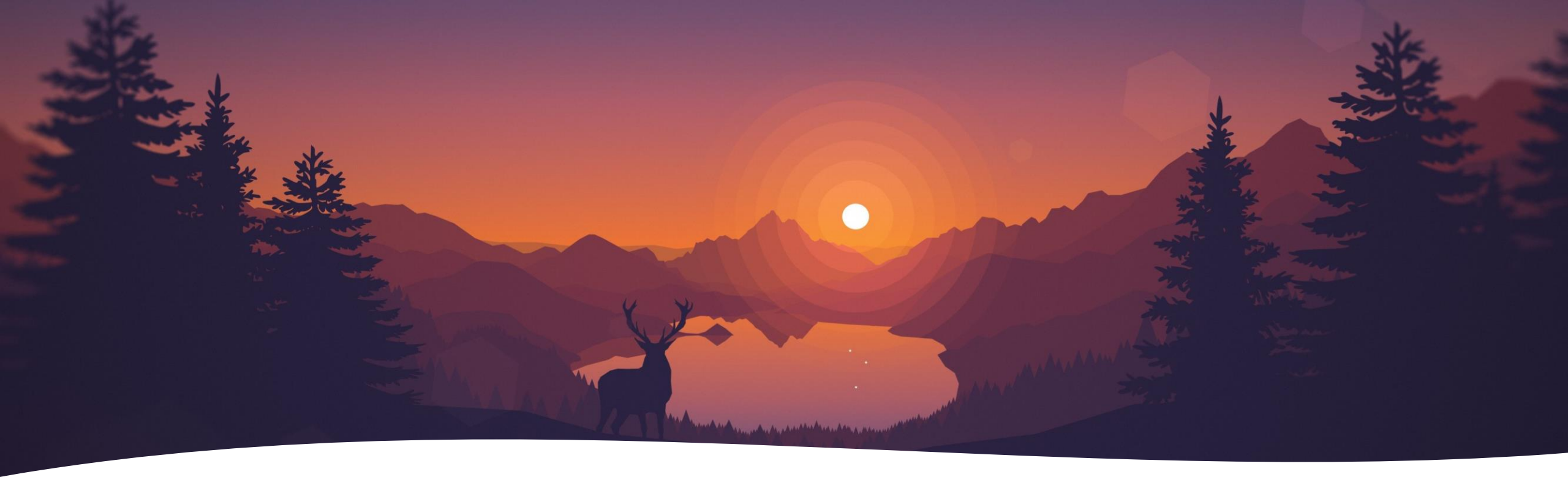
<https://informal.jpl.nasa.gov/museum/earth-day>

News and Stories: <https://www.earthday.org/news-and-stories/>

Association of Science and Technology Center:

<https://www.astc.org/coronavirus/educationalresources/>

For teachers, Incorporating Earth day into your lesson plans: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/earth-day-lesson-plans-matt-davis>



Resources Available Online

Captain Planet Foundation to encourage kids to save the planet:
<https://captainplanetfoundation.org/>

Install the Ecosia Search Engine, Ecosia is a search engine based in that donates 80% or more of its profits to nonprofit organizations that focus on reforestation:

<https://www.ecosia.org/>

Earth Echo's Virtual Events: <https://www.earthecho.org/virtual-events>

How you can celebrate virtually

- Take a Virtual Tour:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/search/streetview?project=national-park-service>
- Participate in the Earth day running challenge:
<https://www.thevirtualrunchallenge.com/virtual-race-event/earth-day-24901-mile-challenge/>
- Downloading the **Earth Challenge 2020** app, you'll help gather critical environmental data near your area, providing scientists and other "citizen scientists" with research to help maintain a cleaner planet:
<https://www.earthday.org/actions/join-earth-challenge-2020/>





Celebrate Virtually

- Register and participate for a digital Event:
<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/#map>
- On Earth Day, the Earth Day Network is organizing 24 hours of "global digital mobilization" called Earthrise. Read about and see how you can act here:
<https://www.earthday.org/coronavirus-drives-digital-striking-movement/>
- Spread the message on social media with #earthday
- Volunteer at an Environmental Organization
- Listen to the Minimalist podcast:
<https://www.theminimalists.com/podcast/>
- Grow an Avocado tree from the Avocado Pit:
<https://inhabitat.com/how-to-grow-an-avocado-tree-from-an-avocado-pit/>

Make easy lifestyle changes to Celebrate

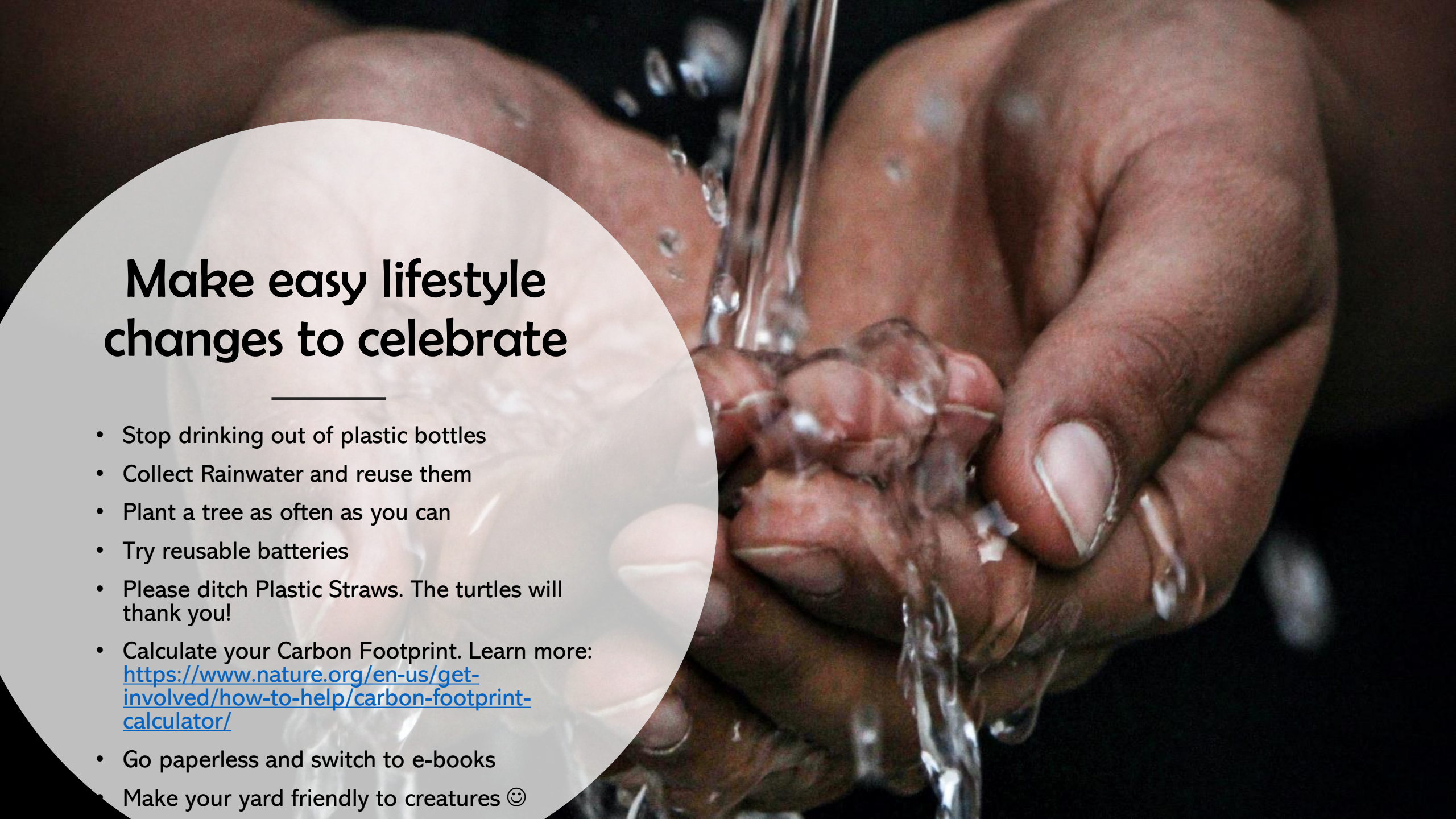
- Turn the Faucet Off and save 8 gallons of water per day
- Unplug Appliances When Not In Use and save tons of energy
- Wash Laundry in Cold Water as 90% of washing machine energy goes to heating water
- Shop mindfully with natural Eco-Friendly Household Products. Look for “Green” and reusable when shopping
- Invest in a bidet. The toilet paper industry cuts down 15 million trees.



Make easy lifestyle changes to celebrate

- Use a cloth towel instead of a paper towel
- Bring a reusable cup to your coffee shop
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator
- Give your home a simple green makeover with energy efficient light bulbs
- Add plants to your home, they help regulate temperature and look good





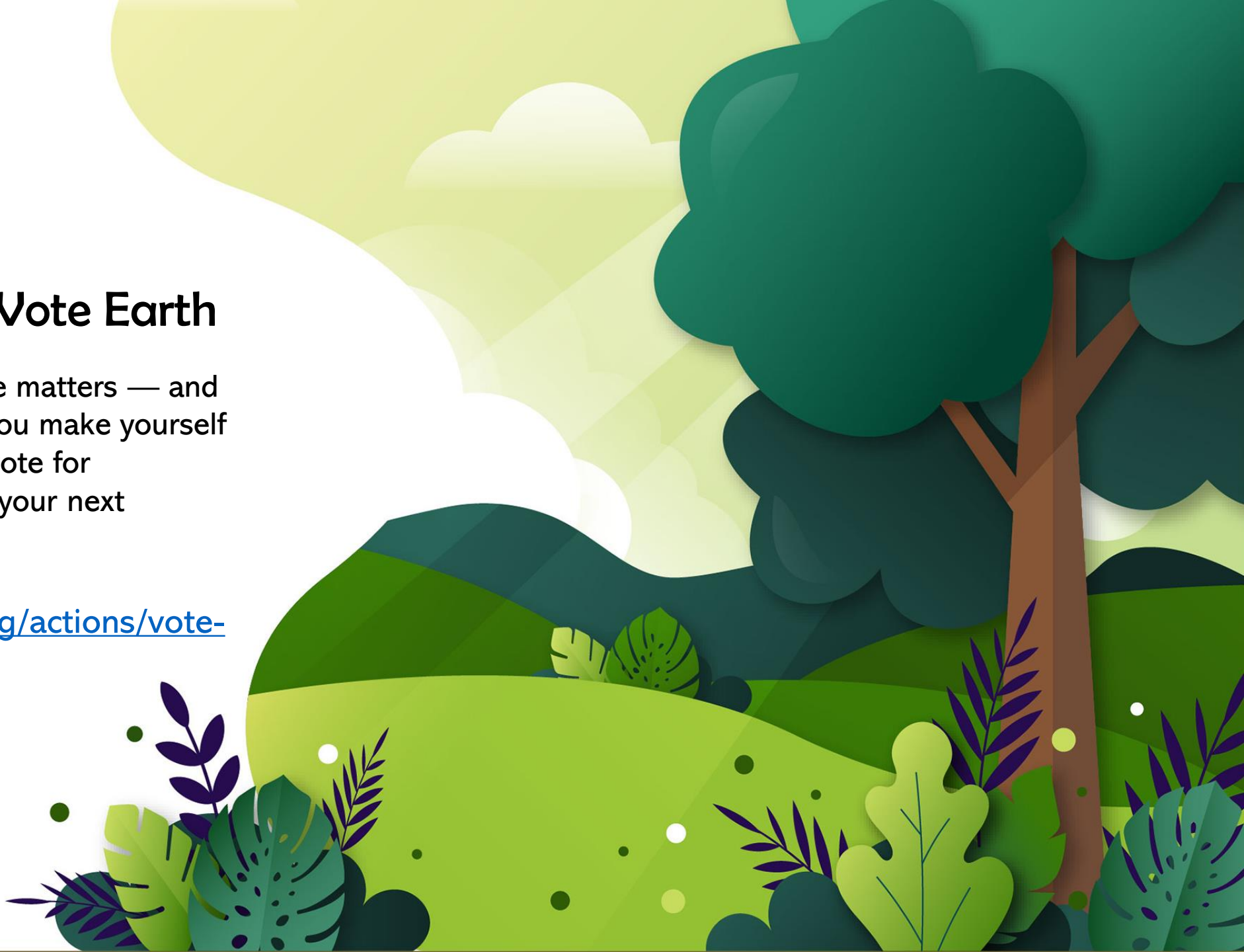
Make easy lifestyle changes to celebrate

- Stop drinking out of plastic bottles
- Collect Rainwater and reuse them
- Plant a tree as often as you can
- Try reusable batteries
- Please ditch Plastic Straws. The turtles will thank you!
- Calculate your Carbon Footprint. Learn more: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
- Go paperless and switch to e-books
- Make your yard friendly to creatures 😊

Finally Pledge to Vote Earth

In a democracy, every voice matters — and things only change when you make yourself heard. Will you pledge to vote for environmental progress in your next election?

<https://www.earthday.org/actions/vote-earth-u-s/>





CONCLUSION

This year is no different from any other.

We care about preserving our planet more than ever!

We should also consider not just recognizing the importance of living sustainable lives on this one day, but we should think about conservation and sustainability each and every day of our lives.

Save the turtles! Save the Planet! Have a fantastic Earth Day!