

Friday Facts:



Celebrate Earth Day 2008!

April 22nd is a day when people all over the planet take a moment to celebrate and learn about our environment. The first Earth Day took place nearly 40 years ago in 1970. Over 20 million people participated that year. Today, Earth Day is observed by more than 500 million people in 175 countries. Get involved by doing your part to make a difference and participate in one of the many events taking place across Kansas.

5 Things You Can Do to Help:

- 1. Recycle everything you can.** Find recycling centers near you by visiting www.kansasbirp.com.
- 2. Cut back on disposables.** Bring your own mug to Starbucks or your local coffee house. You could get a discount (10% at Starbucks), and it's one less disposable cup that will end up in a landfill. Save money and cut back on the 860 million water bottles that are thrown away each week by investing in a reusable water bottle. Switch to reusable cups and dishes at home and work too.
- 3. Say no to plastic bags.** Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags a year. Next time you shop, opt for a reusable bag. These can be purchased at your local Dillons, Walmart, or Price Chopper for around \$1 each. You will reduce pollution and save energy. The amount of oil it would take to make just 14 plastic bags would run your car for one mile. Learn more about the plastic bag issue at www.ReusableBags.com.
- 4. Save water.** Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full. Take shorter showers and consider investing in a low flow showerhead. You'll save fossil fuels by using less hot water and reduce your utility bills too.
- 5. Become involved in the Green Team at your school or work.** Visit the [Kansas Green Teams](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org) (www.kansasgreenteams.org) website to learn how.

Earth Day Events Across the State

Topeka

Environmental Collage at Landon Arena

Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Waste Management (BWM), Stan Herd will create a enormous environmental awareness collage, constructed of the more than 20,000 previously submitted entries of the annual BWM 'Kansas Don't Spoil It' calendar contest. The collage will be completed on the floor of Landon Arena in Topeka's Expocentre. As Herd works to complete the collage, a time-lapse video camera will record every movement in preparation to post a video of the process to You Tube on April 22nd. The collage can be viewed by the public from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Earth Day, the 22nd. For more information and to view the You Tube link, see www.getcaughtrecycling.org.

Topeka Zoo

The Topeka Zoo will host an Earth Day Celebration on April 19th from 9a.m. to 4:30p.m. Visitors will be able to learn more about being more earth friendly from a variety of information stations through out the Zoo. There will be activities for the children including: create your own toad abode (for the first 300 kids), craft activities, art projects, and give always from Peace Frogs company. For more information contact Mike Coker at 368-9180.

City of Topeka Compost Facility

City of Topeka Composting, located at I-70 and Macvicar will give away free mulch the week of April 21-25. The public is also invited to drop off yard waste for free on Saturday April 26th. For more information contact Adam Moser at (785) 368-3762.

Lawrence

Celebration in South Park

The Lawrence Earth Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 19, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at South Park at 11th & Massachusetts. The event will feature live street music, food, children's activities, and informational exhibits about waste reduction, recycling, composting, alternative fuels, energy conservation, wildlife and habitat preservation, and more. For more information, please call 785-832-3030 or send an email to recycling@ci.lawrence.ks.us.

Parade for the Earth

The parade will start Saturday, April 19, 11:00 a.m. and will go from Buford Watson Park to South Park along Massachusetts Street. For more information call (785) 864-7325.

Wichita

Green Energy Panel Discussion

Kansas Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson plans to take part in a panel discussion titled "Green Energy Options in Kansas," on Earth Day at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. The event will be held at

Wichita State University in 209 Hubbard Hall. For more information, contact Rich Green, president, WSU Green Group, (316) 685-3995.

Environmental Fair for Kids and Classrooms

The Sedgwick County Zoo will host a free environmental fair with hands-on activities and interactive exhibits for students grades 3 through 5 on April 22 from 9:00 to 2:00 pm. Students will learn about pollution, endangered species, emergency preparedness, weather, the 3R's, and much more. For more information call (316) 942-3781.

Salina

Rolling Hills Refuge Party for the Planet

On April 19th from 12:00 to 4:00 pm Rolling Hills Refuge will host a Party for the Planet featuring games, activities, and Earth friendly informational booths. Bring a used cell phone to recycle and get 10% of admission price. For more information call (785) 827-9488.

Lakewood Discovery Center Earth Day Celebration

The Lakewood Discovery Center is providing a day of environmental learning and activities for 3rd graders Friday April 18th. Contact Bill Gaskill at (785) 826-7335.

For more information about Earth Day, visit www.kansasgreenteams.org.

