



*Exploring * Enjoying * Protecting Our Planet*

April 2020 Newsletter

The Piedmont Plateau Group (PPG) addresses climate and environmental justice concerns in the counties of Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Richmond and Montgomery Counties.

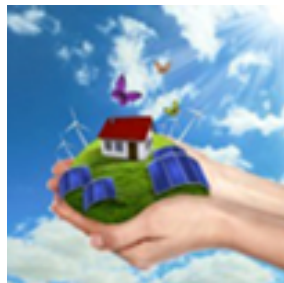
Earth Day, Every Day Message

The Covid-19 Pandemic has fundamentally changed the way we celebrate Earth Day in 2020. As the 50th anniversary of Earth Day passed by without big in-person celebrations due in part to mandated social distancing policies around the country, we realized that while we were protecting ourselves and families, we were actually **protecting our planet**. Most of us were changing our lifestyles, working from home, traveling less or not at all, and shopping differently. Many of us were connecting with nature, by hiking, walking and gardening. It was wonderful to see children outside playing in their yards, enjoying the clear sky and reconnecting with their parents and siblings.

Our biggest accomplishment during the past eight weeks, is that we significantly reduced our carbon emissions! Plus, we gained plenty of opportunities to live sustainably! There seems to be only one thing that has been certain during these uncertain times: we and our planet thrive when we simplify our lifestyles. In other words, when we go “green” and become conscientious consumers, we get in sync with the times and the world around us.

This is the perfect time for remembering the 12 R's for Reducing our Carbon Footprint:
Request Renewable Energy * Refuse * Reduce * Reconnect * Replenish * Respect
*** Rethink * Recycle * Restore * Retrain * Resist * Remember!**

Let's celebrate Earth Day, every day!



Let's Protect our Planet & Everyone's Health

Let's....

Refuse to purchase new products that operate on oil, gasoline or natural gas

Reduce usage of Oil and Gasoline

- * Walk or ride bicycles, golf carts and mass transportation or car pool
- * Turn grassy lawns into natural areas; plant non-mowing ground covers and trees!
- * Reduce drive/fly time; vacation locally until electric vehicles and energy efficient airplanes are readily available

Refuse to purchase highly toxic chemical & petroleum-based products

- * Buy or make chemical-free pesticides, lawn fertilizers, weed killers
- * Make household cleaners with vinegar, borax and lemon juice
- * Petition distributors/retailers to tell them to stop selling plastic bags and harmful chemical products, including bee-killing pesticides/insecticides

Refuse to purchase chemical or oil-based Styrofoam and plastic bottles, cups, containers, bags and aluminum cans (Toxins from these products leach into the contents and contaminate the soil, air, streams, aquifers and oceans where they're disposed, discarded or held for recycling.)

- * Use reusable baskets, cloth bags and glass containers, jars and bottles that do not leach or contaminate!

Refuse to purchase conventionally grown foods that are sprayed with chemicals or grown with GMOs

- * Purchase and/or grow organic or chemical-free foods ONLY & compost all fruit and vegetable scraps

Refuse to purchase cosmetics, clothing, cleaning supplies, laundry detergents, plastic toys, sweeteners, food preservatives, food additives & many other products that are made with chemicals and oil

- * Check the label; if chemicals or petroleum are listed, DON'T BUY IT!
- * Purchase natural, toxic-free products ONLY or make your own!

Refuse to purchase new products that are shipped cross-country and from other countries to reduce shipping fuels

- * Shop locally & purchase reusable items or locally made products

Rethink employment and investments:

- * Avoid investing time, energy and money in polluting companies and banks owned by the fossil fuel giants; join credit unions and invest in "green" and socially conscious businesses and cooperatives.

LET'S BE CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMERS

Strive for a Zero Carbon Footprint with Zero Emissions and Zero Wastes

North Carolina Chapter Sierra Club News

The [North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club](#) advocates across the state from the mountains to the coast, and in our capitol, for a clean, healthy North Carolina. The chapter has more than 100,000 members and supporters and 12 local groups across the state.

Since 1970, the North Carolina Sierra Club has worked to protect natural areas, ensure clean air and water for all citizens, expand access to clean energy, and much more across our state. Learn more about the major issues for the state chapter at www.sierraclub.org/north-carolina/issues

While the country is reeling from the pandemic, Big Oil & Gas are trying to gobble up giant swaths of public lands and waters on the cheap and push through massive new extraction projects. Demand the Department of the Interior stop the sale of all public lands and waters. [Sign the Petition here!](#)

Raleigh: After a thorough review and public participation process, the NC Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has approved the closure plans detailing the excavation of coal ash impoundments at three Duke Energy facilities. Learn more at: [Coal Ash Excavation](#)
