

Actions for Earth Month



1. **Get Outdoors for Earth Month:** Take your family or friends outdoors to enjoy a program at one of our beautiful State Parks; click on [program calendar](#). Pre-register to attend Durham's drive-in [Earth Day Celebration](#) on April 24. Take photos of local wildlife to contribute to biodiversity research; click on [City Nature Challenge](#) or simply be outdoors in a way you enjoy!

2. **Tell NC Utilities Commission to reject Duke's 15-year plans,** as VA and SC have recently rejected utility plans. A coalition of environmental and social justice groups finds the plans fail to meet NC's climate/energy targets and continues past injustices. To make a difference, contact [ECO](#) (reference Duke) for information and special email directions.

3. **Help stop Dakota Access and Mountain Valley Pipelines:** The opposition to the pipelines in Minnesota (DAPL) and West Virginia (MVP) says that the pipelines contribute to the climate crisis, cause environmental degradation, and, in MN, also desecrate sacred sites for indigenous peoples. To support efforts to stop the building of these pipelines, click on [Dakota Access Pipeline \(DAPL\)](#) and [Mountain Valley Pipeline \(MVP\)](#).

4. **Explore Biden's Climate Justice Plans:** We'll read the two documents posted pre-election, along with a few other sources, in small doses across the month and discuss our thoughts with other church members via Zoom, 7-8:30 pm for 4 Thursdays, Apr 8, 15, 22 (Earth Day!) and 29. Each session stands alone. Contact [ECO](#) for Biden materials and Zoom link.

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5. **Send President Biden a postcard NOW** to demonstrate broad popularity of carbon pricing before his climate announcement on April 22. You can send an electronic postcard or scroll down for information to send a physical postcard by clicking on [Postcards for the President](#).

6. **Support Native Wildlife:** Thinking of the birds and bees? Find a wealth of one-time and over-time things your family might do in your yard to support wildlife from bees to birds and more. Even little changes make a big difference in a short time. Plant a [nectar-producing \(NE\) plant](#). Provide nesting for the [brown-headed nuthatch](#); [help other birds of local concern](#). Support national [Monarch butterfly efforts](#). Reduce [negative environmental impacts of a yard](#). Learn a new approach, our [yards as homegrown national parks](#).

7. **Learn about Electric Vehicles** at a [Drive Electric Earth Day event](#), a nationwide celebration with virtual and limited in-person events to raise awareness of the many environmental benefits of replacing your gas-powered car with an all-electric or hybrid car, truck, or motorcycle. Used electric cars, as well as new cars, are available locally; see information about various makes and models at [Plug in America](#).

8. **Break the Biomass Industry's Hold on NC:** Biomass sounds great for replacing fossil fuels but clear-cutting is resulting in deforestation here in North Carolina and putting more greenhouse gases in the air. [Sign a petition to Governor Cooper](#) and learn more about the issues and how to oppose industrial logging at [Dogwood Alliance](#).

9. **Support Climate Justice in Agriculture:** Join this UU effort, WriteHereWriteNow (WHWN) by emailing our US Senators **before April 21** to support specific legislation that would make progress on both climate change and historic racial injustice in agriculture. Email [ECO](#) for the handout and instructions.

10. **Explore issues around capturing methane resulting from hog farms:** This process is intended as a solution for this potent greenhouse gas from these industrial settings. Is it in NC? In Jan2021 the NC DEQ granted an air permit to Align RNG (joint effort of Dominion Energy and Smithfield Foods) for a processing facility; 19 hog farms await water permits. Click on an [EPA overview](#), [NC Policy Watch](#) review, [Southern Env. Law Center](#) filing and [NC Environmental Justice Network](#) for the historic impact of hog farms, mostly on communities of color.

Happy Earth Month! Let us know if you take one or more actions by emailing [ECO](#).