

EnviroTips: Simple Steps. Big Impact.

January - Spend Time In Nature. Schedule specific times in your calendar every month in 2019 to visit parks, gardens, and nature sites throughout the year and make reservations and plans with others to confirm the dates; make a monthly donation to an environmental group.

February - Manage Your Waste. Notice plastic packaging and single-use plastic (bags, straws, and Styrofoam) and eliminate as much as you can.

March - Nurture Compassion. Mulch or compost last autumn's leaves; install birdhouses; fill bird feeders; spend time in nature and notice what plants are emerging; install rain barrels or a rain garden at home.

April - Actively Green the Planet. Plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers from your favorite chemical-free nursery, install birdbaths and frog houses; celebrate Earth Day with others. Your score is doubled when you take classes about the environment and volunteer with an environmental group.

May - Manage Your Waste. Begin composting food waste (not as hard as you think). Double kudos if you volunteer at a food pantry!

June - Actively Green the Planet & Nurture Compassion. Grow chemical-free vegetables and create a sacrificial garden for nuisance insects; buy local and organic produce; use reusable bags (NOT plastic) at your farmer's market & grocery store.

July - Choose Who You Give Your Money To. Read labels on packaged foods re: source of ingredients, chemical use, fair trade, humanely raised, compostable, recyclable, and social impact. Does the company give back to others?

August - Manage Your Waste. Notice what's in your trash and commit to eliminating half of it; study the list of items you can take to Scraps KC or other resale shops and start a box of interesting stuff to donate; buy something at a resale shop.

September - Actively Green the Planet & Spend Time in Nature. Plant early-blooming native wildflowers among spring bulbs; gather seeds of native plants to share with friends; take a family portrait in the woods.

October - Nurture Compassion & Spend Time in Nature. Leave your leaves (do not mow or burn leaves until spring); install a solar water heater in the birdbath; gather an autumn basket of nature from your yard to take indoors for the winter.

November - Nurture Compassion & Actively Green the Planet. Keep bird feeders full; create overwintering shelters like brush piles; research plant lists for a new pollinator garden or native trees or shrubs to purchase next spring; attend a class about the environment.

December - Choose Who You Give Your Money To & Manage Your Waste. Shop for the holidays with the planet in mind by giving gifts that offer a nature experience; use natural/compostable gift wrap; buy a real tree to plant in your yard next spring; make as large a donation as you can to an environmental group that is reforesting the planet.

