

THE UP CYCLE

Messiah University's Office of Sustainability
Official Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Service Day

April 4 | Grantham Community
Garden

Sustainability 4x4

Thursdays in Kline 108

Lisburn Road Clean Up

April 20th | 9am



Earth Day History

By: Hanna Ryon, Communications Coordinator

This year, we celebrate the 54th annual Earth Day! Earth Day, April 22nd, is a joyful time to celebrate all the goodness within the earth, so it is only right we all know a little more about how this day came about!

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22nd, 1970 across the nation. Senator Gaylord Nelson pushed for events that included trash clean ups, wildlife rehabilitation, and habitat restoration. He was fed up that some of his colleagues had contributed to policies that degraded the precious environment. It really shows that anyone really can make a difference!

People turned their eyes towards environmental degradation after Rachel Carson (Pittsburgh native!) published her book, *Silent Spring*, which spread the word about the use of DDT. She published this book in 1962, which helped bring awareness to agricultural and air pollution.

After the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in July of 1970, the United States turned its eye towards environmental health and safety. This was manifested through integral legislation - the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Both of these federal pieces of legislation protect necessary that sustain life here on earth.

To this day, Earth Day is a nationwide opportunity to engage in learning, volunteer work, and advocacy. There are some nearby and across central Pennsylvania. Be sure to get outside and help out your earth!

EARTH DAY

How to Talk About Environmental Justice

By: Téa Parris, Engagement Coordinator

America has a long history of oppression and environmental racism. Environmental racism is discrimination that can be found within policy and regulation within environmental action. To mediate the problems of environmental racism, the grassroots movement of environmental justice emerged which is based on the idea that communities should have the right to not be disproportionately affected by pollution. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This would include the engagement and education of those that are being affected by environmental racism.

Environmental justice is essential for achieving long-term environmental sustainability. By addressing environmental injustices and promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities, we can build more resilient and environmentally sustainable communities. By ensuring that all voices are heard and all perspectives are considered, we can develop more effective and inclusive strategies for protecting the planet for future generations. Overall, environmental justice is crucial for creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world where all individuals and communities can thrive. This Earth Month, remember the communities who are struggling for equity in the places that are supposed to feel the safest.



Growing Outdoor Recreation for Pennsylvania

By: Hanna Ryon, Communications Coordinator



As we get closer and closer to warmer weather, all I want to do is spend time outdoors. Whether it is sitting on the Union Patio to do my homework, eat lunch outside, or go for a walk on the Fitness Trail – the outdoors has always been my place to de-stress. This, as well as skiing, hiking, hunting, canoeing, and so many more activities, are all outdoor recreation. Anytime that you spend outdoors is beneficial for your health and if done correctly, the environmental health as well.



This past summer, Pennsylvania established the Office of Outdoor Recreation, which works to connect the outdoor recreation economy to Pennsylvanians as well as motivate individuals towards ethical and just experiences in nature.



Outdoor recreation contributes over \$17 billion in GDP to the economy, according to the 2022 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. It is incredibly apparent that outdoor recreation in PA is vital to economic and personal wellness across the state. Some areas lift up outdoor recreation very well, making it an integral part of community culture.

Since, the Office of Outdoor Recreation has designated an Outdoor Business Alliance, inspiring Pennsylvanians to fully utilize the businesses that sell outdoor gear and the creatives who advertise the outdoors in the state.



None of this would be possible without Governor Shapiro and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Sources: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GoodNatured/Pages/blog.aspx?Page=3>

<https://www.pawildcenter.org/blog/leverage-growing-outdoor-recreation-economy/>