

- [Home Category](#)
- [Environment & Nature](#)
- Earth Day celebration calls for practical ways to help heal the planet

Earth Day celebration calls for practical ways to help heal the planet

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With today's commemoration of the 50th year of Earth Day, environmental group EcoWaste Coalition on Wednesday expressed ways that would address both the novel coronavirus disease (novel COVID-19) and the climate crisis.

"There are many practical ways we can help Mother Earth heal from waste, pollution, and destruction while we struggle to control and beat the dreaded new coronavirus," said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

She cited the acts of kindness and solidarity in the midst of the COVID-19 scare as among the prevalent traits seen in this health crisis.

"We've been seeing throughout the COVID-19 lockdown that the small and big changes we make in the way we treat, care for, and defend our environment have the potential of spreading on a large scale, starting with our families and communities," she added.

The Quezon City based group cited the following ways "to give back to Mother Earth amid the COVID-19 upsurge and the climate crisis'."

Get started with a zero waste lifestyle as you stay at home to stem the spread of COVID-19; know and cut back on what you throw away starting with single-use plastics that are designed and made to be disposed of after quick use; use your spending power to prevent and reduce the volume and toxicity of what you buy and discard during the COVID-19 enhanced community quarantine such as by picking non-toxic products with less packaging; segregate discards at source, and make composting of food waste and other organics a habit; plunge into home composting and gardening during the lockdown; properly dispose of used face masks, gloves, tissues, wipes, and other potentially infectious waste with care to ensure the safety of waste workers and to prevent the spillage of such waste into the beaches and the oceans, which can harm aquatic life and advocate for the enforcement of environmental and health laws and regulations from "no littering" to "no COVID-19 waste disposal in incinerators and crematories," making sure your voice is heard, for example, through social media.

EcoWaste Coalition also noted that home-based composting and gardening is a "simple yet a most meaningful way of giving back to Mother Earth'."

"From my experience at home, composting biodegradable waste using simple methods and finding ways of growing veggies and herbs even in small places make me feel that these are among the ways I can do my share. Each minute I care for the earth in mini ways I dedicate to the healing of everyone and our dear Mother Earth," remarked Eileen Sison, president, EcoWaste Coalition.

The group also echoed the global call for climate action as well as for socially-just and sustainable solutions to the pandemic.

“The coronavirus pandemic does not shut us down. Instead, it reminds us of what’s at stake in our fight for the planet,” as stated at the Earth Day Network.

“If we don’t demand change to transform our planet and meet our climate crisis, our current state will become the new normal — a world where pandemics and extreme weather events span the globe, leaving already marginalized and vulnerable communities even more at risk,” the global network ended.

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/22/earth-day-celebration-calls-for-practical-ways-to-help-heal-the-planet/>