

Energy City Insights – Celebrate Earth Day!

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, as a way to teach students about important topics related to the earth and environmental protection. By the 1990s, Earth Day expanded internationally and today it is celebrated in over 190 countries with numerous coordinated events. Spend some time this week appreciating our earth and doing something beneficial for the planet.

Get Outside

A simple and effective way to appreciate Earth Day is to spend some time outside! Consider cleaning up litter while you go for a walk or add native plants to your yard. Perhaps explore adding pollinator friendly plants to your landscaping to promote habitat and food for bees and butterflies. Take the [University of Minnesota's survey](#) and find out how your backyard measures up on plants, habitats and green-gardening practices that benefit bees and other pollinators!

Reduce Your Waste

Buy a reusable item that you will actually use! Reduce the amount of waste you generate by utilizing items such as reusable shopping bags, water bottles, coffee mugs and even straws. Consider buying items made from recycled material to really increase your earth-friendly impact.

Become A Better Recycler

Recycling is a simple way to reduce waste, but make sure you are recycling properly. Plastic bags, cords, batteries, and electronics can NOT go in your curbside recycling. Download the city's [Recycle Coach app](#) for tips about recycling and a customized schedule for your recycling (and trash) collection.

Save Water and Energy (and Money!)

Conserving water and energy at home benefits the planet and can reduce your bills. Remember to turn off the water when brushing your teeth, take showers instead of baths and fix any leaking faucets. Reduce your energy use by unplugging items you do not regularly use, utilize natural light and set your thermostat back when you're away from home.

Get Involved in Elk River

Attend Spring Clean Up Day this week on Saturday, April 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Maintenance Facility. Dispose of your unwanted household items like appliances, electronics, tires, mattresses and more. More details including pricing and specific items can be [found online](#).

Visit the [Farmers Market](#) this summer! The markets are held every Thursday, mid-June through early October from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Park Plaza parking lot downtown Elk River.