

After an extremely challenging year, it's time to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our planet for Earth Day on April 22nd. With a full month filled with several events, Sustainable Shenandoah Valley has created a comprehensive calendar of Earth Day events across the county, both in-person and virtual. Come join us and some of our community partners at any of these events to make this Earth Day one for the books. Make sure to also visit Sustainable Shenandoah Valley at our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), tag us in all of your Earth Day adventures and use #EarthDayVirginia so we can connect across the state!

1. In-Person Events

- a. **4/10 (10-11am)** - Join Harrisonburg Public Works for a Blacks Run Clean-up Day & Arbor Day Tree Planting Event! View the Facebook Event [here](#) and pre-register with this [link](#)!
- b. **4/24 (1-3pm)** - [Growing a Cleaner, Greener New Market](#): The in-person event will be held in the New Market Community Park, where we will have a fun scavenger hunt, activities, giveaways, tree planting and more.
- c. **4/22 (5-6pm)** - Reflecting on Earth Day: Join a time of reflection at Purcell Park (41 Monument Ave, Harrisonburg) with others to consider our relationship to the earth, to give grateful thoughts for what we love and cherish and how we want to see the future unfold
- d. **4/22 (3-5pm)** - Earth Fest Event @ James Madison University: Come visit 6 information tables demonstrating how to help "Restore Our Earth," with an info session from Earth Day Every Day and social media Q&As from Bluestone Communications. At the end, the JMU Spirit Rock will be painted!

2. Virtual Events

- a. **4/13 (2-3pm)** - Join [The Environmental Resilience Institute](#) and their co-sponsor: [UVA Lifetime Learning](#) for a discussion panel on climate justice. Free registration [HERE!](#)
- b. **4/14 (7-8pm)** - There can be no climate justice without gender equality. Join Susan Kruse, Executive Director of the Community Climate Collaborative, for her discussion on [The Power of Women to Impact the Climate Crisis](#)
- c. **4/18 (3-4:30pm)** - [Greener Than Grass: A Sustainable Landscaping Workshop](#): Turfgrass is America's #1 crop...yet has no ecological value whatsoever. Learn to landscape more sustainably, replacing your lawn with no-mow alternatives that offer food and beauty to pollinators, wildlife, you, and your family. This will be a virtual workshop, with time for Q & A.
- d. **4/19 (7-8pm)** - Find out [What's Up With Recycling?](#), a panel discussion with the ultimate experts: Patrick Felling, Director of Solid Waste, Shenandoah County; Michael Neese, Recycling Manager, City of Winchester; Gloria Puffinburger, Director of Solid Waste, Frederick County.
- e. **4/22 (1-4pm)** - [The Earth Day Sustainable Business Summit](#): three one-hour discussions with Sarah Cohen (Route 11 Potato Chips), Randy Andes (Randy's

Hardware)/Jon Henry (Jon Henry General Store) and Cara Mroczek & Shane Waller (Star in the Valley Estate Winery) and David & Lynn St. Clair (Swover Creek Farm Brewery); informally moderated and with plenty of time for audience questions. Stick around after 4 pm to join us for networking!

- f. **4/25 (12-7pm) [The Blue Ridge Virtual Eco Fair](#)** will harness the power of technology to present clear information and inspiration to help participants acquire the skills they need to make changes in their own lifestyles and to become creative problem solvers, focusing on strategies for energy conservation, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and simple living
- g. **4/29 (7-8pm)** - Watch *Kiss the Ground* on your own time and join for a panel discussion about the film! Register [here](#) for the event now!

3. Month Long Events

- a. **Art Contest (deadline April 16th)** entries should be sent to earthdaycontestharrisonburg@gmail.com and may be in any media, including but not limited to: music, poetry/prose, dance and visual arts. music, spoken word and dance submissions should be no longer than two minutes, and visual art submissions should be no larger than 2x3'
- b. **Shenandoah Green Poetry Contest** - Write an original poem based on this year's themes: "RESTORE THE EARTH" or "TREES" (max word count: 250 words, all fits on one page). Entries are due by **Midnight, April 30, 2021**. Guidelines to the contest and where to submit can be found [here](#) and the flyer for the event is also on [Shenandoah Green's website!](#)
- c. Join in Shenandoah Green's month-long family-friendly **Earth Day scavenger hunt** using the app, **"ActionBound,"** as your personal guide to our mostly outdoor city-wide, month-long Earth Day celebration, and as a fun and educational challenge for everyone to complete at their own pace, and on their own schedule
- d. **[Auction for the Earth:](#)** An auction dedicated to fundraising for a new pilot program, Backyard Food Bank (mentoring food insecure families through growing their own veggies). The auction will have a lot of fun prizes - all experiences - like a VIP Tour of the Route 11 Chips factory, a Wild Edibles Walk, a coffee roasting class & pastry pairing, etc.