



# EARTH DAY

## Challenge 2024

MARCH 12 - MAY 3

### THIS EARTH DAY, INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS TO TAKE ACTION!

Don't miss this exciting and FREE opportunity for middle and high school students to develop their leadership and project management skills while learning about topics like air quality, water and more! Learn more [HERE!](#)



## SIGN UP TODAY

**Click here** or scan the QR code to register and a team member will share the challenge portal with you. **Please register by April 5.**

## STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"Encouraging people to join this challenge would help them start on their journey to making this world a better place."  
- Challenge Participant from Rosemead High School student

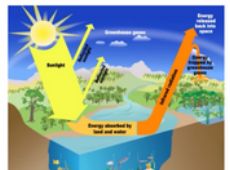


Comic Book created by Abraham Lincoln HS student.

**Air Quality**

There are many things that make up our air. While the air we breathe mainly consists of Nitrogen (78%) and Oxygen (21%), **greenhouse gases** (CO<sub>2</sub>) are also found in our atmosphere such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Greenhouse gases trap infrared radiation in the atmosphere which causes the Earth's surface temperature to warm. This phenomenon is called the **greenhouse effect**. While we need some levels of greenhouse gases to maintain a hospitable climate for life on Earth, too much of these gases can cause an overabundance of heat to become trapped within our atmosphere. Increasing concentrations of GHGs, produced by human activities, over a short period of time are amplifying the Greenhouse Effect in the atmosphere, leading to rising global temperatures. It is important to note that excess greenhouse gas emissions come mainly from wealthy individuals and high-income countries, while the impacts will mainly be felt by those least responsible for these emissions.

Similarly, some pollutants are naturally in our air, but too much can be harmful to human health. **Air Pollutants** are any compounds that, in high enough concentrations, can be harmful to human or environmental health. Volcanoes, factories, industrial agriculture, and combusting fossil fuels to produce electricity or power transportation vehicles are all sources of air pollution. Air pollutants can come in the form of gases, liquids, solid particles, or droplets. For example, acid rain is any form of precipitation that is unusually acidic due to air pollution and can have harmful effects on plants and wildlife. Similar to most environmental issues, it is important to recognize that the burden of poor air quality and health complications disproportionately affects communities of color and low income.



**The Greenhouse Effect** traps heat from the sun. Solar energy is absorbed into land and water, and is re-emitted as infrared radiation into space. Part of this energy is reflected back toward Earth by greenhouse gases.

**READY TO USE CURRICULUM**

You will have access to student facing activities, a Challenge Guide, and a Challenge Advisor from our team!

This challenge is funded by grants from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Edison International®, and sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.



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## HELP MAKE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

This Earth Day, don't miss this exciting opportunity to inspire your community and develop your leadership skills as you plan and carry out a sustainability campaign!



### RUN A CAMPAIGN

Learn how people have impacted areas of our environment such as air and water, and then use that knowledge to launch a campaign around a topic you are passionate about. Inspire your community to join your cause!  
**Learn more [HERE!](#)**



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### WIN BIG!

Receive a Sustainability Specialist Certificate and the top campaign will win \$1000 for their school, class, or club to continue supporting their sustainability efforts!



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