**Environmental Awareness Calendar 2021**

JANUARY

**Veganuary**

For the whole month of January try to eat only vegan food. Each year thousands sign up to take part and many permanently go vegan afterwards. Everybody is being advised to eat less meat and dairy for your health and to reduce your carbon footprint, so veganuary is a great way to explore new meal ideas.

[**Big Schools Birdwatch**](https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/)

**6th January.** The RSPB organises the big schools birdwatch to help educators ‘turn their pupils into conservationists’ (assuming this will happen on 6th January).

[**Big Garden Birdwatch**](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/)

**29th – 31st January.** Linked with the Big Schools Birdwatch, the Big Garden Birdwatch is asking you to spend an hour noting down every bird that you see in your garden, in a local park or from your balcony. All you need to do then is contact the RSPB and let them know what you saw.

FEBRUARY

[**Fair Trade Fortnight**](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight)

**from 22nd February to 7th March.** There are many ways you can get involved in Fair Trade Fortnight, from joining an online festival to spreading the word on social media. “For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.”

MARCH

[**The Great British Spring Clean**](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean)

Organised by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, The Great British Spring Clean is going ahead in 2021 but no date has yet been specified. However, you can still pledge to do a clean-up. Join a group to go [litter picking](https://greenecofriend.co.uk/litter-picking/) or just go and clean up your local area yourself.

APRIL

[**Earth Day**](https://www.earthday.org/)

**22nd April.** The Earth Day Network works around the world to work towards changing things for the better when it comes to: Climate Action, Science and Education, People and Communities, Conservation and Restoration and Plastic and Pollution.

MAY

[**No Mow May**](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/take-part-in-the-no-mow-may-challenge)

For the whole month of May don’t mow your lawn! “Changing your mowing routine and allowing plants to flower can create enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. You’re also more likely to spot a greater variety of flowers popping up in your garden.”

[**International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)**](https://www.compostfoundation.org/ICAW/ICAW-Home)

**from 2nd May**. “International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), has continued to grow as more people, businesses, municipalities, schools and organizations are recognizing the importance of composting and the long-term benefits from organics recycling. The goal of the program is to raise the awareness of the public regarding the benefits of using compost. The program includes a poster contest in the fall and activities and events held during the week in May.”

[**Walk to School Week**](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week)

**from 17th May.** Walk to School Week is primarily to promote healthy habits in primary school aged children. But one of the major benefits of walking to school is the reduction in air and noise pollution from all those cars taking their children to school. Walk to School Week “is a fun and engaging week-long activity, raising awareness and celebrating walking for all.”

[**World Bee Day**](https://worldbeeday.org/en/)

**20th May.** I hope that by now everyone is aware of how important bees are and how we need to do much more to protect them. “In addition to being one of the major pollinators, thus ensuring food and food security, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, bees significantly contribute to the mitigation of climate change and environmental conservation. In the long-term, the protection of bees and the beekeeping sector can help reduce poverty and hunger, as well as preserve a healthy environment and biodiversity. Scientific studies have proven that bees have become increasingly endangered. It is only through joint efforts that we can ensure the protection of bees and their habitats.”

[**Every Flower Counts**](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/)

**TBA.** The specific date has not yet been announced for 2021. Every flower counts is linked with PlantLifes #NoMowMay campaign. “When it comes to providing vital nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects, every flower counts. And your lawn can help provide that feast. The more flowers you have in your lawn the more nectar will be produced. If you’ve taken part in #NoMowMay, #LetItBloomJune or not mown at all this year, you’re likely to have many wild flowers and lots more nectar.”

[**World Turtle Day**](https://www.worldturtleday.org/)

**23rd May.** “The day was created as an annual observance to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.”

[**National Children’s Gardening Week**](https://www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk/)

**from 29th May – 6th June.** Get your children or grandchildren interested in the garden and invested in nature. “Children love growing plants, love being in the garden but they’re often impatient, wanting to see instant results. National Children’s Gardening Week aims to capture children’s enthusiasm at a time when results are immediate. National Children’s Gardening Week takes place annually in the ‘warm’ week at the end of May.”

[**Bike Week**](https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek)

**from 30th May.** We need more people to cycle rather than use their cars so I think this is a great event to include on this environmental awareness calendar. “Bike Week, delivered by Cycling UK, is an annual celebration to showcase cycling. Thousands of people all over the UK enjoy the simple pleasure of riding a bike.”

JUNE

[**30 Days Wild**](https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1)

The whole month of June is ’30 Days Wild’. 30 Days Wild was created by The Wildlife Trusts to help everyone be more connected with nature by doing something wild every day. When you sign up you’re sent a digital pack with ideas.

**Let It Bloom June**

Following on from No Mow May, is Let It Bloom June. Allow the flowers to grow in your garden and leave them be.

[**World Environment Day**](https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/)

**5th June.** “The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink, many of the medicines that save our lives and the climate that make our planet inhabitable, all come from nature. We are more reliant on nature’s interconnected web and delicate balance than we can ever imagine.”

[**World Oceans Day**](https://worldoceansday.org/)

**8th June.** “World Oceans Day is growing the global movement to call on world leaders to protect 30% of our blue planet by 2030. This critical need is called 30×30. By safeguarding at least 30% of our ocean through a network of highly protected areas we can help ensure a healthy home for all!”

[**International Working Animals Day**](https://spana.org/get-involved/international-working-animal-day-2020/)

**TBA.** “Working animals – such as horses, donkeys, camels and elephants – are the key workers of the developing world (…) Yet, despite their vital role, this invisible workforce is often completely overlooked. Countless animals lead short, hard lives, working in extreme conditions, with little rest, poor nutrition and no access to veterinary treatment.”

[**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**](https://www.un.org/en/events/desertificationday/)

**17th June.** “The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.”

[**Plastic Free Beauty Day**](https://www.plasticfreebeauty.org/)

**17th June.** “We are calling all brands, consumers and retailers to JOIN US and reconsider their use of plastic, whether it be virgin, recycled or reclaimed from the sea because the problem is that it ends up back in the sea or landfill which makes the type of plastic irrelevant. There is no such thing as “good plastic”

[**Sustainable Gastronomy**](https://www.un.org/en/observances/sustainable-gastronomy-day)

**18th June.** “Sustainable gastronomy can play a role due to its interlinkages with the three dimensions of sustainable development, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting: agricultural development; food security; nutrition; sustainable food production; and conservation of biodiversity”

[**National Refill Day**](https://refill.org.uk/a-global-refill-day/)

**19th June.** Originally a UK only event, 2020 saw National Refill Day go global. “National Refill Day is a public awareness campaign that aims to create a new social norm amongst the public for refilling on the go – to save money, keep us hydrated and prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles at source!”

[**International Clean Air Day**](https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/about-clean-air-day)

**TBA.** “The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today. It causes heart and lung diseases, is linked to low birth weight and children’s lung development and may even contribute to mental health issues. Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. Clean Air Day is the UK’s largest air pollution campaign, engaging thousands of people at hundreds of events, and reaching millions more through the media. Clean Air Day normally takes place on the third Thursday in June.”

JULY

[**Plastic Free July**](https://greenecofriend.co.uk/plastic-free-july/)

Try to reduce how much plastic you buy during the month of July. Make a concerted effort to buy loose fruit and vegetables and the plastic free versions of things you would normally buy. “Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.”

[**International Plastic Bag Free Day**](https://zerowasteeurope.eu/products/plastic-bag-free-day/)

**3rd July.** “Plastic Bag Free Day is a global initiative that aims to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags in the world. This work centred around Plastic Bag Free Day, on the 3rd of July each year. Now, the campaign is part of the broader [Break Free From Plastic movement](http://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/), which brings together an international movement of plastic pollution fighters to build a future free from plastic waste.”

[**Don’t step on a bee day**](https://beegood.co.uk/blogs/news/10th-july-is-dont-step-on-a-bee-day)

**10th July.** “The recent press surrounding the ‘Bee Crisis’ has been hard to ignore. Without the tireless work of our little buzzing friends, over a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.”

[**Love Parks Week**](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/love-parks-week)

**TBA.** In association with Keep Britain Tidy is Love Parks Week. “Parks matter to us all. That’s why we work every day to protect and improve them. We celebrate the very best green spaces through our international Green Flag Award and People’s Choice vote. We help to improve them even more through our innovations, #LitterHeroes and campaigns. But because parks are so important, we take a week each year to really showcase them. For this year’s Love Parks Week, we encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy their favourite park. By using and celebrating your local park, you are helping us to protect them for future generations.”

[**National Marine Week**](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/get-involved/campaign/national-marine-week)

**TBA**. “National Marine Week is The Wildlife Trusts’ nationwide celebration of all things marine. Despite the name, it lasts 15 fun-filled days to allow for the variation in tide times around the country. During this time, Wildlife Trusts all around the UK put on a jam-packed programme of events and activities… including inland!”

[**World Nature Conservation Day**](https://www.firstpost.com/india/world-nature-conservation-day-2020-conservationists-celebs-take-to-social-media-spread-awareness-on-sustainable-living-8649021.html)

**28th July**. “World Nature Conservation Day is observed annually on 28 July to remind humankind about the importance of nature and the need to protect it. The day is marked globally to spread awareness about the best practices to protect the natural resources.”

[**International Tiger Day**](https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-tiger-day/)

**29th July**. “Tigers are on the brink of extinction and International World Tiger Day aims to bring attention to this fact and try to halt their decline. Many factors have caused their numbers to fall, including habitat loss, climate change, hunting and poaching and Tiger Day aims to protect and expand their habitats and raise awareness of the need for conservation. Many international organizations are involved in the day, including the WWF, the IFAW and the Smithsonian Institute.”

AUGUST

[**National Allotments Week**](https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/)

**from 10th August.**The “theme for 2020 is Growing Food for Health and Well-being, a reflection of the many benefits of growing, cooking and eating your own fruit and vegetables.”

SEPTEMBER

[**Organic September**](https://www.soilassociation.org/organic-living/organic-september/)

“Organic September is a month-long campaign designed to encourage more people to try organic as a way to promote and educate people about organic food & farming practices.”

[**Great British Beach Clean**](https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/greatbritishbeachclean)

**20th September**. Great British Beach Clean Events have been cancelled due to coronavirus in 2020. “Our iconic annual Great British Beach Clean has been leading the way in tackling ocean pollution for 26 years, helping make some of the most significant impacts on beach litter ever – the plastic bag charge, banning microplastics in personal care products, better wet wipe labelling, and supporting a tax on single-use plastic items. So far we’ve picked up 319 tonnes of litter at our Great British Beach Cleans.”

[**World Car Free Day**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car-Free_Days)

**22nd September**. World Car Free Day encourages motorists to give up their cars for a day. Some cities and countries have organised events.

[**Seed Gathering Season**](https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/)

**from 23rd September.** “Our annual Seed Gathering Season inspires everyone to join us to gather seeds, fruits and nuts which can be nurture to grow the trees of the future. Now in its 21st year, The Tree Council welcomes all our volunteer Tree Wardens, member organisations, local communities and families to get involved during the month-long celebrations. The campaign runs from September 23, which is the autumn equinox and considered to be the first day of autumn. It finishes on October 23.”

[**Recycle Week**](https://wrap.org.uk/content/recycle-week-2020)

**from 23rd September.** “Recycle Week is a celebration of recycling, organised by WRAP under the Recycle Now brand. The aim of the week is to encourage the public to recycle more of the right things, more often from all around the home.”

[**FSC Friday**](https://www.fsc-uk.org/en-uk)

**25th September 2020.** “The Forest Stewardship Council will be hosting FSC Friday‚an annual event designed to raise awareness about responsible forest management- the best way to keep using forest products and keep our forests too. FSC are aiming to increase awareness of FSC so that more people choose FSC certified products more of the time.”

OCTOBER

[**Unblocktober**](https://www.unblocktober.org/)

“Through Unblocktober, you can make small changes to your habits and the way you dispose of certain everyday items in order to make big changes to the environment – at a time when it needs our help more than ever.”

[**International Walk to School Month**](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/international-walk-to-school-month)

Encourage people to get out of cars and reduce air pollution by walking to school during the month of October. “Children who walk to school are more engaged with their streets and aware of the impact of cars than those who don’t, suggests new research released for the launch of International Walk to School Month.”

[**World Vegetarian Day**](https://worldvegetarianday.navs-online.org/)

**1st October.** World Vegetarian Day is a good time to explore meat free meals. For some ditching [dairy](https://greenecofriend.co.uk/environmental-impact-of-dairy/) is a step too far and so veganism doesn’t appeal. I do recommend looking into the dairy and egg industries though.

[**World Animal Day**](https://www.worldanimalday.org.uk/)

**4th October.** The mission of World Animal Day is “To raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. Building the celebration of World Animal Day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. It’s celebrated in different ways in every country, irrespective of nationality, religion, faith or political ideology. Through increased awareness and education, we can create a world where animals are always recognised as sentient beings and full regard is always paid to their welfare.”

[**No Disposable Cup Day**](https://nodisposablecup.com/)

**4th October.** Every single day in the UK we use 7 million disposable cups, many of which are not disposed of responsibly. The aim of No Disposable Cup Day is “1. We STOP using disposable cups for one day on 4 October, and 2. We STOP using disposable cups completely.” Check out the [best reusable coffee cups](https://greenecofriend.co.uk/best-reusable-coffee-cups/).

[**National Clean Air Day**](https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/)

**8th October.** “Air pollution harms the health of millions. But there are lots of simple things that we can do to improve air quality and look after our own and other people’s health. Clean Air Day is a chance to find out more about pollution, share information with friends and colleagues, and help make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone.”

[**Reptile Awareness Day**](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/Reptile-Awareness-Day/)

**20th October.** “Every year, reptile fanatics have a day that they can celebrate and share their passion; a chance to educate others who may not know about these amazing creatures called reptiles, and the habitat loss and threat of extinction that faces so many reptile species.”

NOVEMBER

[**World Vegan Month**](https://www.vegansociety.com/take-action/campaigns/world-vegan-month)

“World Vegan Month is celebrated around the world as a time to recognise how far the vegan movement has come, to highlight how accessible and beneficial a vegan lifestyle is and to encourage the vegan-curious to adopt veganism by sharing advice, recipes and ideas.”

DECEMBER

[**World Soil Day**](https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-soil-day)

**5th December**. “Every 5 seconds, the equivalent of one soccer field of soil is eroded. This alarming fact reaffirms the need to raise awareness through World Soil Day of this growing problem, as the Earth’s population continues to expand… It can take up to 1,000 years to produce just 2-3cm of soil… Soil erosion can lead up to a 50% loss in crop yields.”

**International Animal Rights Day**

**10th December.** “Every year International Animal Rights Day is celebrated on December 10. This observance coincides with the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declared in 1948, and this has been made deliberately.”

https://greenecofriend.co.uk/environmental-awareness-calendar/