



EARTH DAY 2026 IMPACT REPORT



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CARE BECOMES ACTION?

In Kyiv, students carried notebooks and laptops into a bomb shelter as air raid sirens interrupted an Earth Day climate symposium, yet the lesson continued underground. In Miami, volunteers stepped into Biscayne Bay to remove plastic debris before it fragmented into waterways, food systems, and human bodies. Along the Sundarbans coast, women restored mangrove forests that shield vulnerable communities from worsening storms. In Kenya, thousands gathered to plant indigenous trees; by sunset, more than 23,000 stood, setting a world record.

Asked what mattered most, organizer Hillary Kiplagat Kibiwott reflected simply:



PEOPLE STOOD WITH ME.

This was Earth Day 2026.

At a moment marked by climate instability, biodiversity loss, pollution, political division, and growing public fatigue, communities did not retreat. Across more than 180 countries and territories, educators, youth leaders, municipalities, scientists, faith communities, nonprofit partners, and volunteers transformed concern into measurable action by restoring ecosystems, strengthening climate literacy, removing pollution, convening policymakers, planting trees, and creating practical pathways for participation.

For more than five decades, we have been the world's largest global civic action, grounded in a simple principle: people are more likely to act when they can see how their actions matter.

Through a global partner network, EARTHDAY.ORG turns environmental concern into measurable year-to-year action by strengthening climate education, supporting restoration, convening institutions, fostering policy, and building pathways for communities to lead. The scale of that work continues to grow, with more than 100 million tree commitments expected over the next two years through Earth Day initiatives worldwide.

This report is more than a record of programs. It is evidence of what is possible when communities, institutions, and partners choose to act together, and it proves that the environmental movement remains alive, global, and capable of measurable progress.

LETTER FROM

KATHLEEN ROGERS



President EARTHDAY.ORG

For many communities, environmental disruption is no longer a distant warning. Rising temperatures, worsening storms, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, water insecurity, and growing public health pressures are now part of everyday life. At the same time, political division, disinformation, and repeated setbacks have left many questioning whether meaningful progress remains possible.

What I witnessed during the Our Power, Our Planet campaign told a different story. Across more than 180 countries and territories, I saw educators preparing the next generation of environmental leaders, communities restoring ecosystems, volunteers cleaning neighborhoods and waterways, policymakers working alongside local organizations, and partners finding practical solutions to shared challenges. Everywhere I looked, people chose action over complacency and collaboration over division.



None of this happened alone. It was made possible by educators, youth leaders, municipalities, nonprofit partners, scientists, businesses, volunteers, donors, and public servants who believe meaningful progress begins with participation. Together, they strengthened one of the world's largest environmental movements, generating thousands of media stories, reaching 8.6 million+ through digital engagement, and creating opportunities for people everywhere to become part of the solution.

The challenges ahead remain immense. Climate instability continues to accelerate, ecosystems remain under pressure, and communities worldwide confront growing uncertainty. Yet Earth Day 2026 reinforced something equally important: people still want meaningful ways to contribute. We remain committed to strengthening climate education, restoring ecosystems, building partnerships, and helping communities organize around measurable environmental progress because lasting change depends on people believing their participation matters.

EARTH DAY 2026 AT A GLANCE

GLOBAL REACH & VISIBILITY

5,647 media placements
across 101 countries

8.6M+

digital engagements across Earth
Month 2026, including website
traffic, social media, and digital
programming

- Website: 1,550,743
- Social Media: 4,000,000+
- Digital Events (Earth Day Live + 22
Minutes): 3,123,253

GROWING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1B+ More than 1 billion people
reached through Earth Day
2026 initiatives worldwide

13,634 REGISTERED

Earth Day events mobilized communities
across more than 180 countries and
territories

MILLIONS

participated in Earth Month through local
events, educational programs, advocacy
campaigns, and community action

40% increase in Great Global
Cleanup registrations

CLIMATE EDUCATION & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

100+

Countries participated in Coding for
Climate Live, Earth Day Showcase,
and Young Climate Champions

Students strengthened climate
literacy, technical skills, and
environmental problem-solving

RESTORATION & LONG-TERM IMPACT

100M+

tree planting commitments
expected over the next two years

Restoration expanded
across vulnerable regions
worldwide

WHAT EARTH DAY 2026 MADE POSSIBLE

RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE

In Maharashtra, India, we partnered with the Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA) to establish a stewardship framework for 5.6 million trees, recognizing that restoration succeeds only when planting is paired with accountability.

The initiative connected tree planting to monitoring, climate education, public participation, and long-term oversight so that planted trees become protected trees. The model demonstrated how institutions and communities can move beyond aspiration toward measurable environmental delivery.

In the Sundarbans, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, 500,000 mangrove saplings were planted through the Canopy Tree Project. Women from local communities restored forests that stabilize shorelines, protect fisheries, absorb carbon, shield homes from worsening storms, and strengthen livelihoods where climate disruption increasingly threatens displacement. The effort linked ecological restoration with sanitation, youth climate education, and long-term resilience.

In Kenya, young leaders demonstrated how restoration grows stronger when communities trust emerging voices. At Lake Victoria, 17-year-old Earth Day Ambassador Rahmina Paullete Oyugi convened policymakers, fishermen, students, and local leaders for shoreline restoration and dialogue around conservation of one of Africa's most important freshwater ecosystems. Elsewhere, Hillary Kiplagat Kibiwott mobilized thousands to witness him planting 23,326 indigenous trees in 24 hours, setting a world record and demonstrating how local leadership can inspire extraordinary collective action.



WHAT EARTH DAY 2026 MADE POSSIBLE

CIVIC PARTICIPATION, CLEANUP, AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

In São Paulo, one of Latin America's largest cities, civic participation scaled through coordination across all 32 subprefectures, municipal agencies, sanitation workers, schools, neighborhood organizations, and residents.

Together, participants removed nearly 200 tons of waste and engaged approximately 50,000 residents, making environmental participation visible, local, and measurable.



In Miami, we partnered with more than 20 environmental organizations to convene a cleanup at Historic Virginia Key Beach, a site deeply connected to the city's Black history.

More than 250 volunteers removed marine debris that threatens ecosystems, livelihoods, and public health while raising awareness of how plastics move through waterways, wildlife, food systems, and human bodies. Local leaders, including Mayor Eileen Higgins, reinforced the need for a stronger plastics policy. At the same time, we co-sponsored the International Plastic Pellet Count, mobilizing activity at 229 survey sites across 14 countries, where nearly 50,000 plastic pellets were documented and removed to support future science, accountability, and policy advocacy.

In Washington, DC, we continued to play a leading role in building a broad coalition to defend programs that protect air, water, land, and public health.

During a critical series of hearings, staff testified at every session, met directly with city council members, and helped mobilize residents to participate in public proceedings. On Earth Day and again on May 4, coalition partners rallied outside DC City Hall to demonstrate strong public support for environmental protections and climate accountability. During DC Climate Week, we partnered with organizers, local agencies, and community groups to strengthen participation across 244 climate events citywide.



WHAT EARTH DAY 2026 MADE POSSIBLE

CLIMATE EDUCATION AND EMERGING LEADERSHIP

Across more than 100 countries, young people did not simply attend Earth Day events; they actively shaped solutions.

Through Coding for Climate Live, Earth Day Showcase, and Young Climate Champions, students strengthened climate literacy, developed technical skills, and designed environmental solutions.

In classrooms, coding labs, and community spaces worldwide, we reinforced a crucial reality: young people are not symbolic participants in environmental action; they are already leading it.



Local partnerships demonstrated how environmental stewardship grows stronger when rooted in community.

In Detroit, partnerships with Detroit Hives transformed abandoned lots into pollinator habitats and gathering spaces, linking restoration with neighborhood revitalization, and in Greater Boston, schools and faith communities expanded climate action beyond science into ethics and civic responsibility, reinforcing stewardship as both a practical and moral responsibility. In Algeria, a youth-led climate hackathon elevated mentorship and innovation, helping young people move from awareness to leadership.

Across Africa, local and regional partnerships expanded Earth Week engagement on a remarkable scale.

In South Africa, partnering with Eduvos, we organized activations across all 12 university campuses, engaging more than 23,000 students in programs designed to strengthen climate literacy and connect coursework to lived environmental realities. In Nigeria's Lagos and Delta states, partnerships with the Clean Climate and Environment Campaign Initiative brought climate education, community organizing, and practical environmental action directly into neighborhoods confronting pollution and climate-related pressures.

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

Environmental challenges increasingly shape daily life.

Climate instability, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, water insecurity, and environmental injustice can feel too large for any one institution or individual to influence. Yet Earth Day 2026 demonstrated something essential: progress becomes more durable when people are given practical ways to participate and trusted pathways to contribute.



Throughout the Our Power, Our Planet campaign, we served as convener, amplifier, and implementation partner, helping governments, municipalities, educators, nonprofits, scientists, youth leaders, and businesses transform environmental concern into measurable action.

We did not simply raise awareness; we helped build lasting infrastructure for participation. The results showed measurable growth. Great Global Cleanup registrations increased by 40 percent.

Media placements expanded across 101 countries, while Earth Month generated more than 8.6 million digital engagements, including website visits, social media engagement, and digital programming, significantly expanding the visibility of local environmental leadership and Earth Day initiatives worldwide.

For funders and partners, this work represents more than individual programs or one-day events. It is an investment in environmental participation infrastructure:

climate education that prepares future leaders, restoration that protects vulnerable communities, partnerships that strengthen implementation capacity, and trusted platforms that help communities organize around measurable outcomes. A trained teacher influences students for years. A restored mangrove forest protects communities long after planting ends. A municipality that strengthens stewardship builds civic resilience well beyond a single campaign.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The Our Power, Our Planet campaign did not solve the environmental challenges facing communities worldwide.

- It demonstrated something equally important: participation remains strong when institutions lower barriers to engagement and create practical opportunities for communities to lead.

- Our next chapter will focus on expanding environmental learning, strengthening pathways for emerging leadership, designing restoration for long-term resilience, deepening local partnerships, and building stronger cross-sector collaboration to translate ambition into sustained environmental progress.

- Additional support can expand climate education, reinforce resilience in vulnerable regions, increase public participation, strengthen accountability, accelerate restoration, and elevate local leaders already advancing measurable change in their communities.



WHAT COMES NEXT

Looking ahead, we will continue to advance measurable global objectives, including restoring more than 100 million trees, supporting efforts to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, advancing policies to reduce global plastic production, and expanding national climate commitments through stronger partnerships.

These measurable priorities provide philanthropic and corporate partners with clear opportunities to accelerate environmental outcomes while advancing long-term sustainability commitments. Climate-related disruptions intensify, and environmental and economic pressures grow.

Yet Earth Day 2026 demonstrated that measurable progress remains possible when local leadership, institutional partnership, funding, and practical opportunities for participation align around a shared purpose. The environmental movement did not stand still in 2026. Across millions of actions, large and small, communities, institutions, and partners continued moving environmental progress forward, proving once again that meaningful change remains possible when people are given the tools, trust, and opportunity to lead.





Gallery of Global Events



📍 Malaysia



📍 Noveleta, Philippines



📍 Kingdom of Bahrain



📍 Salt Lake City, United States



📍 Santa Barbara, United States



📍 Miami, United States



📍 Nigeria