

Earth Day 2026

Practical Activities for Schools and Families

As we approach Earth Day on April 22, 2026, here are some concrete ways to engage children in environmental stewardship, both at school and at home. These activities are designed to connect with various religious and ethical teachings while promoting environmental awareness.

School Activities

1. Renewable Energy Exploration

- Create simple solar ovens for cooking experiments ([Five Easy Solar Power Experiments for Kids | STEAM | solar4STEM - solar4STEM Science Kits](#))
- Build mini wind turbines to understand wind power ([Bing Videos](#))
- Conduct water wheel demonstrations to explore hydropower ([DIY Water Wheel For Kids - Little Bins for Little Hands](#))

Connect these energy sources to religious texts and teachings about natural elements by using these quotes:

**"The earth is but one country,
and mankind its citizens."**

(Bahai)

**"Air is our Guru, water is our
father, the earth is our mother."**

(Sikhi)

**"God took the man and put him in the Garden of
Eden to work it and take care of it."**

(Christianity)

**"We should be kind to other
people, animals and the planet."**

(Humanism)

"Treat others as you would like to be treated."

(Hint: This worldview extends this rule to include all living beings!) **(Ethical Veganism)**

**"Whatever good you
do, Allah knows it."**

(Islam)

**"God resides everywhere within this
world." (īśāvāsyam idam sarvam)**

(Sanatana Dharma – Hindusim)

"Living in harmony with nature."

(Hint: This worldview teaches about the Bodhi Tree!) **(Buddhism)**

2. Reflection/Faith Garden Project Create a multi-faith garden with sections representing different religious traditions. Plant trees and flowers mentioned in religious texts. Include signs explaining the significance of each plant in different faiths. Establish a composting system.

From the Bible:

- Lily of the Valley - mentioned in Song of Solomon: "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys"
- Rose of Sharon (though scholars debate if this was actually a rose)
- Camphire (Henna) - also mentioned in Song of Solomon
- Crown Imperial - though this is a contested translation in some versions

From Buddhist texts:

- Lotus (Padma) - extremely significant in Buddhism, representing enlightenment and purity
- Water Lily - often mentioned in conjunction with the lotus
- Cherry Blossoms - while not in ancient texts, very significant in Zen Buddhism

From Sanatani/Hindu scriptures:

- Lotus - appears throughout Hindu texts, associated with many deities including Brahma and Lakshmi
- Marigolds - considered sacred and used in religious ceremonies
- Jasmine - associated with various deities and used in worship

From Islamic traditions:

- Rose - particularly associated with the Prophet Muhammad
- Narcissus - mentioned in some Islamic traditions
- Tulips - while not in the Quran, they hold special significance in Islamic art and culture

3. "One World" Art Exhibition

- Students create artwork from recycled materials.
- Each piece can represent environmental teachings from different faiths.
- Display artwork with explanations of the environmental messages.
- Invite parents and community members to view the exhibition.
- These could be suitable for the outside reflection space.



4. Mindful Consumption Week

- Daily challenges to reduce waste.
- Track classroom energy and water usage.
- Create "waste-free" lunch initiatives.
- Design posters about reducing consumption from different faith perspectives.



5. Environmental Stories from World Religions

- Storytelling sessions featuring environmental tales from different faiths. (Refer to separate document.)
- Student-led dramatic performances of these stories.
- Creative writing activities combining environmental themes with religious teachings.
- Create illustrated storybooks to share with younger classes.



6. Community Action Projects

- Organise neighbourhood clean-up events.
- Start a school recycling program
- Create a "green team" of student environmental ambassadors.
- Partner with local religious communities for environmental initiatives.



Family Activities for Home

1. 'Our Power' Family Projects

- Create a family energy audit and plan for reducing energy use.
- Make simple solar-powered toys or devices together.
- Learn about renewable energy sources in your area.
- Research how different faith communities are embracing renewable energy.



2. Sustainable Kitchen Projects

- Start a kitchen herb garden.
- Practise meal planning to reduce food waste.
- Learn about faith-based dietary practices and their environmental impact.
- Create a family cookbook of eco-friendly recipes.



3. Nature Connection Activities

- Daily nature observation walks.
- Keep a family nature diary.
- Bird watching and wildlife monitoring.
- Star gazing and learning about celestial connections to faith traditions.



4. Resource Conservation Challenges

- Family energy-saving competition.
- Water conservation projects.
- Creating a family recycling station.
- Weekly "power-down" hours.



5. Community Engagement

- Join local environmental initiatives.
- Participate in community gardens.
- Organise neighbourhood clean-ups.
- Share environmental tips with extended family and friends.

