



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3606 Bridge Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Phone: (216) 281-6468
earthdaycoalition.org

Main Contact: Scott Sanders, Executive Director
(440) 725-6251 (cell)

Alternate Contact: Sandy Kish-Jordon, Media Assistant
(440) 396-6966

CELEBRATE EARTHFEST 2015: THE YEAR OF CLEAN WATER

Cleveland, OH—Join Earth Day Coalition for EarthFest 2015 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, on Sunday, April 19th from 10am-5pm. This year, in partnership with Mayor Frank Jackson's Sustainable Cleveland 2019 initiative, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, EarthFest will celebrate the "Year of Clean Water." Families will enjoy all day entertainment with over 270 exhibits in ten sustainability exhibit areas, eco-activities throughout our Walk for the Earth passport tour, biodiesel-powered amusement park rides, urban farm animals, sheep dog herding demos, pony rides, healthy food from food trucks, Great Lakes beer, Barefoot Wine, and much more! Presented and organized by Earth Day Coalition since 1990, EarthFest is Ohio's largest environmental education event and the longest running Earth Day celebration in the nation.

EarthFest 2015 Will Feature:

- Water Workshops: Learn how to restore, conserve, and protect Lake Erie by participating in our Clean Water seminars, located in building 33:
 - 12:00pm-12:30pm: Erin Huber, Drink Local. Drink Tap
 - 12:40pm-1:10pm: Amy Roskilly, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District
 - 1:20pm-1:50pm: Gretchen Faro, Cleveland Lakefront Parks Conservancy
 - 2:00pm-2:30pm: Cathi Lehn, Cleveland Office of Sustainability
 - 2:40pm-3:10pm: Kim Colich, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
 - 3:20pm-3:50pm: Meiring Borchers, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 - 4:00pm-4:30pm: Sara Orlando, Ohio Sea Grant
- Walk for the Earth Passport Tour: EarthFest exhibits are organized into ten sustainability practice areas that cluster exhibitors around specific topics. Visitors can take the Walk for the Earth Passport Tour and visit 7 areas to redeem an EarthFest vintage poster. Visitors can also sign a "Brainy Drains" pledge dedicated to keeping Lake Erie clean. Those that complete the demographic survey on the passport will be entered to win a \$200 gift card to The North Face. Stops on the Walk for the Earth Passport Tour will include:
 1. **Clean Water (Near Entrance Gate 5):** Splash around in all the fun and learn about how you can protect the Great Lakes.
 2. **Advanced and Renewable Energy and Environmental Science (Building 20):** Learn, first hand, about exciting clean energy initiatives in our region and check out environmental science exhibits.
 3. **Community Works (Building 16):** Exhibits and educational displays from environmental and community organizations, government, parks, and schools.
 4. **Local and Sustainable Food (Building 16):** Exhibits that include organizations, businesses, and restaurants that contribute to NEO's growing local food economy.
 5. **Clean Transportation (West Midway):** Learn how clean fuels, practices, and technologies reduce petroleum consumption and improve air quality. While you're there, you can enjoy the bio-diesel powered amusement park, food trucks, beverages, and music!
 6. **Green Home and Garden (Building 33):** Learn about environmentally beneficial products and practices for the home.
 7. **Zero Waste (Building 33):** Learn how to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, and go zero.
 8. **Family Fun (Building 27):** Kids receive environmental education while participating in hands-on eco-activities, crafts, and games. Don't forget to go outside and check out the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center animal outreach, the Valley Exotics petting zoo, visit Jungle Bob and his animal friends, take a pony ride, and watch sheep dog herding demonstrations.
 9. **Health and Fitness (Building 27):** Connect with nature and learn how a healthy planet makes a healthy you.
 10. **Earth Day Coalition Merchandise Area (West Midway at Crossroads):** Turn in passports with 7 or more stops punched to redeem a free, vintage EarthFest poster. Official EarthFest 2015: Year of Clean Water merchandise can be purchased here, as well.
- Fun with Animals: Meet Dick Goddard and adopt an animal in need. Cleveland's well-known meteorologist and animals rights supporter will be at EarthFest from 1pm-4pm signing "6 Inches of Partly Cloudy" and "Wise on Weather." Families will also have an opportunity to get up close with adoptable animal rescues from Berea Animal Rescue Friends and Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, urban farm animals, a petting zoo provided by Valley

Exotics, and watch multiple sheep dog herding demonstrations. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center will provide an educational experience with their wildlife rehabilitation services and Jungle Bob will have regular shows with his animal friends.

- Learn about the environmental and clean-air benefits of biodiesel while experiencing an exciting ride! Earth Day Coalition and McGINNIS Amusements are teaming up to use biodiesel to power Ohio's first biodiesel amusement rides.
- Guests will enjoy Great Lakes Brewing Company beer & wine from Barefoot Winery. Pure Water Technology hydration stations will be available free of charge. There will be a huge selection of healthy and delicious local food from some of your favorite food trucks, including: Manna, Krav, Pig Lickin' Good BBQ, Beckham's B&M Barbeque, 216 Bistro, Barrio Food Truck, Papa Nick's Food Truck, Tikiz2u Shaved Ice, Chagrin Falls Popcorn, Betty's Bomb Burgers, and Timbers Smokehouse Grille.
- Listen to all-day music on five "Party with the Planet" entertainment stages organized by Tri-C students in partnership with Undercurrents.
- EarthFest 2015 will be a Zero waste event with a goal of diverting 90% of waste through reduction, recycling and composting. All exhibitors and event attendees are encouraged to bring their own hot and cold beverage mugs to assist with waste reduction. ZeroWaste NEO volunteers will be stationed at each composting/recycling area to provide educational instruction on proper composting and recycling practices.
- Recycle Expired Medicine: The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will be collecting expired prescription medicine at Gate 5.
- Drop-off and Exchange Mercury Thermometers: The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will be collecting mercury thermometers and exchanging them for digital thermometers at Gate 5.
- Recycle Clothing and Textiles: Planet Aid will be collecting clothes and textiles at Gates 3 and 5.

EarthFest 2015 Welcoming Ceremonies

- 10:30AM – 11:00 AM: Jungle Bob and his Animal Friends (Pavilion)
- 11:00AM – NOON: Welcoming Ceremonies (Pavilion)
 - Hoop, "Earth Day" Song
 - Jessica Hartman, President, Earth Day Coalition
 - Scott Sanders, Executive Director, Earth Day Coalition
 - Hon. Frank Jackson, Mayor, City of Cleveland
 - Jenita McGowan, Chief of Sustainability, City of Cleveland
 - Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive
 - Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Council
 - Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
 - Tim Fowler, President, Cuyahoga County Fair Board
 - Brian Adelstein, Hope and Stanley Adelstein Art, Poetry, and Essay Contest Awards
 - Announcement of EarthFest 2016: Sustainable Mobility

General Admission:

\$4 ages 2-11

\$8 ages 12+

FREE Admission:

- Under age 2
- Ride & park your bicycle in the designated bicycle valet parking area
- Ride RTA's Redline (regular fare) to Brookpark Rapid Station & take the free EarthFest shuttle to Fairgrounds
- Current Earth Day Coalition members (\$35 Individual level or \$50 family level minimum). *You can renew or become a member online or at the entrance to EarthFest. Membership also includes admission to the EarthFest VEP (Very Environmental Persons) catered hospitality area.
- Teachers and their immediate family (must present current school ID)

Call (216) 281-6468 or visit www.earthdaycoalition.org for general event information and updates.

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Established in 1990, Earth Day Coalition's mission is to provide education, inspire leadership, and encourage action for a healthy environment. Earth Day Coalition's year-round Community Works programs include: Student Environmental Leadership, Clean Transportation, Neighborhood Action, and EarthFest. EarthFest is Ohio's largest environmental education event and the longest running Earth Day celebration in the nation.