



# EARTH DAY

## 2010

**David M. Gerhart**  
Staff Writer  
**T. Gavin Nevill**  
Assistant Copy Editor

Like Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, Earth Day is a holiday that encourages remembrance and action. Today, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, we are more aware than ever of the importance of protecting our environment. Elizabethtown College is making strides to be part of the green movement, and you, too, can get involved.

Etown's efforts include an organic garden that was planted during the summer of 2009; the placement of solar panels on the roof of Esbenshade; planning, construction and use of a wind turbine on campus; a new rainwater filtration system; and wildflower gardens to show the beauty of nature.

Additionally, the Elizabethtown College Environmental Group (ECEG) is hosting an Eco-Friendly Product Show today from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Hoover 110. Sophomore Melanie Sturm, ECEG vice

president, said the show is an opportunity for students to learn about eco-friendly goods on the market.

"Businesses' representatives [will be] available to discuss the initiatives their companies are taking to 'go green,' in addition to showcasing their environmentally conscious products," Sturm said.

The companies present will offer free samples to the first 100 students who attend.

ECEG will also raffle off nine personal care product baskets with items from Badger Company, Giant, Healthy Grocer and others.

#### Earth Day History

For years, it was entirely legal for factories and plants across the country to spew toxic, black clouds into the sky, polluting the air. Then, in the spring of 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day. His intent was to get the issue of air and water pollution into the national plan for change.

In December of the same year, Congress created the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) to deal with issues of environmental awareness. Its mission, according to the EPA website, "is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people."

With the help of President Richard Nixon, the EPA responded to the public's desire for cleaner water, fresher air and purer land. The agency's first tasks were to begin repairing the damage already done to our earth and then create guidelines that involved the entire nation in the fight against pollution.

This year, in celebration of Earth Day's 40th anniversary, the EPA is calling the nation to action. The organization has devised a number of contests and suggested small, habitual changes to raise awareness about pollution and actively lower pollution rates.

#### Pitch in

Pick five — that's all the EPA asks. Make five everyday changes that will help lower the amount

of water and electricity used; reduce car pollution; reuse and recycle papers, plastics and glass.

Make a commitment to use less water. Install low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucets. By doing this, you can decrease your water consumption significantly.

Turn lights off when you leave a room, make sure you turn your TV off when you go to sleep, and do not leave your phone charger plugged in. These are a few simple tasks we all can practice that could have a great impact on our nation's power consumption.

You can also help the environment by recycling paper and plastics. Receptacles are available in most public places, and by reusing containers such as glass bottles, you can lower the amount of waste you produce each week.

Lastly, carpool with friends when you go out to dinner or home for weekends or breaks. Not only will this lower pollution emissions from cars, but it will also lower the number of cars on the road, making the experience of driving

better for everyone.

Junior Jessica Duelfer, ECEG president, said Etown students can make a difference on campus that will go a long way.

"Even doing small things like getting drinks from the Jay's Nest and the Blue Bean with a reusable cup, rather than buying a bottle of soda or using a disposable cup, saves lots of resources and is obviously better for the environment," Duelfer said.

#### Involvement

The EPA sponsors an "It's My Environment" video contest that actively encourages environmental awareness. Participants are asked to create short clips featuring environmentally friendly actions and signs declaring, "It's My Environment."

Additionally, an Earth Day Celebration will be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., this Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. At this gathering, the whole family can enjoy fun, environmentally friendly and informative games, including The Car-

bon Wheel of Fortune; Thirstin, a game that shows the importance of protecting drinking water; and an exhibit that displays how chemicals interact.

This Earth Day celebration involves a lot of fun and games, but the EPA also wants to impart an essential lifestyle message.

"I think that it is important to remember that even though it is officially celebrated once a year," Duelfer said. "We should try to be environmentally conscious every day."

Students who want to help make Etown a more environmentally friendly place can contact the Elizabethtown College Environmental Group at ENVIRONMENT@etown.edu. The group holds meetings Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. in Wenger 170.