



How Can We Celebrate Earth Day when there's a Global Pandemic going on???

There are many ways we can help the planet while maintaining social distancing and supporting COVID-19 prevention:

1. Learn about an Earth Topic such as recycling, climate change, composting, stormwater pollution
2. Check out the VAMHCS Green Environmental Management Program at our page on the VA Maryland Health Care System website: <https://www.maryland.va.gov/about/GEMS.asp>
3. Take shorter showers
4. Read a book vs streaming online (uses less energy)
5. Replace Paper towel use by using reusable (and washable) cloths
6. Look up recipes for homemade disinfectants you can try at home
7. Try a plant-based recipe
8. Read *Eleven Actions for the Planet During a Pandemic* on the Earthday.org website: <https://www.earthday.org/11-actions-for-the-planet-during-a-pandemic/>
9. Plant a Tree in your yard or try indoor gardening or adding some plants inside your home



10. Remember, only Rain down the storm drain (at work, at home, everywhere)—whatever you put into a storm drain goes directly into raw water sources that are treated for Your Drinking water and into the environment where fish and aquatic wildlife live that You may consume
11. Check out what the VAMHCS is already doing to help our Planet (even during the COVID-19 Pandemic):
 - a. Perry Point VAMC was recognized by The Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus Healthcare facility in February 2020 Thanks to the Perry Point VAMC Grounds Crew led by Kevin Hill



- b. Stormwater pollution prevention (see attached)
- c. Single Stream Recycling
- d. Regularly recycling Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, Ballasts, and Mercury-Containing Equipment
- e. Food Waste from the Perry Point Nutrition and Food Service is Composted at Veteran's Compost in Aberdeen, MD
- f. Green Environmental Management System Committee
- g. Training VAMC Grounds Crew on stormwater management facility maintenance
- h. Inspecting and maintaining onsite stormwater management facilities
- i. Testing water at site outfalls for illicit discharges. No illicit discharges have been documented to date.
- j. Developing a stormwater education and outreach plan for VAMC personnel
- k. Developing a program to implement stormwater management facilities onsite to help meet Chesapeake Bay restoration goals
- l. Developing standard operating procedures for good housekeeping, pollution prevention practices, and prevention of illicit discharges to our waters

If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact the VAMHCSGEMSPProgram@va.gov or check out our page on the VA Maryland Health Care System website:

<https://www.maryland.va.gov/about/GEMS.asp>

