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## Earth911 & You Making the Earth Day Difference

Gemma Alexander April 22, 2019



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On April 22, the world will celebrate the 49<sup>th</sup> Earth Day. Nearly 50 years of environmental activism, and the world seems to be in worse shape than ever. The EPA is trying to **roll back** decades of environmental regulations, the ocean is choking in **microplastic**, and the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere **topped 400 ppm** four years ago. It's easy to get discouraged. But the environmental movement has made significant accomplishments.

## A History of Victory

Since Earth Day was founded in 1970, hard-fought environmental gains have been won over and over again.

In 1972, DDT was banned, and other pesticides subjected to more stringent regulations. In the decades since, these changes have allowed populations of **bald eagles**, peregrine falcons, and other endangered birds to recover. More than a decade of activism led the International Whaling Commission to adopt a **moratorium** on commercial whaling in 1982. In 1997, the **Kyoto Protocol** was adopted, marking the first serious attempt by world leaders to respond to climate change — with or without the U.S. — and laying the groundwork for future, more effective actions. The **Energy Independence and Security Act** resulted in tougher new fuel economy standards, including the phase-in of standards for SUVs and even large commercial vehicles. Even the mostly anti-environmental current administration has **extended protections** to over 2 million acres of land across the country.

The choices individuals make — as activists, citizens, and consumers — can and do make a difference. Earth911 is here to help you find your own shade of green. This Earth Day and every day we are here to help you shop according to your values, adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, and drive environmental changes for the better.