

Earth Hour



Earth Hour is a global movement, which brings millions together across the world to call for greater action on climate change. All it involves is switching off lights for one hour and organise events to show we care about the future of our planet. Earth hour is at 8.30pm on the last Saturday in March. Our planet is under threat from climate change and a staggering loss in biodiversity. Earth Hour is our chance to talk about what this means, and take action. Here are some simple actions suggested by World Scouting that you can take to participate in Earth Hour.

Suggested activities:

Earth Hour activity:

Have an activity on the evening of Earth Hour, if you are indoors turn off all lights and electrical devices and run games using alternative forms of lighting. Better still go camping or bivvying and avoid the use of electricity altogether.

Influence change: Your voice has never been more important. Share your thoughts on the issues that matters to you your social media platforms and spark conversations with your peers. Remember, keep your accounts public to allow like-minded individuals to join in your conversations . Use your social network to spread the word on Earth Hour. The more people that get involved, the bigger the impact we can create for our planet!

Organise a meal in the dark: As a unit or county, have an outdoor meal cooked with organic and responsibly-sourced ingredients and utilising reusable utensils.

Dealing with disaster: The changing climate has brought more natural disasters - from extremes of heat and cold to bush fires, torrential rain and flooding - devastating communities and the environment. What are the risks of natural disaster and what do you need to do to be prepared when disaster strikes? Why not arrange a visit to your local emergency services station to find out how they deal with disaster, and how you might be able to help.

Climate change discussion: 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record. There were heatwaves in Europe, floods in South Asia, droughts in parts of Africa, and hugely destructive hurricanes in the US and Caribbean. This year, the Arctic is warmer than it's ever been. Why not host a candlelit debate on climate change and our role in it. How do our choices affect the environment? What's the problem with coal? How clean is clean energy? Test your knowledge!

My Carbon Footprint: You've turned your lights off, so what else can you do to reduce your impact on the environment. How do you get to school or work? How often do you buy new things? Have you ever planted a tree? Work out the size of each of your group's carbon footprint and make a commitment to reduce it.



Say no to plastic:

The world throws away about 78 million tons of plastic every year, and a third ends up in the sea. By 2050 there could be more plastic in the ocean than fish. Get your Scout group together and commit to reducing your use of plastic. Carry your own water bottle, use a bamboo straw, and bring your own shopping bags. It's vital we all commit to stop using single-use plastic, such as straws, plastic cups, and clingfilm. Local solutions really can change the world.



Get back to nature: Get your group together and go on an expedition to find out more about the plants and animals in your local area. Think about how your senses help you create a picture of the world around you. Maybe you can take a barefoot walk, or put on a blindfold to examine a tree. Think about what you're experiencing and what nature is telling you.

Check out these sites for more suggestions:

scout.org/10-actions-Earth-Hour-2018

wwf.org.uk/earthhour

earthhour.org/earth-hour-2018-toolkit

