

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; the practice of caring for the earth is rooted in the cultural practices of Indigenous people, and we recognize that the twelve Native Nations that call Wisconsin home are the original stewards of this land; and

*WHEREAS*; founded in 1970 by former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to raise awareness about the environmental challenges facing our planet, including air and water pollution, Earth Day is now celebrated in Wisconsin and around the world every year on April 22; and

*WHEREAS*; on the inaugural Earth Day, then-Senator Nelson stated that “our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty,” but “an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures”; and

*WHEREAS*; the first Earth Day saw nearly 20 million Americans participate in rallies, marches, and teach-ins for environmental education at high schools, colleges, and universities across our state and country, and catalyzed a grassroots movement that led to the bipartisan passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, Endangered Species, and Marine Mammal Protection Acts, as well as the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

*WHEREAS*; today, pollution and climate change continue to pose serious threats to Wisconsin’s fish, wildlife, and other natural resources along with the health, safety, and economic well-being of all Wisconsinites, and exacerbate historic injustices and existing threats to lower income communities and communities of color; and

*WHEREAS*; the state of Wisconsin affirms that all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, and that environmental justice must be kept at the forefront of all efforts to ensure and protect this right; and

*WHEREAS*; effective and equitable solutions to address environmental challenges will require determination, innovation, imagination, science, and collaboration that can lead to improved health, a transformed and more resilient economy, and a more sustainable future; and

*WHEREAS*; Earth Day ignited a spirit of stewardship that has driven progress for over five decades, and serves as an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental justice and activism, cooperation and stewardship commitments, and sustainability efforts; and

*WHEREAS*; this Earth Day, the state of Wisconsin affirms that conserving, restoring, and growing trees in both rural and urban areas remain one of the simplest and most powerful tools for storing carbon and tackling climate change, and pledges to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and to plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, in collaboration with public, private, and non-governmental partners;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 22, 2021, as

## EARTH DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the Great  
Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed.  
Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State