

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; since time immemorial, the practice of caring for the Earth has been rooted in the cultural practices of Indigenous people, and the Native Nations that call Wisconsin home are recognized as the original stewards of this land; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1970 by former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the planet, Earth Day is now celebrated in Wisconsin and around the world every year on April 22; 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 the state and country, and it 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; more than 50 years since the first Earth Day, 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

WHEREAS; pollution and climate change also continue to exacerbate historic injustices and existing threats to low-income communities and communities of color, underscoring the importance of keeping environmental justice at the forefront of all efforts to ensure and protect the right of all people to a healthy and sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS; mitigating climate change and protecting the environment is not incompatible with supporting good-paying jobs and economic development in the state, and Wisconsinites are ready for bold and urgent solutions that do both; 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; protecting and conserving the state's natural resources along with building a sustainable, clean energy future is in Wisconsin's DNA and has been a top priority of the Evers Administration since Day One—from establishing the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, joining the U.S. Climate Alliance, and establishing the state's goal to have 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050 to joining the global Trillion Trees Pledge, committing to planting 100 million trees and conserving 125,000 acres of forest by the end of 2030, to releasing the state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan and establishing the state's first Green Innovation Fund; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the undeniable toll that the climate crisis is taking on individuals across the state—from the Driftless to the Central Sands to the Northwoods to the hearts of urban areas—and resolves to work tirelessly to build a sustainable future that leaves the state, country, and world a better place for future generations to inherit;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 22, 2026, 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 13th day
of April 2026.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State