Greetings from the Harvard Law School Green Team! We are a volunteer-run group of students and staff committed to learning about and promoting sustainable practices and operations here at HLS and beyond.

April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. We wanted to share some ideas, events, and resources to help our community find ways to take action so our planet has the opportunity to see Earth Day 100.

Ideas
Several of the HLS Green team members have shared things they are doing at home.

**Bill Stanton and Karen Thomas** are making their own coffee at home rather than buying it at the local coffee shop, which saves resources and money. Karen says suggests feeding the used coffee grounds to your garden, or even house plants. Coffee grounds act as a fertilizer and add organic material to the soil, which improves drainage, water retention and aeration in the soil; and the grounds also prevent slugs from damaging your plants.

**Karen** also has a great idea on how to give new life to food scraps. “Don’t throw away the root ends of green onions and lettuces. If you put the chopped off part of your lettuce head or scallions into water, the leaves will start to regrow.” The picture on the left is romaine lettuce grown in water from scraps and the picture on the right is of a scallion that was started from root scrap 10 days ago that Karen has moved from water to her cold frame.

**Dianne Ribeirinha-Braga** says, “We keep/return all the wine bottle netting used to protect bottles supplied at [our local liquor store]. They are always surprised and happy to get them.”
**Susan Norton** has a suggestion that fits our current situation, but is a habit that can be continued even after the pandemic: “I’ve found, during the “paper goods” “shortage” that it’s definitely possible to use less of those. Even with the perforated pic-a-size paper towels, for instance, you can often tear them in half or tear off a corner.”

**Peter Melish** has some creative ideas:

- Whenever Pete has to pick up after his dog in the local park, forest, etc., he will first pick up litter, since he already has a bag in hand.
- He also says that empty dog food bags can be used as a pretty decent trash bag substitute.
- Lastly, he suggests that if you have to use a paper towel to dry your hands, only use one and compost it if you can. [Joe Smith's TEDx on how to use just 1 paper towel](https://www.ted.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_one_paper_towel)

In addition to using public transportation, car pools, and walking, **Sandy Mays** has another unique idea: “My tip is to think globally and act locally. I provide financial support to organizations that take on governmental policies and global industries that act in environmentally unsound ways through legal means. I also take part in local protests and actions through my UU parish.”

As we are all stuck at home, **Julie Kron** suggests upping your house plant game. She says, “You can order new pots on Amazon or see if neighbors are giving them away on Nextdoor site or Craiglist. [Some] garden stores are open if you need potting soil and places like [your local retail store] carry garden items too, so for your next food or TP run, swing by and pick up a bag of soil!”

**7 Plants to Improve your Work or Living Space from Harvard Office of Sustainability**

If you are in need of new plants and would like them delivered to your door, try a plant subscription service

**Carrie Ayers** says that she composts at home. She keeps a small compost bin under the sink in the kitchen and empties that into a bigger compost bin outside each week. She then uses the soil from the compost in her garden every Spring. She also brings stainless steel straws to restaurants and asks the servers not to provide plastic straws to the table.

**Alyssa Lary** has been a CSA member for over a decade and buys most of her food at farmer’s markets. She recommends the Somerville Winter Farmer’s market at the Armory who currently has a pre-order market, an outdoor farmers market at Bow Street in Cambridge, and Massachusetts Food Delivery.

Alyssa, also tries to reduce plastic. She says, “I’ve discovered and really been enjoying: [teeny tiny laundry strips](https://www.teenytinylaundry.com)! No more plastic jugs or heavy containers.” She also uses [solid dish soap](https://www.soliddishsoap.com) with a dish brush and dish detergent sold in cardboard boxes for her dishwasher.
Events
There are lots of virtual events going on around the Harvard Campus. Consider checking some of these out!

- **Beehives and Business: Why Sustainability Leaders are Brining Bees to Work (HBS)** 4/21, 1-2pm
- **DCE’s Online Earth Day and Poetry Contest** 4/22, 9:30-10:30am
- **The Future of Food: Helping the World One Bite at a Time (HBS)** 4/22, 4-5:30pm
- To find more events, please visit Harvard’s Office for Sustainability website

Resources
Here are some resources that you may find helpful right now:

- **Green Your Home Learning Space** – Suggestions on how to improve your learning and working spaces at home
- **USGBC’s Learning Lab** – Green lessons to keep your kids of all ages busy on Earth Day
- **Your Stories** – Work from home advice and anecdotes from the HLS Community
- **The Best National Parks to Visit - Virtually** – Links to virtually tour several of America’s national parks
Picture of Preventing Food Waste: Creating Family Meals event on 3/4/2020. The event was a discussion with Prof. Emily Broad Leib of the Food Law and Policy Clinic, Food for Free Executive Director Sasha Purpura, and Gwen Koch of Harvard University Dining Services about this critical collaboration to get food to those in need.

If you would like to join the HLS Green Team, please email sustainability@law.harvard.edu.