



for a living planet



# EARTH DAY

**Earth Day 22 April:  
Let's Renew Our Pledge  
to Protect Earth !**

Each year on the 22 April Earth Day is celebrated across the world. Each year the day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement during the 1970s. The movement took place against detrimental impacts of modernizations and industrialization on human being and his environment.

The Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda. "It was a gamble" he recalls, "but it worked."

**Earth Day reminds us the fact that we have only one earth to support the ever increasing number of human beings and other fellow creatures. This day once again invokes our consciousness about humanity's growing ecological footprints and resource consumption patterns that are going to be harmful for earth's natural resources.**

## **Earth Day is not just a celebration it is a call for action**

The first Earth Day, widely celebrated in United States in 1970 led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endanger Species Acts. The Earth Day in 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, one of the most significant turning points for environment in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Earth Day 2000 brought around 5,000 environmental groups onboard and succeeded in reaching out to hundreds of millions of people over a record 184 countries. The day sent the message loud and clear that citizens of the world wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy.



April 22, 1970-2008  [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

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# Earth Day 2008: a 'Call for Climate'

Earth Day 2008 is expected to be the biggest event for galvanizing millions of people around the world behind a Call for Climate, the theme of global warming. Hundreds of events will be occurring all over the globe and millions of people will call their governments and urge significant and equitable action on climate change.

In Karachi, the largest and one of the most polluted cities of Pakistan, people should be concerned and take actions against its environmental problems. Poorly planned constructions, failing sanitation facilities, mounting pressure of traffic and above all the electricity power crisis in this city make life miserable for its inhabitants.

In addition to the woes of the city communities living in the deltaic areas of Sindh Province are more vulnerable to climate change due to multi-pronged effects of this phenomenon, such as sea intrusion, sinking water-tables and increased frequency of natural disasters such as cyclones and storms.

**On Earth Day let's tell everyone that people living in the Indus Delta are more vulnerable to climate change effects ....let's start taking action, before its' too late...**

## What we can do? Let's change our individual actions and lifestyles...

- Use energy saving electric bulbs at home and office and switch off bulbs when they are not needed;
- Use energy efficient appliances at home and office;
- Keep the water taps leak-free and never allow wastage of water in the house and office;
- Campaign against the 'unseen' pollutions such as lead, a chemical that can stunt the learning ability of our children;
- Ensure your car is tuned and always try to share your car with colleagues when travelling to work
- Reduce use of and recycle paper at your office and home
- Bring environment into Pakistani politics at all levels starting with your local council.

## Be a part of the struggle for adopting or promoting:

- Alternate sources of energy like wind, solar energy and biogas;
- Tree plantations;
- Wise use of natural resources like water, pastures or rangelands, wildlife and fisheries.
- Better management practices agriculture production such as drip-irrigation and wise use of thirsty crops;

## Be aware of your civic rights:

Clean air, clean water and clean environment is our basic rights, let our society take collective actions and influence the country's leaders and policy makers to provide these rights.

# Effects of Global Climate Change on Pakistan

The effects of global climate change in Pakistan are already evident in the form of growing frequency of draughts and flooding, increasingly erratic weather behaviour, changes in agricultural patterns, reduction in freshwater supply and the loss of biodiversity. Pakistan's vulnerability factor is more obvious due to its agro-based economy,

**Effect on agriculture sector:** Because agriculture is the lifeline of our economy, the influence of changing temperatures in expected to be most notable in this sector. According to projections, with just a 1°C rise in temperature, wheat yield in Pakistan is estimated to decline by 6-9% and an even lesser rise in temperature is needed to severely impact cash crops like mango and cotton.

**Water Availability:** With the Himalayan glaciers retreating and mighty rivers like the Ravi turning into dry beds, the country is facing severe implications for future water flows that are already stressed by demands of urbanization and industrialization.

**Effect on Industrial Sector:** The dependency of our industrial sector on agricultural raw material indicates that climate change undermine the supply chain of industry as well. Consequently, damages to livelihoods will not remain confined to the agricultural sector alone but will also spill over to the industrial markets.

**Energy Security:** Energy is both a cause and casualty of global warming: It is a casualty in Pakistan's case because the shortage of water and variation in river flows affects our potential to generate hydropower.

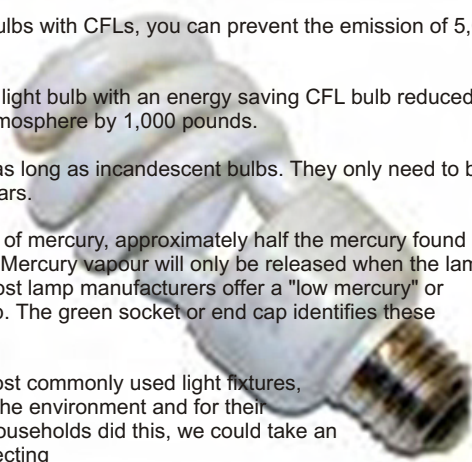
**Effect on Coastal Areas:** The coastal areas of Pakistan including the Indus Delta are most vulnerable to the effect of climate change. The climate change effect, on one hand may reduce the flow of freshwater into the delta and on the other it will accelerate the already occurring sea intrusion in the deltaic areas. In 2007, the tropical cyclone Yemyin killed 529 people and caused damages to 2.5 million people in Sindh and Balouchistan. The coastal mangrove forests in Sindh are also at stake due to lack of freshwater flowing into the delta, sea intrusion and salinity and land degradation.

**Effects on Human Health:** Impact of climate change on human health is obvious. In the face of calamities and natural resource shortages, human health is bound to suffer. Additionally many diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera are known to be sensitive to climatic factors.

*(Source: Lead Pakistan's Background Paper on Climate Change, 2007)*

**ON THIS EARTH DAY LET'S START OUR ACTIONS BY USING COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS. WE WILL SAVE MONEY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR OURSELVES AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS..**

- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) last longer than typical incandescent light bulbs, and use less energy.
- CFLs operate at less than 100° F, they are also safer than typical halogen bulbs, which are frequently used in floor lamps, and burn at 1,000° F. Due to their high heat output, halogens can cause burns and fires. CFLs are cool to the touch.
- CFLs provide the same amount of light (lumens) as standard incandescent bulbs, but have lower wattage ratings.
- By replacing four standard bulbs with CFLs, you can prevent the emission of 5,000 pounds of carbon dioxide
- Replacing one incandescent light bulb with an energy saving CFL bulb reduced carbon monoxide emission to the atmosphere by 1,000 pounds.
- CFLs last about eight times as long as incandescent bulbs. They only need to be replaced every five to six years.
- CFLs contain four milligrams of mercury, approximately half the mercury found in a linear fluorescent lamp. Mercury vapour will only be released when the lamp is broken while operating. Most lamp manufacturers offer a "low mercury" or environmentally friendly lamp. The green socket or end cap identifies these lamps.
- By installing CFLs in their most commonly used light fixtures, consumers will do good for the environment and for their own pocketbooks. If more households did this, we could take an important step towards protecting



*Adapted from the fact sheet of Earth Day Network ([www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net))*

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