

# ECO Quarterly

**U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii DPW Environmental Compliance Newsletter**

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## FEATURED STORY

### HAPPY EARTH DAY!

### BE A PARTNER FOR THE PLANET

During the month of April we are celebrating the planet Earth.

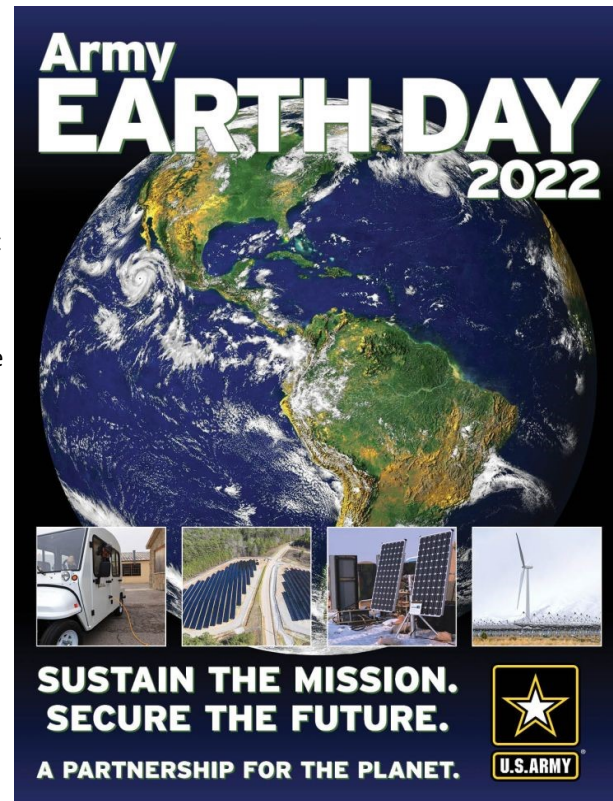
The very first Earth Day happened in 1970 as a way to help educate the public about environmental issues. This event set the foundation for many laws and regulations we still abide by today and led to the creation of the nation's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Every year since, on April 22, citizens of the planet have come together to help celebrate and protect Earth's ecosystems. This year the Army Earth Day theme is "A Partnership for our Planet."

In honor of celebrating Earth Day this newsletter is filled with tips and actions that you can use to make a more positive impact on the health of the planet. Every action you take as an individual and an organization has a ripple effect on the environment. Let's work together to ensure that effect is for the best. Hold yourself and others around you accountable for the actions you choose to take. When we work

together we not only help save wildlife and ecosystems, but we help save each other.

Let's be partners in helping to preserve this planet we call home. Together we can make a difference!

**Continue reading this newsletter for specific tips and actions you can take to do your part!**



# WANT TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET

## START WITH YOUR CAR!



*"If you let soapy water go down the drain, you might as well wash your car in the ocean."*

Image credit and quote: City and County of Honolulu

This Earth Day, DPW Environmental challenges you to think about your impact on our planet. What better place to start than with your mobile friend, your car! Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 26% of the total energy consumption in the U.S. (EIA, 2020). The transportation sector includes planes, boats, trucks, and your personal vehicles. As we may already know, choosing public transportation, flying less, and carpooling are great ways to reduce your impact. However, there is a lesser known impact that we have on our local environment, car washing! Car washing can have a negative impact on our rivers, streams, and ocean. The detergents, dirty water, oil, and soaps can get carried down these waterways and be harmful to aquatic ecosystems.

### Here are three tips to be a better partner to our planet:

- ★ **Wash your car at a commercial car wash:** Water used in commercial car washes are properly contained and disposed of in sanitary sewers.
- ★ **Wash your car in the grass:** Grass can act as a natural filter, trapping pollutants, and allowing clean water to percolate into the soil. Be sure to conserve water!
- ★ **Use phosphate-free biodegradable soap:** Phosphates present in soap can create algae blooms that are harmful to both wildlife and humans.

## PREVENTING OIL SPILLS! BE PREPARED TO MINIMIZE HARM

It is far less time consuming and expensive to prevent spills than it is to clean one up. Once fuel or oil is released into the environment, potential harmful consequences have already occurred. While your goal should be to strive for zero spills, 100% preventability is hard to achieve. Bottom line, spills happen! So being prepared for this eventuality goes a long way in minimizing the damage.

### Preventive Steps You Must Take:

- 1) Ensure you properly store all fluid containers on **secondary containment systems**.
- 2) Use secondary containment and **drip pans** to catch spills, leaks, and drips where you transfer fluids from containers and from mobile refuelers.
- 3) Conduct regular maintenance and inspection of equipment. Be thorough with your **Preventive Maintenance Checks & Services (PMCS)**. Repair leaking equipment or drain the leaking fluid from the equipment immediately upon discovering a leak.
- 4) Keep adequate and usable **spill kits** near areas where spills are likely to occur.

### Take Action:

**Stop** the Spill if you can do it safely.

**Protect** the drains.

**Clean** up the spill using the contents of your spill kit.

**Call** the DPW spill line at **(808) 656-1111** to report the spill.



Image Credit: NOAA



# MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

## DON'T FILL UP LANDFILLS

What better way to help the Earth than to minimize the amount of waste you're putting in landfills? In a place like the Hawaiian Islands, where land is so limited, it is especially important to figure out ways to minimize the amount of waste headed for landfills. The USAG-HI Solid Waste & Recycling Program's mission is to do just that. The aim is to divert waste from landfills by reducing waste created on the installation, reusing usable items, and recycling items for new life.

### **Ways to minimize your contribution to landfills:**

**REDUCE**—Limit the amount of waste you actually create. Start using more reusable products and repurposing items. Ditch the plastic bottles and opt for a reusable water bottle. Scrap paper is great for crafts. Not only will it save you money it will help the environment.

**REUSE**—Donate and buy gently used items. The thrift Stores on Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter are good places to donate your gently used items. Check out the Army Recycling Program's **Office Furniture Reuse Marketplace** or our **Free Issue Program** for more opportunities for reuse.

**RECYCLE**—Give items new life by recycling. If you're not recycling or it's been a while since you've really been on top of it, getting back into it is a great way to celebrate Earth Day. Contact the Army Recycling Program at (808) 656-3085 or (808) 656-5411 so we can get your program up and running again. We can provide you with new signs, training, and bins. Don't forget, we make it easy with single-stream recycling.



## CONSERVE EARTH'S WATER! TAKE THESE STEPS TO CONSERVE SOME H<sub>2</sub>O

As the population of Hawaii has increased, the water usage of the state has gone up. More freshwater is used today for everyday activities like drinking, bathing, and washing clothes than ever before. While the usage of water is at a sustainable level now, this could change in the future. Help conserve the island's fresh water resource for future generations by following some of these helpful tips.

Image Credit: www.creativefabrica.com



### 💧 Beat the Heat!

The best time to water your yard is in the early morning or late evening when it's cool outside. Avoid watering when it is hot and windy out. Watering when it's hot and sunny is inefficient because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to use it.

Image Credit: www.creativefabrica.com

### 💧 Shower Power!

Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub.

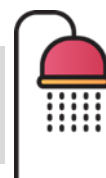


Image Credit: https://pixabay.com

Image Credit: www.creativefabrica.com



### 💧 Make It a Full Load!

The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load. High-efficiency washing machines use less than 28 gallons of water per load. To achieve even greater savings, wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate load size selection on the washing machine.

To see other helpful tips visit the EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>





# GET INVOLVED THIS EARTH DAY AND BEYOND

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

### EVENTS

**MWR Earth Day Fun Fest**—April 16

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Weyand Field, Schofield Barracks

**MWR BOSS Monthly Beach Cleanups**

<https://hawaii.armymwr.com/programs/better-opportunities-single-soldiers>

**Earth Day Cleanup Festival**—April 24

Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii

<https://www.sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org/schedule#outreach-events>

**Beach Cleanups and Restoration**—April 22-24\*

808 Cleanups

<https://808cleanups.org/calendar/>

\*Several opportunities are available throughout the year.

### RESOURCES

**USAG Hawaii DPW Environmental Division**

<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/garrison/dpw/environmental-division>

**U.S. Army Environmental Command**

<https://aec.army.mil/index.php/earth-day>

**Environmental Protection Agency**

<https://www.epa.gov/earthday>

**The Official Earth Day Website**

<https://www.earthday.org/>



Image Credit: [www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov)

No endorsement implied.

## 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER TRAINING DATES

ECO Basic	April 5-7 June 7-9
ECO Refresher	May 5 July 14
SLECT	May 3 July 12

ECO trainings are for USAG-HI personnel and are tailored to focus on USAG-HI environmental requirements.

- ★ **ECO Basic** is a 3-day course required of new ECOs
- ★ **ECO Refresher** is a 1-day course required annually of veteran ECOs
- ★ **SLECT** is the Senior Leader Environmental Compliance Training

For more information and to register call: (808) 655-1560

## CONTACT US!

### Army Recycling Program

Army Recycling Line: (808) 656-9911

### Clean Air and Safe Drinking Water

Phone Number: (808) 656-3107

### Clean Water

Phone Number: (808) 656-7001

### Environmental Compliance Officer Training

Phone Number: (808) 655-1560

### Hazardous Waste

Transfer and Accumulation Point (TAP): (808) 656-0867

### Spill Prevention and Response

Spill Line: (808) 656-1111

### TSCA— Lead and Asbestos

Phone Number: (808) 656-3106

### USAG-HI DPW Environmental Division Website

<https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/garrison/dpw/environmental-division>

