

# Earth Week

Earth Day, 1970, was an overwhelming success. Millions of people, drawn from all segments of society, turned out last April 22 to peacefully demonstrate their environmental concern.

The goal of Earth Day was to generate a broad understanding of the term "environment." Activities focused upon such things as our constant accumulation of more garbage amidst dwindling resources, the ultimate implications of the population explosion, environmental warfare with herbicides in Vietnam, the ecological tragedy of the ghetto, and a transportation system whose automobile-highway emphasis ignores the needs of the young, the old, and the poor of our cities, and the integrity of our countryside.

On Earth Day the vocabulary of ecology was taken from the classroom to the community. A new political climate was created in which the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Education Act could be passed, in which the Senate could decisively refuse to fund the SST, in which ecologically unsound public works could be blocked.

Stock proxy fights began emphasizing environmental concerns. Unions began including environmental considerations in contract negotiations. Courts of law began to assume a new role as protectors of the environment. And the people of America began to make environmental demands of our business community, our government, and ourselves.

Almost a year has passed since Earth Day, and now appeals are being heard for an Earth Week, the third week in April. Senator Nelson and Representative McCloskey have introduced measures in Congress calling for this recognition. The National Governors' Conference has passed a resolution recommending that all governors proclaim the third week in April as Earth Week, and many student groups across the country are urging their governors to follow through on that proclamation.

Earth Week, 1971, is being proposed as a far different kind of event than was Earth Day, 1970. The country is coming to understand the global dimensions of the environmental crisis. What is needed now is a precise pin-pointing of the sources of environmental degradation, and tough-minded, long-term action to enhance the quality of our lives.

Earth Week, 1971, will be a time of low-key, locally-oriented efforts with no national coordination. It will be a time of quiet community organizing, focusing upon concerns relevant to the local area. Earth Week will afford an opportunity for schools across the nation to bring to a culmination their environmental education efforts for the school year. It will be a time to broaden the base of citizen involvement in community decision-making.

Earth Week will be a time to focus our investigative resources upon what's really happening to our environment, to strengthen our support of those who are doing something effective to save it, and to renew our determination to vigorously continue such efforts throughout the year.

Senator Gaylord Nelson  
Representative Paul McCloskey  
Environmental Action, Inc.  
The Conservation Foundation  
Environment!

Friends of the Earth  
The Population Institute  
Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Society  
Zero Population Growth

Yale University  
Library  
Earth Week