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## April 2022 Report

### **Earth Day 2022: How you can get involved**

The New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund released a toolkit of ideas for how to get involved in Earth Day. Ideas include finding a local event near you to learn about pollinators, organizations like <https://www.earthday.org/> offer databases you can use to find a cleanup near you, and there's plenty of ways to celebrate the planet at home. Consider the amount of waste you generate every day, or the amount of energy you consume. How much paper and plastic are thrown away, or how many lights are left on? Try to challenge yourself to see if you can go paperless or plastic-free for a whole day. <https://nylcvef.org/citizens-toolkit/earth-day-2022-how-you-can-get-involved/>

### **About half of US water 'too polluted' for swimming, fishing or drinking, report finds**

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), a nonpartisan nonprofit, published a report that found alarming results of water quality tests in all 50 states. 51 percent of assessed river and stream miles, are impaired by pollution in addition to 55 percent of lake acres and 26 percent of estuary miles. The report defines "impaired" as waters that are too polluted to meet standards for swimming and recreation, aquatic life, fish consumption or as drinking water sources. <https://thehill.com/changing-america/sustainability/environment/600070-about-half-of-us-water-too-polluted-for-swimming/>

### **Tell EPA: Support the Proposal to Restore the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards**

Coal plants continue to emit dangerous quantities of hazardous air pollution, and no amount of mercury exposure is safe for a child's brain. It is time to strengthen the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards so that mercury linked to brain damage in children, as well as other pollutants that increase the risk of cancer, lung disease, and other serious health harms, are no longer a threat to our families' health and well-being. **Submit your comment to the EPA at this link:** <https://act.momscleanairforce.org/imgj4ic>

### **Write Your State Legislators to Fund Electric School Buses & A Clean Fuel Standard in the State Budget**

Contact your legislator to let them know that we must keep funding for electric school buses and a clean fuels standard in the state budget in order to fight climate change. New York is behind schedule to achieve the transportation emission reductions required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Currently, the transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gasses statewide, accounting for more than a third of emissions. Large statewide coalitions of environmental advocates, community-based organizations, labor unions, and clean energy businesses support a transition to 100% electric school buses, pointing to the significant positive environmental, public health, economic, and job creation impacts of both policies. **Write your Legislators at this link:** <https://actions.nylcv.org/a/%20write-your-state-legislators-support-electric-school-buses-and-clean-fuels-standard-stat>



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**Long Island air pollution exceeds WHO limits, report says**

Long Island particulate air pollution exceeds the World Health Organization's air quality standards for 2021, according to a report by a Swiss-based air quality technology company. Particulate levels exceeded WHO guidelines by 1 to 2 times at monitoring stations in Riverhead, Holtsville, East Northport and Westbury. A monitoring station in Glen Cove showed that the area exceeded WHO's guidelines by 2 to 3 times. Increased particulate rates can increase the possibility of respiratory illness and have cardiovascular effects. Reducing the use of vehicles and transitioning to renewable technology and electric cars can improve air quality, experts say. <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/air-pollution-particulates-who-x19avne7>

**Microplastics found in human blood for first time**

Microplastic pollution has been detected in human blood for the first time, with scientists finding the tiny particles in almost 80% of the people tested. The discovery shows the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs. The impact on health is as yet unknown. But researchers are concerned as microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory and air pollution particles are already known to enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year. Huge amounts of plastic waste are dumped in the environment and microplastics now contaminate the entire planet. Babies and young children are more vulnerable to chemical and particle exposure. More detailed research on how micro- and nano-plastics affect the structures and processes of the human body is urgently needed, particularly in light of the exponential increase in plastic production, which is set to double by 2040. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/24/microplastics-found-in-human-blood-for-first-time>