

# Celebrating a Cleaner Earth

Twenty million people joined in celebrating the first Earth Day in 1970. Since then, hundreds of millions more have followed their pioneering example to spread the inspiring message that each of us can make a difference for the environment.

The environmental awareness promoted by Earth Day has already had a major impact. Our air, water and land are generally cleaner than they were in 1970. There have been many significant steps along the way. Recycling has become an everyday habit for millions of American families. Efforts across the nation to restore wetlands, preserve open space, reduce pollution and clean up sites of former industrial activity have improved the quality of life.

New Jersey is benefiting, too, from this strong focus on the environment. There are countless examples of the environment making a comeback from the Shore to the Highlands. A good harbinger of the future is that, for the first time in 50 years, young osprey chicks were born in the Meadowlands of northern New Jersey. Today, in the heart of one of the nation's most developed areas, wildlife is rebounding.

There is much to celebrate this Earth Day – April 22. Yet much more needs to be done. There can't

be any letup in the fight against traditional pollutants like smog-causing nitrogen oxide, or any relaxation of our recycling zeal. On top of this, society needs to engage in a new environmental effort of overriding importance – the fight against climate change.

A sustainable future won't come about in a day.

But it can be built if people really get involved – house by house, neighborhood by neighborhood in our cities, towns and suburbs.

Earth Day's message is more important than ever. All of us can indeed make a difference, by powering down a computer that's not being used, switching to energy-efficient light bulbs or using public transportation on more occasions. Every little step helps.

This Earth Day, let's rededicate ourselves to turning our environmental challenges into opportunities to make our world a cleaner, healthier place.

To learn what you can do to help the environment, consider attending the PSEG Global Green Expo on April 25, 26 and 27 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. For more information, go to [www.globalgreen2008.com](http://www.globalgreen2008.com).

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