In 1970, the world witnessed a historic moment with the observance of the first Earth Day. This pivotal event united millions, particularly young people, in a collective call for environmental awareness and action. This landmark occasion underscored the urgent need to care for and safeguard our planet, leading to significant legislative advancements to protect our air and water. As we commemorate Earth Day’s legacy and address contemporary environmental challenges, it is crucial to examine how we prepare future generations to become stewards of the Earth.

Aligned with the principles of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), particularly standard ESS3.C, which emphasizes the impact of human activities on the environment and the importance of conservation efforts, we seek to explore educational initiatives, classroom activities, and teaching strategies that empower students to understand, appreciate, and actively contribute to the protection of our planet.

According to Douglas Tallamy, author of Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard, “...humans now occupy or have seriously altered nearly all of the spaces outside our parks and preserves. Each of us carries an inherent responsibility to preserve the quality of Earth’s ecosystems. The conservation of Earth’s resources, including its living biological systems, must become part of the everyday culture of us all, worldwide.”

We invite submissions offering insights, experiences, and best practices in fostering environmental literacy and cultivating students’ sense of environmental responsibility. Article suggestions for this issue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Present how educators integrate environmental concepts into their curriculum to cultivate environmental literacy among students.
- Share innovative teaching approaches employed to engage students in meaningful discussions and activities related to environmental conservation.
- Describe how educators effectively incorporate real-world environmental issues into the classroom to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Identify collaborative efforts in which schools, communities, and other organizations joined forces to create opportunities for students to actively participate in environmental conservation efforts.

Enhance preschool and elementary science teaching with your experience.

Submit a Proposal