

Memorandum to Council

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Initiatives Division



To: Mayor and Members of Council

CC: Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives;
Junaid Khan, Project Manager,
Sustainability & Climate Change

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Officer**

From: Kristin Palilionis, Climate Change
Coordinator

Date: January 29, 2024

Subject: 2024 Days of Environmental Significance
for Proclamations (March – October)

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Council to proclaim the following, as Environmental Days of Significance for 2024. In addition to this proclamation, Staff will organize special events for the community to get involved, to celebrate, and to help support the Town's environmental commitments. Event details will be shared through the Town's regular communication channels.

2024 Days of Significance for Proclamation

| Awareness Campaign | Date | Description |
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| World Sustainable Procurement Day | March 21, 2024 | World Sustainable Procurement Day started in March 2022 during the spring equinox and continues to run each year. The purpose of this day is to empower and equip Procurement Practitioners with knowledge, best practices, and practical solutions to sustainable procurement challenges. |
| United Nations' International Day of Forests | March 21, 2024 | The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. The purpose of this day is to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. |

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| <u>World Water Day</u> | March 22, 2024 | World Water Day is an annual observance on March 22 to celebrate water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water. Theme varies every year. |
| <u>Earth Hour</u> | March 23, 2024 | Earth Hour is an annual event on the last Saturday of the month of March from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Millions across the world choose to turn off their lights for one hour to celebrate their commitment to the planet. The objective is to spread awareness of environmental issues in our global and local communities. |
| <u>Earth Month/Week/Day</u> | April 2024 | Earth Month is the entire month of April, Earth Week is April 21-27 and Earth Day is on April 22. These are annual celebrations of environmental action. |
| <u>Provincial Day of Action on Litter</u> | May 14, 2024 | The Provincial Day of Action on Litter is celebrated on the second Tuesday of May each year in Ontario and promotes taking action to prevent and reduce litter and waste. |
| <u>World Bee Day</u> | May 20, 2024 | World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20 each year to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development. |
| <u>International Day for Biological Diversity</u> | May 22, 2024 | International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated on May 22 each year to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. |
| <u>World Environment Day</u> | June 5, 2024 | World Environment Day is the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. |
| <u>Pollinator Week</u> | June 17 to 23, 2024 | <p>Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate the important role pollinators like bees, birds, bats, and butterflies play in our local ecosystem and in supporting global food production.</p> <p>As a designated Bee City and a member of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Whitby is committed to protecting pollinators and their habitat through action and education.</p> |

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| <u>National Forest Week</u> | September 22 to 28, 2024 | National Forest Week is celebrated during the third week of September to raise awareness about one of the most valuable and renewable resources – forests. |
| <u>Energy Efficiency Day</u> | October 2, 2024 | Energy Efficiency Day is on the first Wednesday of October to raise awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency. |
| <u>Waste Reduction Week</u> | October 14 to 20, 2024 | Waste Reduction Week is an annual campaign held during the third week of October that educates and promotes waste reduction while encouraging new and innovative ideas for dealing with Canada's waste. |

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Palilionis, Climate Change Coordinator (palilionisk@whitby.ca).