

Memorandum to Council

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Initiatives Division



To: Mayor and Members of Council
CC: Sarah Klein, Deputy CAO & Director, Strategic Initiatives;
Sarah Shields, Project Manager, Sustainability & Climate Change
From: Kristin Palilionis, Climate Change Coordinator
Date: January 20, 2025
Subject: 2025 Days of Environmental Significance for Proclamations

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

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Council to proclaim the following, as Environmental Days of Significance for 2025. 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.

2025 Environmental Days of Significance for Proclamation

Awareness Campaign	Date	Description
International Day of Clean Energy	January 26, 2025	The United Nations Generally Assembly proclaimed January 26 the International Day of Clean Energy to raise awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy for the benefit of people and the planet.
World Sustainable Procurement Day	March 21, 2025	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.

<u>United Nations International Day of Forests</u>	March 21, 2025	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.
<u>World Water Day</u>	March 22, 2025	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 22, 2025	Earth Hour is an annual event on the last or second last Saturday 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>International Day of Zero Waste</u>	March 30, 2025	International Day of Zero Waste is an annual observance on March 30 to raise awareness of national, subnational, regional, and local zero-waste initiatives and their contribution to achieving sustainable development.
<u>Earth Month/Week/Day</u>	April 2025	Earth Month is the entire month of April; Earth Week is April 20-26 and Earth Day is on April 22. These are annual celebrations of environmental action.
<u>World Migratory Bird Day</u>	May 10, 2025	World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
<u>Provincial Day of Action on Litter</u>	May 13, 2025	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, 2025	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, 2025	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, 2025	World Environment Day is the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.
<u>Pollinator Week</u>	June 16 to 22, 2025	<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>
<u>World Clean Up Day</u>	September 20, 2025	World Clean Up Day is an annual global social action program aimed at combating the global mismanaged waste crisis, including the problem of marine debris.
<u>National Forest Week</u>	September 21 to 27, 2025	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 1, 2025	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 20 to 26, 2025	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).