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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR HINIMOK ANG PUBLIKO NA LUMAHOK SA GLOBAL EARTH HOUR

written by **Ace Cruz** March 27, 2021



Hinimok ng pamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang publiko na lumahok sa global Earth hour mamayang alas-otso-y-medya ng gabi hanggang alas-nwebe-y -medya ng gabi.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, sa kasagsagan ng Earth hour, sabayang papatayin ang mga ilaw at mga kagamitan na pinapagana ng kuryente.

Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, ito'y bilang pakikiisa ng bansa sa pagtulong sa ating kalikasan.

Mababatid na nagsimula ang Earth hour sa Australia noong 2007 at matapos ang isang taon kumalat na sa iba't-ibang bansa ang tradisyong ito na pagpatay ng mga ilaw sa loob ng isang oras.



Earth Hour 2021: Cimatu enjoins Filipinos to take climate action amid health crisis

By DENR Published on March 27, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Mar. 27 -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is once again calling on all Filipinos to participate in the global Earth Hour movement on Saturday, March 27, in support of the agency's efforts to mitigate the increasing effects of climate change.

The worldwide event will be observed in the Philippines from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

"I enjoin all households and businesses across the country to jointly switch off their lights and other energy-consuming devices for an hour, and to encourage action towards the environment even after the lights are turned back on," Cimatu said.

Computers, television sets, air conditioning units and non-essential lights may be switched off to express a shared concern for the environment.

"Now more than ever, environmental responsibility is critical and must be sustained. Let us do our share and switch off for an hour in support of a healthy future for humankind and the environment," Cimatu said.

However, the DENR chief emphasized that beyond this symbolic action, Filipinos should reduce electrical consumption to lessen carbon footprint and emissions generated by carbon dioxide and fossil fuel, which are major causes of climate change.

Cimatu also proposed shifting to renewable sources of energy such as solar technology and use of light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, which draw less power compared to incandescent and fluorescent lights.

Supporting worthy causes like the Earth Hour movement has become more significant than ever, Cimatu said as he noted the importance of nature conservation in combatting climate change, biodiversity loss, and even health risks.

"As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, let us recognize the inevitable truth that the state of our planet and our health and well-being are inherently related. We should persist against harmful human activities and shift towards environment-friendly lifestyle choices," he added.

He said that while the DENR addresses deforestation, plastic pollution, and illegal wildlife trade through its policies and programs, Filipinos are also encouraged to do their share.

"Educate yourselves, spread awareness, support government campaigns, and rethink ways how to eat, buy and travel. Let us take climate actions especially now that we are in the midst of a health crisis. When we protect our climate, we protect our health," Cimatu appealed.



Earth Hour is an annual global environmental movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund to encourage individuals and organizations in taking tangible actions and commitments for the planet by jointly turning off non-essential lights for an hour.

The movement started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, and eventually spread to over 7,000 cities and 180 countries and territories. (DENR)



Pinoys urged to join Earth Hour to ease effects of climate change

March 26, 2021 3 min read

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Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/26/pinoys-urged-to-join-earth-hour-to-ease-effects-of-climate-change/?fbclid=IwAR2AalcjC40v0H4TB75OWQbol8dRxFL8hSV7sGfHv6zT8fSJVjJlyRTnrk>



ENFORCEMENT NG ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS NG BANSA PALAKASIN-CIMATU



March 28, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 7 hours ago

UMAASA si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na mabubuo sa lalong madaling panahon ang Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) matapos magsagawa ng joint meeting ang dalawang committee ng House of Representatives para sa iminumungkahing panukala upang mapalakas ang enforcement ng environmental laws ng bansa.

“What we are seeing is a sense of urgency and concerted effort at the House of Representatives and the Senate to reform the implementation of environmental laws of the land and establish a strong institution whose singular task is to be the government’s backbone in running after violators of our environmental laws like illegal loggers and wildlife poachers,” saad ni Cimatu.

Marso 3, 2021 nang magkaroon ng joint hearing ang House committee on government reorganization at committee on natural resources para talakayin ang “six proposed measures” na magpapalakas sa environmental laws.

Apat sa anim na House bills ay nagtutulak na bumuo ng EPEB, isang permanenteng enforcement bureau sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ito ay ang HB 6973 na inihain ni Deputy Speaker at Antique Rep. Loren Legarda; HB 7873 ni Deputy Speaker at South Cotabato 2nd District Rep. Ferdinand Hernandez; HB 7670 ni Ilocos Norte 2nd District Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba; at HB 8028 ni Camarines Sur 2nd District Rep. Raymund “LRay” Villafuerte.

Dalawa namang counterpart bills para sa pagbuo ng EPEB ang inihain na sa Senado. Ito ay ang Senate Bill (SB) 1878 na inisponsoran ni Senator Nancy Binay at SB 1579 na iniakda ni Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla, Jr.

Nagkaroon na rin ng house deliberations tungkol sa HB 3794 ni Deputy Speaker at Cagayan de Oro 2nd District Rep. Rufus Rodriguez at HB 1648 ni Magdalo Partylist Rep. Manuel D.G. Cabochan III.

Ang dalawang panukalang batas ay ninanais na mailipat ang line bureaus ng DENR na Environmental Management Bureau at Biodiversity Management Bureau para mabuo ang National Environmental Protection Agency.

Ang joint meeting na idinaos sa Kamara ay dinaluhan ni Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamoria.



Ayon kay Tamera, ang paglalagay ng regulatory at enforcement functions sa isang tanggapan ay napatunayang isang problema tulad ng kaso ng NEPA measures.

“However, the EPEB bills seeks to consolidate and strengthen DENR’s mandate to enforce environmental laws through a single office whose core function is exclusively enforcement,” paliwanag nito.

Inihalimbawa nito ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau kung bakit ang isang enforcement bureau sa loob ng DENR ay dapat mabuo.

“Yes, the MGB has enforcement powers but it has to be done in coordination with other law enforcement agencies as provided for under Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995,” saad ni Tamera.

Sa ginanap na pulong, nagpahayag ng pagsuporta ang Department of Justice (DOJ) at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) sa pagbuo ng EPEB.

“The enforcement of natural resources and environmental laws, rules and regulations is within the powers and functions of the DENR pursuant to the Administrative Code,” sabi ni DOJ Director Jane Garcia-Doble.

“Based on our reading of Section 5 of HB 3794, we find that NEPA has no specific powers and function related to enforcement,” dagdag pa ni Doble.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni NBI Environmental Crime Division Officer Atty. Habeas Corpuz na tanging ang DENR ang may kapangyarihan na magsagawa ng pag-aresto batay na rin sa nakasaad sa Presidential Decree 705 na kilala rin sa Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.

Binigyan-diin ni Corpuz na ang batas na katulad ng RA 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 at RA 7942 ay tahimik kung sino sa EMB at MGB ang magsasagawa ng pag-aresto o pagkumpiska sa mga equipment na ginamit sa illegal mining operations.

“There seems to be a lack of enforcement functions of the DENR, so on that aspect we fully support the creation of EPEB to further strengthen the enforcement of our environmental laws,” saad ni Corpuz.

Ang joint hearing ay pinamunuan nina committee on government teorganization chairman, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Mario Vittorio “Mayey” A. Mariño at committee on natural resources chairman, Cavite 4th District Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga.Jr.

Nagkasundo din ang dalawang mambabatas na bumuo ng technical working group na magsasagawa ng pag-aaral at pagsasamahin ang apat na “measures” kabilang na kung aaprubahan ang HBs 3794 at 1648 sa committee level bago ito umakyat sa plenary para sa second reading.



Nestlé Philippines, DENR ink deal to build materials recovery facility

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 26 2021 12:23 PM



The perspective view of the MRF to be built in Caloocan City. *Handout*

MANILA - Nestlé Philippines on Friday signed a deal with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its commitment to a waste-free future, which includes the building of a materials recovery facility (MRF) in Caloocan City.

The facility will sort, segregate, compost and recycle wastes, in accordance with Republic Act. No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Nestlé Philippines said in a statement.

Under the Memorandum of Agreement, Nestlé Philippines would sponsor the construction of the facility in Barangay 164 in Caloocan City. A signing was held virtually Friday which was attended by officials of DENR and Nestlé Philippines.

The DENR, meanwhile, through its Environmental Management Bureau in NCR, will provide the technical assistance needed to operate the facility.

"Tackling plastic waste is an urgent priority for us at Nestlé Philippines. We are collaborating with key stakeholders like the DENR that share our vision of a waste-free future," said Kais Marzouki, Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO.

Preserving natural resources should be a priority for the benefit of future generations, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

"Our partnership with Nestlé Philippines strengthens the government's resolve to implement programs that address proper solid waste management in order to reduce pollution for a cleaner, safer and healthier Philippines," he said.

Proper waste disposal at the barangay level where the facility is located will now be observed as well as the monitoring and management of inflow and outflow of waste to reduce pollution, Cimatu said.

Aside from building the facility, Nestlé Philippines said it would co-develop modules for educating local government units in implementing several environment laws and to provide assistance to communities when it comes to solid waste management.

Globally, Nestlé has committed to make its packaging, including plastic, 100 percent recyclable or reusable by 2025, it said.

The European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations earlier signed a deal to foster circular economy or the commitment to make sustainable materials aimed at reducing wastes and preserving resources.

Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand are losing some \$6 billion worth of material value per year due to the failure to recycle 75 percent of plastic wastes in the 3 countries, according to a [World Bank](#) study.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/03/26/21/nestl-philippines-denr-ink-deal-to-build-materials-recovery-facility>



New partnership to boost Caloocan solid waste management

March 26, 2021 3 min read

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), food giant Nestle Philippines, Inc., and the Caloocan City government are partnering to help boost the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed Friday will promote proper waste segregation, recycling and reuse communities along Tullahan-Tinejeros river system, which discharges into Manila Bay, to reduce the volume of trash for disposal and open up income opportunities from garbage while mitigating pollution there.

“Solid waste management remains a major challenge in the country especially in urban areas like Metro Manila,” said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu in his message during the virtual MOA signing event, highlighting why government needs partners in implementing RA 9003.

He said he is looking forward to seeing more partnerships on RA 9003, anticipating further rise in Philippine waste generation due to the continuing onslaught of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Covid-19’s emergence is fueling demand for and use of personal protective equipment and other disposable medical supplies.

DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Nestle corporate affairs chief Arlene Tan-Bantoto, and Caloocan’s Barangay 164 Chairperson Mila Uy signed the MOA.

Teh said under the MOA, Nestle will build a materials recovery (MRF) facility in Barangay (village) 164.

The village will operationalize the MRF following RA 9003 while segregating waste at source and ensuring segregated waste collection within its area, she noted.

She said DENR will provide technical assistance on such matters and monitor compliance with RA 9003 and other environmental laws.

“With the MRF, we hope to see improved waste collection efficiency servicing even less accessible households, reduced quantity of solid waste to be disposed to dump sites and increased recovered recyclable materials for use in income opportunities for the poor,” she said at the event.

Aside from segregating waste, RA 9003 requires the establishment of MRFs nationwide.



MRF is an area that “includes a solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and a recycling facility,” said RA 9003.

Nestle Philippines Chairperson and CEO Kais Marzouki assured the food giant’s support for implementing RA 9003, noting this company treats solid waste as an “urgent priority”.

“We at Nestle Philippines recognize the impact of solid waste, particularly plastic waste, on our environment,” he said in his message during the MOA signing.

He said Nestle is the first multi-national fast-moving consumer group in the Philippines to “recover and could process the equivalent amount of plastic we put out in the market”.

Nestle is committed to make its product packaging 100 percent recyclable or reusable by 2025, he added.

“We are committed to do our part in shaping a waste-free future,” he said.

Tan-Bantoto said Nestle is thankful for the opportunity to build an MRF for Barangay 164.

“We believe there is more to be done,” she also said, noting Nestle plans to build two more city-based MRFs in the future.

The village officials thanked DENR and Nestle for helping address its waste problem.

“It’s a big help to our community,” Uy said at the event.

Teaching residents the proper way of segregating waste will improve solid waste management while enabling villagers to earn from recycling and reusing trash, she noted. (**PNA**)



Vaccine-related waste disposal management in place since 2020-DENR

By DENR Published on March 27, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Mar. 27 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured the public of the establishment of guidelines and procedures for the proper disposal of medical vials and syringes used for coronavirus vaccine injections.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda pointed out that there is already an existing set of guidelines on managing hazardous waste as stated in the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) memorandum circulars 2020-14, 2020-15 and 2020-16 on the issuance of Special Permit to Transport for the treatment and disposal of healthcare wastes.

"We have already laid down the guidelines ever since the lockdown started last year, and one of the requirements in the memo is to monitor the healthcare wastes coming from healthcare institutions as well as COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) -designated quarantine facilities," Antiporda said.

As of January 2021, DENR has registered 53 transporters and 23 TSD (treatment, storage and disposal) facilities nationwide.

These transporters and TSD facilities receive the healthcare wastes from hospitals for safe transport, treatment and disposal.

Under the DENR-EMB memorandum circulars, syringes and vials used for inoculation are classified as hazardous waste and requires special permit for transport. These hazardous wastes are also treated by the DENR-registered service providers before disposal.

Moreover, Antiporda said the DENR is also following the standards set forth by the Asian Development Bank under its Due Diligence on the Philippine COVID-19 Immunization Waste Management Plan.

He noted that in addition to the EMB guidelines that have been released during the start of the pandemic, the DENR will still issue a memorandum to highlight the disposal of the vaccines based on the existing laws and mandates "to avoid confusion and misinterpretation."

"We want to assure every Filipino that we are doing our job in the DENR for the proper disposal of the vials and syringes for the government's immunization program so that we can do our part to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus," Antiporda said. (DENR)



Youth tapped for environmental protection campaign

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

March 26, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is placing its hopes on the youth sector, as it mobilized more support for its environmental and conservation campaigns for Pampanga and the entire Central Luzon.

This, as the DENR, together with DENR Strategic Communication and Initiative Service (SCIS) based in Quezon City, held Friday, March 26, a virtual environmental youth summit to strengthen partnership with Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in a bid to boost environmental protection and conservation.

Benny Antiporda, undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerned, said the youth summit was participated in by some 18 SK federation presidents in Pampanga to boost environmental protection, especially solid waste management in the province.

"Solid waste management is one of our challenging environmental problems. Aside from banning plastic, we can change the behavior of the public, and our SK as young leaders can greatly help us to influence their constituents and communities towards proper waste management," he said.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) projected that Central Luzon will be generating 15.3 million tons of solid wastes from 2020 to 2025.

According to Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of DENR in Central Luzon, the youth has a critical role in the protection of air, water, forest, and even wildlife.

"Protecting our environment is a challenging task and we admit that the DENR cannot do it alone. Our youth is vital in spreading the message of environmentalism to their community," he said.

He also appealed to the youth to maximize social media in advocating for the value of protecting the environment and natural resources.

The SK federation presidents vowed to support the different environmental programs of the DENR in the province.

Important environmental issues and problems were discussed in the summit, including ecological solid waste management, global warming and climate change, and the continuing efforts to save Manila Bay, said Laudemir Salac, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer in Pampanga.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1890024/Pampanga/Local-News/Youth-tapped-for-environmental-protection-campaign>



Antique informal settlers ready to relocate

March 26, 2021 2 min read

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Informal settlers in the Barangay Maybato Sur reclamation area here are preparing to relocate to Barangay Mapatag in Hamtic town to pave the way for the construction of the PHP50-million Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) building.

“We expect the informal settlers to start the construction of their houses in the relocation site since we have delivered yesterday (Thursday) their needed lumber,” Eby Butiong, provincial government housing board secretary, said in an interview on Friday.

Butiong said 10 of the 18 affected informal settler families opted to transfer to the relocation site. The remaining eight chose to stay with their relatives.

He said the lumber was part of the assistance provided by the provincial government and the PENRO for their relocation, while the eight families were each provided PHP10,000 in financial assistance by the provincial government for their subsistence.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the project was held on March 17, led by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

During the program, Cimatu cited the need for the PENRO building to be transferred to a new location because the present office stands on a landslide-prone area.

He said the PENRO building to be constructed in Barangay Maybato Sur would also enable its personnel to closely monitor the historic Malandog River where the first Malay barangay in the country was established.

“PENRO’s presence will ensure the river’s cleanup,” Cimatu said. **(PNA)**


Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/26/antique-informal-settlers-ready-to-relocate/?fbclid=IwAR3zwyXG1NRuf7awgxekyfuxMb2DLPrwfh-3hn_6559wPLimigtmGfI32ZI



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A view of the Dolomite white sand beach project along Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard, Manila on March 27, 2021. George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News



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Ramp up govt support for bamboo industry – Bamboo experts, advocates

By Jerome Carlo R. PaunanPublished on March 27, 2021



CALOOCAN CITY, March 27 (PIA) -- Bamboo experts and advocates highlighted the huge potential of the Philippine bamboo industry in generating sustainable livelihoods, socio-economic development and climate and environmental protection during the 39th episode of "Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways," with the topic "Bamboo is Life!"

The online conversation, hosted by three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, was the last of the four-part episode focused on supporting resilient livelihoods. Deputy Speaker and Ilocos Sur First District Representative Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano; Mayor Esmie Pineda of Lubao, Pampanga; Philippine Bamboo Foundation President Ed Manda; and Architect Jed Michael de Guzman, a bamboo material expert and agriprenuer, joined as guests.

"Why is bamboo important for the Filipinos? Just like bamboo, we are resilient people. Second, it is important economically, daan-daang taon na itong ginagamit sa ating mga tahanan. Fast-growing pa ito, renewable, at sustainable resource," said Legarda. "Bamboo is also good ecologically. It is one of the best sequesterer ng carbon dioxide. Ayon sa Ecosystems Research Development Bureau (ERDB), mature bamboos could store up to 40-44% of the total amount of carbon in their biomass," she added.

The guests shared the initiatives of their respective jurisdiction to support the Philippine bamboo industry, and the development of more opportunities for those working in the sector in the new normal.

"Sobrang mahalaga ang potensyal ng industriya ng kawayan sa halos lahat ng aspeto ng buhay – sa kalikasan, kabuhayan, kaunlaran, at kinabukasan. Kaya itinatag namin ang 'Kilusang 5K' upang hikayatin ang sambayanan na magtanim ng kawayan to address climate change and global warming, improve air quality, alleviate poverty, and provide livelihood to everyone," said Deputy Speaker Savellano.

"Dito sa Lubao, aside sa Bamboo Park, meron din kaming nursery na merong 26 bamboo species. With the help of DOST at DTI, nagbibigay sila ng mga basic trainings kung papaano kami makagagawa ng produkto out of bamboo, tulad ng speakers, lamps, at frames. Sadly, nag-stop dahil sa pandemic, pero we're still on the process ng paghahanap ng ibang bamboo species dahil gusto rin namin mag-propagate ng ibang species," said Mayor Pineda.

"Yung massive education campaign, kailangang pagtulung-tulungan. With the education campaign sa ating mga farmers, mas maiintindihan nila ang economic uses ng kawayan. Kasi pag wala silang education diyan at hindi nila naiintindihan, hindi nila papansinin yung kawayan na nandoon lang sa bakuran nila," said Manda.



Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda's Facebook video screengrab

"Bilang arkitekto, sa side po namin, meron tayong kakulangan sa suplay ng kawayan. At kung ano ang kakulangan na yun, gumagawa tayo ng paraan kung papaano pa rin siya magagamit sa paggawa ng istruktura, paggawa ng furniture. At ang problema natin ngayon, maraming arkitekto, maraming contractor ang gustong gumawa na gamit ang kawayan, ngunit kulang sa carpenters, skilled laborers, at wood carvers para gawin ito," said Architect de Guzman.

Legarda stressed that the country's bamboo sector requires technical and financial support from the government to make it more competitive in both local and international markets to provide opportunities for local employment and to establish bamboo-based enterprises.

"There's so much interest, passion, initiative, and resources sa bamboo kaya lang, kalat-kalat e. Hindi natin masasabi na walang pondo, [dahil] ang daming pondo. It's just a matter of earmarking. Where is it in the budget? Which program or bureau or agency? Of the whole budget, what percentage is dedicated to bamboo? Kung walang line item, pwede pa 'yang i-allocate sa areas ng bamboo production, planting, rehabilitation, conservation, and nurseries," Legarda concluded.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation.



To recall, the Climate Change Commission is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines. (PIA NCR)



Magalong vows demolition of structures in forest reserve

By Liza Agoot [March 27, 2021, 12:54 pm](#)



BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong will pursue the demolition of illegal structures at the Busol watershed, one of the city’s biggest sources of potable water, chief of the city public information office, Aileen Refuerzo, said Friday.

This was after the city government discovered that occupants at the watershed reneged on an agreement in 2019 that they would help prevent the entry of intruders and would not introduce additional improvements to their structures.

Busol is one of the few remaining forest reserves in the city, hence the need to preserve it.

The city government demolished five of the 16 structures at the watershed on March 23 and 24. Eleven of the structures were spared after their owners were able to obtain a temporary restraining order from the court.

Refuerzo said the city conducted a series of dialogues with the watershed occupants on the city's demolition plan in 2019 after Magalong assumed as mayor of Baguio.

An agreement was entered into with about 150 occupants and heads of the four barangays straddling the reservation for them to cooperate with the city by refraining from introducing improvements or expanding their structures.

The occupants also agreed to help guard the watershed against intruders.

However, the city government found out that instead of complying with the agreement, the occupants made expansions, and new structures mushroomed inside the watershed, Refuerzo said.

She said the City Buildings and Architecture Office notified the affected parties in January of the scheduled demolition, which however covered only five occupants.

Refuerzo said the mayor has stressed the city’s firm position to safeguard the remaining unoccupied portion of the watershed, which is estimated at only 60 percent of Baguio’s side of the reservation

A portion of the Busol watershed is within the jurisdiction of La Trinidad, Benguet.

Several cases involving informal settlers and ancestral land claimants remain pending in court but its protection needs to be pursued.

Refuerzo shared that on Feb. 4, 2009, the Supreme Court ruled with finality in favor of sustaining the city government’s bid to demolish some structures covered by Demolition Order 33 series of 2005 of former mayor Braulio Yaranon.

She said in its decision, the Supreme Court sustained the city government’s contention that it is governed by its charter and “thus, (lot occupants) cannot claim their alleged ancestral lands under the provisions of the Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA).”



Other cases are pending before various courts.

Refuerzo said the city is also poised to pursue the reversion procedures before the Office of the Solicitor General to reclaim a 7.8-hectare lot at the Busol watershed that was divided into 22 lots and illegally titled by unscrupulous individuals in 2015. (PNA)



Environmental group wants ban on spray paint sold online

By Jigger Jerusalem **March 27, 2021, 12:46 pm**



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The EcoWaste Coalition on Friday appealed to dealers of aerosol or spray paint from Mindanao not to sell products containing violative levels of lead through online shopping platforms.

The environmental group said spray paint being sold online that were traced back to Davao City were allegedly found to be highly toxic, prompting them to call for a ban on these products.

EcoWaste Coalition disclosed three of the 13 spray paint found to contain dangerously high concentrations of lead, a chemical banned in the manufacture of paint, were procured from an online dealer who shipped the items from Davao.

“We appeal to online, as well as offline, sellers of lead-containing spray paint to discontinue the unlawful sale of such products that goes against the government’s policy of eliminating lead paints,” Thony Dizon, EcoWaste Coalition chemical safety campaigner, said in a statement.

Dizon also appealed to online shopping sites to take down the advertisements for non-compliant paint to protect consumers from ordering items that could later pose a risk of lead exposure.

The group said three variants of F1 Aerosol Paint from the dealer were among those found by the coalition with excessively high lead content.

A leaf green F1 spray paint has 56,100 parts per million (ppm) lead, a medium yellow F1 has 50,800 ppm lead, and an orange-yellow F1 has 11,500 ppm lead.

The manufacturer and country of manufacture of the products are not written on the label.

The group earlier announced its discovery of more non-compliant paint with lead content ranging from 4,500 ppm to 56,100 ppm, which are way above the total lead content limit of 90 ppm under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds.

Dr. Geminn Louis Apostol, an environmental health scientist, explained that “lead paint chips and dust are formed when a surface covered with lead paint ages, peels, and breaks.”

Apostol warned that children are exposed to lead when they eat such paint chips or swallow or breathe in lead dust, which can affect their developing brains and cause reduced intelligence, learning ability, and attention span, as well as increased risk of behavioral problems, such as aggressiveness, bullying, and violence.

The EcoWaste Coalition has so far discovered 50 leaded aerosol paint being sold by online and offline retailers in violation of the country’s lead paint regulation.

None of the non-compliant spray paint found by the group was produced by companies belonging to the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1135061>

EDC partners plant 150 BINHI trees on Int'l Day of Forests

By Jennifer Tilos Published on March 27, 2021

NEGROS ORIENTAL, March 24 (PIA) -- In celebration of International Day of Forests, the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) and its stakeholders planted at least 150 seedlings for Mother Earth amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

EDC's scholars and other schools have planted seedlings of Katmon (*Dillenia philippinensis*), Malabayabas (*Tristaniaopsis decorticate*), and Molave (*Vitex parviflora*), all part of BINHI's 96 flagship Philippine native tree species, in Brgy. Puhagan, Valencia.



EDC's partners join the tree planting in celebration of International Day of Forests in Valencia, Negros Oriental. (NB/PIA Negros Oriental)

BINHI is EDC's over 12-year old greening legacy program that has been bridging forest gaps, apart from bringing back to abundance 96 of the country's threatened native tree species.

Apart from EDC's employees from its Negros geothermal facility, the organizations that were represented were EDC's SIKAT scholars, its BINHI Youth Champions, former seminarians of the Order of the Augustinian Recollects, San Pedro Academy Recoletos Faculty, the Philippine Army, the Philippine National Police Regional Mobile Group, Puhagan barangay officials, and Dumaguete media.

"We can't save the whole planet but we're all here to do our part in response to the International Day of Forests' theme this 2021, which is 'Forest Restoration: A Path to Recovery and Wellbeing.' We are blessed here in Negros because we strive to keep our home a green island," said Norreen Bautista, head of EDC's Corporate Social Responsibility team in Negros Island.

"But there's still a lot of work that needs to be done to keep it this way not only through continuous greening but also by utilizing more of our abundant geothermal resources for the island's main source of electricity," Bautista added.

The 150 BINHI native trees that EDC and its partners have planted will be part of their contributions to the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros Island (10M in 10) movement.

For now, 10M in 10 has already planted eight million trees four years after it was founded.



EDC, for its part, has already planted almost three million trees within its geothermal reservation in Negros Island since 2009 under BINHI.

Prior to the implementation of this program, the company has already planted and grown almost 1.5 million trees from 1990-2008.

EDC's over 1,480MW total installed capacity accounts for 20 percent of the country's total installed renewable energy capacity.

Its geothermal facilities in Valencia, Negros Oriental have been providing clean, renewable, reliable power 24/7 to Negros Island and other parts of the Visayas region for almost 38 years. (jct/PIA7 Negros Oriental with reports from France Ariola, corporate communications officer, EDC)



Legarda to Filipinos: Join 'Earth Hour', support efforts on climate action

Published March 27, 2021, 6:57 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda on Saturday called on Filipinos to participate in this year's Earth Hour, the global movement to simultaneously switch off lights for one hour to support efforts on environmental protection and climate change.



Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda (Congresswoman Loren Legarda Official Facebook Page / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

"Turning off lights and other electrical appliances for an hour may seem insignificant to change the current state of the planet in a snap, but if all of us, the billions of citizens all over the world, will imbibe the message of 'Earth Hour', the impact would be immense. Small acts cannot be underestimated because these small acts, when put together, create big positive changes," Legarda said in a statement.

She cited the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius that unprecedented hazards to the world, especially for vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines is inevitable if we exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming.

"The half a degree difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius and beyond matters. There is no more time to be complacent. We have to understand the risks of climate change and the urgency to take action. We only have until 2030 for global emissions to be reduced to 45 percent, and to be at net zero by 2050, otherwise we are on the path to destruction," she said.

"The Philippines, a minor emitter of greenhouse gas, is unfortunately among the nations most vulnerable to climate change. The Global Climate Risk Index released by the Germanwatch organization, even ranked us second in 2018 and fourth in the recent study of the most affected countries in the world by impacts of weather-related events, such as storms, floods, and heatwaves and the presence of climate change has further intensified the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather and climate events in the country," Legarda added.

Climate change is caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, mainly from human activities causing global temperature to rise and leading to the rapidly changing climate all over the globe.

Legarda acknowledged that many of the human activities that emit greenhouse gases are now crucial parts of the global economy, but former senator said that people are capable to create change and promote environment-friendly practices as a way of life.



“We are all capable of doing something to contribute in environmental protection and climate change adaptation programs. Let us strengthen our efforts to save energy, reduce carbon emissions and raise awareness on sustainability and environmental challenges. Saving on electricity, using low carbon technologies, promoting renewable energy, conserving water, growing what you eat, planting more trees, and properly segregating waste, among others, are just some of the simple ways by which we can significantly reduce the causes and also adjust to the impacts of climate change,” Legarda said.

“Climate change has become the greatest humanitarian challenge of our time as it threatens our basic human rights—food, health, potable water, decent shelter, and even life itself, taking part in this year’s Earth Hour is the least that we can do in protecting our ailing planet. As members of our respective communities, we shape the state of our environment and every action we take translates into a huge responsibility that would determine our present and the future for the coming generations,” she added.

This year’s Earth Hour starts at 8:30 p.m. of Saturday, March 27.



Archdiocese of Manila to observe Earth Hour

Published March 27, 2021, 9:53 AM

by [Christina Hermoso](#)

The Archdiocese of Manila's Ministry on Ecology will lead the archdiocese's observance of the Earth Hour today, March 27, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. via Zoom.

The archdiocese is encouraging the public to support the initiative by turning off the lights from 8:30 to 9:30 in the evening.

Bishop Broderick Pabillo will give a talk on the topic, "Ecological Conversion, a Call to reconcile with God's creation especially during the 500 Years of Christianity." "The event will be a night of prayers and sharing of reflections from the participants. A video on ecological conversion will also be shown during the online event," the Manila archdiocese said.

Lou Arsenio, coordinator of the Ecology Ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila said, the Earth Hour was started in "order to encourage and unite people to take action on environmental issues like climate change. The simple act of protecting our common home by turning off all lights when not in use can already help reduce the demands for fossil fuel source energy and reduces the emission of greenhouse gases especially carbon."

"We also advise that earth hour be regularly observed at least once a week or daily. We also advise everybody to practice energy efficiency and conservation by unplugging appliances when not in use," she added.

Arsenio called on the public to help protect and care for the environment in support of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment 'Laudato Si.'

Organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the first Earth Hour started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. The Philippines joined the initiative a year later.



#Connect2Earth: Globe supports Earth Hour 2021 to address nature loss and climate change

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Mar 27, 2021 10:59:15 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — Philippine telecommunications firm Globe stresses its commitment to support Earth Hour, the world's largest grassroots movement that clamors for a sustainable future and protection of the environment.

Globe has been supporting Earth Hour since it was first held in 2007. This year, Globe will again participate by turning off lights and non-critical equipment in its offices and key facilities during the global event. Through this action, the company hopes to encourage the public to continuously look for ways to live and operate sustainably.

In anticipation of Earth Hour 2021 to be held today at 8:30 p.m., here are ways where Globe customers can further take part in addressing nature loss and climate change:

1. Donate your Globe Rewards Points

Using your Globe Rewards points, customers can support Globe's reforestation initiatives of denuded primary forests in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur. With the help of Hineleban Foundation, Globe has raised a total of ₱15.6 million or equivalent to 156 hectares of reforestation sites planted with Calliandra as pioneer species coupled with multiple native trees such as Narra, White Lauan, Balsa, Bitag, and Ulayan.

Every 100 Rewards points donation is equivalent to one tree. To donate, just download the Globe Rewards app on your mobile device and click the "DONATE" banner. Tap "HINELEBAN100" and press "REDEEM". Download the app via <https://www.globe.com.ph/rewards.html#GRewardsApp>.

Globe also engaged in a long-term partnership with The Mead Foundation for the reforestation of upland forests in Iba, Zambales in collaboration with the local IP community. To support, go to <https://mead-foundation.org/trees/> and scan the QR code using your GCASH app. Every PhP100 donation is equivalent to 1 native tree planted.

2. Go Digital - Use GCASH and help reforest the country

Every successful GCash transaction earns you equivalent green energy in GCash Forest. You can collect these green energy by linking your health accounts, switching to online GCash transactions, and reducing your carbon footprint. With enough green energy, you can plant a virtual tree and a real tree will be planted on your behalf by partner local communities. Help rebuild Philippine forests and protect our remaining watersheds! Download the app now via Google Play and App Store or go directly to <https://www.gcash.com/gforest/>

3. Enroll in Paperless Billing

Globe actively encourages its customers to shift to electronic billing in order to reduce paper consumption and decrease environmental footprint. The telco was able to save over 781 tons of paper in its migration to paperless billing, equivalent to saving 18,753 trees in 2020.



4. Practice Zero waste at home by donating old, non-working electronic gadgets through Globe's E-waste Zero program

E-waste Zero is Globe's environmental program focused on responsible disposal and recycling of electronic wastes. The program was formerly called "Project 1 Phone" and remains to be a platform for everyone to donate their old, non-working electronic devices via participating Globe Stores, select malls, and offices of partner organizations.

Since its launch in 2014, Globe has worked with more than 66 corporations, private organizations, NGOs and schools nationwide. To date, more than 1.4 million kilograms of e-waste were donated, collected, and recycled responsibly.

You may drop your e-waste items in more than 120 locations nationwide. This includes select Globe stores, participating malls and offices of partner organizations. To see the full list of drop of points or request for free door-to-door pickups, go to Globe's Sustainability website - <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability/environment.html>.

5. Switch to renewable energy or simply switch off lights when not in use to reduce our carbon footprint

Conserve energy by being mindful of your power consumption. Turn off lights and home appliances when not in use and, if possible, shift to renewable energy by using solar panels.

Similarly, Globe is constantly finding ways to reduce its impact to the environment by shifting to renewable or clean energy sources. In 2020, a total of seven key sites have totally shifted to clean energy sources which is a milestone for the company since it started its efforts on decarbonizing its

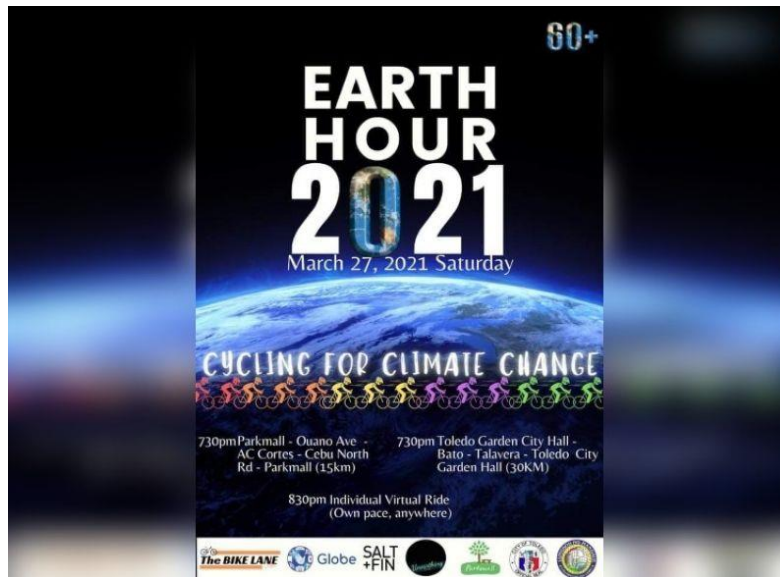
facilities. It has also decommissioned legacy machines to ensure only energy efficient systems are in place for its operations.

In its own backyard, Globe spearheaded several environment-friendly initiatives such as zero-waste sustainability program WasSUP ('Wag Sa Single Use Plastic), collaboration with Green Antz Builders Inc. for proper disposal and processing of single-use plastic wastes within office premises by purchasing a new plastic shredder, and partnership with Vending Experts Night and Day Philippines, Inc. in setting up first vending machines that operate using the Quick Response (QR) code for cashless and contactless transactions via GCash.

To learn more about Globe's environmental initiatives, visit <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability.html>.



Bikers to gather for climate change cycling event in Mandaue



Contributed photo

March 27, 2021

OVER a hundred cyclists will participate in the Cycling for Climate Change in Mandaue City as part of its Earth Hour activities at 7:30 p.m on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

Edwin Anthony Jumao-as, executive director of Traffic Enforcement Agency of Mandaue (Team), said the Cycling for Climate Change is part of the Earth Hour activity that promotes energy conservation.

1. Team assures no traffic during activity

He said the activity will not cause traffic since cyclists will only occupy bike lanes inside plastic bollards and will observe one-way-cycling.

Jumao-as added this will also not cause a bottleneck on the roads since the streets are already free from traffic around that time.

To ensure the safety of bikers, Jumao-as deployed traffic enforcers to assist the activity.

Since most of the lights are off during the start of the activity, Jumao-as said each biker will bring their own lights.

2. Participants are from all over Cebu

The activity is not a race and is just for fun and leisure, Jumao-as said.

The activity is open to all the cyclists.

Jumao-as said most of the participants are from organizations of bikers in Cebu, who are from Cebu City, Mandaue City, Talisay City and Lapu-Lapu City.

Twenty of their traffic enforcers who are also cyclists will also join the event, Jumao-as said.

3. The route of the cycling event

Bikers will start at the Parkmall exit to Mantawi Drive, then they will make a right turn to EO Perez Street, left turn to M.Logarta Street, left turn to Aboitiz Road and left turn to Ouano Avenue.



After they reach corner CD Seno street, bikers will turn left and turn right to A. del Rosario Street, turn left to SB Cabahug Street, right turn to R. Colina Street, right turn to P. Burgos Street, left turn to AC Cortes Avenue, and make a U-turn at the service road at the foot of Mandaue-Lapu-Lapu bridge (first bridge).

After making the U-turn, bikers will travel along with AC Cortes and turn left at P. Burgos Street, then right turn to P Gomez Street, left turn to SB Canahug Street, right turn to Ouano Avenue, and right turn to WO Seno Street going back to Parkmall.

4. Residents encouraged to join Earth Hour

Jumao-as said they estimated the cycling activity to last within an hour.

Meanwhile, the Mandaue City Public Information Office posted on its Facebook page that they encourage residents of Mandaue City to participate in the Earth Hour by turning off their electricity for an hour starting at 8:30 p.m. **(KFD)**



100 cyclist sa Mandaue City Cebu, lalahok sa 'Earth hour ride

By **Star FM Cebu**

-March 27, 2021 | 5:05 PM

CEBU CITY – Hindi bababa sa 100 mga siklista ang inaasahang lalahok sa 13.2 kilometer na ruta simula sa 7:30 ng gabi, Marso 27 bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng lungsod ng Earth Hour.

Nauna nang inihayag ng Traffic Enforcement Agency of Mandaue (TEAM) na ang nasabing aktibidad ay makakatulong sa pagpapalakas ng kampanya sa pagtipid ng enerhiya sa lungsod.

Umaasa pa silang madadagdagan pa ang nasabing bilang ng mga lumahok dahil wala namang kinakailangang pagrehistro para makasali sa aktibidad.

Nakatakda ring magdeploy ng karagdagang traffic enforcers upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga nagbibisikleta.

Magsisimula ang The Earth Hour cycling activity at magtatapos sa Parkmall sa Ouano Avenue sa Mandaue Reclamation Area.

Inihayag pa ni Mayor Jonas Cortes na sa maliit na paraan ay may magagawa tayo para sa ating kapaligiran.



It's Earth Hour at 8:30 tonight

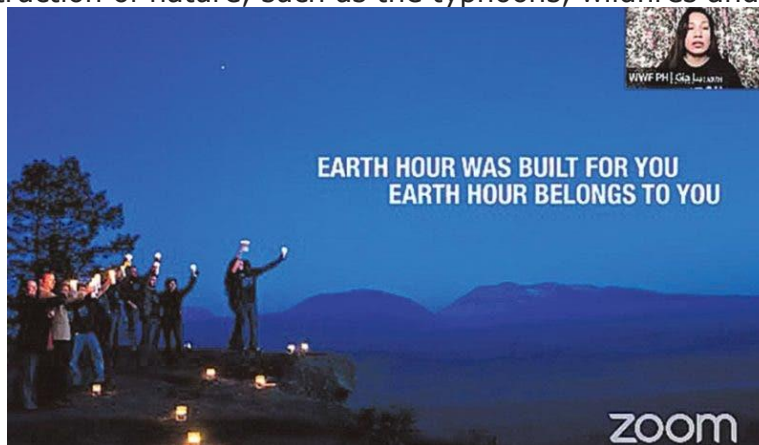
Speak up and switch off for nature

By Nika Roque March 27, 2021

The world's largest movement addressing climate change and love for the environment, Earth Hour, happens anew tonight, March 27 at 8:30 p.m.

Themed "Speak Up for Nature," this annual call to switch off lights around the world will save at least 700 megawatts an hour in (the Philippines alone).

Besides acting on one's love for the environment and protecting it, the event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the Philippines, hopes once again to unite people following issues connected to the destruction of nature, such as the typhoons, wildfires and the pandemic.



watch party will stream this year's countdown to Earth Hour PHOTO FROM WWF-PHILIPPINES

"I'd like to think of it as the people's movement for the environment. The beauty of Earth Hour is that it connects, unites, and mobilizes millions of people from different walks of life behind one single focused message," shared WWF-Philippines Earth Hour Pilipinas National Director and lawyer Angela Ibay.

"Earth Hour has inspired many to do good deeds for the environment and be part of something bigger — a movement that acts as a tipping point for tangible change."

This project has also been seen as the first step towards a more sustainable lifestyle, evident in Filipinos' continued refusal of single use plastic, littering, and the like.

According to the team, sustainability also concerns Filipinos whose jobs involve the environment — farmers, fisherfolk, small business owners and even tour guides. "Our joint efforts can make this a better and more sustainable world to live in while helping support those who are reliant on the bounty of nature," Ibay added.

Since the event will be done virtually — a first for the organization — a watch party dubbed "Earth Hour Phlix" will ensue at 3:30 p.m. with the livestreams on WWF-Philippines' Facebook page. The lead up to 8:30 will feature different ways Filipinos can practice sustainability and speak up for nature from the safety of their homes.

Among the talks are "Wildlife Conservation for Kids," hosted by WWF-Philippines Ambassadors Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Xia Vigor, together with WWF-Philippines' Education for Sustainable Development team; "Feed the Future: Sustainable Dining 101" with Pia Wurtzbach and KC Concepcion, and the organization's Sustainable Consumption and Production team, comprised of Rina Papio of Greenspace, and Cyma, Souv and Green Pastures Owner Chef Robby Goco; and "Tackling the Plastic Problem" will be with Iza Calzado, Kalipi President Wilma Arevalo and the WWF-Philippines Plastics Program.



After the livestream series, "Countdown to Earth Hour 2021," hosted by Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez, will begin at exactly 7:00 p.m.

To participate in Earth Hour activities, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WWF.Philippines/> and www.earthhour.org.

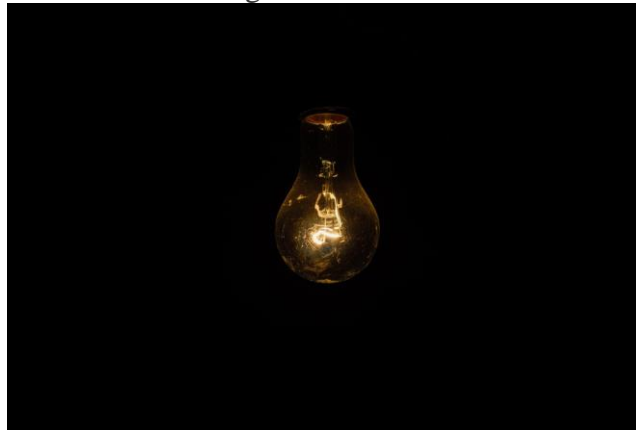


Ways to celebrate Earth Hour at home

Published March 27, 2021, 10:44 AM

by [Gabriela Baron](#)

Held annually on the last Saturday of March, Earth Hour encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour.



(Unsplash)

The movement was started by the World Wildlife Fund in 2007 in a lights-out event in Sydney, Australia.

The global event will be observed in the Philippines from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Unfortunately, this year marks the second annual Earth Hour taking place during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19 pandemic) and the Earth Hour team recommends all participants to observe Earth Hour at home, virtually, or outdoors in a safe setting.

So here are the activities you can do in the dark:

Have a candlelit dinner

Celebrate the hour with your family over a candlelit dinner.

Go stargazing

Log off from social media and get close to nature by going stargazing.

Stream Earth Hour's "must-watch" video

On Saturday, Earth Hour will be sharing a "must-watch" [video](#) known as the "Earth Hour Virtual Spotlight" on its social media pages.

Do some candlelit yoga or meditation

Use this time to pursue a healthy lifestyle.

Play a board game

Bring out the UNO, Monopoly, or the classic Snake and Ladders. Board games provide a break from technology via interactive gameplay.

Of course, switch off your lights

Turn off non-essential lights for one hour and encourage your friends and relatives to also do the same.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/27/ways-to-celebrate-earth-hour-at-home/>



Earth Hour: Flipping climate story to hope as there is no 'Planet B'

Published March 27, 2021, 12:12 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



In a digitally wired world, turning off lights and gadgets for one hour appears a bit much of a sacrifice – but think again, because that “time window” could be the most important hour for us to reflect on what we can really do to save the planet we’re currently living in.

“Earth Hour” will be knocking once again on our doors today (March 27) – for our participation to switch off lights in our homes, businesses and other establishments between 8:30-9:30 p.m. – and this is happening not just in the Philippines but all over the world.

There is no denying that climate change risks are already swallowing us up – as evidenced by the flurry of calamities of extreme proportions that have been hammering us over and over again.

Some may find an excuse of non-participation because of the lingering pandemic – but before opting for that, it might be wise to ponder on that the “Earth Hour” activity is done for a greater purpose – because if we fail in our fight against global warming, woefully, there is no “Planet B” that we can scurry ourselves in.

The science that we know tells us that the clock is now ticking when it comes to goals of abating warming at 1.5 degrees C. In fact, the overall prognosis is that such target may no longer be achievable given the guilt-free pace of human consumption and economic modernization that many countries in the world have been aspiring for. Regrettably, these are evoking fear, desperation and hopelessness for humanity.

But what can one hour do to save on electricity usage or pare the carbon footprints of a country or the world? Perhaps, not much! But it is the underlying mission of the activity and the call for cooperation from many that will spell the difference – it will bring forth a powerful message that the world still cares and is willing to act collectively not just in rescuing planet Earth, but more so, in preserving it for the viable use of the next generations.

What does it take to “clean our acts” and join the ethical and selfless undertaking to bail Mother Nature from danger? Experts are pushing for the deployment of green technologies – such as renewable energy installations and instituting energy efficiency and conservation as a way of life for consumers.

Forthrightly, “energy efficiency” is not a very alluring proposition to many – but that kind of mindset may just have been pervading because consumers are not aware of the tools and technologies they have on hand to reduce energy usage at home or at work, that in turn could provide huge savings to families as well as businesses’ electric bills. Lower energy usage and the use of RE technologies, too, are certainly good for the environment because these entail lower carbon emissions spewed into the atmosphere.



Hence, beyond our yearly “Earth Hour” celebration, what’s really needed might just be a new way of thinking – and for people to understand the beauty, the real resonance and the passion of energy saving.



1,800-piece solar light installation marks Earth Hour 2021

George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 27 2021 09:58 PM



Workers assemble a solar light installation at the helipad on the rooftop of the Makati City Hall on Saturday to commemorate Earth Hour. Makati City partnered with the My Shelter Foundation, a non-government organization behind the Liter of Light solar lighting movement, for the installation which utilizes 1,800 pieces of solar lighting to promote sustainable and low-cost light sources.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/multimedia/photo/03/27/21/1800-piece-solar-light-installation-marks-earth-hour-2021?fbclid=IwAR3PPrIEINjEYaEDGfk2uwH2MF5RAyzGnPY38HtUdWSZQji78nRzqsLasMM>



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob

Ecology just as valuable Despite the critical health situation, several areas in the country joined the global effort to switch off and help in environment preservation through the Earth Hour that has been celebrated for the past 60 years.



Earth hour lights

posted March 28, 2021 at 01:06 am

by [Norman Cruz](#)



Las Piñas employees and environmental advocates light the 60+ sign, referring to the 60 minutes of Earth Hour, as part of the Las Piñas 24th cityhood celebration and joint Earth Hour event in front of Las Piñas City Hall on Saturday. Earth Hour is an annual event in which lights are switched off in major cities around the world to draw attention to energy consumption and its environmental effects.



News5

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Hinikayat ni Antique Rep. Loren Legarda ang publiko na patayin ang kani-kanilang ilaw mamayang 8:30 p.m. bilang pakikilahok sa pagdiriwang ng Earth Hour. | via Marianne Enriquez



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Philippines goes full circle as ECQ back in Metro Manila, 4 other areas

[Xave Gregorio](#) (Philstar.com) - March 27, 2021 - 6:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — **(Updated 7:59 p.m.)** The Philippines is up for a throwback to the early days of the pandemic, with the government set to place Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Rizal under enhanced community quarantine beginning Monday.

President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the recommendation of the government's pandemic task force to place these areas, called by the administration as "NCR Plus," under ECQ from March 29 to April 4, Malacañang announced.

Unlike in the first installment of ECQ, transportation will not be suspended this time around, but its capacity will be drastically reduced.

A longer curfew from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. will also be in place, while dining in at restaurants is strictly prohibited.

Mass gatherings of more than 10 people and religious gatherings are also not allowed.

It is unclear, however, if quarantine passes are still needed to go out, with presidential spokesperson Harry Roque suggesting that people can simply explain to authorities why they are outside of their homes.

Roque also gave scant details on whether there will be aid for those who will be adversely affected by the imposition of ECQ.

180-degree turn

This is a 180-degree turn on the part of the Duterte administration that has repeatedly insisted to keep the economy open despite the surge in COVID-19 cases that has strained the healthcare system.

Roque said they were prompted to abandon the previous government policy as data showed that the healthcare system in the region has reached critical level.

Declaring ECQ during Holy Week will make sense for both health and the economy. The lockdowns will give the healthcare system a respite, while having limited economic impact because of a long holiday from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

The problem, however, happens if ECQ gets extended after next week when an economy limping to recovery would be back to business as usual under the new normal.

Also, lockdowns alone would not help stem the spread of the coronavirus, as it needs to be coupled with enhanced contact tracing and expanded testing — two things that the country's response to the pandemic is lacking.

Roque said the government will strive to ramp up its efforts to detect new cases by establishing centers in communities that would find, trace and isolate suspected COVID-19 cases.

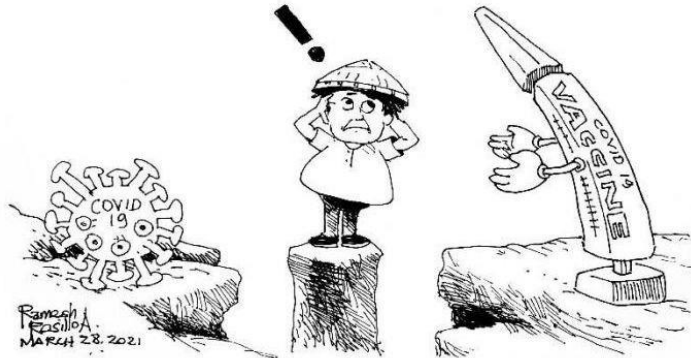
"We will go from house to house to find people with symptoms," he added in Filipino.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/03/27/2087405/philippines-goes-full-circle-ecq-back-metro-manila-4-other-areas>



EDITORIAL - Six out of 10

(The Freeman) - March 28, 2021 - 12:00am



Even as the vaccine rollout is ongoing albeit at a snail's pace there seems to be a disturbing sentiment unearthed by a Pulse Asia survey.

According to a Pulse Asia survey conducted from February 22 to March 3 this year, 61% do not want to get any COVID-19 vaccine. To put it in more understandable terms a whopping six out of 10 Filipinos across geographic areas and socio-economic groupings did not want to get vaccinated for COVID-19.

"Most of those not getting vaccinated and those who are still undecided about being vaccinated against COVID-19 point to uncertainty about COVID-19 vaccines as the primary reason to explain their disinclination to be given such vaccines," Pulse Asia was quoted as saying in a report in Philstar.com.

Uncertainty about the COVID-19 vaccines can be blamed on the lack of education programs about this particular vaccine and what it can do. Or if there are, these education programs aren't as effective as they ought to be.

Vaccine fears can be understood, particularly with the ones for COVID-19. These new vaccines were developed rather quickly. We also understand that what happened with Dengvaxia here in previous years caused such outrage and even trauma, if you will, that it would not be forgotten quickly or easily.

However these fears and doubts should have already been addressed by now, this deep and this far into the vaccination program.

It is important to make sure the people understand how relatively safe the vaccines are and why they should get them when they have the chance.

We have said it before and it should be said again, as things look right now vaccination and achieving herd immunity seems to be the best way to beat the coronavirus. First, because the lockdowns are doing nothing but sink us deeper into economic turmoil. Second, because time and again we have proven that many of us just don't have the discipline to follow the quarantine rules intended to keep us safe, and our authorities also lack the political will to enforce them.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2021/03/28/2087524/editorial-six-out-10/amp/>

Respect for the Rule of Law in South China Sea, enhanced cooperation in maritime security at ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue

By DFA Published on March 27, 2021



Foreign Affairs Acting Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs and Senior Official Elizabeth P. Buensuceso (bottom left) joins fellow ASEAN SOM Leaders and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Political Security Community Robert Matheus Tene in a meeting with New Zealand SOM Leader Ms. Allison Mann. (DFA-ASEAN photo)

PASAY CITY, Mar. 27 -- The Philippines reiterated its objection over the continued provocative presence of Chinese maritime militia vessels within Philippine maritime zones (at the 28th ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue held via video conference on 23 March 2021).

Foreign Affairs Acting Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs and Philippine Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Leader Elizabeth P. Buensuceso stated that the presence of these vessels in Philippine maritime zones not only infringe upon Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, but threatens security and stability in the region.

New Zealand echoed calls for adherence to the rule of law, including the 1982 United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the exercise of self-restraint, resolution of disputes by peaceful means, and undertaking cooperative activities to build trust and confidence. The Philippines also expressed appreciation for New Zealand's support of the 2016 Arbitral Award, which is now an enduring part of international law.

Expressing concern over recent developments in Myanmar, Undersecretary Buensuceso emphasized the restoration of the previously existing state of affairs, the de-escalation of violence, restraint in using lethal force against unarmed civilians, and the immediate release of political detainees including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Dialogue reaffirmed ASEAN Centrality in shaping the political, socio-economic, and security agenda for the region in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with New Zealand reiterating its support for key ASEAN COVID-19 initiatives such as inoculation of registered ASEAN citizens within its territories and restoring unhampered international travel among ASEAN Member states and New Zealand after the vaccine rollout. (DFA)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1070787>



Summit for climate pushed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFP) – President Joe Biden has invited his counterparts Xi Jinping of China and Russia's Vladimir Putin to a virtual climate summit he is hosting in April, the White House announced on Friday.

In all, 40 world leaders have been asked to attend the two-day meeting meant to mark Washington's return to the front lines of the fight against man-made climate change, after former president Donald Trump disengaged from the process.

"They know they're invited," Biden said of Xi and Putin. "But I haven't spoken to either one of them yet."

The start of the summit on 22 April coincides with Earth Day, and will come ahead of a major UN meeting on climate change scheduled for November in Glasgow, Scotland.

It is being staged entirely online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden kept his campaign pledge to rejoin the Paris climate agreement on his first day in the White House, after Trump pulled out of the deal.

The return of the world's largest economy and second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide became effective on 19 February, and means almost all the world's nations are now parties to the agreement signed in 2015.

By the time of the summit, the US will have announced "an ambitious 2030 emissions target," according to a White House statement, and will encourage others to boost their own goals under the Paris agreement too.

"The Summit will also highlight examples of how enhanced climate ambition will create good paying jobs, advance innovative technologies, and help vulnerable countries adapt to climate impacts," the White House said in a statement.

The United States has invited the leaders of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, which includes the 17 countries responsible for about 80 percent of global emissions and GDP, as well as heads of countries that are especially vulnerable to climate impacts or are demonstrating strong climate leadership.



Biden invites Putin, Xi to virtual climate summit

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Published 23 hours ago on March 27, 2021 07:30 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



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The US president has placed global warming at the heart of his agenda, and has already made waves domestically by pledging to make the energy sector emissions neutral by 2035, followed by the economy as a whole by 2050.

He has also placed a hold on new oil and gas drilling on federal lands and offshore, and is expected to soon seek a \$2 trillion infrastructure package from Congress that would serve as the engine of future economic growth.

Biden dispatched his climate envoy, former secretary of state John Kerry, to prepare the ground for the summit in meetings with European leaders earlier this month.

The meeting comes as the world is lagging badly in its efforts to limit end-of-century warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), which scientists say is necessary to avoid triggering climate tipping points that would leave much of the planet inhospitable.

In an assessment of pledges made in recent months by around 75 countries and the European Union, UN Climate Change said that only around 30 percent of global emissions were covered in the commitments.



Biodiversity at risk

As the living tissue of the earth, biodiversity is “intimately linked to human health” the head of the UN’s scientific agency told a global forum on Wednesday, noting that “we are part of that living tissue.”

The Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Audrey Azoulay opened the UNESCO Forum on Biodiversity by pointing out that one year after its emergence, the Covid-19

pandemic has confirmed what we had already known, “by threatening biodiversity, humanity is threatening the conditions for its own survival.”

“The pandemic demonstrated that human health depends on the health of living things,” she said flagging that it is “imperative to rethink our development models.”

Biodiversity protection is at the forefront of UNESCO’s ambition along with ocean sciences “to rebuild humanities relationship with nature and with living beings,” Azoulay stated.

In kicking off the forum, Azoulay officially launched the 50th anniversary of UNESCO’s “Man and the Biosphere (MAB)” program, which envisioned territories where people could create new ways to enhance the relationship between people and nature.

“Fifty years later, this vision is no longer a mere theory, as 275 million people now live in the 714 UNESCO biosphere reserves in 129 countries,” she said, adding that together with the 252 World Heritage Sites and geoparks, “six percent of the world’s land mass – equivalent to the surface of China – are protected.”

As a so-called “super year” for biodiversity, UNESCO will join with partners to set new objectives for the coming decade.

“Our goal is to preserve 30 percent of the planet in protected areas,” Azoulay said, noting that caring for the planet means preserving the climate, protecting biodiversity and fighting against declining ocean health – another UNESCO priority.

Earlier this year, the UNESCO chief heralded the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

“We now have 10 years to better understand and preserve the ocean, to re-forge the relationship between humans and the seas and, in the process, to make important strides towards protecting biodiversity and the environment,” she said.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN
FISH swim around a coral reef in the Red Sea off the coast of Egypt.

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