



LET US MAKE AN IMPACT BY DR MAYUR J KAPADIA, FORMER ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER, GNFC LTD, BHARUCH

Our Beloved Earth, the Ever-Generous Earth, the Mother Earth has given us everything that we have needed for our lives and our goals. Is it not our duty to repay her compassion as much as we can? The Earth Day renders us an opportunity to express our appreciation for nature through our words and deeds. If we give a thought towards the deeds which we can jointly perform to preserve our Earth, here are points that we should ponder and practice upon.

There are about 2 million single-use plastic bags across the globe every minute causing enormous plastic pollution. We must attempt to eliminate the single-use plastics by carrying our own water bottle, metal cutlery, and straws when eating outside, our own reusable bag while purchasing items or consuming biodegradable plastic items. Another thing to save the Earth is saving energy by unplugging unused

appliances, use energy-efficient light bulbs, air-drying clothes, etc. The most important commodity is Water. The ever-increasing water consumption by mankind is evident today.

Let us stop wasting it for future generations. Small steps like avoiding a running water tap, using broom & mop for cleaning homes instead of a water hose, sponging the car for cleaning instead of water jet, use of drip irrigation or self-watering systems for houseplants, and many more such ideas will greatly reduce water consumption. Tree plantation is an effective way to preserve the Earth from soil erosion. Let us start planting trees today so that the benefits can accrue after 15-20 years, when the trees grow to their full potential.

The present trend of consumerism, prevailing in the youth and elderly people, prompts people to throw away the old items and buy new ones. Let us understand that such impulsive shopping has been producing lots of packaging wastes - the main contributor to carbon emission. To save earth, we need to go back to the old tradition. We can get the old items repaired, reuse gift wrappers for decorations and jars for storing food and much more. Creation of 'best from waste' is a wonderful idea for averting unnecessary dumping on the Earth. All these habits will not only reduce wastes and thereby save earth, but also save money.

Change in lifestyle and behaviour is a long journey. But it will benefit not only us, but our future generations as well. Following these ways seem easy, however, difficult to maintain and practice.

Let us be fully committed towards saving our Earth with such small steps and demonstrate our commitment to the world through social media to bring change in their life styles. Thoughtful and wise acts, if performed jointly with families and society, will definitely make a GREAT IMPACT.



MOHAMMED ABDUL RAHMAN, CEO, SAHARA INDUSTRY EARTH'S NATURAL RESOURCES: SAVE TO SURVIVE

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 every year to raise awareness about earth and the importance of protecting its natural resources. The Earth Day theme is announced every year by earthday.org, which was founded in 1970 by a group of environmental activists who were concerned about the impact of industrial development on the environment. Currently the organization has partners in over 192 countries to drive positive action for our planet.

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970 in the United States, inspired by the devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in January-February 1969. An estimated 13.64 million litres of crude oil were spilled into the ocean creating a 35 miles long oil slick along California's coast that killed thousands of birds, fish and sea mammals. That year, at a UNESCO conference, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace.

Earth Day is a day of action and a reminder for everyone to reflect on the impact of human activity on the planet. It is also a day to celebrate our beautiful planet and take action to preserve it. The theme for 2023, 'Invest in Our Planet' was conceived to persuade nations, government organizations, industries, and common citizens around the world to invest in our planet to improve the environment and give our children a better and safer future.

Water: The Most Vital Resource

Water is most useful among earth's resources, vital for life and livelihood. Clean water is an essential need for human and all living objects for drinking and sanitation, producing of food and products, industrial and economic activities, and creating and sustaining the ecosystems on which all life depends. However, the accessible freshwater resources found in rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and other water bodies accounts for less than one per cent of the world's total water. With the limited resources, ever increasing global population, the demand for water is increasing manifold.

The climate change effects and global warming is altering weather patterns causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. With current consumption rate, this situation will only get worse and it is estimated that two-thirds of the world's population may face severe water scarcity by 2025, in just two years from now. At the same time, human activity and unsustainable practices are affecting freshwater resources in many ways.

Water Pollution

Water pollution can have several adverse effects on earth's surface and surrounding environment while also negatively impacting human health. According to a report by Lancet, over five lakh deaths occurred across India in 2019 due to water pollution. Globally, water pollution is responsible for 1.4 million premature deaths a year. It is also estimated that around 37.7 million Indians are affected annually by water-borne diseases like cholera, acute diarrheal diseases (ADD), typhoid and viral hepatitis etc. Another consequence of water pollution is the loss of valuable species and biodiversity. Water pollution can also have ecological effects on communities. It can lead to destruction of aquatic ecosystems and disruption of food chains.

Consider the situation in India where an estimated 73,000 million litres of municipal wastewater is generated every day in class I and class II cities only and over 70 per cent of it never receives any kind of treatment before disposal into water bodies. Similar situation is with industrial wastewater as well, although a lesser margin of its direct disposal is estimated. Water Aid, working on water, sanitation and hygiene sectors finds that an alarming 80 per cent of India's surface water is polluted. Central

Pollution Control Board estimates that 75-80 per cent of water pollution by volume is from domestic sewage, while untreated sewage flowing into water bodies including rivers have almost doubled in the recent years. Wastewater treatment has become essential to not only address the shortage of fresh water but also saving the surface and ground water sources from further contamination.

Sahara Industry has been promoting the integrated water management and established itself as a leading system provider for water and wastewater treatment with application of technology, exceptional quality, best practices and sustainable long-term solutions. With NSF certified products for water treatment, it has contributed immensely by making water safe for drinking, industrial and institutional purposes.

The ISO 9001:2015 certified company; it has employed technologically advanced machineries and manufacturing solutions combined with professional and well-qualified engineering teams to achieve the feat of being an indigenously creator of advanced water and wastewater treatment solutions matching with world standards.

The Earth Day is a call for action to protect the planet by adopting and implementing solutions that will help it restore its natural resources. Clean water is a precious resource and we must act in harmony to use it wisely and protect it from pollution and contamination. At Sahara Industry, we are committed to follow environment friendly practices and together, we can make a difference to protect the earth and its beauties.



MOHAMMED NASER AZEEZ, MANAGING DIRECTOR, AQUALITY WATER SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD.

Save Earth: Harness the Solar Power

The earth started recuperating itself three years ago when coronavirus pandemic lockdowns across the globe forced to stop all commercial and other activities. The nature's recovering trail did show us that it could repair the damage inflicted due to excessive pollution, unsustainable use of resources, dumping of industrial and domestic solid and liquid waste, irresponsible chopping of trees, and every possible abuse. The lockdown has turned the skyline clearer, lakes and rivers were visibly purer, melting of glaciers stopped and the endangered flora and fauna started coming back to life. It cleared the air pollution to the extent that Himalayan range which is more than 100 miles away from Punjab was clearly visible with the naked eyes. The table has turned again now with earth's natural resources air, water, soil, and plants etc. started facing the assault of our activities.

Water: Vital Resource on Earth

Water is indeed a vital resource for all human activities, from survival to commercial, industrial and financial. It is essential for supporting life on earth and plays a critical role in producing food and products to even generating energy. The taken for granted approach has inflicted perennial damage to this natural resource and now a large population in the world has started facing the impact of water stress. On Earth Day, we are reminded of the current and emerging challenges and the theme of this year, "Invest in our Planet" has been designed to create awareness related to the environmental problems and calling out all governments, businesses, and citizens around the world of the need to invest to improve the liveability on earth and give our descendants a better and safer future.

We know that agricultural and industrial water consumption places heavy pressure on the world's limited water supply. In fact, these two sectors together consume approximately 90% of total water withdrawals. The World Bank has estimated that water demand is expected to exceed current supply by 40% by 2030 – just seven years away! The current water scarcity is mainly caused by unsustainable use and mismanagement of water resources.

Why should we care?

India, which has recently become the world's most populated country outpacing China, which has been the most populous country since at least 1950 as reported by the Wall Street Journal citing UN's world population projections. With the current population of 1425.77 million, it is an uphill task to provide essential resources including water to all the people when almost 80% of the surface water is polluted and we still dispose almost 70% of wastewater untreated into our water bodies. If we continue with the current practices of treating water ruthlessly, the predictions of the Water Ministry that per capita water availability will reduce by 36% in 2025 and 60% by the year 2050 from the level of 2001, may become a reality much earlier than predicted.

The total water demand in India is expected to rise by over 70% by 2025; a huge demand-supply gap is expected in the coming years. Rapid urbanization, steady commercial and economic growth, changing life style has intensified the demand of clean water, while also increasing the load of generated sewage. The demand for water in Class I and Class II cities is expected to increase to 110,000-120,000 MLD by 2025 and sewage generation is expected to increase to over 87,000-97,000