

Yolo Earth Day Pledge Challenge 2023



Get Involved Guide Updated July 6, 2023

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Social psychologists researching bystander behavior have found that when one person in a group steps up to help someone, several other people in that group are far more likely to pitch in as well. On the other hand, inertia is a powerful force, and people often freeze, waiting for someone else to take the lead. In an issue as complex and overwhelming as climate change, many people will take the place of bystanders if they don't have a visible role model to follow. That is why showing up is huge. You are telling your community that they can stand up, too.

Being a role model may sound daunting, but there are many ways to do this, both big and small. It doesn't have to take a lot of time to make a big difference. Some of the options on the list below require very little adjustment (if any) to your regular schedule. Remember this: any person you inspire can inspire others in a cascading effect. This is where your passion can multiply.

So how do you do your part to inspire a community of climate-conscious folks? That is what getting involved is all about. Below are some suggestions to fulfilling the Get Involved pledge actions. Something missing? Email coolsolutions@cooldavis.org with your idea or attend a pledger gathering and share your thoughts. We're looking forward to learning from you!

TRY AN EASY ONE

Share about your pledge with 5 friends or family every month!

Inspiring others is one of the most important things you can do to shift our community into climate-friendly and climate-resilient action. If you choose this as one of your goals, we will send you tips and tricks for initiating open communication that comes from a place of empathy rather than a place of judgement. Climate change is a topic that can sometimes be difficult to discuss, but it is also a topic that must be discussed and absolutely *can* be.

GO FOR MORE CHANGE

Start or join a neighborhood connecting, sharing, or safety group

Resilience to climate change relies upon mutual support within communities. Connecting to your neighbors increases the likelihood that you will feel comfortable sharing or receiving information, necessities, and aid during extreme climate crises like wildfires. You can also create emergency plans in advance, empower and inspire each other with ideas to reduce climate impacts, and simply make new friends. Facebook and the Nextdoor app are great ways to hear about existing neighborhood groups or to kickstart your own.

Volunteer with a climate or resilience organization, community garden, or school environmental club

There are many organizations in Davis that focus on different aspects of the environment, such as taking care of plants and trees, picking up trash, and raising awareness. For hands-on work, volunteering with a community garden or a tree planting group is a great way to get involved.

The city of Davis has three operational community gardens, and while renting a plot costs money, volunteer days occur a couple times a month. These “work days” are on select Saturdays and are only 2-3 hours long each, so they are a great option for a busy schedule, and for family and friend outings. You can also look into volunteering for Tree Davis, which plant trees, and Adopt a Park days. Davis Picks it Up is another great organization centered around trash pickup. All of these options and more can be explored [here](#). If you’re a student at UC Davis, there is a wide variety of [groups on campus](#).

Attend City Council and/or City Commission meetings for agenda topics related to climate and resilience

There are many reasons to attend city council meetings. On the most basic level, they help keep you up to date on issues and ideas the community is discussing. Being informed empowers you to vote more thoughtfully in future elections. You can also offer public comment, and, if you have particular feedback on an agenda item or a new issue you want to raise, you can reach out to council by emailing citycouncilmembers@cityofdavis.org.

You can find the schedule and agendas for city council meetings [here](#).



Share your pledges on social media

#YoloEarthDayPledge2023

@cooldaviscity

Email coolsolution@cooldavis.org

for more info

Sign up here thru July 31, 2023:

<http://www.cooldavis.org/pledge>

