

WE LIVE ON AN AMAZING PLANET CALLED EARTH!

THE ATMOSPHERE



Keeping us warm while protecting us from the sun's harmful rays, the Earth's **ATMOSPHERE** also gives us oxygen and protein to sustain life.



The atmosphere is made up of **78% NITROGEN** as well as 21% oxygen and 0.9% argon. Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, methane and ozone are trace gases.

The part of the Earth's atmosphere called the **TROPOSPHERE** is where life exists on the planet.



Greenhouse gases can amplify the natural **GREENHOUSE EFFECT** resulting in a change in the climate.



Burn carbohydrates instead of hydrocarbons and reduce **GREENHOUSE GASES** by riding a bike or walking to a destination.



THE LAND

Land covers **29%** of the planet.



About **24%** of food waste is organic material and can be composted instead of thrown away.



South Carolinians recycled more than **20.9%** of the municipal solid waste generated in 2023.



About **1/8** (or 13%) of the earth's surface is sustainable for humans to live on.



Recycling one plastic bottle, cuts air pollution by **20%** and water pollution by **50%** when making a new bottle.



THE OCEAN

Water covers **71%** of the planet.



Only a little more than **1.2%** of all freshwater is surface water, which serves most of life's needs.



The oceans support **50%** of the Earth's species.



The Mid-Ocean Ridge is underwater and stretches across **40,389** miles – making it the world's longest mountain chain.



Cleaning up pet waste helps to **SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT** by protecting shellfish beds and coastal water quality.



EARTH. NOT JUST A PLANET ... OUR HOME!



SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22.

des.sc.gov/earthday

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Earth Day SOUTH CAROLINA