



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

DATE: March 21, 2022

MEMO NO.: ADMIN-2022-0006

SUBJECT: Celebrating Earth Week 2022

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the 2022 Earth Week activities occurring from April 22 to 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Halton Hills recognizes the annual globally celebrated Earth Day on April 22. This year, the Town will be hosting a variety of outdoor activities that support Council's current strategic priority of climate change and the environment.

Over the past two years, the Town had reduced most of the activities during Earth Week due to Covid-19 restrictions. This year, for 2022, with Covid-19 provincial and regional health restrictions easing and while adhering to the Town of Halton Hills protocols, the Town will restart several Earth Week activities.

Earth Week activities encourage residents to take positive environmental actions that benefit the community. Earth Week activities focus on:

- Educating residents on climate change and the environment by providing resources and programming.
- Encouraging cleanup activities to improve the environmental health of the community.
- Offering residents trees to purchase and plant, to increase Halton Hills' tree canopy to help clean the air, and capture carbon emissions.

- Offering free woodchips and compost to residents to support soil stabilization, improving drainage, conserving water, and supporting tree health.
- Offering a community bicycle swap for residents to give unwanted bicycles for other residents to use. Bicycles support active transportation and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

COMMENTS:

The Town of Halton Hills will take a collaborated approach to planning and hosting Earth Week. The core departments involved in Earth Week are Transportation & Public Works, Communications, Corporate Services (Business Solutions), and Climate Change & Asset Management. Representatives from these departments work together to ensure a well-planned week of environmental activities to celebrate Earth Day.

The 2022 Earth Week activities are listed below.

Community Cleanup Activities

Cleanup activities encourage residents to pick-up debris in parks, ravines, and along trails. Cleanup activities include the following:

- The 22-Minute Makeover encourages schools and businesses to go outside for 22 minutes on April 22, to pick up debris around the area where they spend their day.
- The Community Cleanup encourages community groups, families, friends, and individuals to go outside during Earth Week to pick-up debris along trails, ravines, or parks.

Participants are encouraged to register by emailing cleanup@haltonhills.ca so that efforts are not duplicated. Participants will receive free bags, gloves through a pre-arranged date and time.

Activities at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre

The popular annual tree sale will again take place online on April 22, 2022, beginning at 8:30 am. A total of 1,200 native tree whips in two or three-gallon pots (approximate height 3-5 ft) will be available to purchase. The cost of a tree whip is \$5 (maximum 5 per household). Trees are available for pick-up by selecting an appointment date and time at the time of purchase. Appointments to pick-up trees are scheduled during regular business hours between April 26 to 29, 2022. Residents are encouraged to visit www.haltonhills.ca/earthweek for more information.

On Saturday April 30th, the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre will host the following Earth Week activities:

- Free woodchips and compost will be available for residents who bring their own shovel and container.
- Bike Swap will be held where residents can drop off unwanted bicycles so other residents can make use of them.
- Residents are once again encouraged to bring a donation of food or cash for the local foodbanks.

Traditionally, Halton Region has participated in the Town's annual Earth Week by offering residents to drop-off electronic and hazardous waste during the Robert C. Austin Operation Centre Earth Day event. Unfortunately, Halton Region will not be able to participate this year in Earth Week, but the Town is coordinating an e-waste and household drop-off at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre in the fall.

During the month of April, all of the Earth Week activities and additional resources to celebrate Earth Day every day, will be available on the Town's Earth Week webpage at haltonhills.ca/earthweek.

Communication of the Town's Covid-19 protocols will be included in the Earth Week advertisements through various communication channels including: the Town's website, social media, email, phone and when necessary, in-person.

CONCLUSION:

The Town of Halton Hills is confident in hosting successful 2022 Earth Week activities which will take place outside, and for the benefit of the environmental health of the community. Earth Week 2022 supports Council's strategic priority of climate change and the environment and supports taking actions that move Halton Hills towards a net-zero community.

Reviewed and approved by,

Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager of Climate Change and Asset Management

Richard Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer