# Fifty Activities Kids Can Do at Home

Covid 19 has changed the way our schools operate. Many students are only going to classes part of the time and studying at home the rest of the time while some students are just learning from home. Our popular FOMB education programs both inschool and Bay Days remain on hold as we do our part to stem the spread of corona virus. Offered here are fifty environmental learning activities students can do from home.

## Learn about solutions to climate change

- 1. Become energy waste detectives by using our <u>citizen's guide to reducing energy</u> waste.
- 2. Make a challenge to <u>keep unused lights off</u> in your house.
- 3. Make your own <u>wind turbine</u> and learn about the <u>power of offshore wind</u>.
- 4. Make your own solar oven from a pizza box and find out how using solar power could make your community healthier and cleaner.
- 5. Calculate your family's carbon footprint.
- 6. Make videos in support of moving our country to 100% renewable energy. Post the video and tag your elected officials on social media.
- 7. Learn about the <u>impact of transportation on our climate</u>. Make a plan for how to incorporate more walking and biking into your family's daily life -- and more public transit once we get past "social distancing."

### Learn about ways to reduce waste

8. Watch <u>The Story of Stuff</u> and clean out your junk and look for treasures.

- 9. Measure your weekly trash output. Make a plan to reduce your family's waste by 25% by the time school starts.
- 10. Make a pledge to reduce your plastic use and create an online challenge with your friends.
- 11. Reduce food waste by <u>reorganizing your</u> fridge.
- 12. Make a compost bin for your kitchen.
- 13. Make your own <u>reusable bag</u> from old t-shirts.
- 14. Make your own <u>produce bag</u> for fruits and vegetables.
- 15. Make reusable food wraps from beeswax.
- 16. Try to repair something -- whether a toy, gadget or a picture frame, there are instructions to fix anything on YouTube. Discuss how <u>repair cuts waste</u> while you fix your item.
- 17. Make <u>art out of your trash</u> and then have an art show at home.
- 18. Make <u>crafts out of plastic bottles</u>.
- 19. Upcycle styrofoam with these craft ideas.
- 20. Write a letter to your member of Congress to support the <u>Break Free from Plastic Act of 2020</u>, to reduce single-use plastic and packaging nationally.

#### Learn about plants

- 21. Learn about the <u>earth</u>, <u>trees</u>, and <u>plants</u>.
- 22. Learn about <u>the rainforest</u> and then <u>make a terrarium</u>.
- 23. Make <u>leaf rubbings</u> on paper.
- 24. Create a self portrait out of leaves, sticks, and other foraged materials.
- 25. Learn how to <u>plant a garden outdoors.</u> If you are in Colorado, you can get your own

bee friendly garden kit from Environment Colorado.

- 26. Or start an indoor container garden.
- 27. Make <u>plantable seed paper</u> from old paper scraps.
- 28. Make <u>seed bombs</u> to help bees and other pollinators
- 29. Play a game about where your food comes from.

### Learn about waterways, parks and conservation

- 30. Research waterways in your community and make a map of local rivers, lakes and streams.
- 31. Learn about water pollution through <u>these</u> activities.
- 32. Take a virtual tour of our parks, such as Yellowstone National Park!
- 33. Take a <u>virtual dive</u> in the Florida Keys or one of our other marine sanctuaries.
- 34. Learn about <u>glaciers</u> and write a story or draw a picture about them.
- 35. Learn about healthy soils.
- 36. Take action to support the <u>Land and Water</u> <u>Conservation Fund</u>, which is the nation's most successful federal land conservation and recreation program. (You can send the email or use it as a template for a letter to Congress.)

## Learn about and protect birds, bees and other wildlife

- 37. Learn about how animals camouflage themselves. Play hide and seek inside based on what you learn!
- 38. Learn about birding.

- 39. Make a <u>bird feeder</u> out of an apple, peanut butter and birdseed.
- 40. Turn a milk or juice carton into a <u>bird</u> <u>feeder</u>.
- 41. Build an insect hotel.
- 42. Read the book <u>Myrtle the Turtle</u> and <u>discuss</u> the impacts of plastic waste on our planet
- 43. Make a mason bee home
- 44. Make up a song about protecting animals in your hometown from pollution.
- 45. Draw pictures of your favorite animals that need greater protections, such as bees, sea turtles and orcas. Post the pictures to social media and tag your elected officials.

# Create a healthier home and community

- 46. Create an <u>environmental scavenger hunt</u>. Adapt it to your own home or backyard.
- 47. Write a letter to your school district asking them to adopt electric school buses.
- 48. Go for a hike and teach your children about park trail stewardship.
- 49. Download the <u>Wow in the World kids</u> <u>podcast</u> and discuss the topics after each episode.
- 50. Organize a family litter patrol. Get gloves and/or pick-up tools and pick up trash if you go on walks at a nearby park.

**Author: Megan Severson** 

**State Director, Wisconsin Environment** 

Megan is the state director for Wisconsin Environment. She has recruited and trained dozens of organizers and worked for years to implement the field strategy that helped to win the Clean Power Plan. Megan lives in Madison, Wis., and spends much of her free time at her family's farm along the Mississippi River, where she enjoys hiking, swimming, hunting and skiing.