

EIGHT BIG ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

that you can help solve at home
by making your yard more environmentally friendly

Catastrophic Global Warming Dead Zones in the Oceans Loss of Pollinators
Insect Armageddon Flooding Water Pollution Invasive Species
Extinctions of Birds and Amphibians

**CAN YOU REALLY HELP SOLVE
THESE PROBLEMS?**

YES!

**IF YOU HAVE A YARD,
OR ACCESS TO A PATCH OF LAWN,
HERE ARE FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO:**

1

Don't use pesticides

By not using pesticides, you help baby birds, amphibians, and beneficial pollinating insects. You benefit soil micro-organisms and diverse plants.

You prevent pesticides from entering streams, drains, and groundwater, and reduce the fossil fuels used in production and transport.

Problems you help solve:

Bird and amphibian extinctions, insect loss, water pollution, global warming

2

Reduce your lawn

By reducing your lawn, you reduce mowing and leaf-blowing, pesticides, fertilizers, and run-off during rainfall.

Problems you help solve:

global warming, water pollution, flooding, insect loss

3

Add native plants

Native plants feed and shelter birds and sustain ecosystems. Healthy native plant communities are better able to resist invasive species.

Problems you help solve:

Bird extinctions, insect loss, habitat loss, invasive species

4

Use home compost in your garden

Composting of leaves and vegetable food waste keeps organic matter out of landfills. It reduces pollution, greenhouse gases, and fossil fuels for transport. By using home compost in your garden, you return nutrients and organic matter to the soil, reduce the need for chemical fertilizer, and sequester carbon in the soil.

Problems you help solve:

Global warming, water pollution, dead zones in the ocean

5

Make a rain garden

A rain garden catches rainfall and slows run-off from lawns and pavement. Native water-loving plants add diversity that benefits wildlife.

Problems you help solve:

Flooding, water pollution, bird and amphibian extinctions