

# World Environment Day 2019

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# World Environment Day Guide

On 5 June 2019, World Environment Day will be on the theme of air pollution— a call to action to combat one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Hosted by China, World Environment Day invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our daily lives to reduce **air pollution**, which in turn can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and

What are the different

# Why is air pollution an urgent issue now?

## – Health

Evidence of the effect of air pollution on human health is stark and mounting. Air pollution, traditionally linked to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, has in recent years also been linked to diabetes, increased risk of dementia, impaired cognitive development and lower intelligence levels. About 7 million people worldwide die prematurely from air pollution each year.

## – Human Rights

In at least 155 countries, a healthy environment is recognized as a constitutional right. Obligations related to clean air are implicit in a number of international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

## – Clean Air and the Sustainable Development Goals

Fulfilling the right to breathe clean air goes hand in hand with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including healthy lives for all, sustainable cities, universal access to clean energy, and effective action to address climate change.

## – Climate

Air pollution and climate change are intrinsically linked as they share common sources. Air pollution control measures can therefore reduce emissions of climate pollutants and improve local air quality. If we were to reduce pollutants like methane, black carbon, and tropospheric ozone, we could reduce global warming by up to 0.5°C over the next few decades,

simultaneously avoiding 2.4 million premature deaths and more than 50 million tonnes of crop losses per year.

## – Environment

Air pollution is the 5th largest environmental health risk globally, causing 2.8 million premature deaths and 50 million tonnes of crop losses per year.

# Together we can #BeatAirPollution

Everyone is invited to take part! Explore [this site](#) to learn about the different types of air pollution and why they matter to you using the infographics, quizzes and stories from around the world.

Governments, cities, schools, businesses, organizations:

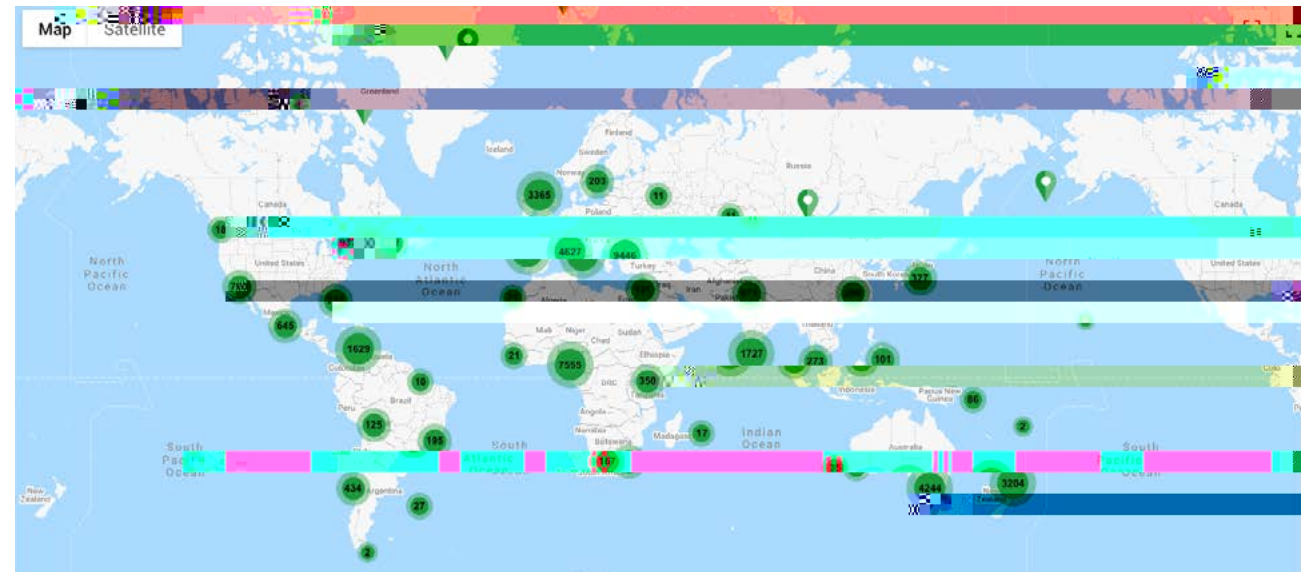
- Use the World Environment Day site and this practical guide to get inspired on the types of activities you can host on 5 June and register your events on [the site](#). These could be as small as friends getting together with friends to bike to work, a school planting trees on its campus or a city introducing a car free day.

- All registered events will be given global visibility on [the site](#) via a real-time map and will also be awarded World Environment Day participation certificates by UN Environment.

To stay on top of events happening in the lead up to 5 June, subscribe to the World Environment Day [newsletter](#).

On 5 June, check back on [this site](#) to follow a live blog with 24-hour coverage on related events and social conversation from around the world.

In the weeks after World Environment Day, [the site](#) will share stories on commitments made by cities, governments and the private sector and track how we have collectively moved the needle on air pollution!



[Register your event on our world map](#)



# How can cities celebrate?

Consider using World Environment Day to make commitments on improving air quality by curbing transport and energy emissions and creating more green spaces. Here are some ideas:



- Offer free transport in urban areas to encourage drivers to leave their cars at home.
- Do a tree-planting day on 5 June.
- Consider hosting an electric vehicle expo on World Environment Day to educate citizens on the benefits.
- Commit to making more pedestrian and cycle-friendly zones with separated lanes for walking and riding.
- Pledge to phase out diesel buses and trucks, as cities such as Madrid, Paris, Athens and Mexico City have done.
- Look at landfill gas recovery as an energy option that harnesses landfill emissions rather than allowing them to enter the atmosphere or our lungs.

Register your event [here](#).

# How can businesses get involved?

Why not use World Environment Day to make pledges on reducing emissions and investing in research and development to imagine new and less damaging ways of doing business.



- Make a pledge to use recyclable materials for your products.
- Host a company tree planting day.
- Use World Environment Day to ensure your power supply is renewable.
- Think about using fresh air ventilation for cooling or install ultra-efficient, hydrofluorocarbon-free cooling.
- Make a pledge to buy low-emission or electric vehicles for the company fleet.
- Consider how you can reduce emissions of air pollutants from facilities and supply chains.

Register your event [here](#).



#BeatAirPollution



# How can individuals get involved?

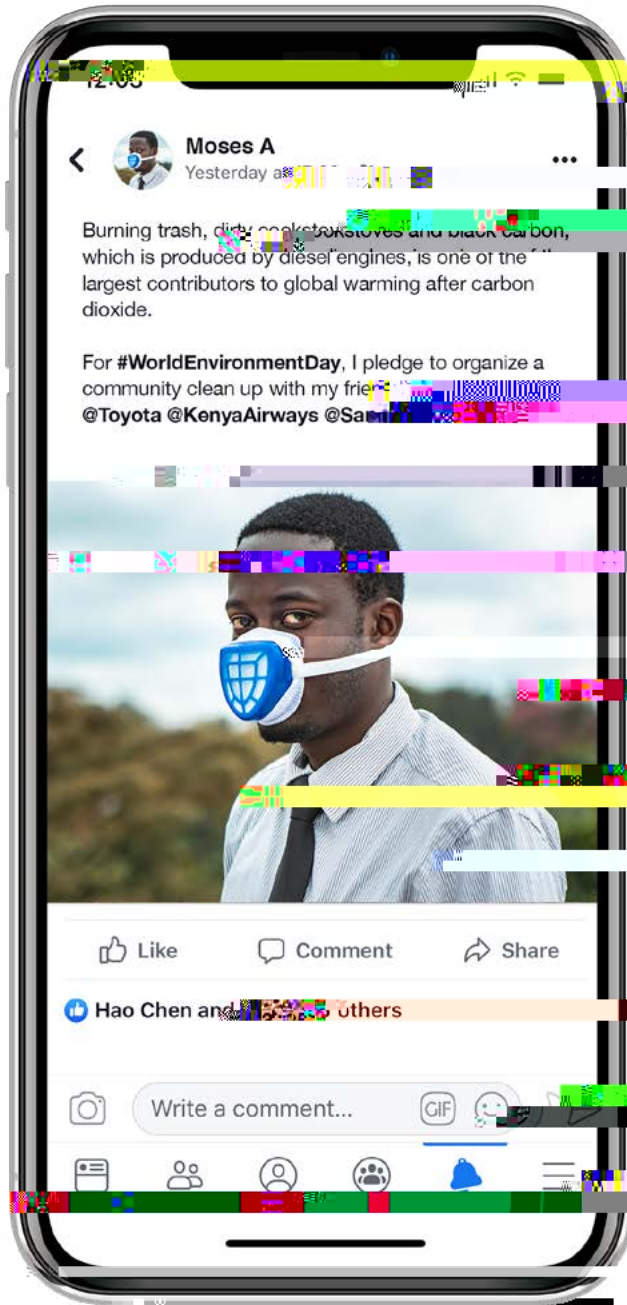
Nine out of ten people breathe polluted air. From 24 May, through to #WorldEnvironmentDay on June 5, we are calling on everyone to [join the Mask Challenge](#). Face masks are a great symbol to show leaders we want to breathe clean air. Alongside celebrities, influencers and creators, the World Environment Day campaign invites everyone to:

## Phase 2 –

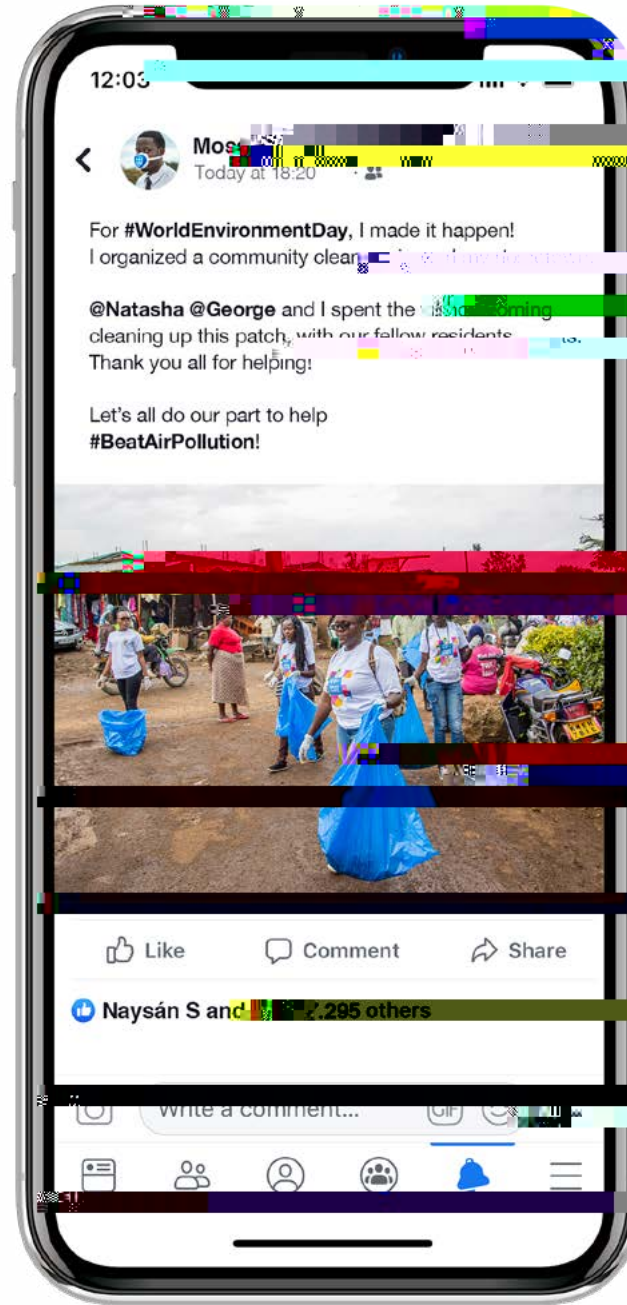
World Environment Day June 5<sup>th</sup>

1. Take another photo or video of

Phase 1  
May 24<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>



Phase 2  
June 5<sup>th</sup>



#BeatAirPollution

**We can #BeatAirPollution**

