

# The Great Western News

April 2009

## Earth Day 2009



Ask Mr. Janitor :  
Looking at my calendar, I notice that April 22nd is Earth Day. So, are we taking good care of Mother Earth?



Mr. Janitor Answers :  
I think that here in the U.S. and in some parts of Western Europe, we are making progress. There are other places in the world where things are still pretty bad for Mother Earth. However, even here in the U.S. , we still need to continue to make changes in how we do some things to ensure a healthy environment for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

On the 22nd of April, 1970, the first Earth Day marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Those who remember those days can recall that most of our major cities suffered from significant air pollution along with other forms of pollution that threatened our environment across the United States and across the world. Airports saw thick black trails of exhaust from aircraft engines during taking-off and landing. Our roads had trucks and buses giving-off clouds of black exhaust. Our automobiles also emitted heavy amounts of pollution. Factories and power plants were major polluters. Our lakes and rivers were being polluted at an alarming rate. A thick cloud of smog hung over the entire Los Angeles metropolitan area. Things were bad and getting worse. That first Earth Day back in 1970 got us moving to correct many of those environmental problems. For the most part, today in the United States, we have a much healthier environment than in 1970.

The green movement grew-out of those early days of environmental awareness. The green movement is improving our environment and helps to make our schools, offices, factories and homes more pleasant and much safer. Strides are being made to improve indoor air quality which is as important as outdoor air quality. Rivers, lakes, parks and even our backyards can benefit from a better, healthier environment. Our overall health and quality of life benefit from a healthy indoor and outdoor environment. We are now looking at moving from the green initiative to a sustainability effort. Sustainability can be defined as the ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes, functions and productivity into the future. For humans to live sustainably, the earth's resources must be used at a rate at which they can be replenished. Sustainability means we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

We at Great Western are proud to sell products that are not only green but are sustainable. Please look at the back of this newsletter to see some of the products we sell and the manufacturers we represent. They partner with us to provide green and sustainable products that are safe for the users and the environment. Please call us with any questions you may have. Call us at our Davenport office at 563/445-6644 or in the Cedar Rapids area at 319/395-0445.

Please note, in observance of Good Friday, our offices will close at noon on Friday, April 10. We will reopen at 7:30am on Monday, April 13.



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