



SPECIAL ISSUE



OUR POWER, OUR PLANET
EARTHDAY.ORG's planet-wide call to action in the face of sweeping environmental rollbacks

REMEMBERING AN EARTH CHAMPION
Reflecting on the environmental impact of Pope Francis

FOOD FOR THE EARTH
Celebrate Earth Day with two planet-friendly recipes from Henry Firth, Ian Theasby and the BOSH! team

WAKE THE VALLEY
Why our regenerative future could well begin at Valley Fest 2026

EARTH DAY 2026



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Welcome to My Green Pod Magazine!



Katie Hill, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
katie@mygreenpod.com

On 22 April 1970, the modern environmental movement was born; 20 million Americans – 10% of the population at the time – took to the streets in protest against the health impacts of 150 years of industrial development. Up until this point, environmental groups – tackling issues ranging from oil spills and the use of pesticides to the loss of wildlife and wilderness – had fought in relative isolation. Earth Day brought campaigners together, to stand shoulder to shoulder in a rare moment of alignment; it was supported by Republicans, Democrats and individuals from all sectors of society.

By the end of the year, the USA had created the United States Environmental Protection Agency and passed some of the first environmental laws of their kind. The world's largest secular day of protest was an undeniable demonstration of people power, launched in a moment of political and environmental crisis. The parallels with today are impossible to ignore.

Earth Day began with Senator Gaylord Nelson's idea to organise a series of campus teach-ins. Inspired by the power of the student anti-war movement, he wanted to educate students so they could direct a similar energy into activism on air and water pollution. The idea was that informed citizens would effect successful climate action.

In an age of disinformation, misinformation and the development of AI, education is more important than ever. As Bertrand Russell put it: 'So long as men are not trained to withhold judgement in the absence of evidence, they will be led astray by cocksure prophets, and it is likely that their leaders will be either ignorant fanatics or dishonest charlatans.'

On the 56th Earth Day, we are asked to remember that the power to change the world is in our hands, and that we are stronger when we stay informed, stop fighting each other and look up at the bigger picture.



ABOUT US

My Green Pod is an independent, family-run UK business, founded by Katie Hill and Jarvis Smith. We want to share the real stories behind the brands and people working tirelessly to offer ethical alternatives to mainstream products and services. You might not see these options on the high street and they may not be the first to appear in on-line searches. But they are on mygreenpod.com.

Use the search bar to find conscious lifestyle inspiration - and you could save some cash along the way!

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OUR POWER, OUR PLANET

For the 56th Earth Day, EARTHDAY.ORG is marshalling a planet-wide call to action in the face of sweeping environmental rollbacks



End Plastic Pollution is one of EARTHDAY.ORG's ongoing campaigns

There is a particular defiance in the air this spring. EARTHDAY.ORG is tracking nearly 6,000 registered events in more than 180 countries: marches, rallies, teach-ins, cleanups and community gatherings that are being organised in direct response to the most consequential assault on environmental progress in a generation. This is just a sample of the hundreds of thousands of events that will take place in communities – large and small – around the world.

In the United States alone, more than 425 actions have targeted environmental laws over the last 16 months, including executive orders that deny the reality of climate change plus sweeping regulatory rollbacks affecting air quality, clean water, public lands and climate policy. Internationally, several governments have weakened climate commitments and health and safety protections.

MAKING A STATEMENT

The global theme of Earth Day 2026, 'Our Power, Our Planet', was chosen as not only a rallying cry of optimism, but also as a statement of intent: the people will not be silent. 'Right now, when so much of what two generations have created is under attack, the answer is not resignation – it is exactly this: show up, organise, and make yourself impossible to ignore', said Kathleen Rogers, president of EARTHDAY.ORG. 'Today we are risking our future by staking it on short-sighted policies and a fossil fuel economy that pollutes and plays a major role in worldwide instability.'

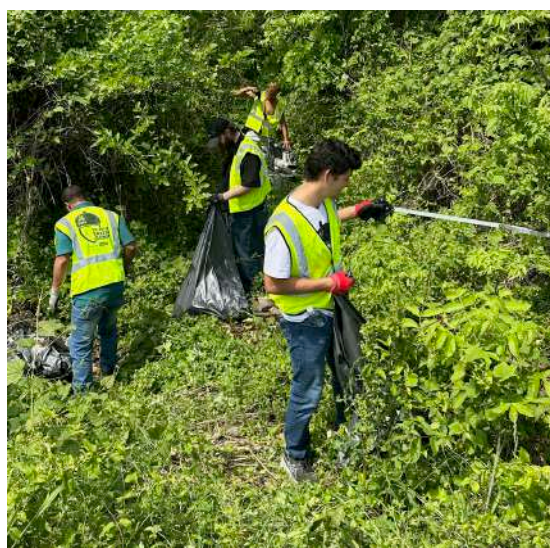
Denis Hayes, the organiser of the very first Earth Day in 1970 and now Board Chair Emeritus of EARTHDAY.ORG, drew an explicit parallel between the crisis that sparked that original movement and the one facing the world today. 'It is easy to forget that all those years ago, in 1970, Earth Day was born from a genuine environmental and political crisis', he said. 'But we were confident that we were going to win, and we launched an environmental revolution. Today the challenges we face are at least as serious, but we are more determined than ever. Despite everything, it is still Earth Day and the world is demanding action.'

TAKING TO THE STREETS

The scale of confirmed activity for Earth Day 2026 (22 April) is remarkable. Marches and rallies are already locked in across the United States – in Albany, Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C., as well as coalition actions spanning Raleigh/Durham, Charlotte, Winston-Salem/Greensboro, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Lansing and beyond.

Faith communities are joining in, too: the National Faith + Climate Forum is bringing congregations together to act on

CLOCKWISE
EARTHDAY.ORG supporters at the INC-3 meeting in Nairobi (2023); EARTHDAY.ORG at The Great Raleigh Cleanup; marching at INC-3 to demand a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040; Amanda Seyfried at the Great Global Cleanup; EARTHDAY.ORG staff join the INC-3 Plastics March



‘Earth Day has always been a story of impossible progress made possible by ordinary people who refused to give up.’

KATHLEEN ROGERS

PRESIDENT OF EARTHDAY.ORG

climate as a community, and the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care is engaged at the federal level.

One of the most striking actions building towards 22 April is the Great Mother March, a 32-day, 500-mile pilgrimage beginning in Asheville, North Carolina, a community on the front lines of US climate disasters, and arriving in Washington, D.C. on Earth Day itself. It is a living demonstration of why community power sits at the heart of this year’s theme.

Internationally, major events are taking shape in Taipei, Nairobi and New Delhi, while Mumbai is emerging as a key hub. The city will host the Our Power, Our Planet Stars Awards on 22 April at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, gathering global leaders, innovators and artists. A Floating Maritime Climate Discovery Exhibition, developed with the Indian Coast Guard, will launch there before travelling to key coastal cities.

THE GREAT GLOBAL CLEANUP

Now in its eighth year, EARTHDAY.ORG’s Great Global Cleanup has grown into one of the largest coordinated volunteer programmes on Earth. In 2025, an estimated 14.4 million volunteers across 187 to 191 countries collected approximately 156 million pounds of waste from communities, waterways and wild spaces. This year’s effort is already building towards that scale, with cleanups registered across all 50 US states and in more than 180 countries.

This year’s flagship cleanups reflect the breadth of the movement. In Raleigh, North Carolina a partnership with The Great Raleigh Cleanup is putting wages and meals in the hands of people experiencing homelessness while removing litter from city streets. In Philadelphia, a collaboration with Block by Block Philly is uniting residents in underserved neighbourhoods alongside advocacy to shut down the nation’s largest incinerator, located in nearby Chester, a predominantly Black community long burdened by toxic air pollution.

In Detroit, EARTHDAY.ORG and Detroit Hives continue transforming neglected lots into pollinator gardens. In Miami, volunteers return to Calle Ocho to tackle illegal dumping, while in Honolulu, scuba divers will remove pollution from the ocean floor at Ala Moana Park.



EDUCATION: THE LONG GAME

If the marches and cleanups represent Earth Day’s immediate power, its education network, now spanning 112 countries, marks its long game. The Earth Day Showcase 2026 is a project-based learning initiative, available in multiple languages and focused this year on community solutions to plastic pollution. The breadth of reach is extraordinary: in Latin America, partner network Escolás pelo Clima is mobilising an estimated 450,000 to 600,000 students and up to 50,000 teachers in Brazil alone, with further reach through Peru’s national Ministry of Education.

This commitment to education is not merely symbolic. From the teach-ins that were part of the first Earth Day in 1970, EARTHDAY.ORG has consistently argued that informed citizens are the foundation of effective climate action, and that climate education must be universal. That goal is more urgent than ever in a world where scientific consensus is in jeopardy.

A DEFINING MOMENT

Climate weeks across multiple regions are converging around 22 April. Washington, D.C. Climate Week brings climate changemakers to the US capital, with EARTHDAY.ORG coordinating volunteer actions on Earth Day itself. San Francisco Climate Week draws upwards of 30,000 participants to hundreds of events citywide. Colorado is launching its first-ever Colorado Climate Week on 30 March, kicking off Earth Month. In Europe, climate week activations are taking shape in Padova, Italy, among other cities.

What emerges from all of this activity is not a single march or a single message, but something more complex and durable: a global movement finding its footing in adversity. EARTHDAY.ORG was founded on the belief that ordinary people, when they choose to act together, can shift the course of history. The 56th Earth Day will test that belief more rigorously than almost any before it. The planet, and the movement, are asking you to be part of the answer.

Find out more

■ Join the movement – learn more and register for Earth Day 2026 events at earthday.org



Connecting Brazil's Atlantic Forest

World Land Trust's **Dan Bradbury** shares his journey through the Mata Atlântica

In July 2025 I had the chance to visit Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu, or REGUA, a place I had heard a lot about during my time at World Land Trust (WLT) but had never experienced in person.

Spread across more than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, REGUA is where restoration meets resilience; water, wildlife and people are held together by a vision and a determination not to lose what remains.

REGUA is working with purpose: protecting the Guapiaçu watershed, defending one of the world's most threatened ecosystems and proving what patient, thoughtful conservation can achieve. But at the heart of my visit is the Hermes Plot, a single area of forest whose protection is essential in this recovering landscape.

WILDLIFE, SEEN & HEARD

REGUA's biodiversity is dazzling; in a single week I recorded more than 160 bird species. We encountered a number of lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), who are part of a careful reintroduction programme, and capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) sunning themselves alongside

broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), who turn the water into a dark mirror.

In the forest we also saw a brown-throated three-toed sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) tucked into its quiet geometry of sleep. At night, the forest came to life again with a new collection of noises, calls, whispers and threads, each sound a line that tells you the system is working. Three species of owl called on one night from the layered darkness: the tropical screech owl (*Megascops choliba*), the

tawny-browed owl (*Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*), and the ferruginous pygmy owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*).

One moment lingers particularly clearly for me. In a shaded clearing, a male white-bearded manakin (*Manacus manacus*) gave a performance of flicks, snaps and whirrs; it was an avian dance full of bravado and precision, the likes of which I have only ever seen in documentaries. This small bird's dance was aimed at females in the area, but its hard work very much impressed me, too.

A VALLEY AT THE CROSSROADS

I visited the Hermes Plot, which is the focus of our Spring Appeal. It connects Brazil's Atlantic Forest and is where the stakes of this work come sharply into view. The property covers 180 hectares (444 acres), and it is owned by one family who has cared for it for half a century. The land straddles a narrow valley and is wrapped on both sides by other plots owned by REGUA.

A small stream, which begins higher up on land already owned by REGUA, runs through the Hermes Plot into the basin of the Guapiaçu watershed. To stand there and hear that water is



to understand the heart of this project; protect the valley and you protect the flow. Safeguard the forest and you safeguard the source.

PRESSURE CREEPING UP

The journey to the plot tells the story of a landscape on a knife's edge. The track up into the property is at first a hard-packed gravel access road; utilities, including electricity, extend only partway. As you climb you pass a couple of large, well-developed weekend homes, evidence of the wealth just a drive away in Rio de Janeiro.

Carry on and the houses become more traditional. The road begins to break down. Tyres clatter over large rocks and stones. Then you must leave your vehicle behind and follow a trail on foot, but it's clear it wouldn't take much to expand access by improving the road and pulling utilities deeper into the valley.

After passing the last property you are greeted by the person who lives there – and their dogs – in a small act of warmth that says something about community and care. Finally, the trail opens and you step into quiet. The stream speaks low in the greenery. The slopes rise steeply above you, a broken green amphitheatre. Birds call from every direction. The immediate feeling is that this is a special place – the next is that it is vulnerable.

All of this is why the Hermes Plot matters so much. It is a keystone on the eastern side of the watershed, connecting existing protected areas on both sides. This makes it far more practical for rangers to patrol and for scientists to monitor the abundance of wildlife already using the corridor. It also helps alleviate the greatest risk to the valley's future, which is the development pressure creeping uphill from below.

Extending utilities and upgrading roads into unprotected areas create an easy path for second homes and piecemeal construction that would snap the spine of this area.

PASSING ON A LEGACY

I was fortunate to meet members of the family that has owned the Hermes Plot for 50 years. We spoke about why REGUA wants to purchase it. We spoke about water, about wildlife, about the responsibility of holding a place that is part of something larger than itself. It was clear they wanted to do right by their family and by the area. The idea that the forest would stand, in their name, forever, seemed to touch something profound: the wish to pass on a legacy.

There is a way to save this valley. REGUA has shown again and again how targeted land purchase, followed by strong management and restoration where needed, locks in a future that developers cannot take away.

The Hermes Plot is ready. The owners are willing to sell. The conservation benefits are as clear as the water running through its centre. Leave it unprotected and it will almost certainly be developed and lost; protect it and it becomes a permanent piece of living infrastructure for the watershed and a safe passage for wildlife that needs connected forest to survive.



SECURING THE PLOT

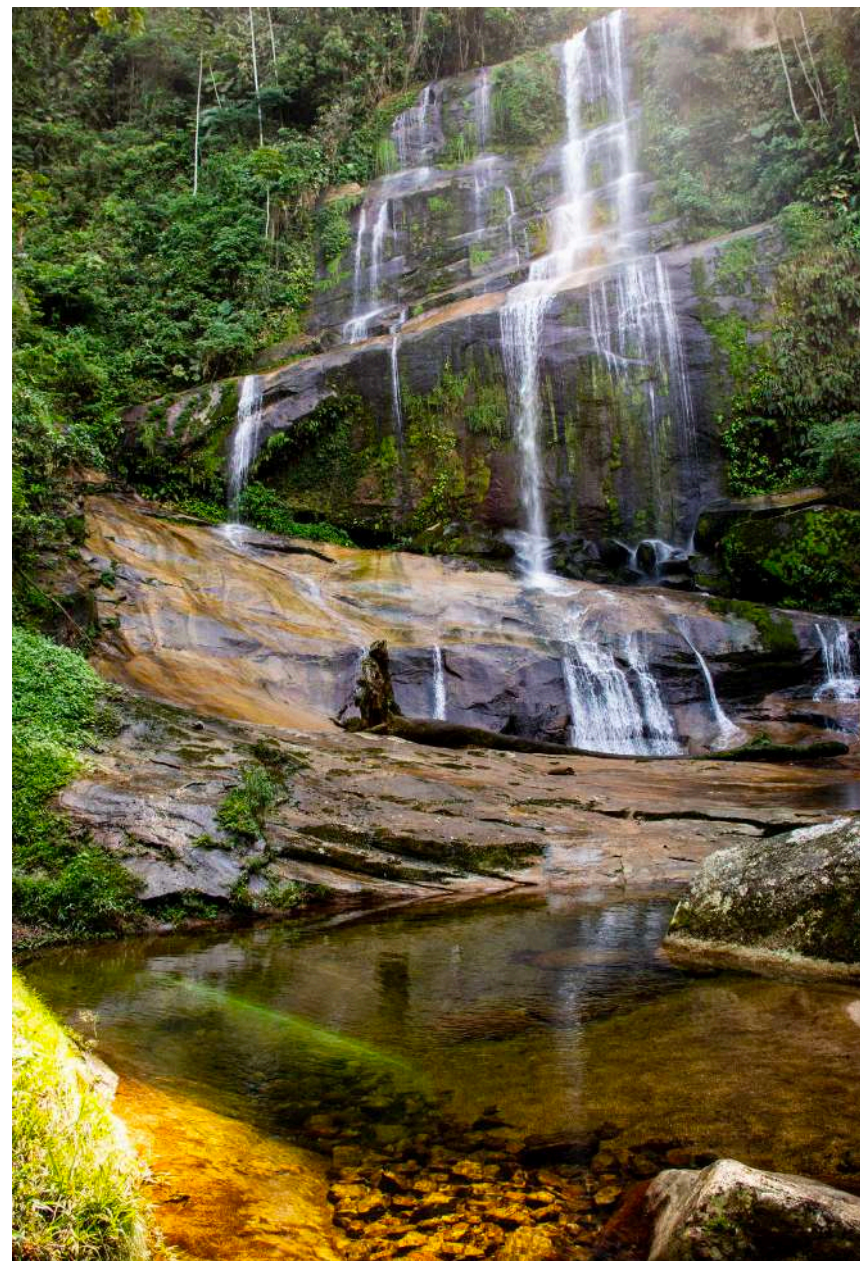
Nicholas Locke, REGUA's CEO, spoke with deep gratitude about our long partnership. I could see exactly what he meant. The wetlands alive with birdsong. The corridors reconnected. The tapirs stepping softly in a place that had once forgotten how to hold such weight. This is what long-term collaboration does. It builds. It heals. It lasts.

The Hermes Plot is our next essential step. With a gift to our Spring Appeal, we can help REGUA purchase and protect this 180-hectare plot, secure the waters that run through it, keep the corridor intact for rangers and wildlife and stop development at the point where it would cause the most damage. In time, the stream will keep running, the forest will keep growing and the birds will keep calling. And you will have helped make that possible.

A generous private donor has provided funds that will match donations to our Connecting Brazil's Atlantic Forest appeal up to £197,260. This means a gift from you to the appeal could be doubled in value; a £25 donation from you, for example, could be matched to make a £50 contribution overall. By donating, your support will go twice as far towards our fundraising target.

Find out more

■ You can support the Connecting Brazil's Atlantic Forest appeal by visiting worldlandtrust.org



CLOCKWISE Lowland tapir have been reintroduced to Brazil's Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA); a swallow-tailed manakin in the forest; waterfalls in REGUA; a white-bearded antshrike; a picture-winged fly thriving in the humid forest; REGUA's wetlands are alive with birdsong



REMEMBERING AN EARTH CHAMPION



PHOTOGRAPHY ISTOCK

Joshtram Isaac Kureethadam reflects on the impact of Pope Francis

Pope Francis concluded his 'Earthy' sojourn on 21 April 2025, the eve of Earth Day. It is important to recall that, on 22 April 2020 – the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day – Pope Francis dedicated his weekly general audience to speaking about the importance of caring for the Earth.

'Today we celebrate the fiftieth Earth Day', Pope Francis said. 'This is an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family.'

'We have failed to care for the Earth, our garden-home', Pope Francis continued; 'we have failed to care for our brothers and sisters. We have sinned against the Earth, against our neighbours and ultimately against the Creator, the benevolent Father who provides for everyone and desires us to live in communion and flourish together.'

'In today's celebration of Earth Day', Pope Francis concluded, 'we are called to renew our sense of sacred respect for the Earth, for it is not just our home but also God's home. This should make us all the more aware that we stand on holy ground! It will help if people at all levels of society come

together to create a popular movement 'from below'. The Earth Day we are celebrating today was itself born in precisely this way. We can each contribute in our own small way.'

MARKING A MOMENT

One of the greatest blessings in my life was the opportunity to serve as coordinator of the 'Ecology and Creation' sector at the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, immediately after *Laudato Si'* (Praised Be), Pope Francis' landmark encyclical letter on the care of our common home, was published in 2015. During those years, I got to know Pope Francis a little more closely.



The Vatican released a commemorative postage stamp to mark Earth Day's fiftieth anniversary

'This is an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family.'

POPE FRANCIS

I believe the most significant legacy of Pope Francis is the constant invitation, extended in *Laudato Si'* to everyone of goodwill, to care for the Earth. Hardly a fortnight after its publication, Dale Jamieson of New York State University described it as 'the most important environmental text of the twenty-first century'.

Following Pope Francis's death, an editorial in *Nature* paid homage to his remarkable leadership in framing the protection of our common home 'as a moral imperative', and lauded *Laudato Si'* as 'a timely statement from an important leader'.

RENEWED HOPE

During the dozen or so years of his pontificate, Pope Francis continued to challenge us 'to listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor' (*Laudato Si'*, 49). However, the cries of the Earth and the poor are only getting louder and more painful. As Pope Francis himself acknowledged in the 2023 apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*: 'with the passage of time, I have realised that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.'

We humans are a very late arrival on the evolutionary stage. To place ourselves in perspective, modern humans were not around for 99.99% of the Earth's nearly 4.5 billion years of geological history. However, the future of the splendid epoch of human flourishing, in which faiths and religions were born, empires and civilisations were built and collapsed,



ABOUT JOSHTROM ISAAC KUREETHADAM

Joshtram is the former coordinator of the Sector on Ecology and Creation in the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

arts and sciences were created and cultures and languages were shaped, will be determined by our choices over the next few decades.

We have a huge responsibility on our shoulders. To quote once again a phrase often repeated by Pope Francis: 'We have received a garden from the Creator, we cannot leave a desert to our children!'

May the celebration of Earth Day 2026 fill us with renewed inspiration and hope. Let us make our own the prayer of Pope Francis at the end of *Laudato Si'*: May our generation be known for having brought the world back to life; for having fulfilled our common responsibility to care for our common home; for having brought healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it.

HERO PRODUCTS

Introducing our April Heroes!
 We've picked these products because we believe they are all best in their class for people and the planet. They represent simple, sustainable switches that will help to keep you, your home and the planet healthy – without compromising on experience or performance!

View all our Heroes at mygreenpod.com/heroes

HEALTH & BEAUTY



HAYMAX ALLERGEN BARRIER BALMS
 Hay fever? Dust or pet allergies? These allergen barrier balms are drug free, all natural and certified organic – suitable for kids and during pregnancy or breastfeeding.
mygreenpod.com/heroes/haymax-allergen-barrier-balms



RIO-VITALISE FULL-SPECTRUM CBD OIL
 This organic and food-grade CBD oil has been lab tested for purity. Its extra virgin olive oil base gives a rich, smooth flavour with no need for refrigeration.
mygreenpod.com/heroes/rio-vitalise-1800mg-full-spectrum-cbd-oil

TRAVEL



TENTSHARE
 This online, peer-to-peer tent-lending marketplace works just like Airbnb, but for tents. You can make money and rent out your tent, or save money and rent a tent – all while helping to promote a sustainable camping community dedicated to reducing waste and changing the single-use culture.
mygreenpod.com/heroes/tentshare

ARTS & FASHION

BARE KIND BAMBOO SOCKS
 Bare Kind donates 10% of profits to charities that are helping to save the animal on the sock.
mygreenpod.com/heroes/bare-kind-save-the-hedgehogs-bamboo-socks



HOME & GARDEN



HONEST SUPPLIES 100% RECYCLED 3-PLY TOILET PAPER
 Triple-quoted, super-soft recycled paper that's great for sensitive skin. Free from chlorine and nasty chemicals; trees planted to offset unavoidable emissions.
mygreenpod.com/heroes/honest-supplies-100-recycled-3-ply-toilet-paper

TOP 5 APRIL SWITCHES

1

The travel experts at Flooglebinder are all about sustainable, bespoke travel – whether you're flying solo or travelling with friends or family.

@flooglebinderUK
mygreenpod.com/heroes/flooglebinder-travel-experts

2

Reduce your carbon pawprint with Yora Cat Food. Made with high-quality insect protein, it's perfectly balanced with all the essential minerals, fats and vitamins your cat needs.

#Yora
mygreenpod.com/heroes/yora-cat-food

3

Whether you're a blogger or running a high-traffic online business, Krystal Managed WordPress Hosting is fast and reliable, using best-in-class hardware that runs on 100% renewable energy.

@KrystalHosting
mygreenpod.com/heroes/krystal-managed-wordpress-hosting

4

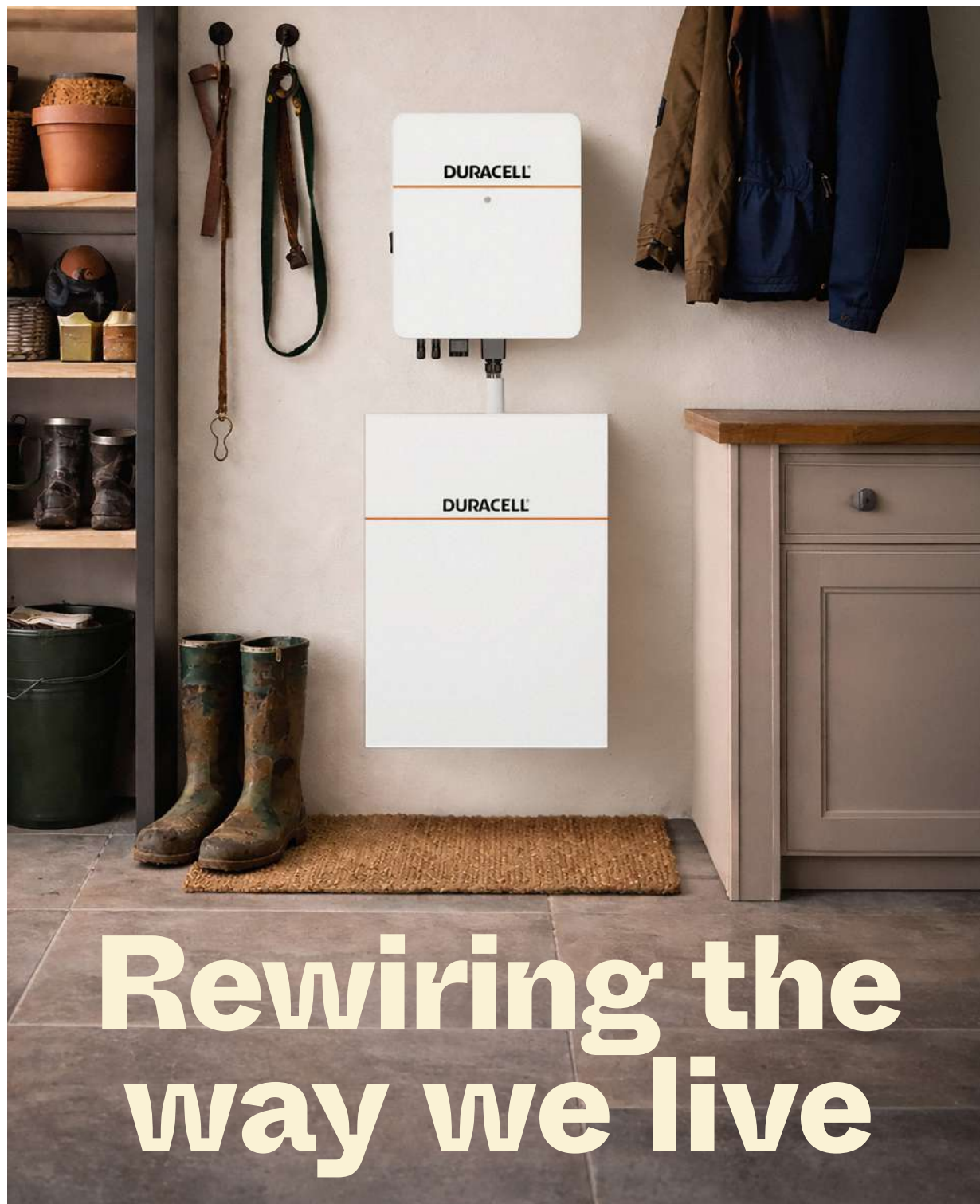
Ready for a small but powerful shift? @BambuuBrush is a bamboo toothbrush that's empowering developing communities to tackle plastic waste.

#BambuuBrush
mygreenpod.com/heroes/bambuu-brush

5

Eco Green Living has created Europe's first biodegradable freezer bags. This is a freezer-safe storage alternative to plastic, 100% biodegradable and compostable.

@EcoGreenLiving2
mygreenpod.com/heroes/eco-green-living-mixed-freezer-bag-selection



Rewiring the way we live

There's a quiet contradiction at the heart of modern sustainable living.

We've become more conscious of the visible choices in our lives; decisions we make about the food we buy, the clothes we wear and the way we travel have become expressions of our values – small but meaningful ways to reduce our impact on the planet. Yet one of the most significant contributors to our carbon footprint remains largely untouched – not through neglect, but because it's so easy to overlook.

AN INVISIBLE FORCE

Energy presents itself in a different way. It doesn't sit in front of us or demand attention; it moves invisibly through our homes, powering everything from the kettle to the heating, arriving when we need it and rarely prompting us to question how it got there or was generated. For most of us it is simple: we use it and we pay for it. But that relationship is beginning to shift.

Mark Millar, CEO of Puredrive Energy, explains why domestic energy 'is the next sustainability shift'



ENDING PASSIVE ENERGY USE

For the first time, households have the opportunity not just to consume energy but to engage with it, and to shape when and how it's used.

At the centre of that shift is home battery storage, a technology that, while often discussed in technical terms, is quietly changing something much bigger: our role in the energy system itself.

A SUBTLE SHIFT

Spending time with someone who has a home battery reveals how subtle but meaningful that change can be. There's no dramatic overhaul of daily life, no sense of disruption. But there is a growing awareness.

Energy becomes something you notice when it's cheaper or greener, and your home is using more or less of it. It moves from the background into focus – not as a burden, but as something you can understand and influence. This shift becomes even more meaningful when paired with renewables.

RENEWABLES FOR REAL LIFE

Solar panels generate electricity during the middle of the day, often when homes are empty and demand is low. Without storage, much of that energy is exported back to the grid at a fraction of the price it costs to buy back. It isn't wasted, but it isn't always used in the way people expect when they invest in solar.

A battery changes that dynamic. It allows energy to be stored and used later, aligning generation with the rhythms of everyday life. The electricity produced on a bright afternoon can power an evening meal, a washing cycle or the steady background demand of a home settling in for the night. Every aspect of a home's energy use can be taken care of without compromise.

NOT JUST FOR SOLAR HOMES

Importantly, this shift isn't limited to homes with solar panels. As energy tariffs become more flexible, many households are beginning to use batteries to store electricity from the grid when it's cheaper or when there is a higher proportion of renewable energy available. That stored energy can then be used during peak times, reducing both costs and reliance on fossil-fuel heavy generation.

What emerges is a different kind of relationship with energy – one that is defined less by immediacy and more by intention.

A CATALYST FOR WIDER CHANGE

Instead of using electricity the moment it is needed, a battery allows households to start thinking about timing, efficiency and impact. And while much of this can be automated through smart systems, the awareness it creates tends to extend beyond the technology itself.

People notice the dishwasher running overnight or the battery topping up before breakfast. They become more conscious of how their homes operate and how their habits align with the wider energy system.

This awareness often leads to further changes, including an interest in solar, electric vehicles and other ways to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources. The battery becomes less of a standalone solution and more of a starting point.

A NEW ENERGY SYSTEM

This shift has a broader significance that extends beyond individual households. Energy systems have traditionally been centralised, with power generated in large facilities and distributed outward. Renewable energy challenges that model, introducing variability and decentralisation.

Battery storage plays a crucial role in making that system work for homes as well as for the grid.

SUPPORTING THE SHIFT AT HOME

For companies working in this space, the opportunity and responsibility is to make this shift feel accessible, not overwhelming.

At Puredrive Energy, that focus is simple: it's about helping households take control of their energy in a way that fits into everyday life. The aim is to give people the tools to reduce their reliance



CLOCKWISE The Duracell Dura5 home battery system; home batteries help to align energy with the rhythms of everyday life; energy generated on a bright day can be stored and used when it's needed; stored energy can also be used during peak times when electricity is more expensive



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on the grid, store more of the energy available to them and use it more intelligently. That thinking runs through everything we build.

A NATURAL STEP

From battery systems designed specifically for UK homes and tariffs to smart technology that automates when energy is stored and used, our goal is to make lower cost, lower carbon living feel like a natural step rather than a technical leap.

As an authorised licensee of Duracell, that approach is underpinned by a focus on reliability, long-term performance and trust – values that matter when energy becomes something people depend on more actively within their homes.

THE NEW NORMAL

This Earth Day, the focus is simple: we want to help households reduce both their energy bills and their carbon footprint, while moving closer to a future where clean energy is fully utilised and energy independence for homeowners is the norm.



Find out more

- Discover how you can make the next sustainable shift at puredrive-energy.co.uk
- Take a look at the energy storage products available at duracellenergy.com

‘EVERYONE WINS’

Corey Boaz, founder & president of Salt and Soil, explains how clean water infrastructure can benefit communities & ecosystems

Access to clean water changes lives, and how we deliver that water determines the future of our environment. This is why I took on Salt and Soil; the decision was guided by a belief that runs far deeper than the desire to build systems or a platform to attract investment. It’s about people and the ecosystems on which they depend.

The communities we serve often have very little; something as simple as a drink of clean water or the ability to bathe safely can completely change the trajectory of a person’s life. It impacts health, dignity, opportunity and future generations.

At the same time, we believe that solving one problem should never create another. Water security and environmental stewardship are not competing priorities, they are the same responsibility. That was a powerful realisation, and it’s what drives everything we do.

SUSTAINABLE WATER SECURITY

My background is in infrastructure. I’ve spent over 15 years building complex utility systems across multiple sectors, including water, energy and telecommunications. I’ve worked in environments where infrastructure either exists or it doesn’t – and the difference is everything.

Salt and Soil is a full-spectrum water solutions company. What differentiates us is our ability to apply the right solution for the environment, and focus on delivering the most effective,

sustainable water solution for a specific location. This is important because different environments require different tools; our role is to evaluate the conditions, constraints and long-term needs of a community, and deploy the right combination of technologies to deliver reliable, sustainable water security.

We are well known for our work in advanced intake systems; our patented slant well technology is extremely effective in many coastal conditions, but our approach goes far beyond a single method.

Our responsibility is to solve the entire water problem, so we design and deliver integrated water infrastructure across the full lifecycle. This includes everything from water sourcing and intake systems (subsurface, offshore and hybrid solutions) to treatment, desalination, transmission, distribution, water reuse and long-term sustainability planning.

ENGINEERED FOR SUCCESS

We hold intellectual property and expertise across multiple intake and water system designs, which allows us to remain flexible and responsive. This ensures that each project is engineered for long-term success rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all approach.

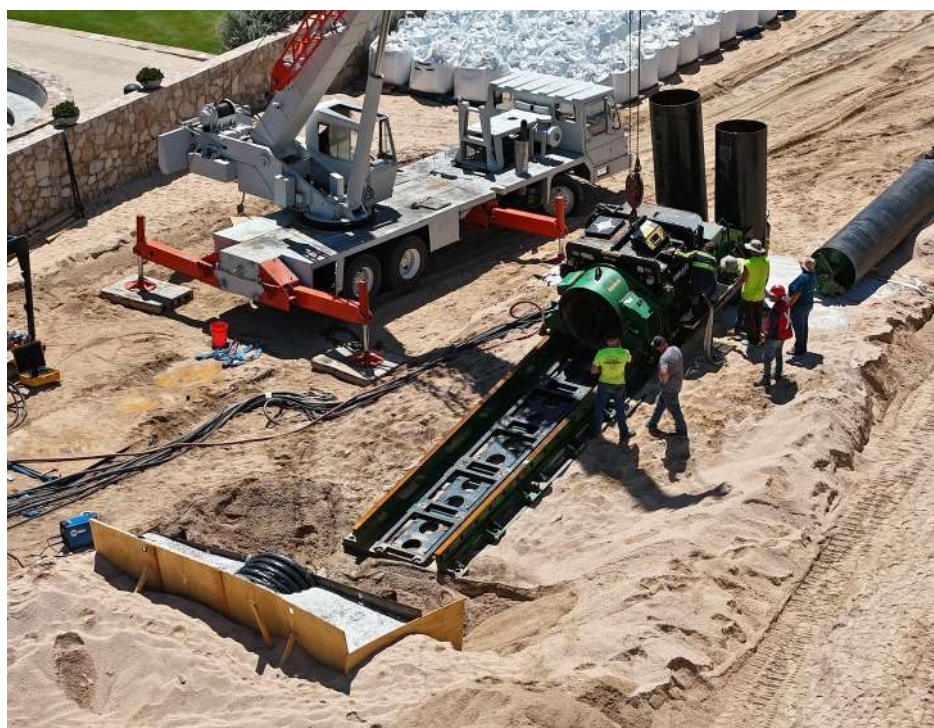
In many cases, we deploy subsurface intake methods that draw seawater through natural geological filtration before treatment. This protects marine ecosystems, reduces the use of chemicals

‘We’re seeing a significant increase in demand from coastal communities as sea levels rise and freshwater sources decline. The urgency is real, but so is the opportunity to solve these problems the right way.’

COREY BOAZ

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF SALT AND SOIL





CLOCKWISE
 Installing the region's first slant well in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; Corey preparing 36" steel casing for the well; an ATV taxi operator helping with site surveys in Yelapa, Mexico; buying ice cream for the local children became a nightly ritual in Yelapa



and improves efficiency. While subsurface intake is one of our most effective approaches in coastal environments, every project is evaluated independently. In some cases, alternative intake, treatment or reuse strategies may be more appropriate.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES

We're seeing a significant increase in demand from coastal communities as sea levels continue to rise and freshwater sources decline. The urgency is real, but so is the opportunity to solve these problems the right way.

The projects we are most proud of are not defined by size but by impact. When you provide reliable, clean water to a community, you change everything from the health and

'I've worked in environments where infrastructure either exists or it doesn't – and the difference is everything.'

economic opportunity of its citizens to the long-term stability of the community itself.

We operate under a simple principle: everyone wins. Communities gain reliable water, the environment is protected or improved and the economics support long-term sustainability. If a project doesn't meet those criteria, and deliver water security for more than 40 years, we don't pursue it.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As the global need for water increases there will be growing pressure to move faster – but lowering environmental standards is not the answer. Innovation allows us to meet urgency without compromising integrity.

We actively reinvest into communities that lack access to clean water because this issue is not just economic, it's human. Providing water security for more than 40 years changes everything; it allows communities to grow sustainably and protect their future.

If we get this right, we're not just solving water scarcity – we're improving lives while protecting the very environments on which those lives depend. That's the goal.

Find out more

■ Discover long-term water solutions from Salt and Soil at saltandsoilcorp.com



Bringing organic home

Soil Association Certification's **Paige Tracey** explains the benefits of organic farming – to nature, the economy & national security

At Balcaskie Estate, Scotland around 1400ha of the farm is dedicated to livestock production, farmed organically; the conversion process started in 2016

The theme for Earth Day 2026 is 'Act Local, Think Global', and I cannot think of anything more fitting as the UK approaches a crucial fork in the road for organic agriculture.

Supporting organic farming on our doorstep will help the UK to achieve its climate and nature goals, which will have the knock-on effect of mitigating climate change on a global scale.

We know organic is better for nature, with 30% more biodiversity on organic farms versus non-organic. Studies have shown that over time, organic farms also store more carbon in their soil, keeping it out of the atmosphere where it contributes to global warming.

In addition to the environmental benefits of organic farming, a recent report by a UK intelligence committee, in association with Defra, has also highlighted its importance to national security.

UK FOOD SECURITY

Currently, the UK is intertwined in a global system that relies on certain areas of the world – including the Amazon, the Congo Basin and mangrove forests in south-east Asia – for the production of most of its food and fertiliser. However, these areas are threatened with ecological collapse, partly as a result of intensive farming.

If the current rates of nature loss continue, food production in these areas will no longer be possible – and this poses a massive threat to food security in the UK. Certain foods will become scarce or no longer available at all, and prices will rise dramatically.

Organic agriculture presents a way to reverse nature loss, and demand for organically produced food in the UK remains high. The latest figures, for 2025, show an overall growth in the organic market of 4.2%. The unit growth of organic sales in

supermarkets is four times higher than that of non-organic. Despite this, the UK is not growing enough of its own organic food to supply demand.

England is the only country in the UK to have no government support for organic conversion, and the latest figures from Defra show the overall percentage of UK organic farmland is stuck at 3%. We rely on imports for much of our organic produce, which isn't putting money into the pockets of British farmers. This dependence also leaves the UK vulnerable to the ever-changing headwinds in geopolitics and supply change disruption caused by extreme weather events.

SUPPORT FOR ORGANIC CONVERSION

For national security, food security and nature, we need to start producing more of our own organic food. If the future of food security necessitates increased self-sufficiency – and we don't want to experience ecosystem collapse – our agricultural system cannot be of the intensive type that has contributed to the devastation we've witnessed in regions that currently supply us. Government support, in the form of funding and guidance, is required to support more British farmers in the conversion to organic.

The Scottish Government, which has control over Scottish agriculture as a devolved issue, has taken note of the positive opportunity organic agriculture brings. In January 2026 Holyrood announced the Scottish Organic Action Plan, a three-year, £200,000-invested strategy aimed at expanding organic land, increasing production and boosting demand for Scottish organic products, plus support with strategic routes to market.

Prior to the plan's launch, the Scottish Government's commitment to doubling organic land saw a 13.2%

increase in Scottish organic farmland in 2024. This reflects the fact that when there is clear government support – the missing element across the rest of the UK – more farmers will convert.

OPEN FARM SUNDAY

In December 2025, the International Society for Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR) presented evidence at the European Parliament. It showed that in Europe, organic agriculture generates nearly 4 million additional jobs on farms and across supply chains, relies 30–40% less on external inputs, keeps more processing and value-added activities in rural areas, attracts younger and more diverse talent and lowers public costs linked to water protection and soil degradation.

The 'Bridging the Gap report' released by Sustain in 2025 shows that for every £1.10 spent on organic by a consumer plus £1 in public investment, organic returns £8.78 in social and economic benefits, including £1.44 of local economic growth, £3.11 in health and wellbeing improvements, £3.94 in stronger communities and 29p in climate and nature gains.

The power is in our pockets to act local and think global. On Open Farm Sunday (07 June 2026), farms across the country will open their doors to the public for events and farm walks. This is your opportunity to see how your local farm is producing food, and many organic farms are going to be taking part. As well as showing your support for your local organic farmer, you can find out how they are selling their organic produce and whether they have any local delivery schemes.

Find out more

- Discover local farms participating in Open Farm Sunday at farmsunday.org



HOW TO SAVE FOOD

The team behind food-saving app Olio shares some of the small kitchen habits that can make a big climate difference

Food waste is one of the UK's biggest environmental blind spots. Wrap's most recent estimate puts UK food waste at 10.2 million tonnes a year; close to half (6 million tonnes) of that comes from households.

When we waste food, we're wasting the water that grew it, the land that produced it, the energy that transported it and the packaging that protected it.

The good news is that cutting food waste is one of the simplest climate actions you can take at home. It's not about perfection or dramatic lifestyle changes, but about small habits that really add up when we all do them!

KNOW YOUR DATES

Understanding the difference between 'Use By' and 'Best Before' dates can be a gamechanger. A use-by date relates to food safety and is found on fresh meat, fish and dairy. After that date, it's best not to risk it. A best-before date is about quality, not safety – this means many foods remain perfectly edible after the date has passed.

Before chucking something out because it's past its best-before date, take a moment to look at it, smell it and taste a small amount.

THE FOOD-SAVING APPLIANCE

Your freezer isn't just for ice cream and peas – it's one of your most powerful tools. Freezing food

gives you time, which is often all you need. Bread slices, milk, grated cheese, fresh herbs (with a little bit of olive oil), overripe bananas and more can all be frozen and eaten at a later date.

Keep a bag in your freezer and add onion skins, leek trimmings, carrot ends, celery tops, herb stems, garlic bits and even bones if you eat meat. When it's full, simmer everything in water with a little seasoning to create a rich homemade stock for soups, risottos and stews. You can even reduce the stock down and freeze it in ice-cube trays for DIY stock cubes.

MAKE BREAD GO FURTHER

Turn dry slices of bread into croutons with olive oil and herbs, blitz them into breadcrumbs and freeze them or make a comforting bread and butter pudding.

You can also revive slightly stale bread, especially sourdough, by running it quickly under the tap to dampen the crust. Then all you need to do is place it in a hot oven (around 180°C) for five to 10 minutes; the steam helps restore moisture, magically bringing the loaf back to life.

REORGANISE YOUR FRIDGE

Think about dedicating a shelf in your fridge to all the food that needs using up – from leftovers and spare veg to half-used ingredients. This visual cue makes it far less likely that food will disappear to the back and be forgotten.

When you're cooking, check your 'eat first' shelf at the start and add those ingredients to whatever you're making. Half a pepper, some spinach, a lonely courgette or leftover herbs can easily be added into any recipe. Most dishes can handle a few extra veg, and this approach prevents almost-finished food from becoming waste.

Fresh herbs are frequently wasted because they wilt quickly in plastic packaging. Instead, treat them like flowers: trim the stems, place them upright in a glass of water, loosely cover with a bag and store in the fridge. They'll last days – sometimes even weeks – longer, meaning you'll actually get to use the whole bunch before it wilts.

USE WHAT YOU HAVE

Once a week, challenge yourself to cook food that's already in your cupboards, fridge and freezer. Tins of beans, half-used spices and frozen leftovers will finally get their moment. This is a brilliant way to reduce waste because it forces you to use what you have before buying more. It also helps clear your 'eat first' shelf and creates space in the freezer, all while helping you get more creative in the kitchen.

SHARE SPARES WITH NEIGHBOURS

Finally, one of the easiest ways to stop food waste is to share the food that you know you won't be able to use. Going away for a few days? Realised you're not going to be able to finish that veg box? List what you don't need on the Olio app and pass it on to someone nearby. This is one of the most immediate and community-focused ways to reduce waste and make a tangible climate impact, and it means food gets eaten instead of binned!

START SMALL

Don't try to do everything – pick one habit and stick with it for a week. The solution to food waste starts in our kitchens, in our fridges and in the everyday choices we make. When thousands of households waste a little less, the impact is anything but small!



Find out more

■ Olio is available to download on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)

Food for the Earth

Celebrate Earth Day with these two planet-friendly recipes from **Henry Firth, Ian Theasby** and the **BOSH!** team



Every year, Earth Day is a reminder that the choices we make – even the small, everyday ones – add up to something much bigger. In fact, one of the most powerful choices any of us can make for the planet happens three times a day: at mealtimes.

You don't need to overhaul your life. You don't need to be perfect. The science consistently tells us that shifting even one meal towards plant-based eating has a measurable impact – on emissions, land use and water.

Millions of people making one small change matters more than a handful of people doing everything right. That's what these two recipes are about; not sacrifice, not compromise – just genuinely delicious food that happens to be built around some of the most sustainable ingredients on the planet.

Legumes like butter beans and chickpeas require a fraction of the water and land required for animal proteins, and produce far fewer emissions. They're also cheap, filling and, as these recipes prove, anything but boring. Pick a recipe. Make it tonight. That's where change starts.

Find out more

■ For more plant-based recipe inspiration, head over to [bosh.tv](https://www.bosh.tv)

SAAG CHICKPEA CURRY WITH SMASHED POTATO TOPPING (Serves 4)

Chickpeas are among the most climate-friendly proteins you can cook with, and this recipe gives them the treatment they deserve. A warmly spiced curry base is lifted by a vibrant blended saag – spinach and silken tofu worked together until smooth and vivid green – then topped with crispy smashed potatoes straight from the oven. It's the kind of meal that makes you wonder why you'd ever need anything else. And it's packed with a whopping 29g of protein per serving, for what it's worth.

INGREDIENTS

For the smashed potato topping

- 500g new potatoes
- Oil

For the saag chickpeas

- Oil for frying
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 4cm piece of fresh ginger
- 2 tsp garam masala
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp turmeric
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- 2 × 570g tin chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 200ml coconut milk
- 20g nooch

For the green saag blend

- 200g spinach
- 200g silken tofu
- 20g fresh coriander
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

To serve

- Nigella seeds
- Coconut yoghurt

Before you start

Preheat the oven to 200°C (fan), ovenproof deep-sided frying pan, boil a kettle, prepare a bowl of ice-cold water.

METHOD

Prep the ingredients

Peel and finely dice the onion. Peel and grate the garlic and ginger.

Parboil the potatoes

Add the potatoes to boiling, salted water and cook for 15-20 minutes, until tender. Drain them well and allow to steam dry. Lay the potatoes on a tray and use the base of a glass to gently smash them.

Build the curry

Heat the vegetable oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add the onion with a pinch of salt and fry for 8-10 minutes, until translucent. Add the garlic and ginger and fry for another minute. Add the garam masala, ground coriander, cumin, turmeric and chilli powder and fry for 30 seconds. Tip in the chickpeas and stir to coat in the spices. Pour in the coconut milk. Simmer for 10 minutes until slightly thickened.

Blanch the spinach

Add the spinach to a large heatproof bowl. Pour over boiling water and leave for 30 seconds, until just wilted.

Drain immediately and transfer to the ice-cold water. Drain again and squeeze out as much liquid as possible.

Blend the greens

Blend the blanched spinach, silken tofu, coriander and lemon juice until completely smooth and vibrant. Stir the green saag blend in to the chickpeas. Add the nooch and a pinch of salt.

Build the dish

Lay the potatoes on top of the curry. Drizzle with oil and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until crispy and golden. Sprinkle with nigella seeds and serve with coconut yoghurt.



HARISSA BUTTER BEANS WITH WHIPPED FETA (Serves 4)

Butter beans are one of the unsung heroes of sustainable eating: high in protein and fibre, low in emissions and endlessly versatile. Here they're slow-roasted in a rich harissa and tomato sauce until deeply flavourful and bubbling, finished with whipped plant-based feta and fresh dill. The whole dish comes together in one skillet, mostly from tins and jars, which means minimal waste and maximum flavour.

INGREDIENTS

For the Harissa Beans

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 500g cherry tomatoes
- 1 large bulb garlic
- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 × 400g tin polpa tomatoes
- 1 × 570g jar queen butterbeans
- 2 tbsp harissa paste
- Salt, black pepper and sugar, to taste

For the Whipped Feta

- 200g plant-based feta
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 4 tbsp cold water

To serve

- Small handful dill fronds
- Sourdough bread
- Plant-based butter (or olive oil)
- Extra olive oil, for drizzling

Before you start

Preheat oven to 200°C, ovenproof skillet, bullet blender, tongs, toaster.

METHOD

Prep the vegetables

Slice the red pepper into thin strips. Slice the top off the garlic bulb to expose the cloves. Add both to the ovenproof skillet with the cherry tomatoes. Drizzle with olive oil, season with salt and pepper and toss well to coat. Nestle the garlic bulb in the centre.

Roast the base

Place the skillet in the oven for 25 minutes until the tomatoes have burst and the pepper has softened.

Make the whipped feta

In a bullet blender, combine the plant-based feta, olive oil and cold water. Blitz until smooth and creamy, like a thick mayo. Add an extra splash of water to loosen if needed. Set aside.

Build the sauce

Remove the roasted garlic bulb with tongs and allow to cool slightly. Squeeze the soft cloves into the skillet and mash with the back of a spoon. Stir in the harissa paste until well combined. Pour in the polpa tomatoes and season with salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar.

Add the beans

Drain the butterbeans and gently fold them through the sauce. Return the skillet to the oven for a further 25 minutes, until bubbling and slightly reduced.

Toast the sourdough

While the beans finish, toast slices of sourdough and spread with plant-based butter or a drizzle of good olive oil.

Finish and serve

Remove the skillet from the oven and swirl the whipped feta through the centre of the hot beans. Top with dill fronds, a drizzle of olive oil and a final pinch of salt and pepper. Serve straight from the pan with toast on the side for scooping – ideal for lazy lunches and relaxed dinners.

Spring beauty

Natural beauty expert **Janey Lee Grace** talks spring, sustainability and the rise of nature-led beauty

Spring has always symbolised fresh starts, and today's most trusted natural brands reflect that spirit. Clean beauty is no longer defined by what's left out but by what's thoughtfully included: ethically sourced botanicals, low-impact manufacturing and formulations designed to work in harmony with the skin, body and environment.

BLOOMING WITH PURPOSE

Eco by Sonya Driver remains one of Australia's most respected certified-organic tanning and body care brands, built on founder Sonya Driver's unwavering commitment to toxin-free, cruelty-free skincare. Every product is certified organic, vegan and accredited by Safe Cosmetics Australia and Choose Cruelty Free.

The Serum of Plenty feels especially fitting for spring; it's a pure, planet-friendly formula that brightens and replenishes like the season itself.

HAIR CARE ROOTED IN NATURE

With more than 35 years' experience in the hair industry, Tabitha James Kraan has redefined natural hair care with her British-made, 100% natural eco-luxe range. Her philosophy is simple: hair thrives when nurtured by nature.

From organic dry shampoos to aromatherapy-infused oils, Tabitha's products protect both hair health and environmental health. I love the Clean Shampoo and Conditioner; as Tabitha always reminds us, a little goes a long way.

SEASONAL CARE FOR SKIN & SOUL

Rhythm of Beauty takes an energetic, seasonally aligned approach to skincare, blending shea butter, aloe, cocoa seed butter, Q10, vitamins A and E and sea buckthorn with flower essences.

The revolutionary face cream uses flower essences to access facial meridians, helping release tension, tiredness and stress – all of which contribute to signs of ageing.

ESSENTIAL OILS FOR NATURAL WELLBEING

Penny Price Aromatherapy is a family-run brand that has helped make aromatherapy one of the most respected natural approaches to wellbeing.



The Nurture Mobility Lotion is a favourite; it's a powerful blend of rosemary, sweet marjoram, juniper and lavender essential oils, chosen for their soothing, pain-relieving properties. Designed to ease stiffness, tension and discomfort, this is a gentle, non-greasy way to support movement as we step into spring.

SOLUTIONS FOR SENSITIVE SKIN

Butterflies Eyecare was founded by optician James and pharmacist Michelle Sutton, whose personal experiences with eye conditions, sensitive skin and hormonal health shaped their mission.

The ultra-moisturising eye serum is a clean, hydrating formula created for those experiencing dryness, irritation or treatment-related sensitivity.

A SPRINGTIME ESSENTIAL

Salt of the Earth's spray deodorant is a brilliant springtime essential: light, clean and refreshingly simple.

Made with 100% natural mineral salts and botanical ingredients, it offers long-lasting protection without blocking pores or disrupting the skin's natural balance. The formula is vegan, cruelty free and packaged with sustainability in mind – kind to both skin and planet.

BEAUTY FROM WITHIN

Innopure knows that when the basics are done brilliantly, it makes all the difference. The Vitamin D3 4,000 IU with K2 MK-7 supplement pairs two nutrients: D3 for bones, teeth, muscle function and immune support plus K2 to ensure everything goes where it should.

Free from gluten, dairy, soya and a long list of unnecessary additives, this is clean supplementation at its most effective.

These brands show that natural beauty and nutrition are not seasonal trends but a return to authenticity.



CLOCKWISE

Butterflies Eye Care Ultra moisturising eye contour serum (£18); Eco by Sonya Serum of Plenty (£44); Salt of the Earth Natural Deodorant Spray (left, £7.49); Penny Price Aromatherapy lavender range (from £8.40); Tabitha James Kraan organic hair care (from £34); Innopure Vitamin D3 & K2 MK7 (£14.40); Rhythm of Beauty Radiance Seasonal Face Cream (£55)



Find out more

■ Nominate your favourite natural brands in the 2026 Platinum Awards at [imperfectlynatural.com](https://www.imperfectlynatural.com)



FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

Jarvis Smith shares why the P.E.A. Awards matter more this year than ever before

Over the years, the Earth Day movement has done something extraordinary: it has helped billions of people all over the world wake up to the reality that we are not separate from nature but part of it.

Nature cannot be seen as a 'nice to have'; it's the foundation of everything from our food systems and health to our economy and, ultimately, our future. Yet there comes a time when awareness is no longer enough; in 2026, the question is no longer 'do we care?', but 'what are we actually doing about it?'

That's why this year's P.E.A. Awards, which will take place at London's One Marylebone on 20 June as part of London Climate Action Week, feel different. This awards ceremony is taking place at a crucial moment of alignment.

A DAY TO CONNECT

This year we are bringing a day programme and evening awards ceremony together under one roof, to create a space where ideas, people and solutions don't just sit quietly next to each other – they actively connect.

Throughout the day, we'll explore the intersection of nature, capital, culture, energy, consciousness and communication. We're honoured to welcome voices who are shaping this transition in real time.

SPEAKERS FOR 2026

Tony Juniper, chair of Natural England, will ground us in the reality – and opportunity – of the natural world, while Nick Ash, founder of Sustain Britain, will explore how communities can use Sustain Circles to come together and drive tangible change.

Mark Millar from Puredrive Energy will share how Duracell Energy home battery storage is putting power back into homeowners' hands and Tenzin Seldon, from Pulse Fund, will open up one of the most important conversations of our time: how we move from GDP to what she calls Gross Domestic Regeneration (GDR).

Master Sha will bring a powerful perspective on consciousness, healing and the role of inner transformation in creating outer change, and Stuart Trevor will remind us that culture and fashion are not separate from sustainability, they are central to it.

Finally, Jamie Anley will ask one of the most urgent questions of all: how do we communicate in a way that will inspire people not just to care about the environment, but to act?



FROM GDP TO GDR

One of the key themes running through this year's gathering is a simple but radical idea: what if we measured success not by what we extract but by what we regenerate? For decades, GDP has been our dominant metric; we are now seeing the consequences of that thinking, as we continue to degrade the very systems that sustain us.

A new era, measuring Gross Domestic Regeneration, would focus not on growth at any cost but on how much soil we are restoring, how much biodiversity we are supporting and how much life we are protecting.

This philosophical and economic shift would put the 'eco' back in our economy. It carves a space for capital, policy and people to come together.

CONVERSATION & IMPLEMENTATION

The thing that makes the P.E.A. Awards unique is that they have always been about people, not PR. These are not awards for the best campaigns; they are for the people quietly (and sometimes loudly) doing the work. The innovators, farmers, community leaders, disruptors and dreamers who refuse to accept that the current system is the only system.

The evening awards will celebrate these individuals and organisations, but the daytime programme is all about activation. We don't need more information – we need more implementation.

THE MISSING PIECE

If there's one thing I've learnt over the years, it's that we cannot solve external problems with the same internal mindset that created them. That's why it's so important to bring individuals like Master Sha into this space. Regeneration isn't just about land, it's about consciousness: how we think and relate, and how we understand our place in the world.

For me, this year's P.E.A. Awards are deeply personal. They represent everything I believe in: that we are capable of change, that solutions already exist and that, when the right people come together, something powerful happens.

This is all about celebrating the people who are changing the world, and bringing them together to accelerate that change. To move from inspiration to action, and from action to regeneration.

Earth Day reminds us of what's at stake, while the P.E.A. Awards are about what's possible. Whether you're a policymaker, a business leader, a farmer, a creator or simply someone who cares, this is your invitation to be part of the conversation, the solution and, ultimately, the regeneration. Because the future isn't something to wait for – it's something we must build, together.

Find out more

■ Get your tickets to the P.E.A. Awards 2026 at peaawards.com

A NEW PARADIGM

Socio-environmental activist **Paco Ayala** shares details of two projects that give hope for the future

THE SCHOOL OF MOTHER EARTH

Something is no longer working; we have become disconnected from nature and its dynamic processes, and built a linear model based on competitive relationships where the only thing that matters is to possess and consume. This generates a circle of greed.

The environmental emergency and the climate crisis urgently demand that we imagine a new way of understanding and relating to the world, and that we propose new forms of social organisation that enable interconnection with nature. We must construct a new epistemology: a new narrative space through which we can examine ourselves. It requires new interpretations that reveal other facets, so we can weave a new educational framework that acknowledges that rationality is not the only way to interpret the world.

This new pedagogy is found in the ways Indigenous peoples wove their knowledge with nature; science was not a method but a dialogue, where the empirical world became art and craft and where the interconnection with the cosmos allowed for holistic understanding. Through this understanding, each element of nature revealed a symbol that made it possible to construct the reality in which they lived and, more importantly, felt. Human beings communicated with nature, and nature responded.

A RETURN TO THE SACRED

The School of Mother Earth seeks to foster and promote the ancestral knowledge of Indigenous peoples who interpret science through their interconnection with nature. Teaching relies not on rote memorisation but on lived experiences; it is a return to the sacred through an empathetic understanding of the ecosystem that surrounds us.

The central proposal behind the School of Mother Earth is to work with children and young people to create a living pedagogy where knowledge is acquired through the practice of community actions, without neglecting the philosophical explanations and concepts necessary for a systemic understanding. Empirical and scientific knowledge are united; the educational



ABOUT PACO AYALA

Paco Ayala is a co-founder of Extinction Rebellion Mexico and has collaborated on numerous cultural and environmental projects. He is the founder and CEO of Huerto Roma Verde – Roma Verde Community Garden – a BioSocial Lab. He recently became an ‘OMMMbassador’ – an ambassador for OMMM, an organisation that exists to raise consciousness through energy, awareness and meaningful experiences. Paco will be on stage with OMMM for its Love Your Mother event in New York’s Times Square, 14.00-19.00 ET on Earth Day. He will also be working with OMMM and the UN to extend his projects.

programme integrates art and science, crafts and techniques to solve problems and find solutions. The essence of this approach lies in recognising the physical body through the importance of posture and breathing, while also exploring artistic potential and systemic reflection.

ENDING DUALISM

We need to create new narratives to tell the story from a perspective capable of seeing the plurality, diversity and inter-culturality that we are – that leave behind the binary, dualistic and dystopian

CLOCKWISE

Working table at the School of Mother Earth, Kawsay Foundation, Bolivia; learning community of the School of Mother Earth, Roma Verde Garden, Mexico City; raised garden beds at Roma Verde Garden; Tata Leonel Cerruto, director at Kawsay Mother Earth School; view of a Quechua community in Torotoro, Bolivia



discourses with which traditional schooling makes us interpret reality.

In these times, as we witness the advent of a socio-environmental collapse, the only way to turn things around is by making education a process of life action. This will only be achieved if we begin to teach that the Earth is a living being that breathes and feels, and that we must, therefore, interact with it from reciprocity and ecosystemic understanding – the *ayni* – through which receiving is only understood when we are capable of giving.

A NETWORK FOR CHANGE

A key objective of the Pachakuti Network is to activate the School of Mother Earth and its self-managed spaces; the School launched in

Bolivia at the headquarters of the Kawsay Foundation, and plans are underway to expand to other organisations that form the Pachakuti Network. These organisations are located not only in Bolivia but also in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico.

The initial target audience is teenagers, but the idea is to extend the curriculum to children as well. The goal is to demonstrate that an alternative epistemological perspective can offer us a different relationship with life, where separation from nature is not the norm. The focus is instead on the profound connection we have with Mother Earth, and a recognition that our life processes are embedded in the continuums woven by the web of life. This presents a multi-species, pluridiverse vision that has always been present in the world-view of ancestral peoples, but which the western, anthropocentric perspective lost by elevating reason as the sole way to interpret the world.

A WINDOW TO HOPE

The vision of the School of Mother Earth is, above all, a window to hope; if we don't profoundly change our perspective, we will continue to see nature as a resource at our service and not as a collaborative ally. Our commitment to this vision is to the future, because without it there isn't one. The Earth needs a biocentric worldview, and that's what the School of Mother Earth embodies.

Let us then allow ancestral knowledge to flourish, because Mother Earth needs to be heard – and we must begin to learn to interpret what she tells us through wind, fire, water and earth.



HUERTO ROMA VERDE

13 years ago, within the heart of Mexico City, the community planted a seed: a garden of hope in the middle of the chaos of the city. This project was grown in a space that had been abandoned after many residential buildings collapsed during the 1985 earthquake.

In 2012, a group of neighbours decided to access the space and clean the area in order to create a community garden, Huerto Roma Verde – which has now become a national and international beacon for urban regeneration and territorial resistance and reclamation. It stands tall and proud against the Federal Government's attempts to reclaim the site, thanks to the strength of our community and the social organisations that Huerto Roma Verde has birthed and nourished.

This space isn't merely an urban garden, but an alternative proposal that imagines new models of community support in the face of our current environmental emergency and climate crisis. Huerto Roma Verde is described as a BioSocial Lab; it enacts best environmental and social practices and uses art and culture to provide our community with empowerment tools. These tools can be applied, at a hyper-local or larger scale, to find new solutions to current social and environmental concerns.

GOOD LIVING

The project has developed an alternative model based on a systemic way of thinking. It has three key principles: the recognition of the ancestral wisdom and knowledge of our Original Peoples, social biology and permaculture. These three principles are the basis of our 'Regenerative Hikuri', which in turn comprises seven work axes: Social Organisation, Environmental Integration, Essential Health, Sustainable Habitability, Adequate Technologies, BioCommunitary Economy and

Regenerative Culture. When working these seven axes concurrently, we have managed to create common welfare – or 'good living'.

Each one of these axes can be seen at work within Huerto Roma Verde; they have been applied to the space in such a way that the garden contains multiple productive BioSocial spheres, like carpentry, herbology, traditional toy making, ceramics, textiles and arts and crafts, among several other cultural, artistic and recreational activities. Over 250K people are welcomed across over 450 different activities that we offer each year.

BUILDING A NEW WORLD

Huerto Roma Verde is a living example of how community labour can create valuable social fabrics that promote alternative innovation, protecting our Earth while creating more conscious, participative and connected communities.

This is a new vision that provides self-managed alternatives to social structures that no longer work. In a dystopian world, Huerto Roma Verde, along with several similar projects around the world, have become a beacon of hope where we can build the world we truly need.



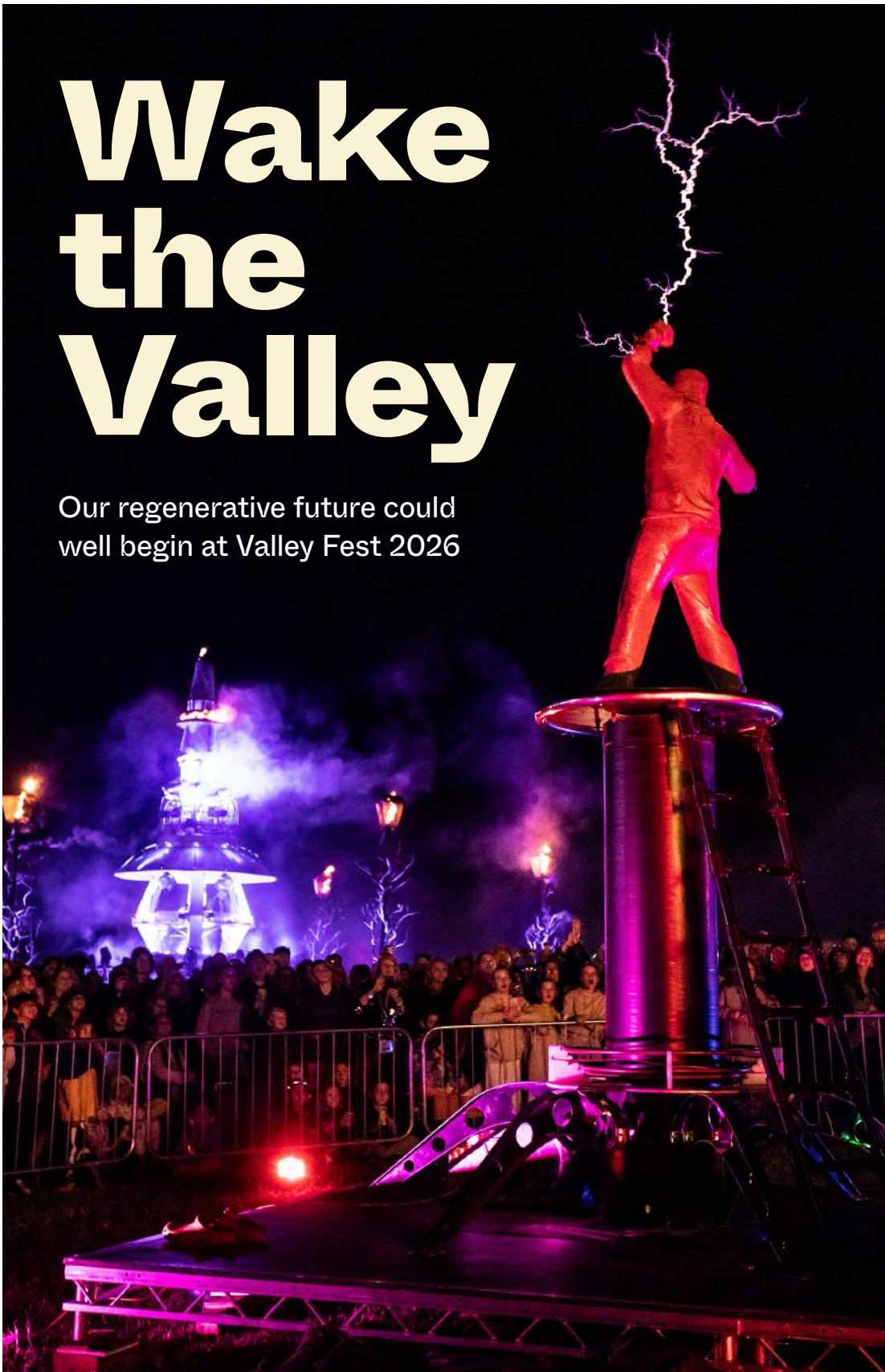
Find out more

- Information about the School of Mother Earth is at kawsay1.wixsite.com/la-escuela-de-la-mad
- Details of Huerto Roma Verde are at huertoromaverde.org



Wake the Valley

Our regenerative future could well begin at Valley Fest 2026



Valley Fest will mark Earth Day 2026 by announcing the launch of Wake the Valley – a bold new step towards becoming the UK's leading regenerative festival. The goal is to provide a living example of how land, food, music and people can come together to shape a better future. In this sense Wake the Valley isn't just about marking a moment: it's about launching a movement.

Set against the backdrop of Chew Valley Lake in Chew Stoke, Somerset (half an hour from Bristol), Valley Fest has always celebrated music, community and great food. For 2026, the festival is set to evolve into something more: a platform for regeneration in action.

At the heart of this shift is a simple idea: that events can do more than simply entertain. They can restore landscapes, reconnect communities and inspire new ways of living that give back more than they take.



UNITING CHANGEMAKERS

Launching this summer alongside Valley Fest, Wake the Valley will bring together farmers, chefs, thinkers, artists and community leaders to explore what a regenerative future could look like – not as theory, but as something people can see, taste and experience for themselves.

From soil health and food systems to wellbeing and culture, the aim of the initiative is to bridge the gap between how we grow, how we eat and how we gather.

'Nature doesn't care about our good intentions – only our actions', says Luke Hasell, founder of Valley Fest. 'Wake the Valley is about showing what's possible when we start working with nature again. This isn't about sustainability any more; it's about regeneration.'

A FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE

The long-term vision is for Valley Fest to become a 'regenerative festival of the future', with regenerative principles embedded into every aspect of the event. Regenerative farming and local food systems will be supported, and practical steps will be taken to enhance biodiversity across the festival site.

The festival will build deeper partnerships that accelerate positive environmental change and create meaningful economic value for local communities. Circular systems will be designed to minimise waste and maximise reuse.

The ambition extends far beyond a single weekend; Wake the Valley marks the beginning of a wider roadmap – one that transforms Valley Fest from an annual event into a year-round movement rooted in land, culture and community.

A TOP FARMER

As part of this journey, Luke has also been selected for the Top 50 Farmers in Europe 2026 cohort, a network of pioneering growers who are helping to shape the future of food and farming across the continent.

The initiative recognises those who are changing both how food is produced and how people relate to it, fostering a deeper



connection between land, nourishment and everyday life. 'This recognition isn't just about farming', Luke tells us; 'it's about a wider shift in how we live; how we value food, how we care for land and how we come together as communities. That's the future we're building towards.'

ACTION & OPTIMISM

At a time when environmental challenges can feel overwhelming, Valley Fest is forging a different path – one rooted in optimism, participation and collective action. Regeneration isn't just something that happens on farms; it happens when people gather, when stories are shared and when new possibilities are imagined and brought to life. This Earth Day, the call is simple: Wake the Valley and be part of what comes next.

Find out more

■ Book your tickets to Valley Fest 2026 at valleyfest.co.uk



Valley Fest has always brought an eclectic mix of sparkle for all ages, from Lords of Lightning in 2024 (opposite page) to food and cooking demos, silent discos, a superb live lineup and a good dose of sparkle

COMPETITIONS

We've got our hands on a bunch of prizes from fantastic companies that are doing things differently. We love them all and we want to give you a chance to get to know them, too – so we're running these competitions so you can have a go and see for yourself!

We've handpicked this selection of green pearls – including ethical fashion, festival tickets, transformative art and even a retreat pilot – to help set you on a path to a lighter lifestyle.

To enter and view any Ts & Cs, visit mygreenpod.com



£100 STUART TREVOR VOUCHER

Tired of fast fashion? This is your chance to revamp your wardrobe! We're giving one reader £100 to spend on menswear and womenswear from Stuart Trevor. The designer streetwear clothing is sustainable, organic and upcycled from dead stock fabrics to tackle fashion's growing waste problem.

Deadline for entries: 01.07.26



WIN

5 WEEKEND TICKETS TO VALLEY FEST 2026

Pack your tent and grab your wellies – it's nearly time for Valley Fest 2026! This is a family-friendly cocktail of arts, music and regeneration. Enjoy a powerful live lineup – including Cast and The Bluetones – or embrace a different kind of festival energy with a dip in a hot tub, lakeside yoga or a wood-fired banquet.

Deadline for entries: 01.06.26



WIN

**'PEACE' CALLIGRAPHY,
BY MASTER SHA**

One lucky reader will get to experience the transformative power of the Love Peace Harmony Calligraphies with this 'Peace' print (worth \$490). It was created by the artist Dr & Master Zhi Gang Sha, a world-renowned healer and humanitarian.

Deadline for entries: 16.06.26

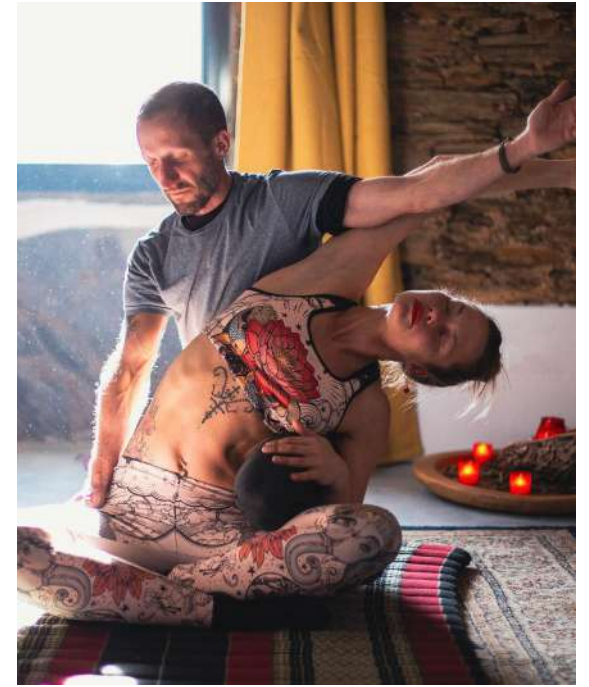


WIN

**TOMMY & LOTTIE ULTIMATE
BEE BUNDLE**

One reader will receive two backpacks, two organic T-shirts and accessories from a thoughtfully curated collection that champions sustainability, ethical production and nature.

Deadline for entries: 01.07.26



WIN

**A RETREAT PILOT AT
FREEDOM VILLE**

We're offering one retreat organiser the incredible opportunity to pilot their work at Freedom Ville, a restored village in Central Portugal, for up to four nights (exclusive use).

Deadline for entries: 01.07.26



WIN

2 TICKETS TO WAKE THE VALLEY SYMPOSIUM

Join scientists, farmers, artists and investors for this full-day summit (30 July 2026), kicking off Valley Fest with an exploration of what a regenerative festival model truly looks like. Organisers promise tangible outputs, pledges and commitments.

Deadline for entries: 01.06.26



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