



Celebrating Earth Hour 2024

Introduction

As a movement committed to the preservation of nature, Scouting continues to invite young people to become champions for Nature and climate action. While Scouting is increasing efforts to advocate, educate and act to help put the planet on a path to sustainability, we call on all to urgently prioritise climate action and nature-based solutions before it's too late. It's never been more urgent to help our planet, and Scouting is here to support young people in creating this much-needed change.



Since 2009, the Scout Association of Maldives through its members have been actively celebrating and educating its members and the general public on Earth Hour and what it stands for. The Scout Association of Maldives continues its long-standing commitment and partnership with Earth Hour Maldives Country Team to continue promoting the event and raise awareness on the looming climate crisis and devastating toll on the fragile ecosystems and the depleting natural systems around us.

What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour, organized by WWF, is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet. Engaging a massive mainstream community, Earth Hour was famously started as a lights out event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then, it has grown to engage millions of supporters in more than 185 countries and territories, inspiring individuals and organizations worldwide to take action for the environment, and driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the crowd. As the movement grows, the one-hour lights out event continues to be the symbol of a broader commitment toward nature and our planet.

The first thing anyone can do to get involved is to turn off their lights during Earth Hour. But there is much, much more. The vision is always to do more, so make the light switch the beginning of your journey

For the past 10 years, people around the world have come together every Earth Hour to support efforts to tackle climate change. And, together, we have created a powerful movement that helped deliver strong global commitments to tackling this threat. Climate change remains a big challenge for us all.

But another urgent threat now demands our attention: the staggering loss of biodiversity and nature. Earth Hour today endeavors to spark global conversations on protecting nature not only because it is our strongest ally against to the climate crisis - but also because of its importance in ensuring our own health, happiness, prosperity and even survival.

Earth Hour 2024

This year Earth Hour takes place on Saturday, 23rd March. Globally the timing for Earth Hour is 20:30 to 21:30, however, as Earth Hour this year falls on to the month of Ramadan, and since the timing also coincides with the Taraweeh prayers, Earth Hour Maldives Country Team has decided to celebrate Earth Hour in the Maldives from 21:30 – 22:30.



Guidelines

Scouts Maldives – Celebrating Earth Hour 2024

For the last few year the Scout Association of Maldives has encouraged all its members to carry out different activities as part of the Earth Hour Celebrations, and the Scout Association has been providing an event badge for those Youth and Adult members who take part in Earth Hour activities in their local communities. Keeping up this advocacy initiative, the Association invites all Members to carry out awareness and advocacy activities this year as well, and to organize community (island level) and Scout Group level Earth Hour switch off event on 23rd March 2024, 21:30 – 22:30.

Earth Hour Activities – leading up to the “Hour.”

The objective of the activities carried out leading up to the Earth Hour switch off event, is to increase community awareness on the impacts of Climate Change and Biodiversity loss. Scouts are encouraged to use the following key messaging when carrying out and organizing awareness and advocacy activities:

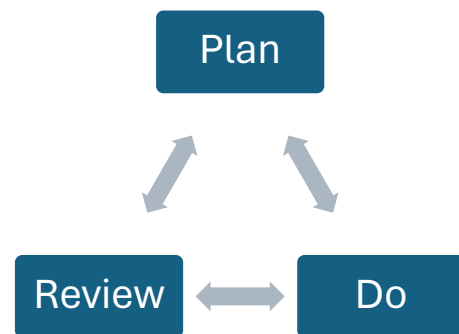
1. **Highlight the Importance of Climate Action:** Communicate the urgent need for action to address climate change and its impacts on the planet. Emphasize that Earth Hour is a symbolic event that encourages individuals and communities to take action against climate change by reducing energy consumption and promoting sustainability.
2. **Encourage Energy Conservation:** Stress the importance of reducing energy consumption by turning off non-essential lights and electronics during Earth Hour. Explain how small actions can make a big difference in reducing carbon emissions and combating climate change.
3. **Promote Sustainable Living:** Advocate for sustainable living practices that minimize environmental impact and promote the responsible use of natural resources. Encourage individuals to adopt habits such as reducing waste, conserving water, and choosing renewable energy sources.
4. **Raise Awareness about Biodiversity Loss:** Highlight the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the importance of preserving biodiversity for the health of the planet. Emphasize that Earth Hour is not only about reducing energy consumption but also about raising awareness of broader environmental issues, including habitat destruction and species extinction.
5. **Empower Communities:** Encourage individuals and communities to take ownership of environmental issues and become agents of change in their own communities. Empower people to take concrete actions to reduce their environmental footprint and advocate for policies that support sustainability and conservation efforts.
6. **Inspire Collective Action:** Stress the importance of collective action in addressing global challenges such as climate change. Encourage individuals, businesses, governments, and organizations to work together towards a more sustainable and resilient future for the planet.

- Celebrate Nature and the Earth:** Remind people of the beauty and value of the natural world and the importance of preserving it for future generations. Encourage individuals to reconnect with nature and appreciate its wonders during Earth Hour and beyond.

Using the Plan > Do > Review model in carrying out community activities:

The Association encourages youth members, supported by their Leaders to use the Plan > Do > Review approach in organizing activities to celebrate Earth Hour.

Plan > Do > Review is a simple model that allows youth members to engage in design thinking through planning an activity, implementation and doing a follow up through a review to understand; what went well, what didn't go well and what needs improvement in future. Scout Leaders are encouraged to introduce the simple Plan > Do > Review model to youth members, support and engage them in organizing awareness and advocacy activities carried out leading to Earth Hour, and in organizing the Earth Hour Switch-Off event.



Simple steps on using the Plan > Do > Review model in organizing awareness and advocacy activities:

The Plan > Do > Review process should be an engaging process where according to age sections, responsibilities are managed and shared by both youth members and adult leaders.

Plan:

- Identify Goals: Determine the specific goals and objectives of the awareness and advocacy activities. For example, the goal could be to raise awareness about energy conservation and promote sustainable living practices.
- Brainstorm Activities: Brainstorm a list of activities that align with the goals and objectives. Consider activities such as organizing or hosting educational workshops, awareness Marches or Assemblies or Door-to-Door outreach, Awareness message sticker distribution etc (Please note that these are just ideas, we do not want Scouts to limit themselves to these examples but we encourage creative and innovative activities)
- Allocate Resources: Determine what resources are needed to carry out the planned activities, including materials, volunteers, and potential partnerships with local organizations or authorities.
- Create a Timeline: Develop a timeline outlining key milestones and deadlines for each activity. Assign responsibilities to Scouts and leaders to ensure that tasks are completed on time.

Do:

- Implement Activities: Execute the planned activities according to the established timeline. Ensure that all necessary preparations are made, and all Scouts are briefed on their roles and responsibilities.



- Engage the Community: Actively engage with the local community to promote participation in the activities. Use various communication channels, such as social media, flyers, and word-of-mouth, to raise awareness and encourage involvement.
- Monitor Progress: Regularly monitor the progress of the activities to ensure that they are proceeding as planned. Address any challenges or issues that arise promptly and make adjustments as needed.

Review:

- Evaluate Impact: After completing the activities, evaluate their impact in achieving the goals and objectives. Gather feedback from participants, Scouts, and other stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives.
- Identify Lessons Learned: Identify lessons learned from the planning and implementation process. Determine what worked well and what could be improved for future activities.
- Celebrate Achievements: Celebrate the achievements and successes of the awareness and advocacy activities. Recognize the contributions of all Scouts and participants who helped make the initiatives a success.
- Share your success: share the success of your event/activity via the Scout group social media accounts, use the following hashtags when sharing your stories: #ScoutsMV #EarthHourMV #EarthHour2024

Simple steps on using the Plan > Do > Review model in organizing the Earth Hour Switch-off event:

Plan:

- Select Venue, either at your School or a community center
- Confirm the event for March 23, 2024, from 21:30 to 22:30.
- Obtain any necessary permits or permissions to use the venue.
- Make a simple plan for the event, including an agenda etc.
 - Awareness and Advocacy activity; the switch off event can be a perfect venue to raise awareness on the key messages related to Earth Hour.

Do:

- Gather Participants: Welcome participants to the event venue as the designated time approaches.
- Facilitate Engagement: Provide interactive activities like storytelling and educational displays.
- Count down for Switching Off Lights at the venue.,
- Create Ambiance: Enhance the atmosphere with candles, lanterns, or solar-powered dim lights.
- Encourage Reflection: Prompt attendees to reflect on the impact of their actions on the environment.

Review:

- Evaluate Participation: Assess the number of participants and their engagement level during the event.



- Assess Impact: Reflect on how well the event achieved its goal of raising awareness about Earth Hour and energy conservation.
- Identify Successes and Challenges: Identify what worked well and any challenges faced during the planning and execution phases.
- Gather Feedback: Collect feedback from participants to gain insights into their experience and suggestions for improvement.
- Share your success: share the success of your event/activity via the Scout group social media accounts, use the following hashtags when sharing your stories: #ScoutsMV #EarthHourMV #EarthHour2024

Achieve the Earth Hour 2024 Badge

The Earth Hour 2024 badge is a special events badge that can be worn in the Scout Uniform for a period of six (6) months as a temporary badge. Youth Members and Adult Members who take part in either organizing and/or attending an Earth Hour Switch-off event and a Earth Hour Awareness and advocacy event/activity can be eligible for this special events badge. This badge will be available from the Scout Shop from April 2024 onwards.



All Scout Groups are encouraged to engage their community, parents, and other school student/teachers (non-Scouts) in the Earth Hour 2024 activities. Use the following hashtags when sharing your stories on Social Media: #ScoutsMV #EarthHourMV #EarthHour2024

Reporting

All Scout Groups are requested to submit their Earth Hour 2024 Activities / Switch-off event reports to the Association before 31st March 2024 via the following link:

<https://link.scout.mv/earthhour2024>

For more information please contact:

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There is more...

Energy Efficiency Badge

We encourage all adult Leaders to support our youth members (all sections) in completing their Energy Efficiency Badge.

The Energy Efficiency (EE) Awareness Badge is designed by the Ministry of Environment to create awareness about climate change and energy efficiency within the Girl Guides and Scouts of Maldives. The members will be able to understand how electrical energy is produced and how it affects the environment and economy, as well as how to take appropriate actions to become more energy efficient and to act towards reducing emissions and fight climate change.



The Energy Efficiency Awareness Badge has four categories, based on age groups. Each member from any of the four categories can obtain the badge upon completion of the tasks given under their age category.

- Level 1- 5 to 7 years (Pre-Cub)
- Level 2- 8 to 11 years (Cub Scout)
- Level 3- 12 to 17 years (Scout)
- Level 4- 18 to 25 years (Rovers)

The Leaders guide can be accessed via the following link

>> <https://scout.mv/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EE-Efficiency-Badge-Leaders-Guide.pdf> <<

