



Your Guide: Hosting a Virtual Earth Day Trivia Event

For 50 years, the world has celebrated Earth Day by standing together as one community.

That doesn't have to change while we stay 6 feet apart.

So this Earth Day, we want to give you the chance to virtually gather with your friends and family.

Here's everything you need to host your own virtual Earth Day-themed trivia night – down to the answer key:

BEFORE WE START...

PICK YOUR FORMAT

Essentially, there are 2 ways you can host your trivia night:



Game show contestant style: People operate as individuals, answering questions on their own.



Traditional pub quiz style: Trivia is a team sport, with groups of contestants working together.

The first is by far the easiest, and best for smaller groups. If that's the way you want to play, just read on!

For details on the "Traditional pub quiz style," which is a bit more complicated but better for larger groups, [flip to page 8](#).

GAME SHOW CONTESTANT STYLE

STEP 1: PICK YOUR PLATFORM

There are plenty of ways nowadays to gather virtually – but which one is right for you? Here's a breakdown of the pros and cons of two of the most popular platforms:



Google Hangouts: It's a free tool that allows up to 25 people on one video call. The only hiccup? Your friends will need to have a Google account to participate.



Zoom: You can have up to 100 participants join you in meetings – but the free app has a limit of 40 minutes before you have to drop off and set up another call. This could be a great option if you already have a paid account (or are willing to set one up for \$14.99/month), but in the free version you'll risk your trivia night being cut short.

STEP 2: FINALIZE THE PRIZE

You don't need to have a prize for your game – feel free to just give the winner bragging rights instead! But if you'd like to offer a little incentive to join the game, here are a couple of options:



This could be a great time to support your local community. Promise the winner a gift card to a restaurant, to use once they're back up and running – but generate some income for a local business now. Make the prize a gift to a non-profit of the winner's choice in their name. Think through how this fun event can also be used to help us all rebuild during this moment of crisis.



Or it could be something focused on the togetherness we'll find in the future – a promise to have them over for dinner once social distancing has come to an end, or a night of babysitting for parents who have been working so hard to homeschool their kids.

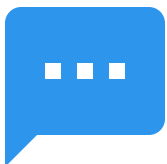


If you're torn on the best option, **reach out to your participants and put it to a vote!**

STEP 3: INVITE PARTICIPANTS

Once you've selected your tool, **make sure to send your friends a calendar invite ASAP!** make sure it's officially on their schedule to ensure those who RSVP will actually attend, and will have easy access to the link to join.

For inviting friends, there are a few tactics you can take to get the highest possible turnout:



Send individual texts. If people think you especially want them to be there, they'll be more likely to make an effort to attend.



Start a group chat. Conversely, people often want to know who else is in before they join. A group text message or email will let them know who else is likely to join – and as other people reply that they'll be there, it'll add a peer pressure element. They won't want to miss the fun!



But be wary of posting publicly. There have been some examples recently of online trolls taking over video calls and ruining them for everyone involved – especially with Zoom. So keep the link to your event fairly private in order to protect your good time.

And be sure to give your participants advice on which device to use! Most likely, you'll want them joining via a computer, so that they'll be able to easily toggle between the video call and your answer sheets. If they don't have access to one, make sure they have two devices, so they can dial in on one phone or tablet and respond to questions on another.

GAME SHOW CONTESTANT STYLE

STEP 4: PREPARE ANSWER SHEETS

Want to keep collecting answers *super* simple? Just have folks email or text you their answers.

You can also create just one [Google Form](#) with the questions you want to use and have folks submit through there.

But keep in mind it'll take you more time to score answers in between rounds with both of these options.

When it comes to time spent scoring, the easiest way for your contestants to enter their answers will be in a shared Google Sheet – you'll instantly have access to everything they write. But you will need a separate Google Sheet for each individual. Be sure to make these well in advance of your session. You won't want to be scrambling to finish them as the event is starting.

To make it easier for you, we've created a sample Google Sheet scoring sheet that you can use to copy & create the ones you'll need.

A couple of crucial points to note:



Individual sheets are a must. If two people get the same link, they'll be overwriting info and able to see each other's answers.



You *must* set the Google doc sharing settings to "can edit." Otherwise, your contestants won't be able to write their answers in.

Share with others Get shareable link

Link sharing on [Learn more](#)

Anyone with the link can edit ▼ Copy link

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D82o8pFI-IWlYnHw4oqcQr8p2ttDV0z8m/>

People

Enter names or email addresses...

Done Advanced



Don't make the links you share public to other participants. Then they'd be able to read off each other's answer sheets, so it's best to remove that temptation.

GAME SHOW CONTESTANT STYLE

STEP 5: TRY A TEST RUN



Test the tech before your event! Make sure that your microphone and speakers work and that participants can clearly hear you. Ask a friend to hop on the line a few days in advance to check your connection so that you'll have time to make any necessary adjustments.



And if you're sending the links to answer sheets in advance, **ask users to check that they can edit the document** and let you know before the event if they have any issues – it'll save you precious minutes of troubleshooting during the live event.

GAME SHOW CONTESTANT STYLE

STEP 6: BE THE HOST WITH THE MOST



Introduce the game. Explain how the event will work. Here's an example:

"We'll have three rounds of 10 questions each, and we'll take a five minute break between rounds. I've sent each participant a Google Sheet where you can record your answers for me to score between rounds while you chat amongst yourselves. At the end, the individual with the most points wins a gift card to a local restaurant of their choice. Any questions?"

Note: You should have topics ready to spark conversation during the breaks while you're scoring (e.g., which question did you find most challenging?) – or even assign a 2nd host to help keep folks entertained.



Launch the game! Round 1: Earth Day History

Jump right in! Make sure folks have their Google Sheets up and ready (or are prepared for whatever answer method you've requested), and ask the first question. Have a timer available, and set it for 20 seconds to give folks time to answer the question – but remind them we're on the honors system. No googling!

Do that until you've finished all your questions (note: our guide and score sheet includes 10 questions per round, but you can eliminate some to shorten your game if you'd prefer). At the end of the round, give folks 1 minute to look over & finalize their answers. Then, give them a topic to discuss while you score sheets – some suggested options include:

- What question did you have the toughest time with?
- What's your favorite Earth Day memory?
- What have you liked most about this time of social isolation?

Make sure to specify exactly when breaks will start and end with an exact time, not just the number of minutes.

3

Reveal the Answers!

When you're done scoring, bring everyone back on task. Read through the questions and reveal the right answers, and then reveal the scores of each individual. You can do this however you'd like – but we would recommend going from lowest to highest scores to build suspense.

You might get your math wrong! It happens sometimes. If a group calls you out, take the time to double-check.

4

Repeat for two more rounds.

At the end of the 3rd round, if there's a tie, don't reveal the final scores yet! Just share which teams are tied, and then read the tiebreaker question and either give folks 20 seconds to answer for the tiebreaker round.

If there's no tie, go straight to the reveal!

5

Crown the winner.

Reveal the final scores and who wins! Congratulate them, and repeat the details of the prize they've won (if one was offered). Ask if they have anything they'd like to say to commemorate their victory – and feel free to have fun with your own celebration! Pop a small bottle of sparkling wine, throw some homemade confetti in the air made out of junk mail. Have fun!

6

The party doesn't have to end!

Leave the line open for a bit (as long as you're not on a timed platform) and let folks chat informally, discuss the questions, and enjoy getting a little social time in.

Now, we'll outline Traditional Pub Quiz trivia. [Jump to Page 14](#) for your questions guide!

STEP 1: PICK YOUR PLATFORM

If you want to be able to operate as teams, **your only real option is Zoom.**



You can have up to 100 people participate in meetings – but the free app has a limit of 40 minutes before you have to drop off and set up another call. If you don't have a paid account, you can set one up for just \$14.99/month, which might be worth it to avoid your trivia night being cut short.

The main benefit?

Zoom allows breakout rooms, so your trivia night can be a team event!

STEP 2: FINALIZE THE PRIZE

You don't need to have a prize for your game – feel free to just give the winner bragging rights instead! But if you'd like to offer a little incentive to join the game, here are a couple of options:



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Or it could be something focused on the togetherness we'll find in the future – a promise to have them over for dinner once social distancing has come to an end, or a night of babysitting for parents who have been working so hard to homeschool their kids.



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But be wary of posting publicly. There have been some examples recently of online trolls taking over video calls and ruining them for everyone involved – especially with Zoom. So keep the link to your event fairly private in order to protect your good time.

And be sure to give your participants advice on which device to use! Most likely, you'll want them joining via a computer, so that they'll be able to easily toggle between the video call and your answer sheets. If they don't have access to one, make sure they have two devices, so they can dial in on one phone or tablet and respond to questions on another.

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You can also create just one [Google Form](#) with the questions you want to use and have folks submit through there.

But keep in mind it'll take you more time to score answers in between rounds with both of these options.

When it comes to time spent scoring, the easiest way for your contestants to enter their answers will be in a shared Google Sheet – you'll instantly have access to everything they write. But you will need a separate Google Sheet for each team. Be sure to make these well in advance of your session. You won't want to be scrambling to finish them as the event is starting.

To make it easier for you, we've created a [sample Google Sheet scoring sheet](#) that you can use to copy & create the ones you'll need.

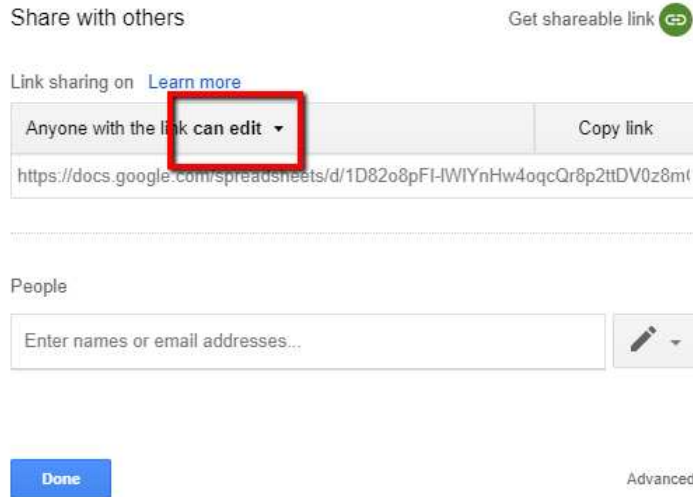
A couple of crucial points to note:



Individual sheets are a must. If two people get the same link, they'll be overwriting info and able to see each other's answers.



You *must* set the Google doc sharing settings to “can edit.” Otherwise, your contestants won't be able to write their answers in.



Don't make the links you share public to other participants. Then they'd be able to read off each other's answer sheets, so it's best to remove that temptation.

TRADITIONAL PUB QUIZ STYLE

STEP 5: TRY A TEST RUN

Test the tech before the event!



Make sure your microphone and speakers work and that participants can clearly hear you. Ask a friend to hop on the line a few days in advance to check your connection so that you'll have time to make any necessary adjustments.



Test dropping people into rooms. If you can, get a few friends or family on a preview line to practice dropping people into breakout rooms to make sure it'll run smoothly day-of.



Double-check that answer sheet links are set to edit. It'll save you precious minutes of troubleshooting during the live event.

STEP 6: BE THE HOST WITH THE MOST

1

Introduce the game. Explain how the event will work. Here's an example:

"We'll have three rounds of 10 questions each, and we'll take a five minute break between rounds. I'll send you and randomly grouped teammates to a private virtual "room" to pick your team name and identify your scribe. When it is almost time to come back to the main room, you'll get a pop-up on your screen with a 30 second countdown. Once we're all back, you'll let me know your team name and scribe and I'll send that person your Google Sheet to write down answers. Any questions while I start setting up the rooms?"

2

Launch the game! Round 1: Earth Day History

Once you drop people into rooms give them 10 seconds and then close the room – people will head back to the main room over the next 30 seconds. It seems like a short amount of time, but it's important to keep the game moving.

Do that until you've finished all your questions (note: our guide and score sheet includes 10 questions per round, but you can eliminate some to shorten your game if you'd prefer – and if you're using the free version of Zoom for a game with teams, you'll definitely want to cut it to 5 questions per round or fewer to avoid running out of time).

Once you've finished the round, add 1 minute onto their time answering the last question to review all their previous answers (and be sure to let them know you'll be doing that). Bring them back to the main room to find out if anyone has any final questions.

If they don't, send them back to their breakout rooms for 5 minutes while you score their responses.

Make sure to specify exactly when breaks will start and end with an exact time, not just the number of minutes.

3

Reveal the Answers!

When you're done scoring, bring everyone back on task. Read through the questions and reveal the right answers, and then reveal the scores of each team or individual. You can do this however you'd like – but we would recommend going from lowest to highest scores to build suspense.

You might get your math wrong! It happens sometimes. If a group calls you out, take the time to double-check.

4

Repeat for two more rounds.

At the end of the 3rd round, if there's a tie, don't reveal the final scores yet! Just share which teams are tied, and then read the tiebreaker question and send them back to their rooms for the tiebreaker round.

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The party doesn't have to end!

Leave the line open for a bit (as long as you're not on a timed platform) and let folks chat informally, discuss the questions, and enjoy getting a little social time in.

Next up: Your questions guide!



Questions & Answers

ROUND 1:

EARTH DAY HISTORY



The date of April 22nd was specifically chosen for Earth Day in order to mobilize as many people as possible from this age demographic – which had also powered the protests against the Vietnam War.



Answer: College students. April 22nd was chosen because on most college campuses, it falls between Spring Break and Final Exams.



This group, founded by candy mogul Robert W. Welch in 1958, was firmly rooted against Earth Day at its launch. They called it a thinly veiled attempt to honor the 100th birthday of Vladimir Lenin.



Answer: The John Birch Society

3

This year – the same year that wrecking cranes began tearing down the Berlin Wall – was the first year that Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in 141 nations getting involved.



Answer: 1990

4

But other countries don't call it Earth Day. In 2009, the UN officially renamed the holiday after what global female icon of the environment?



Answer: Mother Earth (naming it International Mother Earth Day)

5

In 2012, over 100,000 people in this country – which has cut 1 million tons of greenhouse gases through low-carbon farming – celebrated the day by riding their bikes to help cut pollution and save fuel.



Answer: China

6

Senator Gaylord Nelson – the founder of Earth Day – was elected to office by the residents of this state (which is also home to the “Toilet Paper Capital” of the world).



Answer: Wisconsin

7

This US federal agency played a big part in Earth Day in 2014, encouraging people to take a #GlobalSelfie of themselves outside and send it in to be put on a map of the world to commemorate the day.



Answer: NASA

8

One of the highlighting moments of the annual Earth Day ceremony at the UN is ringing the Peace Bell given by this country – which hosted the 1997 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Answer: Japan

9

In 2011, on Earth Day, 28 million trees were planted in this country, which is home to the desert known as the “Country of Sand.”



Answer: Afghanistan

10

On the first Earth Day, the mayor of New York shut down part of this thoroughfare – known for “Millionaire’s Row” – for the celebrations.



Answer: 5th Avenue

ROUND 2:

ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORIES

1

In 1967, a group of scientists, worried about the devastating effects of this chemical on the country's wildlife, sued to get it banned in the U.S. – and won.



Answer: DDT

2

In 1970, this mammal – known for its distinctive tail markings – was added to the U.S. Endangered Species List, helping many populations recover.



Answer: Whale

3

In 1985, federal regulators did more than just pencil in this rule, making this change to gasoline used in the U.S., and saving hundreds of thousands of lives.



Answer: Phasing out lead

5

In 1991, this fast-food company became the first to partner with an environmental organization – and ended up cutting its waste by nearly a third, eliminating more than 300 million pounds of packaging while saving an estimated \$6 million per year.



Answer: McDonald's

6

In 2013, this American retail giant identified 8 high-priority chemicals prevalent in products and called on suppliers to share specific goals and timelines on which chemicals would be phased out first. Suppliers have since removed 23 million pounds of the original 8 chemicals of concern from products – a 96% reduction.



Answer: Walmart

7

President Obama signed America's most recently-passed major environmental law, reforming our country's chemical safety policies. It was named after New Jersey's longest-serving Senator, who tirelessly fought for these reforms during his 28 years, 5 months and 8 days in office. Name that Senator.



Answer: Frank Lautenberg

8

A partnership between EDF and this major company has resulted in cars equipped with air quality sensors gathering air pollution data at street level, where people are actually breathing the air. So far, pilot projects have been implemented in Oakland, CA, Houston, TX and London. This new methodology allows the collection of data at a level of detail that was nearly impossible before.



Answer: Google (Google Street View cars)

9

Right now, there is legislation in both the U.S. House and Senate – cosponsored by more than one-third of each chamber – aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. *by a certain year*. In July 2008, the G7 agreed to cut global greenhouse gas emissions in half *by that same year*. Name that year.



Answer: 2050

10

And you can still help achieve environmental victories, even now. A recent survey of congressional staff regarding how they're operating during the COVID-19 crisis revealed that more than 4 out of 5 staffers said *this* type of message is the best way for constituents to communicate with offices while they're working remotely.



Answer: Personalized emails

MULTIPLE CHOICE SCIENCE & STATS

1

Name the primary pollutant driving climate change in the short-term.

A. Carbon dioxide.

B. Methane.

C. Water vapor.

Within the first two decades after it is emitted, methane pollution traps 84 times more heat than carbon dioxide. It is responsible for at least a quarter of the warming we experience today.

2

Approximately this many new species of plants are discovered every year – some after a closer evaluation of plants that had already been collected, but not identified, and some as new discoveries in the field.

A. 5

B. 700

C. 2,000

If we continue at this rate, we will have identified more than 150,000 new species by the end of this century, increasing the known number of plants by more than 40 percent.

3

Over 9 million U.S. homes still get their drinking water through a lead pipe. A new analysis shows that replacing all of these lead service lines – the pipes that attach the main water lines to our homes – would save *how much money* in reduced deaths from cardiovascular disease over 35 years?

A. \$535 million

B. \$205 billion

C. \$1 trillion



Each line replaced yields a \$22,000 payback in reduced deaths from cardiovascular disease. This staggering figure underscores the need for a national commitment on lead pipe replacement that won't leave vulnerable communities behind when deciding how to fund these replacements.

4

In a recent survey of 600 executives, 92% said they believe that emerging technology can boost both sustainability and ROI. What percentage are investing with this goal in mind?

A. 59%

B. 72%

C. 89%



Through the support of smart climate policy and environmental innovation, business leaders can address the pressure coming from employees, investors and consumers, while also raising the bar for climate action. There is ample opportunity.

5

The International Energy Agency estimates that the oil & gas industry could reduce emissions by this percentage using existing technologies:

A. 45%

B. 66%

C. 75%



And 2/3rds of that can happen at no net cost. Results on such a scale are conceivable thanks to growing digitization in the industry. For example, reliable, low-cost sensors and remote monitoring can help energy companies reduce emissions and eliminate waste of saleable gas at the same time.

6

According to a November 2019 report, this percentage of Americans live in a community or state that has committed to or has already achieved 100% clean electricity.

A. 34%

B. 52%


C. 70%



More than 200 cities and counties, 11 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have a 100% commitment or achievement. 71 cities and counties across 7 states have already achieved 100% clean energy. The majority of other states have established other types of renewable energy goals.

7


The Trump administration has finalized a rollback of America's Clean Car Standards – a move that will unleash 1.5 billion metric tons of climate pollution, cause 18,500 premature deaths and take hundreds of billions of dollars out of Americans' wallets that we would have saved at the gas pump. What percentage of Americans oppose this decisions?

- A. 33%
 - B. 66%**
 - C. 75%
- 

According to a Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll. 31% supported the plan, and 3% had no opinion.

8

Porsche has set a 2023 target to have how much of its production be electric vehicles?

- A. 10%
 - B. 25%
 - C. 50%**
- 

The biggest change to the Porsche lineup is expected to come around year 2022, with the launch of the next-generation Macan crossover. That SUV may be offered solely as an electric vehicle. As the company's bestseller, transforming that model into an SUV would go a long way towards reaching the 50% goal.

9

What percentage of global carbon dioxide emissions come from deforestation?

A. 15%

B. 33%

C. 50%

The process of cutting and burning trees adds as much pollution to the atmosphere as all the cars and trucks in the world combined. Hope lies in the implementation of a global policy framework called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (or REDD+), which provides economic incentives for forest conservation.

10

The next generation is taking up the climate fight. How many people do activists estimate joined the global youth-focused climate strikes this past September?

A. 2 million

B. 3 million

C. 6 million

Initial estimates came in at 4 million, but *The Guardian* reported 6 million on September 27th. An estimated 2 million walked out of schools and workplaces on that Friday, but a total of 6 million people – from trade unionists to schoolchildren – took part in the protests throughout the full week.

TIE BREAKER:

CLOSEST GUESS* WINS THE GAME!

**Host's choice: You can also play by "Price is Right" rules, where closest guess without going over wins the game.*



Coal generation in the US fell by what percent last year?



18%

It was the largest annual decline on record.

Renewable power sources like wind and solar have increased as their costs of generation have fallen below that of coal.

But natural gas is responsible for the majority of coal generation capacity replacement.