

# APRIL NEWSLETTER



*"The Earth is what we all have in common."*  
- **Wendell Berry**

## Practical Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

[outwardbound.org](http://outwardbound.org) & [earthday.org](http://earthday.org)

Each year on April 22, Earth Day commemorates the beginning of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The mission of this holiday—which is considered the largest secular observance in the world, engaging more than a billion people annually—is to shift human behavior and inspire local, national, and global policy changes in an effort to create a cleaner, healthier environment.

Whether you're an avid environmentalist or you're simply seeking to do your part to protect the earth, here are a few practical ideas for celebrating Earth Day this year:

- Invest in a state or national parks pass. Visiting state and national parks is one of the best ways to get out in nature and appreciate the importance of conservation. Currently, an annual pass from the U.S. National Park Service costs \$80, and will cover the entrance fees for all passengers in a vehicle at more than 2,000 federal recreation sites. Most states offer annual passes for their parks as well.
- Swap out plastics for reusable items. By now, most people are familiar with the idea that plastic is harmful for the planet and potentially detrimental for our health. However, it seems to still be ubiquitous. Start small by trading in single-use plastic bags and bottles for reusable varieties.
- Visit a farmers market. Not only does locally grown food tend to be fresher and tastier than what you find in the supermarket, but its production has less of a negative impact on the planet. Check to see if there are any farmers markets happening in your community, and seek out seasonal items from local growers.
- Plant a garden and/or volunteer at a community garden. The only way to get fresher, more eco-friendly produce than from a local farmer is to grow it yourself! Consider starting a vegetable or herb garden in your yard (if you are limited on space, container gardens work as well). Alternatively, see if there is a community garden in your area, and sign up to volunteer.
- Make your own vegetable stock. If you cook at home, you'll inevitably end up with a plethora of kitchen scraps. Instead of throwing them in the trash—where they will only add to the landfills—find a recipe for making your own vegetable stock. It's easy, more flavorful than the boxed or canned varieties, and doesn't require much more than your veggie scraps and some water!



## Fennel Carrot Soup

tasteofhome.com

### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 teaspoon fennel seed
- 1-1/2 pounds carrots, sliced
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 medium apple, peeled and cubed
- 3 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons uncooked long grain rice
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley

### Directions:

- In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add fennel; cook and stir 2-3 minutes or until lightly toasted. Add carrots, sweet potato and apple; cook and stir 5 minutes longer.
- Stir in broth, rice, bay leaf and curry powder; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 30 minutes or until vegetables and rice are soft.
- Remove from heat; cool slightly. Discard bay leaf. Process in batches in a blender until smooth; return to pan. Stir in lemon juice, salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat 5 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with parsley.



## What's the Difference Between a Listing Agent and a Selling Agent?

thebalance.com and forbes.com

If you're buying or selling a home, you've probably encountered terms such as listing agent, selling agent, buyer's agent, and seller's agent. While these labels can be confusing even for experienced buyers and sellers, understanding what each means can help you feel more confident while navigating this important transaction. Here is a quick guide to the different real estate agents you'll encounter:

- **Listing agent.** Also known as a seller's agent, the listing agent is the one who lists and markets the property for sale. Their roles may include conducting market analysis, offering suggestions for how to increase the home's appeal to buyers, advertising the property, and networking with other agents. The listing agent represents the seller's interests throughout the process.

- **Selling agent.** Despite the name, selling agents actually represent buyers. If you're searching for a home, a selling agent can help locate properties that match your criteria, schedule showings, communicate with the listing agent, and negotiate on your behalf to get the best possible sales price and terms. You may also hear this type of agent referred to as a buyer's agent—technically, that term is accurate before the contract is signed, but afterwards, they are designated as the selling agent.

In some situations—known as dual agency—the listing agent may also work as the selling agent, representing both the buyer and the seller in a transaction. However, because this can lead to conflicts of interest, it is either illegal or heavily restricted in some states. In states where it is legal, clients are typically asked to sign a disclosure stating that they understand the potential risks of dual agency.



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

