



# SPACE AGENCY WORKING TO SAVE EARTH

**E**arth Day, which is Saturday, was created to call attention to and show support for environmental protection. The environment has been under a steady assault from



**KEVIN O'NEILL**  
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humanity since the Industrial Revolution. Some of our activities, such as burning fossil fuels and clearing forests, are changing the climate in ways that will be detrimental to life. It turns out that a good way to help save the planet is from space. Climate.nasa.gov is a website run by America's space agency dedicated to providing data, analysis and

solutions to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The homepage features statistics on carbon dioxide concentrations, temperatures, sea levels and other climate measurements superimposed over dramatic aerial videos of mountain ranges, oceans and forests. Clicking on any of the numbers opens a window that explains its significance and shows graphics tracking its rise or fall over the years.

Scroll down the page a little and you'll see five featured articles. Each one is displayed as a large, colorful photo and headline that links to the article. One article is about satellite monitoring of sea temperatures around the coral reefs of Belize. Others explain the impact climate change will have on all forms of transportation,

NASA's climate strategy, satellite monitoring of surface water on Earth and time-lapse views of the planet from space. The articles feature some spectacular photos, maps, graphics and animations. The time-lapse views are interactive, allowing you to swipe across the image to see before and after pictures of retreating glaciers, changing coastlines, vanishing lakes and other dramatic impacts of climate change.

Below the featured articles is a four-part examination of climate change titled "What is Climate Change?" It's displayed as a grid of large photo links labeled "Evidence: How do we know climate change is real?," "Causes: Why is climate change happening?," "Effects: What are the effects of climate change?," and "Solu-

tions: What is being done to solve climate change?" Each section features plain-English explanations of the topic along with photos, graphics and animations that help clarify the subjects.

Further down the page are more articles detailing NASA's involvement in studying the Earth from space. One delves into the history and politics of the agency's evolving mission that resulted in a fleet of satellites that can study a wide range of conditions on the planet. Another profiles the people who collect, analyze and use the data to solve problems. There's a section that answers common questions about climate change and another that features a quiz to test your knowledge on the subject. At the bottom of the page is

a list of other resources devoted to climate change.

As if the home page didn't have enough content, a navigation bar at the top of the page takes you to other sections. There's a 3D, interactive animation of Earth showing the orbits of NASA satellites and highlighting current climate-related events. There are sections on climate facts, news and solutions. The Explore section has several subsections featuring photo galleries, interactive content and short, animated lessons on climate. Climate.nasa.gov is a nicely designed site, with stunning visuals, lots of interesting content and a goal of saving the world.

**KEVIN O'NEILL** is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites with him at [koneill@timeshamrock.com](mailto:koneill@timeshamrock.com).