



VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR PLANET

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY – 5 DECEMBER 2009

Our climate is changing and it will affect us all. Temperatures are rising and this may bring natural disasters such as storms, flooding, droughts and wildfires. It will hit the most vulnerable the hardest.

International Volunteer Day, 5 December, falls hours before the start of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (7-18 December). It is the world's best chance to seal a deal on climate change.

So this year, ahead of International Volunteer Day, the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme is urging everybody to Volunteer for our Planet.

Volunteering for our Planet

The UNV theme for International Volunteer Day 2009 recognizes the crucial role of volunteers in addressing global warming. Volunteers started the global environmental movement and volunteers are an essential part of the solution to climate change. We encourage everyone to get involved and show that action is needed but tangible results are possible.

We encourage you to sign the 'Seal the Deal' petition and demonstrate to world leaders at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference that together, we can all make a difference.

More than this, volunteer your time and knowledge. You can do this in many ways:

- Reduce waste in your community by salvaging and recycling items (eyeglasses, electronics, clothes, furniture) that needy people can use.
- Plant a native tree or shrub.
- Share your car with neighbours to reduce your carbon footprint.
- Run a competition to reward students for 'green' initiatives.
- Contact local organizations to learn more about becoming part of the solution in your area.
- Or volunteer online to benefit vulnerable communities locally and abroad.

Through voluntary action, all of us can contribute. Taken together, all our small actions can lead to big results.

Volunteer for our planet and help fight climate change and improve your immediate environment. Remember, even simple gestures can make a difference.

“Our planet needs more than just action by Governments and corporations; it needs each of us.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

What is International Volunteer Day?

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/40/212 on 17 December 1985. Since then, governments, the UN system and civil society organizations have successfully joined with individual volunteers around the world to celebrate International Volunteer Day on 5 December every year.

To Volunteer for our Planet, visit:
www.VolunteeringForOurPlanet.org

Read about UNV: www.unvolunteers.org/

Join the UNV Online Volunteer service:
www.onlinevolunteering.org

Sign the UN's 'Seal the Deal' campaign:
www.sealthedeal2009.org/

