

# Lumen Humans “Invest in Our Planet” for Earth Day 2022



**April 22, 2022**

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” – Socrates

A beer can here, a food wrapper there, and plastic shopping bags everywhere. They all add up to one of the biggest issues facing our environment today: trash. Much more than an eyesore, everyday trash is a major contributor to the pollution of our waterways, soil, and air.



In celebration of the [Earth Day 2022](#) theme of [Invest in our Planet](#), Lumen partnered with the [Urban Ecology Center](#) on April 19 for “Know Your Trash: A Trash Audit and Discussion on Going Plastic-Free.” The purpose of this virtual volunteer project was to educate employees about the effects of trash in their communities and to reinforce their commitment to protecting the environment. [The Urban Ecology Center](#) has an itinerary of Earth Week offerings planned during the week of April 23 through April 30.



"We are so pleased to be able to partner with Lumen on this event," said Davita Flowers-Shanklin, Volunteer Program Manager for the Urban Ecology Center. "The data we collect from our trash audits can help shape global efforts to report on plastic pollution. We also shared concrete actions Lumen people can take to reduce pollution in our land and waterways."

Lumen employees took pictures of trash they picked up in their neighborhoods, local parks and even on their front lawn. During their trash audit, participants learned how to become citizen scientists by collecting data on the types and brands of plastic litter that are most common in their areas. Also, they learned about the common polluters in the green spaces around them by examining the trash they collected. The trash audit specifically focused on increased plastic pollution. While plastic has revolutionized most industries, its conveniences have led to a throw-away culture that is evident everywhere you look.

Ruth Baeumler, a Lumen employee based in Minnesota, participated in the audit. "I found a flattened Yeti brand metal hot beverage cup, a tennis ball, a shotgun shell and a single winter glove aside from the beer, pop cans and assorted plastic," she said. "As a result of the audit, I learned new ways to reduce plastic in my life and strategies on recycling in general. I am so glad Lumen sponsors and supports this type of activity to engage employees on how we can support environmental sustainability."

Sustainability is core to Lumen's purpose of furthering human progress through technology.

We believe our commitment to sustainability promotes the financial health of our business and our quality of service and creates lasting value for our employees, customers, investors, and the

communities we serve.

Learn more about Lumen's commitment to environmental sustainability [here](#).

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