

**Eco-Action: Your personal commitment to protect the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves  
for the next 40 years**

*What will YOUR Eco-Action be in...*

**40 seconds**

- Turn of water when brushing your teeth, bathing, and washing your hands
- Throw garbage in trash cans
  - 14 billion lbs. of trash end up in the ocean every year
- Talk to your friends and family about what you have learned about Biscayne Bay
- Purchase a specialty license plate of a manatee, dolphin, reefs, and sea turtle
  - Fees go to the research and conservation
- Turning A/C to 76 - 78<sup>o</sup>F when home and 80<sup>o</sup>F while away
- Turn lights and the TV off when you leave a room
- Purchase rechargeable batteries

**40 minutes**

- Plant native South Florida plants like gumbo limbo, sea grape and live oak
- Walk along Biscayne Bay's shoreline, pick up trash, and leave only your footprint behind
- Volunteer with the Marine Animal Rescue Society
- Use environmental friendly soap when washing your boat and car
- Volunteer for BBAP and do a shoreline cleanup
  - Reserve a spot in September for the International Coastal Cleanup
  - Reserve a spot in March for Baynanza
- Dispose of your pets waste in a trash can
  - Around 15 tons of pet waste ends up in the ocean every day
- Attend a free fish and/or coral reef identification class
  - Provided by Florida's Coral Reef Conservation Program
- Learn which fish species are sustainably harvested

**40 hours**

- Take a FREE Florida Boat and Safety Course
  - <http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Florida.asp>
- Volunteer to restore mangroves with the Urban Paradise Guild
- Volunteer with local groups in removing invasive species
  - Biscayne Nature Center-every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month from 9am-12pm
  - Oleta River State Park - National Public Lands Day from 8am-12pm
- Compost at home

**40 years**

- Know your waterways: Obey speed zones, check tide charts, avoid shallow areas Choose reusable bottles over plastic bottles and cloth bags for shopping over plastic
  - 65 lbs. of plastic end up in the ocean every year
- Make a personal commitment to save energy at home

