The Y-CITYSCI: A Youth-Led Citizen Science Network for Community Environmental Assessment is sharing information with you about citizen science apps that you can use at home. With citizen science, the public can have fun collecting data in their community while contributing to scientific research.

Earth Challenge 2020

April 22, 2020 marked 50 years since the first Earth Day in 1970. As a contribution, the Earth Challenge 2020 app was created. The goal of this application is to establish the largest environmental citizen science project in the world that collects air and plastic pollution data and helps teach volunteers about environmental science. More collection measures are being added soon. This application allows you to collect and contribute your own data that will monitor hazards in your community. Some of the data that citizen scientists are collecting will be used to help inform environmental policy changes. The aim is to help everyone learn, explore, and conduct scientific research in areas such as insects, air quality, plastic pollution, food supply, water quality, and climate change.

How to use the app
When you open the app, swipe through the slides that explain how to navigate the app and all the information on what data you can collect. The top left of the screen shows a green GPS marker. Use that icon to submit the data you collect. There are five launch links that cover the major research areas being studied. At the bottom of the app are the 5 links. The home link is the same as the green locator link. The map allows you to view reported data by selected layers. There is a community link that shows all your personally collected data. A link called Act discusses ways to become active in your community by volunteering or getting involved. There is also a link to partners involved with this project.

How you can get the app
The app can be downloaded from the link below for Apple IOS or Google users on the Earth Day website.

When you download the app, you are already assigned a unique user ID located in the top right corner of the screen with a personal logo. That will show you your user settings and ID.

Why using Earth Challenge 2020 is fun and important
Help professionals understand and monitor the environment so they can more fully understand how ecosystems work, how humans contribute to climate change, and how we can help protect the Earth. This app is also very educational for anyone that wants to gain knowledge about science and the world around them.

To learn more about Earth Challenge 2020, visit their website.

Now that you have the Earth Challenge 2020 app, **we challenge you** to use the app to document local air quality or plastic pollution by taking pictures of your community. Send us the picture you take with an explanation of what you think is happening by messaging our Instagram account at @YCITYSCI for the chance to win a prize and your answer be featured on our page! New Earth Challenge 2020 related questions will be added to our Instagram story and page throughout the week. Respond to these questions to have a chance to win additional prizes!