



This Is Your Home

**A Study Guide for Reflection Leading to Action
to Stop Global Climate Change**

This is Your Home
A Three-Part Presentation on Global Climate Change
(2006)

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To download the "This Is Your Home" Power Point presentation and study guide, go to:
<http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/climatechange.asp>

For more information call (734)240-9691 or e-mail snash@ihmsisters.org

This Is Your Home

Suggestions for a Group Leader

Your role as a facilitator is to stimulate discussion and encourage everyone to get involved by asking questions and helping participants to engage the issue of global climate change and their response to it.

Equipment Needs

- Television with DVD player (or computer with digital projection if downloading the PowerPoint version from http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/climatechange.asp)
- Sheets of paper or notebooks and pencils for each participant

Space Needs

- Viewing area large enough to accommodate all the participants
- Ability to move chairs into a large circle and, depending on the size of the group, smaller discussion circles
- Whether the setting is a home, a classroom or a church meeting room, the discussion will be enhanced if care is taken to make it beautiful.

Time Needs

- Take advantage of the structure and content of the slide show by planning scheduling three sessions, one for each part of the presentation.
- It takes 16-18 minutes to view each part. Allowing ninety minutes to two hours will reserve enough time for prayer and introductions, showing the DVD (or PowerPoint), facilitating a discussion and closing with a ritual. If only hour-long slots are available, the time is probably best spent showing the DVD and facilitating a discussion.

Climate Change Skeptics

This Is Your Home includes the science of global climate change, including the evolution of an atmosphere that is hospitable to human life, how the greenhouse effect works, damage to the environment, the dangers of feedback loops. Also included are statements by credible scientific organizations.

Because vested interests (like the oil and gas industries) have invested enormous sums of money to cast doubt on the reality of global climate change and the seriousness of the issue, some people are still skeptical about it. As a facilitator it is important to distinguish between a participant's grappling with the issue and a blind denial of the overwhelming testimony of scientists about the dangers of global climate change. The first instance is the reason we created *This Is Your Home* – and probably why you are using the materials with your group. The second instance can derail the sincere quest of the group to examine the issue of global climate change in the context of faith.

Goals of the Project

The purpose of these materials is to:

1. Educate youth and young adults about global climate change and the risks associated with it;
2. Help participants apply principles of Catholic Social Teaching to the problem of global climate change;
3. Facilitate plans for individuals and groups to take action at the personal, business and political spheres to address global climate change.

“One way to **open your eyes** is to ask yourself, ‘What if I had never seen this before? What **if I knew** I would never see it again?’

Rachel Carson



Part One: Setting the Context

(Leader's Guide)

Introductory sharing by participants: Focus on home

What is home to you?
When have you left home?
Have you ever thought of Earth as your home?

Opening prayer: Earth, Our Home (p. 4)

Viewing Part One: "Setting the Context" of *This Is Your Home* presentation (16 min.)

Review of key information from the presentation (p. 5)

Small group discussion followed by large group sharing

Replay the wombat at the opening of Part One or go online and play the wombat on the Web site of Foundation for Global Community at <http://www.globalcommunity.org/flash/index.shtml>.

Hand out copies of the discussion questions for Part One (p. 6) and let participants reflect quietly with them for a few minutes. Break into groups of 6-8 and discuss the questions. Afterwards have each sub-group report back to the whole group on their discussion.

Closing prayer: Prayer of Caring for Earth's Gifts (p. 7)

Earth Our Home

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe.

Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life.

The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure,
but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution.

The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity
depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems:

a rich variety of plants and animals,

fertile soils,

pure waters

and clean air.

The global environment with its finite resources

is a common concern of all peoples.

The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust.

Excerpt from the *Preamble to The Earth Charter*
<http://www.earthcharter.org/>

Review of Key Information from Part One

What influences made the atmosphere of Earth hospitable to human life?

When it first formed, 4.6 billion years ago, Earth's atmosphere could not support life. Seven-hundred million years ago, the first multi-cellular life forms emerged which released oxygen. Later, living things began to absorb carbon dioxide from sea water and build carbonate skeletons. In time, plants began to photosynthesize, creating an oxygen-rich atmosphere that was able to support animal life. Eventually, coral reefs formed, absorbing vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Over these four-and-a-half billion years, an ecosystem with an atmosphere that was finally hospitable to human life began to emerge.

As the ancestors of humans evolved, what hampered their ability to thrive and increase in number?

The Pleistocene Era lasted from 1.8 million to 11,550 years ago. Glaciation – the formation, movement and recession of glaciers – was a time of frequent and traumatic climate swings. The freezing conditions of the coldest phase of an ice age made it very difficult for plants and animals to survive.

What was the major factor that moderated Earth's temperature so that humans could flourish?

The development of agriculture 10,000 years ago launched what has been referred to as "the long summer" – a period during which Earth's temperature averaged 57 degrees. Wet agriculture, such as practiced in flooded rice paddies in eastern Asia, led to an increase in methane emissions. The methane created an atmospheric "greenhouse" over Earth, letting in the sun's rays, without allowing as much warmth to escape out to space. Ten thousand years ago, the added methane was just enough to create an atmosphere that suited humans perfectly. For the past 10,000 years, the greenhouse effect has had a positive influence for humans on Earth.

What is the greenhouse effect?

Sun rays warm the surface of Earth. Earth absorbs some of the heat from the rays and also reflects some of it off the Earth's surface. But only a small amount of the heat energy emitted from the surface goes through the atmosphere and back into space. Methane, water vapor, carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere create a kind of shield which holds the incoming solar heat in the atmosphere. As greenhouse gases are increased, the shield thickens and traps even more heat, thus increasing the warming of the surface.

What is one of the major factors that have influenced the climate to heat up so rapidly in just 200 years?

Since the Industrial Revolution began – around 200 years ago – our use of oil, coal and gas has forced carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in disturbingly large amounts. Coal provides nearly half of the electric energy generated in the United States. Renewable sources of energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal, produce only 2.3% of the energy used by the U.S.

What is the key question that no one can answer whose answer will determine how radical the climate will change?

There were 160 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at the dawn of agriculture, 10,000 years ago. There were 280 parts per million at the start of the Industrial Revolution. Today there are 380 parts per million. No one knows at what level a tipping point is reached, beyond which it will be impossible to avoid climate change with far ranging undesirable consequences.

Discussion Questions for Part One

If Earth is your home, the only one you've got, what are the consequences of destroying the balance of nature that has provided such a hospitable atmosphere for humans for the past 10,000 years?

Who are your neighbors? How can we better get along with our neighbors? What will happen if we don't learn to share? Who owns the air and the water? Should these elements be safeguarded for just a few people or for the whole world?

Everything on Earth is connected, like a great web. What happens if a person, a company or a country operates out of greed instead of communal benefit? What do you think people whose children are starving would be willing to do if they saw other people who had abundant wealth?

Prayer of Caring for Earth's Gifts

Reader 1: Let us pray. (pause) In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the Earth, the Earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss.

All: And God saw that it was good.

Reader 2: Spirit of Life, Light of the Universe, teach us to love this Earth, our home. We dwell together on this tiny, fragile planet, this beautiful blue orb floating in the embrace of space.

All: Help us to appreciate your abundant gifts.

Reader 3: To be alive in this magnificent, self-organizing universe – to participate in the dance of life with senses to perceive it, lungs that breathe it, organs that draw nourishment from it – is a wonder beyond words.

All: Teach us gratitude, O Spirit of Abundance.

Reader 4: This is also a dark time, filled with suffering and uncertainty. Like living cells in a larger body, we feel the trauma of our world. Spirit of the Dark, teach us not to be afraid of our own anguish, or anger, or fear, For these responses show us the depth of our caring, and the truth of our interconnectedness with all beings.

All: Create in us compassion for the suffering of the earth and all its beings.

Reader 5: God of Hope, help us to know in our bones that we carry not only the particles of the origin of the Universe, but also its original wisdom.

All: We know that a new world can emerge from our dreams.

Reader 6: Spirit of Love, help us to trust that, even though we cannot clearly see how it will turn out, we are called to let the future into our imagination.

All: Give us the strength to choose to take part in the self-healing of our world.

Reader 7: Great Spirit of on-going Life, open our ears to the call of Earth. Give us the courage to follow our hearts, to always reach toward that which brings us joy. And knowing how deeply our lives intertwine, lead us to join with others with whom we can find strength and common purpose.

All: Allow us to turn our minds and hearts toward one another in trust, giving love, seeking comfort, and celebrating together, all the days of our lives. Amen.

*Adapted from a pastoral prayer by Rev. Katherine Jesch
In Joanna Macy's work, she often reflects on the abundance of Earth's gifts
and our special responsibility to care for those gifts.
This prayer is based on her "Guidelines for Living."*

Source: <http://uuministryforearth.org/earthsunday/Readings.pdf>

“In reflecting on Scripture and on the pressing environmental problems that beset our world, we are persuaded that we must not evade our responsibility to care for God's creation. We recognize that there is much more we **need to learn**, and much more **praying** we need to do, but that we know enough to know that there is **no turning back** from engaging the threats to God's creation.”

The National Religious Partnership for the Environment



Part Two: What's at Stake?

(Leader's Guide)

Opening prayer: Chief Seattle's Letter (p. 10)

Introductory sharing by participants

Recall something that stands out for you from Part One – an image, a statistic, something you learned, something that concerns you.

Viewing Part Two: "What's at Stake" of *This Is Your Home* presentation (18 minutes)

Review of key information from the presentation (p. 11)

Small group discussion followed by large group sharing

Hand out copies of the discussion questions for Part Two (p. 13) and let participants reflect quietly with them for a few minutes. Break into groups of 6-8 and discuss the questions. Afterwards have each sub-group report back to the whole group on their discussion.

Closing prayer: Litany for a Changing World (p. 15)

Chief Seattle's Letter

Every part of the earth is sacred. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy.

We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the dew in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and human beings, all belong to the same family.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. Our land is sacred.

The air is precious to us and shares its spirit with all the life that it supports. The wind that gave our grandparents their first breath also received their last sighs. The wind also gives our children the spirit of life.

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the Earth is our mother? What befalls the Earth befalls all the children of the Earth.

This we know: the Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

-- Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Indians

Review of Key Information from Part Two

Why are ecosystems important?

Humans are part of the natural world from which we emerged. We depend on Earth's living systems for the food we eat, the water we drink, and an abundance of other products, cultural benefits, and spiritual values. Our life and livelihood depend on healthy ecosystems.

How is global climate change changing the spruce bark beetle's affect on the Alaska ecosystem?

With higher temperatures, more beetle larvae are able to survive, and the insects can mature faster, completing a two-year life cycle in just one year. A growing population of these beetles has killed nearly 4 million acres of mature white spruce forest. Over the past fifteen years, the spruce bark beetle has killed 40 million trees in southern Alaska, more than any other insect in North America's recorded history.

Will global climate change affect the Great Lakes ecosystem?

Global climate change is expected to affect shoreline wetlands of the Great Lakes, which provide critical habitat for breeding and migrating waterfowl, especially diving and sea ducks.

The loss of fishing opportunities due to climate-induced changes in fisheries could be severe in some parts of the country.

How is global climate change affecting the Inuit on the Arctic coasts?

The Inuit have already crossed an economically and culturally damaging threshold.

The half-frozen edge between salt water and floating ice creates an environment that favors the remarkable growth of microscopic plankton. These phytoplankton lie at the base of the marine food chain and convert sunlight and carbon dioxide into organic carbon – food for everything else. Smaller animals such as shrimp-like krill feed on plankton and are themselves eaten by larger organisms, from small fish to the biggest whales.

How is global climate change affecting Africa's Sahel region?

The climate in Africa's Sahel region shifted during the 1960s. Thirty-five years after the sudden decline in rainfall there is still no sign of the life-giving monsoon rains. The 500 million people who live in the world's desert regions will find life increasingly unbearable as temperatures soar and water is used up or turns salty.

How is global climate change impacting catastrophic weather events?

Warm water vapor rising from the sea energizes massive storms. Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have doubled since 1990. Researchers have discovered that the increase in these severe storms is directly linked to the rising temperatures of tropical oceans. In the 1960s, around 7 million people were affected by flooding each year. Today, 150 million are. As sea levels rise, India and Bangladesh will have to draw up permanent relocation plans for millions of people.

How will global climate change affect communities around the globe regarding diseases like malaria?

Because of climate change, the malarial season will be extended and the disease will explode. Tens of thousands of people live in mountain valleys around the world, where disease is rare.

Global climate change will allow malaria access to these communities, which have no resistance to the disease.

What is a feedback loop and why is it so important to global climate change?

As the Earth heats up, glaciers melt turning one of the highest reflective surfaces (ice) into one of the lowest (ocean and forest). With less ice and more ocean and forest on the surface of the Earth, more heat will be absorbed by Earth and less reflected back into space. This will cause the Earth to heat up even more, melting glaciers more quickly, and covering the Earth's surface with added dark surfaces. Scientists consider feedback loops the single-biggest threat to civilization from global warming.

What are the financial costs of catastrophic weather events due to global climate change?

The financial cost of global climate change is ballooning. In the 1970s, costs associated with natural catastrophes amounted to about \$4 billion a year. By 2004, the total was \$123 billion. In 2005, with hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, losses exceeded \$200 billion.

Discussion Questions for Part Two

Why should we care about people in other parts of the world? What does it matter to us if the people of the Sahel don't have the monsoon rains that used to be a regular part of their weather cycles? What does it matter to us if the Inuit on the Arctic coasts are no longer able to support themselves because the base of the food chain, the phytoplankton, has been disrupted by global climate change?

The way we spend our money is a clear indication of our values. If we didn't have to spend so much money on repairing damage from catastrophic weather events, are there more creative ways we could spend that money? Does it make sense to plan ahead to preserve what we have and invest constructively instead of living for the moment and having to clean up expensive problems later?

“Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the **whole of creation**. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the Earth as God cares for the Earth. God's command to have dominion and subdue the Earth is **not a license to dominate and exploit**. Human dominion (Gen 1:28; Pss 8), a special responsibility, should reflect God's way of **ruling as a shepherd king** who takes the form of a servant (Phil 2:7), wearing a crown of thorns.”

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Litany for a Changing World

Reader One: The Earth's climate is changing and around the world we see the signs of the times. The seas are weeping and the land is in grief.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Two: Everywhere on Earth, ice is changing. The famed snows of Kilimanjaro have melted more than 80 percent since 1912. Most central and eastern Himalayan glaciers could virtually disappear by 2035.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Three: Arctic sea ice has thinned significantly over the past half century, and its mass has declined by about 10 percent in the past 30 years. NASA's readings show the edges of Greenland's ice sheet shrinking.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Four: Spring ice breakup in the Northern Hemisphere now occurs 9 days earlier than it did in the last century, and autumn freeze-up 10 days later, causing the thawing of permanent frost in places such as Alaska.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Five: From the Arctic to Peru, from Switzerland to the equatorial glaciers of Irian Jaya in Indonesia, massive ice fields, huge glaciers, and sea ice are disappearing, effecting animals and humans.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Six: In the Antarctica, the sea ice has shrunk by a fifth, making it more difficult for penguins and birds of the region to survive. In Canada, the winter ice melts 2-3 weeks earlier than usual, and polar bears are having difficulty finding enough food.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Seven: In the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, as in many other reefs, the warmer ocean water is destroying coral and other organisms. In the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean, the sea turtles are being affected by the warmer weather and their birth patterns are changing.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Eight: The climate in Africa's Sahel region shifted during the 1960s. Thirty-five years after the sudden decline in rainfall there is still no sign of the life-giving monsoon rains. The 500 million people who live in the world's desert regions will find life increasingly unbearable as temperatures soar and water is used up or turns salty.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change.

Reader Nine: In poor countries in Africa, such as Kenya and Tanzania, warmer weather has increased mosquitoes which carry malaria. Poor countries and people in poverty will have to bear much of the

burden of climate change, as they live in vulnerable areas and have few if any resources to cope with its effects.

All: God, give us the grace to help heal this world and to reverse the effects of climate change. The seas are weeping and the land is in grief. But we are called to be signs of hope in this world, to be co-creators with God of a global community where the earth is respected and cherished. We ask our Creator to give us discernment and to guide us as we become active members of the human family, working with our sisters and brothers to change the destructive trends that are causing global warming. We have been given a great gift, the richness of Creation, and as we celebrate the earth on this day, we pledge to protect this gift of God. Hear us Creator, and be with us every day as we seek to restore and preserve your Creation. Amen.

- Adapted from Education for Justice's "A Prayer Service for Earth Day 2006" by Jane Deren



Part Three: Making a Difference

(Leader's Guide)

Opening Prayer: We Pray for the Global Community (p. 18)

Introductory sharing by participants

Recall something that stands out for you from Part Two – an image, a statistic, something you learned, something that concerns you.

Have you heard, read or experienced in some other way, new information about global climate change since the last session?

Viewing Part Three: “Making a Difference” of *This Is Your Home* presentation (18 min.)

Review of key information from Part Three: Catholic social teaching and social analysis (p. 19)

Engaging participants in reflection leading to action

1. Catholic Social Teaching: The Principle of the Common Good (p. 21)
2. Catholic Social Teaching: The Principle of Care for Creation (p. 23)
3. Catholic Social Teaching: The Principle of the Option for the Poor (p. 25)
4. Making a Difference: But What Can I Do about Global Climate Change? (p. 27)
5. Look for learning modules on the principles of the preferential option for the poor, subsidiarity (or self-governance), and solidarity (or caring for others) on the IHM Web site at http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/climatechange.asp.

Closing Prayer: We Plant Seeds (p. 31)

We Pray for the Global Community

We pray for the church throughout the world.

May it be a living example of a loving community which seeks to include and share.

May it be a voice for those who are hungry for food and justice.

May our church continue to speak out against the scandal of poverty.

We pray for the world's leaders.

May they work to overcome the barriers between people and foster a spirit of a global community in a world where no one has to experience poverty or hunger.

May our leaders listen to those in poverty and allow them to help shape a better future for all.

We pray for ourselves.

May we live out our faith through our choices, action and words growing more compassionate and generous each day.

May we have the courage to learn more, love more and embrace the values that will create a just and peaceful global community.

- *Adapted from a Prayer by Linda Jones*



Review of Key Information from Part Three

Catholic Social Teaching and Social Analysis

What principles of Catholic Social Teaching could guide people of faith to respond wisely to the global climate change?

Catholic Social Teaching guides people from living faith to loving action in the transformation of our world. This social wisdom offers guidelines for Christian responses to the problem of global climate change using basic principles of Catholic social teaching:

- the principles of the common good
- the option for the poor
- care for creation
- subsidiarity (or self governance)
- solidarity (or caring for others).

What questions use social analysis to get underneath the “spin” that accompanies so much of our news?

When you come across information on the topic of global climate change through your studies, through news media or through your personal experiences, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who is likely to benefit from the position expressed?
- Who is left out and why are they left out?
- What past events impact the current situation?
- What are the values at stake?
- What does Catholic Social Teaching say about this issue?

Reflect upon the answers to these questions and use them to guide you to the most appropriate course of action.

“Do not think that the words of prayer as you say them go up to God. It is not the words themselves that ascend; rather it is **the burning desire of your heart** that rises like smoke to heaven. If your prayer consists only of words and letters, but does not contain your heart’s desire, how can it **rise up to God?**”

Hasidic tradition, mystics of Judaism



Catholic Social Teaching: The Principle of the Common Good

Goals

1. To clarify the meaning of the principle of the common good
2. To apply the principle of the common good to the problem of global climate change

Begin first by helping participants to articulate their understanding of the common good.

Ask: What do you think “the common good” means? Listen for and affirm the following points:

- An over-arching principle of Catholic Social Teaching
- Caring for our neighbors as ourselves
- Society functions best when decisions are made with an eye toward what benefits everyone, and not just a few (communal benefit vs. greed).
- A world where all people have the opportunity to realize their full human potential, engage in productive work, and lead fulfilled lives.
- Human beings truly flourish only in the context of a community.
- Our common humanity
- Balance in nature (we are part of the web of life)
- The need for temperance

To clarify or flesh out the meaning of the common good, read one or more of the brief quotes that follow.

Quotes about the Common Good from Catholic Social Teaching

The common good is “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”

- *The Church in the Modern World,” Second Vatican Council*

“The person is not only sacred but also social. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.”

- *The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

“Promoting community and the common good requires creating employment for all, caring for the less privileged, and providing for the future.”

- *Centesimus Annus*

Assist participants in applying the principle of the common good to the problem of global climate change by using one or both of the discussion questions that follow.

For Discussion

1. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, President George H. W. Bush said, “The American way of life is not negotiable.” The United States represents less than 5% of the world’s population and consumes 30% of the Earth’s resources. If everyone on Earth consumed at the rate of the average American, we would need the resources of two extra planets.

How does the *statement* about the American way of life and the *statistic* about American consumption fit with the principle of the common good?

2. How do you think people in countries whose standard of living is far below the level of affluence of the U.S. feel about the U.S.?
- Do they want to have what we have? If other countries who want what we have find ways to achieve their goals, how will this affect global warming?
 - Have you heard of the Kyoto Protocol? The Kyoto Protocol is an amendment to an international treaty on climate change in which signing nations agree to specific reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. As of December 2006, 169 countries have signed the Protocol. Although the U.S. is responsible for one fourth of the carbon dioxide emitted around the world, 7122 million tons, it is not one of the signatories.
 - Do you think people in other countries are mad at the U.S. for taking more than its share and refusing to take responsible action? Do you think some countries would want to take violent action against the U.S. because of this? Do you think some countries would be unwilling to ally themselves with the U.S. in a military conflict?

Conclude by asking participants to identify specific actions they can take to apply the principle of the common good to the problem of global climate change.

Personal choices

If Americans consume 30% of Earth's resources . . .
If consumption is responsible for emission of ¼ of the global carbon dioxide total . . .
If carbon dioxide is responsible for the alarming increase in global temperature . . .
. . . what can you do personally to reduce your level of consumption?
Will you make a commitment to change one thing in your lifestyle?

Consumer power

Don't Buy It: Get Media Smart is a media literacy Web site for young people that encourages users to think critically about media and become smart consumers. Activities on the site are designed to provide users with some of the skills and knowledge needed to question, analyze, interpret and evaluate media messages. Go to <http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/about.html> for an introduction to the web page. The site has interactive buttons on advertising tricks, buying smart, your entertainment, and what you can do. There is one guide for teachers and another for parents.

Connect participants to the *Don't Buy It* and encourage them to explore the Web site. Then take ten minutes to ask, What can you do to buy less? Will you make a commitment to change one thing in your consumer behavior?

Political Action

Organize your group to visit the office of your Senator or Representative – or invite your legislator to come to your church or school. To prepare for the visit, research ways to enhance political efficacy at http://www.osjspm.org/legislative_advocacy.aspx.

Sign up for action alerts from a climate change advocacy group. Make phone calls and write letters to your legislators asking them to support climate change policies that address the needs of people of low income who will suffer the most as a result of climate change. Advise your legislator that the U.S. should share renewable energy technologies with developing countries.

Catholic Social Teaching: Care for Creation

Goals

1. To clarify the meaning of the principle of care for creation
2. To apply the principle of care for creation to the problem of global climate change

Begin first by helping participants to articulate their understanding of care for creation.

Ask: What do you think “care for creation” means? Listen for and affirm the following points:

- What God created is good.
- God intends the Earth and its goods for all.
- People have a responsibility to respect – not exploit - the environment.
- Pollution threatens the health of all.
- The Earth’s resources are limited and we need to conserve them.
- The environmental crisis is an ethical one.
- We need to learn more about the meaning and implications of caring for creation.
- Challenges we face in caring for creation are connected to poverty.
- Earth has its own God-given purpose, apart from human use.

To clarify or flesh out the meaning of care for creation, read one or more of the brief quotes that follow.

Quotes about care for creation from Catholic Social Teaching

In our attempt to satisfy momentary wants and desires, we plunder resources and consume energy – resources that belong to all the people of the Earth. And yet, millions of people live in destitution, barely able to obtain what they need for survival.

- *The Social Concerns of the Church, #38*

At the root of the senseless destruction of the natural environment lies an anthropological error, which unfortunately is widespread in our day. . . Man thinks that he can make arbitrary use of the earth, subjecting it without restraint to his will, as though it did not have its own requisites and a prior God-given purpose. . .

- *Centesimus Annus, 1991*

Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle. In many parts of the world society is given to instant gratification and consumerism while remaining indifferent to the damage, which these attitudes cause. Simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become part of everyday life, lest all suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few.

- *Pope John Paul II, Call for Ecological Conversion, 2001*

Assist participants in applying the principle of care for creation to the problem of global climate change by using one or both of the discussion questions that follow.

For Discussion

1. Humans are fully dependent on Earth’s ecosystems and the services that they provide, such as food, clean air, clean water, disease regulation, a relatively stable climate, spiritual fulfillment, and aesthetic enjoyment. The World Health Organization reports that

approximately 60% of the benefits that the global ecosystem provides to support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. In the WHO report, scientists warn that harmful consequences of this degradation to human health are already being felt and could grow significantly worse over the next 50 years.

In Genesis 9, after the flood it is mentioned five times that "I will make a covenant with you and with all living creatures." How does the widespread ecosystem degradation affect the way you think about stewardship and care for creation?

2. What part of creation in the area you live needs care? A river, lake or ocean? The soil? The air? A furred, finned or winged animal? Farm animals?

Are there any groups actively caring for the place you live? What would it be like to join a group that is caring for creation?

Conclude by asking participants to identify specific actions they can take to apply the principle of care for creation to the problem of global climate change.

Personal choices

Mystics like Meister Eckhart and St. Francis of Assisi remind us that deepening our awareness of creation – thinking of the sun, moon and all creatures as our brothers and sisters – will deepen our awareness of God.

Make a commitment to take a half-hour each week to dwell quietly in nature – at a river, in your back yard, in an arboretum, playing with a pet, bird watching, or simply gazing at a flower in a your home. Turn off your telephone and all other electronic gadgets so your time will not be interrupted.

Consumer power

Take the Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World pledge at <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge>. Replace the ten most-used incandescent light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent bulbs.

Political Action

Organize your group to write letters to your Senator or Representative – or write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. For guidelines on making your letters more effective go to

http://www.osjspm.org/letter_to_the_editor.aspx (**Writing a Letter to the Editor** from the Web site of the Office for Social Justice for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis) or

<http://www.osjspm.org/files/officesocialjustice/files/JRLCtips.pdf> (**Tools for Faithful Citizenship** on the Web site of the Office for Social Justice for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis)

Using information from *This Is Your Home* presentation or stories on climate change from your local newspaper, ask your legislators to support climate change policies that address the needs of poor people who will suffer the most as a result of climate change.

Catholic Social Teaching: The Preferential Option for the Poor

Goals

3. To clarify the meaning of the principle of the preferential option for the poor
4. To apply the principle of the preferential option for the poor to the problem of global climate change

Begin first by helping participants to articulate their understanding of the preferential option for the poor.

Ask: What do you think “the preferential option for the poor” means? Listen for and affirm the following points:

- The life of Jesus embodies the option for the poor.
- Those who have access to resources should use this privilege to help those who have little or no access to resources.
- The church has a prophetic role as a voice for the poor and marginalized.
- The church puts its weight on the side of social reforms in favor of the poor and deprived.
- The church challenges those who accumulate wealth through circumstances that make others suffer.
- The option for the poor does not tolerate exploitation at the hands of other people.
- People who are weak must be protected even while they are encouraged to take initiative and power.
- Materialism is one of the root causes of poverty.
- We should be willing to make sacrifices of our own to help those who are poor.
- Faith needs to be connected to action.

To clarify or flesh out the meaning of the preferential option for the poor, read one or more of the brief quotes that follow.

Quotes about the preferential option for the poor from Catholic social teaching

“You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to him what is his. For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given to all, and not only to the rich.”

- *St. Ambrose* quoted in *On the Development of Peoples*, #23

In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others.

- *A Call to Action*, #23

“The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion...”

- *Justice in the World*, #5

Assist participants in applying the principle of the preferential option for the poor to the problem of global climate change by using one or both of the discussion questions that follow.

For Discussion

1. Because of the blessings God has bestowed on our nation and the power it possesses, the United States bears a special responsibility in its stewardship of god's creation to shape responses that serve the entire human family. . . Therefore, we especially want to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests. . . Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice that does not put the poor at greater risk or place disproportionate and unfair burdens on developing nations.

- *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*

As we advocate for policies to stop global climate change, what questions should we be asking about how these policies will impact people who are poor and vulnerable?

2. In Part three of the DVD "*This is Your Home*" you learned how your own personal lifestyle choices and patterns of consumption contribute to global climate change. What lifestyle changes are you most willing to make in order to combat global climate change? What changes are you more reluctant to make and why? How does your thinking about these choices change when you consider that it is the poor that will be the most adversely affected by global climate change?

Conclude by asking participants to identify specific actions they can take to apply the principle of the preferential option for the poor to the problem of global climate change.

Personal choices

Challenge yourself and your family to replace one or two meat meals a week with vegetarian meals. Go to www.vegcooking.com for recipes.

Consumer power

Check out the Co-op America's green pages, a directory listing nearly 3,000 businesses that have made firm commitments to sustainable, socially just principles, including the support of sweatshop-free labor, organic farms, fair trade, and cruelty-free products. <http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/index.cfm>.

Political Action

Sign "The Heat Is On" petition urging the 2008 presidential candidates to make global climate change a priority in their campaign. <http://www.heatison.org/>

But What Can I Do About Global Climate Change?

Based on “*But What Can I do? Individual Actions That Make a Difference*”
By L Hunter Lovins and Wyatt King, Natural Capitalism Group, 2002

Facilitators - Read the following introduction to participants:

“What can you do about global climate change? The short answer is, “a lot.” Gandhi said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

There is a great range of useful actions, from changing one aspect of your life or the world around you to devoting your life to creating change. Even the tiniest change is a contribution. It is also important to realize that you cannot do it all.

Start by picking one thing that you can change about your lifestyle. What should that one thing be? Only you can answer that. Then, share this decision with someone close to you. Activist David Harris pointed out that each of us has a circle of people who care about what we do: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors...the list goes on. For most of us, this adds up to at least 20 people, who are watching our lives. What you say and do, will influence them. Everyone one of us has the opportunity to tell those closest to us what we really care about, and to live a life that shows it.

But what difference will it make if you change your light-bulbs, or drive less or use more energy efficient appliances? You’re only one person. The rest of the world is just going on with business as usual, right?

Not necessarily. Global climate change is the result of millions of individual decisions. It is this cumulative impact of all our seemingly inconsequential contributions that is now threatening our planet. Even though we cannot see the environmental impact of our personal choices, scientific evidence shows that impact to be very real. Changing what we do is ultimately the only real solution. Explaining that change to those around us is the best way to spread it to others. That’s where you come in.”

1. Distribute copies of “50 Ways to Reduce Greenhouse Gases That Cause Global Climate Change.” (p. 20)

2. Give participants time to review this list. Ask them to choose one action that they will commit to. Then ask them to think of one person in their life that they are willing to share this action with.

3. Distribute paper and envelopes. Give participants time to write a short letter to the person they chose, expressing why they are concerned about global climate change What action they are committed to take.

(Encourage participants to invite this person to join them in this action or to tell this person what kind of support or encouragement they would like to receive from this person.)

4. In “go-round” style, ask participants share what action they chose to take and who they are sharing this with. Encourage participants to mail or hand deliver this letter after the session has ended.

“Although we say that mountains belong to the country, actually they belong to **those who love them.**”

Eihei Dogen



50 Ways to Reduce Greenhouse Gases that Cause Global Climate Change

Make Changes At Home

1. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
2. Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
3. Run your automatic dishwasher only with a full load and select the air-dry option.
4. Move your thermostat down two degrees in winter and up two degrees in the summer.
5. Keep your water heater thermostat no higher than 120°F and insulate it.



6. Take shorter showers or install a low-flow showerhead.
7. Turn off running water when hand-washing dishes.
8. Conduct a home energy audit to see where you are wasting energy.
9. Caulk and weather-strip your doorways and windows.
10. Use a push lawn-mower.
11. Unplug un-used electronic devices.
12. Wash your clothes in cold water and air-dry them in the summer.
13. Compost.
14. Recycle.
15. Plant a tree.



Watch How You Travel

16. Give your car a regular tune-up.
17. Drive smoothly. Don't stomp on the brakes or speed.



18. Carpool.
19. Walk or ride your bike.
20. Joining a car-sharing club.
21. Use public transportation.
22. When driving combine trips to reduce total mileage.
23. Fly less.
24. Buy carbon offsets for your car or air travel.

Watch What You Buy

25. Buy recycled products.
26. Fix things rather than replacing them.
27. Buy locally grown organic food and locally manufactured products whenever possible. Ask local stores to carry these products.
28. Buy Renewable Energy Certificates.
29. Buy a fuel efficient or hybrid car.
30. Buy products with less packaging
31. Donate to your favorite climate change group.



32. Eat less meat.

33. Buy green power if it is available from your energy provider.



If they don't have a green power option, write a letter encouraging them to provide one.

34. Buy a computer that uses less energy.

35. Buy Energy Star appliances.

36. Buy used CDs and DVDs and books. Rent them or check them out from the local library.



37. Buy clothes from thrift stores or vintage clothing shops or yard sales.

38. Purchase new clothing from makers of organic cotton and natural fiber products.

39. Buy fewer disposable products.



43. Write a letter to automakers urging them to improve fuel efficiency in cars.

44. Join a local environmental club or start one at your school or church.

45. Conduct an energy audit at your school, church or workplace.

46. Start a campaign at your school, church or workplace to switch to green power.

47. Start a global warming study group.



48. Host a global climate change film-festival for your friends and family or at your school or church.

49. Organize a global climate change prayer service at your church.

50. Monitor your local newspaper for stories related to global climate change. Then, write a letter about global climate change to the editor of your local news paper.



Get involved



40. Visit your legislator's office or invite your legislator to come to your school or church to hear your concerns about global warming.

41. Sign-up for easy on-line action alerts from a climate change group.

42. Ask your local legislators to improve your city's public transportation system and to build better sidewalks and bike lanes.



**Make a
commitment to do
ONE THING to
make a difference!**

We Plant Seeds

We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations
that need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects
beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that.
This enables us to do something
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace
to enter and do the rest.

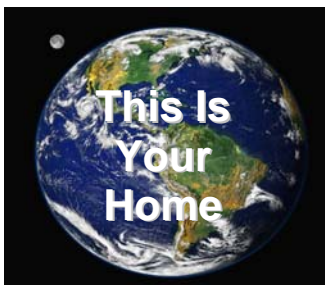
We may never see the end results
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are the workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets
of a future not our own.

- by Bishop Kenneth Untener, 1979
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/cchd/interns05.shtml>

“Here is calm so deep, grasses cease waving. . . . Wonderful how completely everything in **wild nature fits into us**, as if truly part and parent of us. The sun shines not on us but in us. The **rivers flow not past, but through us**, thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. The trees wave and the flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls, and every bird song, wind song, and tremendous storm song of the rocks in the heart of the mountains is our song, our very own, and **sings our love.**”

John Muir





Global Climate Change

An Annotated Bibliography

Web Links

Campaign Earth <www.campaignearth.org>

Campaign Earth packages information on global climate change in an upbeat style and the action in easily accomplished, accessible programs, like their "Monthly Challenge."

Good action resource.

Fight Global Warming <www.fightglobalwarming.com>

Environmental Defense has teamed up with The Ad Council to educate Americans about how quickly we must act to prevent global climate change and to give concrete steps that people can incorporate into their lives.

Good action resource.

NOW - State by State: Alternative Energy <<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/302/alternative-energy.html#here>>

Discover what your state can and is doing to make better use of alternative energy sources.

Good action resource.

Woods Hole Research Center <http://www.whrc.org/resources/online_publications/warming_earth/index.htm>

This site is a good beginner's guide to understanding the issue of global climate change.

Good place to begin.

Books

Michael Brower and Warren Leon, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1999).

This book will help you set priorities, stop worrying about insignificant things and understand the real environmental impacts of household decisions. The Union of Concerned Scientists encourages individuals to go beyond basic recycling and to look at changing the policies of government and large institutions, explains how consumer choices can negatively affect the environment, and presents a quantitative analysis of which items most affect the environment. A list of active web sites for additional information and other pertinent resources is appended.

Good action resource.

Guy Dauncey and Patrick Mazza, *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions Global Climate Change* (Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2001)

In a clear and lively style, *Stormy Weather* provides 101 solutions to the problem of global climate change that revolve around twelve core methods of reducing our use of fossil fuels and meeting our energy needs with renewable energy.

Good action resource.

Tim Flannery, *The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What it Means for Life on Earth* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005)

The Weather Makers outlines the history of climate change, how it will unfold over the next century, and what we can do to prevent a cataclysmic future. Pulling on his expertise as a scientist to discuss climate change from a historical perspective, Flannery also explains how it is interconnected across the planet. Along with a riveting history of how climate change has shaped our planet's evolution, Flannery offers specific suggestions for action for both lawmakers and individuals.

Good resource for more in-depth study.

Articles and Papers

Richard Heede, "Cool Citizens: Everyday Solutions to Climate Change," *Rocky Mountain Institute*, 9 April 2002, <http://www.rmi.org/images/other/Climate/C02-12_CoolCitizensBrief.pdf>

This paper describes how homeowners can lighten their impact on the Earth's changing climate by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from our households. **Good action resource.**

Pope John Paul II, "Peace With God the Creator, Peace With All of Creation," *Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace 1990*, 1 January 1990, <http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/peace/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_19891208_xxiii-world-day-for-peace_en.html>

In his 1990 World Day of Peace message, Pope John Paul II highlights the growing awareness of the connection between global conflict and the lack of respect for God's creation.

Good theological reflection tool.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, 2001, <<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/globalclimate.htm>>

This statement examines global warming through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and concern for the common good. **Good theological reflection tool.**

Film and Music Resources

An Inconvenient Truth. Prod. Participant Productions, 2006

This documentary eloquently weaves the science of global warming the story of Vice President Al Gore's lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of global climate change. Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way. **Good place to begin.**

Awakened Mind System: Program 1 Inner Awakening, Prod. The Relaxation Company, 2003

Awakened Mind System, designed by Dr. Jeffery Thompson, helps tap into and develop an enhanced state of consciousness by using music to create the specific pattern of brainwaves associated with an awakened mind state. This CD was used as the soundtrack for the *This is Your Home* DVD (see below). **Good music resource for prayer or meditation with a global consciousness.**

The Edge of Wisdom. Prod. Dakota Records, 1994

This inspirational CD by singer and song-writer Barbara Bailey Hutchison features 10 original songs, including "The World is Your Home," the closing song from the *This is Your Home* DVD (see below). **Good music resource from a Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter.**

The Great Warming. Stonehaven, 2006

Narrated by Alanis Morissette and Keanu Reeves, *The Great Warming* is a dramatic film about climate change that sweeps around the world to reveal how a changing climate is affecting the lives of people everywhere. The film also documents the emerging voice of the American Evangelical community urging action on climate change and portrays creative solutions to the problem. **Good theological reflection tool.**

This is Your Home, Prod. IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office, 2006

<http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/climatechange.asp>

This three-part DVD and study guide encourages reflection leading to action against global climate change. "This is Your Home" outlines scientific evidence of global climate change, its environmental, social and economic risks and the ethical responsibility to respond to this growing crisis. Participants are encouraged to develop practical local and regional policy agendas to help stop global climate change. **Applies Catholic Social Teaching to the problem. Good place to begin.**

Where We Live: Stand for What You Stand On. Prod. Earthjustice, 2003 <www.wherewelive.org>

This CD features some of the world's top musicians (including Norah Jones, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson and Sweet Honey in the Rock) raising their voices for protection of the Earth. Purchase of this collection of 16 soulful tracks supports Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund. **Good music resource with a variety of styles.**



Organizations Addressing Global Climate Change

Local Organizations

Ecology Center <<http://www.ecocenter.org/>>

Located in Ann Arbor, *The Ecology Center* works for a just and healthy environment through grassroots organizing, advocacy, education and demonstration projects.

Environment Michigan <<http://www.environmentmichigan.org/>>

Environment Michigan is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization that combines independent research, practical ideas and tough-minded advocacy to overcome the opposition of powerful special interests and win real results for Michigan's environment.

The Great Lake Bioneers

The Bioneers comprise a national network of visionary innovators working to build a sustainable, positive and creative future for the web of life. This annual conference features a live satellite downlink of the Bioneers Conference plenary sessions in San Rafael, California combined with locally focused workshops. Satellite conferences are held annually in October in Detroit <<http://www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers/>> and Traverse City <<http://www.glbconference.org/>>.

The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association <www.glrea.org>

The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association is a non-profit organization that educates, advocates, promotes, and publicly demonstrates renewable energy technologies. Centers are located both in Michigan and across the Great Lakes region.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light <<http://www.miipl.org/>>

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light is a coalition of congregations and their partners across the State of Michigan working to "involve communities of faith as stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices."

Michigan Interfaith Global Climate Campaign

<<http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/Regional/Michigan/michigan.html#actions>>

The Michigan Interfaith Global Climate Campaign is a statewide initiative reaching across the spectrum of faith communities in Michigan to raise awareness and understanding of global warming as an issue with religious, moral, and justice implications.

Michigan Environmental Council <<http://www.mecprotects.org/>>

The Michigan Environmental Council provides a collective voice for the environment at the local, state and federal levels. Working with member groups and their collective membership of nearly 200,000 residents, MEC is addressing the primary assaults on Michigan's environment; promoting alternatives to urban blight and suburban sprawl; advocating for a sustainable environment and economy; protecting Michigan's water legacy; promoting cleaner energy; and working to diminish environmental impacts on children's health.

Northern Options <<http://www.northernoptions.org/mission.htm>>

Northern Options, located in the Upper Peninsula teaches the people about the monetary and environmental benefits of renewable energy and conservation through guided tours, public seminars, speeches and state-funded grant programs.

Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter

The Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club is the Michigan voice for the nation's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Inspired by nature, the Sierra Club works protect local communities and the planet.

Urban Options <<http://www.urbanoptions.org/programs.php>>

Urban Options, located in Lansing, is a non-profit community agency which provides environmental information and services through educational programs and demonstrations. The organization offers Home Energy Check Up throughout Michigan for people interested in learning how to make their homes more energy efficient. A state certified energy auditor will examine your home from the basement to the attic and make objective energy saving recommendations regarding insulation levels, windows and doors, water usage, heating & cooling systems, and lighting & appliances.

Voices for Earth Justice <<http://www.voices4earth.org/>>

Voices for Earth Justice is an interfaith network of people committed to prayer education and action that deepen our sense of wonder, responsibility and gratitude for all creation. Their programs include retreats, workshops, sustainable gardening experiences, earth literacy programs; and the Michigan Interfaith Climate Change Campaign.

WARM Training Center <<http://www.warmtraining.org/>>

WARM Training Center, located in Detroit, promotes the development of resource efficient, affordable, healthy homes and communities through education, training and technical assistance. WARM conducts energy workshops and home energy education visits. These visits provide the customer with hands on ways of immediately saving on their utility bills.

National Organizations

Environmental Defense <<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/>>

Environmental Defense is a leading national nonprofit organization linking science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environmental problems, including global climate change.

Union of Concerned Scientists <<http://www.ucsusa.org/>>

The Union of Concerned Scientists is a science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and a safer world. UCS combines independent scientific research and citizen action to develop innovative, practical solutions and to secure responsible changes in government policy, corporate practices, and consumer choices.

Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/>

The Natural Resources Defense Council uses law, science and the support of members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things

The Stop Global Warming Virtual March <www.stopglobalwarming.org>

The Stop Global Warming Virtual March is a non-partisan effort to bring citizens together to build broad support for solutions to global climate change. With the support of leading scientists, political, religious, cultural and business leaders, the Virtual March hopes to create one, loud collective voice that will be heard around the world.

The Interfaith Power and Light Campaign can help ENERGY STAR[®] Change a Light, Change the World

Campaign Overview

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign is a national call-to-action to encourage every individual to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time. Going into its 7th year, the 1st Wednesday in October has now been designated as ENERGY STAR Change a Light Day and serves to rally Americans around this critical call-to-action. Hundreds manufacturers, utilities, and retailers help promote the campaign locally and nationally throughout October and November by featuring ENERGY STAR qualified lighting in-store and educating customers.

At the campaign's heart is the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge found at www.energystar.gov/changealight. or at www.miipl.org. And at The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, non-profit organizations, state governments, schools, community groups, and congregations have begun to promote the Pledge year-round. This on-line pledge is a simple step everyone can take to join a growing community committed to preserving energy resources and protecting our environment.

Pledges taken in 2005 --according to EPA estimates -- will result in savings of **23 million kWh of energy**, and **more than 33 million lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions**.

Join the Movement!

Congregations, denominations and interfaith organizations wishing to participate in this campaign can access information and free materials from www.energystar.gov/joinCAL. From this site, organizations can also sign up to become a formal Pledge Driver and enter additional campaign plans to make their commitment known publicly by others. Many materials are already available on-line, and organizations can join as Pledge Drivers and post campaign activities. State Interfaith Power and Light campaigns can help lead the way !

IPL Campaign Partners Can:

- Use this ready-made platform to inspire their audiences to save energy and prevent greenhouse gas emissions
- Bring the Pledge to their particular community and track progress online against their own pledge goal
- Access free templates, artwork, and ready-to-go materials to promote the call-to-action and your involvement
- Have their success featured on the energystar.gov Web site
- Earn an award for Excellence in ENERGY STAR Outreach, as part of an annual ceremony

What Participants are saying about the 2006 Campaign:

Interfaith Power and Light Campaign

"Our goal to mobilize a religious response to global warming is greatly enhanced by Change A Light, Change the World. Our purpose is a moral one -to save God's Creation and each other- but saving money makes participation in this Campaign a both a pleasure and a blessing."

The Rev. Sally Bingham, executive director The Regeneration Project

Make the Pledge today. Help Change a Light, Change the World

Suggested Activities for Congregations

- Incorporate the campaign's call-to-action and purpose into a sermon this fall about environmental stewardship
- Sign up as a Pledge Driver and promote campaign/pledge to individual members – Pledge Drivers set a goal of 100 or more pledges.
- Drive pledges via bulletin, newsletter, Web site, events & outreach, and track the progress to 100 pledges
- Consider incorporating a message and/or activity into lessons and the youth group
- Report back to members the difference their commitment is making

ENERGY STAR Qualified Lighting and Our Environment

- Lighting accounts for 20 percent of the average home's electric bill and it's one of the easiest places to save energy. Simple steps, such as changing a light at home, can save on energy bills while also helping to reduce the risks of global warming. That's because most electricity in our country is still generated by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere. If just half of all American homes used ENERGY STAR qualified products, and took other steps to save energy, the change would prevent the release of billions of pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy-efficient lighting products offer warm, bright light with the added benefit of using at least two-thirds less energy and lasting up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs and fixtures.
- **Change 5 lights.** If every American home replaced their 5 most frequently used lights or the bulbs in them with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR, each home would save more than \$60 a year in energy costs, and together we'd save about \$6.5 billion each year in energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 8 million cars.

After You “Change a Light” ... More That Congregations and Members Can Do

Visit the ENERGY STAR Congregations network at www.energystar.gov/congregations where you can...

- Join the Network and subscribe to the free, monthly “E-Update for Congregations”
- Read and download pages from the *Putting Energy into Stewardship* guide
- Check out the “Sure Savers” quick tips on saving energy
- Learn how your congregation can apply for our annual awards
- Find all the ENERGY STAR qualified products for the house of worship, members' homes and businesses
- Use the ENERGY STAR qualified products “store finder” and “rebate finder”

Did you know?

If America's more than 300,000 houses of worship reduced energy use 25%...

Nearly \$500 million would be saved for congregations' other priorities

More than 13.5 billion kWh of electricity would be available without the cost of new power plants

More than 5 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented, which equals

Planting 1.4 million acres of trees, or

Preventing the pollution of about 1 million cars



Study Guide for *This is Your Home*

WE HOPE . . .

. . . these materials have been helpful to you in your efforts to learn more about global climate change and the ethical call to action. Millions of people and countless species on Earth today – and many more in future generations – count on our commitment to respond wisely.

The problems associated with climate change will intensify until a global solution is reached. The issue will continue to be featured in news stories. Now is the time to act:

- to make changes in our personal lifestyle;
- to change our consumption patterns and influence corporate behavior;
- to insist that our political leaders pass legislation that protects the most vulnerable from the dangers of global climate change.

This companion study guide to *This Is Your Home* will continue to be revised. New resources and learning modules will be added. You can find the latest edition at

http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/media/justice_peace_and_sustainability_autogen/GC3_Study_Guide.pdf

Other resources on the topic of global climate change can be found on the IHM Web site (www.ihmsisters.org) at

http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/Justice_Peace_and_Sustainability/Ecological_Integrity/globalclimate.asp

Please send feedback and suggestions to Sarah Nash at
snash@ihmsisters.org.