



Resources for further exploration of...

The Earth Charter

An Annotated Bibliography

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues that are encompassed by the Earth Charter.

Web Links

The Earth Charter Initiative <<http://www.earthcharter.org/>>

The Earth Charter is an authoritative synthesis of values, principles and aspirations that are widely shared by growing numbers of men and women in all regions of the world. The principles of the Earth Charter reflect extensive international consultations conducted over a period of many years. These principles are also based upon contemporary science, international law and the insights of philosophy and religion. Successive drafts of the Earth Charter were circulated around the world for comments and debate by nongovernmental organizations, community groups, professional societies and international experts in many fields.

The Earth Charter US <<http://www.earthcharterus.org/>>

The major role of Earth Charter USA's Washington, DC office is to develop and make available those resources to mobilize broad-based support for using the Earth Charter as an educational tool, as a guide to sustainable community development and as a framework for policies and practices.

Books

Elizabeth Fererro and Joe Holland, *The Earth Charter: A Study Book of Reflection for Action* (The Redwoods Press, 2003).

This book first explains the historical context that gave rise to the Earth Charter. It then sketches the role of the United Nations in calling for the Earth Charter, and reviews the creation of the Earth Charter document itself, as well as the movement behind it. Finally it offers a detailed commentary on the entire document, a copy of the Earth Charter text, a grass-roots study guide, and an annotated bibliography.

Thomas Berry, *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*, (New York: Bell Tower, 1999).

Berry is an optimistic soul, hopeful that humans will rise to the challenge of cherishing the natural world in the third millennium. "Our future destiny rests even more decisively on our capacity for intimacy in our human-Earth relations," Berry predicts. From this premise, Berry reveals why we need to love our blessed planet, while also examining why we are culturally driven toward exploiting nature. Because Berry has a science background as well as a spiritual orientation, he brings a balanced and fresh voice to social ecology.

David Korten, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community* (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 2006).

This timely book uncovers the roots of "Empire" in ancient Athens and charts the long transition from the institutions of monarchy to those of the global economy as the favored instruments of imperialism. Korten then discusses the promise of early America as a democracy dedicated to spreading liberty and freedom — and the failure of the "American experiment" through the contemporary takeover of the U.S. government by corporate plutocrats, religious theocrats and neoconservative militarists in pursuit of naked imperial ambition. Korten makes the case for "Earth Community," a people-centered, community-based future that is both possible and necessary.

Articles/Papers

Douglas Sturm, "Identity and Otherness: Summons to a New Axial Age: Perspective on the Earth Charter Movement," *The Journal of Liberal Religion*, 1999,

<<http://fore.research.yale.edu/publications/projects/sturm.html>>

This article looks at the Earth Charter movement from a theological perspective. The Earth Charter is considered a summons to a new axial age in that it calls for a radical shift in human consciousness and current social trends that are of an "ultimately annihilative character." Sturm declares that the theological significance of the Earth Charter lies in its doctrine of interdependence, which guides us to "reckon how our own goodness might be conjoined with and contribute to others in the ongoing adventure of life in which we are all participants."

Mary Evelyn Tucker, "Reflections on the Earth Charter" *Forum on Religion and Ecology*, 2004,

<<http://fore.research.yale.edu/publications/projects/tuckerec.pdf>>

This article suggests ways in which the Earth Charter can be used as a guide in realigning our priorities and values towards a shared global vision in which diversity is celebrated and humans interact with the natural world in a sustainable manner. The Preamble in particular is examined here, as it provides a "context for rethinking the foundations of a genuine and sustainable future."

Kathleen Kline, M.D., "Hardwired to Connect: Liberals and Conservatives on the Same Page," *American Values*, 2003, <<http://www.americanvalues.org/html/hardwired.html>>

Kline chaired the Commission on Children at Risk Report sponsored by the conservative think-tank Institute for American Values, YMCA of USA and Dartmouth Medical School composed of 33 children's doctors, research scientists and mental health professionals. The report found that children are hardwired to connect to others and to a greater purpose. By recommending "authoritative communities" that embody many principles of the Earth Charter, this report bridges the perceived gap between conservatives and liberals.

The Earth Charter Commission, "The Earth Charter Initiative Handbook," *The Earth Charter Initiative*, <<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/invent/details.php?id=532>>

This Handbook has been designed as a source of information for all those who are interested in learning more about the Earth Charter. Information is provided here about those key individuals and organizations that have supported and continue to support the Earth Charter, the program of activities that comprise the Earth Charter Initiative and the organizational structure that has been established. A brief summary of the rich history of the Earth Charter is also detailed, providing the necessary context to understand how the Earth Charter relates to the global sustainability agenda. The full text of the Earth Charter has been included as an appendix.

The Earth Charter Initiative International Secretariat, "Bringing Sustainability into the Classroom: An Earth Charter Guidebook for Teachers," *The Earth Charter Initiative*, 2005, <<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/invent/details.php?id=260>>

This 50-page resource to encourage students to become more aware of the world around them and take responsibility for the role they play in its future includes ways to introduce the Earth Charter, get started working with the Earth Charter in the classroom and design learning activities – with resource recommendations.

Richard Blugston, Wynn Calder and Peter Blaze Corcoran, "Teaching Sustainability with the Earth Charter," *University Leaders for a Sustainable Future*, 2002, <http://www.ulsf.org/pdf/Teaching_sustainability_with_EC.pdf>

This chapter appeared originally in *Teaching Sustainability at Universities: Towards Curriculum Greening*, Walter Leal Filho ed., published by Peter Lang, 2002. The document discusses the Earth Charter as a tool for teaching about sustainable development in university classrooms with a selected list of Earth Charter teaching resources.

Periodicals/Newsletters

Earth Ethics (newsletter of Center for Respect of life and Environment) <<http://center1.com/ethics.html>>

With Eyes to See (newsletter of Concern America)
<<http://www.concernamerica.org/WETS/socialjusticenews.html>>

Earth Charter newsletter <<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/mailling.htm>>

The Ecozoic Reader: Critical Reflection, Story and Shared Dream Experience of an Ecological Age (a publication of the Center for Ecozoic Studies)
<http://www.ecozoicstudies.org/index.php?option=com_magazine&func=show_edition&id=1>

Electronic Green Journal (the semiannual publication of the University of Idaho library that is distributed without charge over the Web) <<http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/>>

Orion magazine, e-updates, <<http://www.orionmagazine.org/>>

The Environment Network (e-publication of Environment news Network) <<http://www.enn.com/>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

Paul Hawken, "The Other Superpower," 30-minute plenary presentation from the 2004 Bioneers Conference.

Paul Hawken discusses a new superpower made up of millions of people concerned with a broad agenda that includes social development, environmentalism, health and human rights.

Pour la Terre <<http://www.pourlaterre.org/>>

Pour la Terre is a French non-profit association whose mission is to motivate and act to safeguard the environment through the production and organization of cultural events and resources (concerts, CDs, DVDs, etc.), to help raise the collective awareness of the urgency that exists to protect the environment and to encourage the installation and use of clean energy. The group has assembled songs of dozens of musicians from five continents, each linked to a principle or a key message of the Earth Charter.

This is the Time . . . We Are the Ones. Prod. Jan Phillips, 2005

This six-minute video, with words and images by Jan Phillips, is a call to be involved.

All Our Relations. Prod. Jan Phillips, 2003

Video prayer with text and images by Jan Phillips.

“ . . . Blessed be the earth, your holy womb
from which we rise and shall return
Your mountains, valleys, jeweled mines.
Your forest ferns and jungle vines . . . ”

A Quiet Revolution. Prod. Earth Council, 2003

This 30-minute film features three dramatic case studies of how individuals in India, Slovakia and Kenya have contributed to solving local environmental problems. Narrated by Meryl Streep and featuring interviews with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other experts, the film's primary message is that even one person's action can make a dramatic difference.

A Sense of Place. Prod. Foundation for Global Community, 1994

“You can't know who you are until you know where you are.” (Wendell Berry) This program, based on interviews with Kirkpatrick Sale, John and Nancy Jack Todd, Paul Winter and Jeff Bercuvitz, honors the connection and dependency we have within the web of life.

Earth Dance. Prod. David Fortney Productions, 1991

This award-winning film is a visual display of form, rhythm and beauty scored to the music of contemporary artists.