

EarthConnection News

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"Each of us is a unique strand in the intricate web of life and here to make a difference." -
Deepak Chopra

Dangers Ahead (But Hope, Too)

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released on March 21st found that the world is likely to surpass its most ambitious climate target — limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial temperatures — by the early 2030s. This most recent assessment by the IPCC synthesizes years of studies on the causes and consequences of rising temperatures

In unequivocal terms the report states that "The world is likely to pass a dangerous temperature threshold within the next 10 years, pushing the planet past the point of catastrophic warming — unless nations drastically transform

their economies and immediately transition away from fossil fuels." Scientists have found that beyond that threshold climate disasters will become so extreme that people will not be able to adapt. Basic components of the Earth system will be fundamentally, irrevocably altered. Heat waves, famines and infectious diseases could claim millions of additional lives by century's end."



"Human activities have already transformed the planet

at a pace and scale unmatched in recorded history," the IPCC said, "causing irreversible damage to communities and ecosystems. Yet global emissions continue to rise, and current carbon-cutting efforts are wildly insufficient to ward off climate catastrophe."

Scientists have identified the need to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) as the threshold which would help save the world's coral reefs and preserve the Arctic's protective sea ice layer. This would help prevent dramatic sea level rise by avoiding further destabilization in Antarctica and Greenland.

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What Is Environmental Justice?

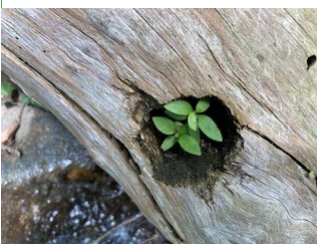
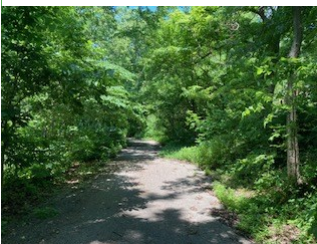
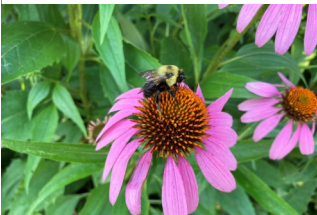
According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environ-

mental laws, regulations, and policies."

Climate change, pollution and a host of other environmental risks disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities.

The reality of climate injustice is apparent not only in the

United States, but among people and countries throughout the world. Examples include the exposure of poor and marginalized communities to harms from hazardous waste, resource extraction, and other land uses from which they do not receive benefits. What are injustices in your community?



Dangers Ahead...cont'd

The IPCC report shows humanity has reached a “critical moment in history,” IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee said. “The world has all the knowledge, tools and financial resources needed to achieve its climate goals, but after decades of disregarding scientific warnings and delaying climate efforts, the window for action is rapidly closing.”



Five key takeaways from the IPCC report:

- Climate change has already wreaked havoc on the planet.
- Every bit of warming matters.
- The impacts of climate change are and will continue to be severe.
- The warmer the world, the more animal species at serious risk.
- There is a window to act, but it's small and getting smaller.

Although this report is dire, there is hope. Today there are numerous organizations and individuals actively working for a sustainable climate. It will, however, take the combined efforts of people throughout the world to make the changes necessary.

The report also reminds us that those who are suffering the most from climate change are those individuals and countries who are doing the least to cause it.

A new consciousness is called for that recognizes that all of creation is integrally connected and necessary for the flourishing of life on Earth.

What You Can Do

What can you do? Below are some ideas to get started:

Reduce food waste

- Start by buying less food and shopping more frequently, if possible. If your schedule doesn't permit that, you can prevent food waste by choosing fruits and veggies that freeze well. Chop most of your produce haul when you get home and freeze it. Added bonus: this also cuts down on meal prep time.
- Find and support your local community compost center by bringing food scraps, volunteering, and/or donating.

Begin a more plant-rich diet

- Going plant-based (or mostly plant-based) is one of the most impactful actions you can take as an individual, and it's also an approach that has huge potential if the masses follow suit.
- Gradually reduce your meat con-

sumption while increasing protein-rich foods like beans, nuts, and whole grains. If you do consume meat, think of it as an embellishment to the meal rather than the main course (added bonus: your health will likely improve dramatically too).

Work with others by joining an organization that works for environmental sustainability

- At the national and/or international level:
 - *The Nature Conservancy (preserve.nature.org)
 - *The Sierra Club (act.sierraclub.org)
 - *Interfaith Power and Light (www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)
- At the local level in the Greater Cincinnati area join an organization and/or check-out their websites for programs and suggestions:

*Faith Communities Go Green (www.fcgg.org)

*Green Umbrella (www.greenumbrella.org)

*EarthConnection (www.scearthconnection.org)

*Imago (www.imagoearth.org)

*Western Wildlife Corridor (www.westernwildlifecorridor.org)

* Archdiocese of Cincinnati Care for Creation Task Force

([www.https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation](https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation))



Celebrate Earth on World Environment Day



The Sisters of Charity Earth Justice Circle is sponsoring an event at the new La Casa del Sol Ministry Center to celebrate World Environment Day

on June 5th at 7:00 PM.

The presentation will provide the following opportunities:

- To visit this new geothermal/solar building with multiple other energy saving components;
- To learn more about living responsibly in our daily lives through video and personal presentations;
- To win door prizes; and
- To meet others who share in a

desire to care for creation.

The new ministry center houses Sisters' music ministries (cello and piano), an acupuncture center, the Newcomers program for immigrants/refugees and the office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

There is no fee for this presentation and no RSVP is necessary. La Casa del Sol Ministry Center is located at 5820 Bender Road Cincinnati 45233.

For questions, please contact Sr. Georgia Kitt at 513-347-5466

You Can Help Feed a Corner of the World

EarthConnection has a 26 raised-bed garden that provides between 800-1,300 pounds of fresh vegetables each summer to the clients at the Good Samaritan Free Health Center in Lower Price Hill. The garden is maintained by master gardener, Sr. Winnie Brubach, and volunteers.

The center is grateful to receive the veggies and the people are delighted to have fresh produce for their families.

But this is just one center and so many more are in need. If you would like to

get involved, read on.

The Poverty, Homelessness, and Food Insecurity Justice Circle of the Sisters of Charity needs your help! Fresh vegetables are rarely available for the food insecure. You can help by growing more and sharing the bounty with local food pantries or shelters.

Produce needed: Fresh vegetables, especially peppers, tomatoes, greens and beans.

Where to donate: CAIN, Mercy

Neighborhood Services, Tender Mercies, Catholic Worker House, Community Matters, IKRON, or check your local food pantry.

What to do: Call the local pantry and arrange a drop-off time.

You can help feed a corner of the world!



Girls Scouts and Students Visit EC

Throughout the year, EC hosts students at the elementary and secondary levels as well as Girl Scouts of all ages.

Programs differ according to the age level and the needs articulated by teachers and troop leaders.





EarthConnection

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Sue DiTullio-Administrative Assistant

Caroljean (Cj) Willie, SC, Ph.D.-Program Director

Visit our website to sign up for free webinars and other information on how to care for Planet Earth.

www.scearthconnection.org

Upcoming Event:

“Summer Creation Vacation”

with Sr. Marty Dermody, SC

Date: June 15, 2023

Time 7:00 PM

Cost: Free

Location: EarthConnection

370 Neeb Road, Cincinnati 45233

Recommendations

Franciscan Action Network

<https://franciscanaction.org/issues/care-for-creation/>

This website has multiple resources on care for creation.

The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders | **The Letter:** Laudato Si Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

Newell, John Philip. *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World*. Harper One, 2022.

Newell shares how Celtic spirituality—listening to the sacred around us and inside of us—can help us heal the earth, overcome our conflicts, and reconnect with ourselves.

Swimme, Brian Thomas. *Cosmogogenesis: An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe*. Counterpoint, 2022.

Swimme presents a fresh look at how the rich collision between science and spirituality has influenced contemporary consciousness.

A Few Thoughts to Ponder

While serving as the NGO at the United Nations for the Sisters of Charity Federation, I had the opportunity each year to attend the annual



Forum on the Rights of the Indigenous. This was a gathering of Indigenous people from every corner of the world and each year they said

the same thing to those of us attending: “You keep talking about caring for the environment, but no one is talking us to and we have been doing it for thousands of years.” Below are some quotes of Native People to reflect upon:

“Everything is possessed of personality, only different from us in form. Knowledge is inherent in all things. The world is a library, and its books are the stones, leaves, grass, brooks, and the birds and animals that share, alike with us, the storms and blessings of Earth.”

—Luther Standing Bear, Lakota

“We are the conscience of your technology. We are the humanizers of your institutions. We matter, quite apart from your recognition of our worth...We are a threat to entrenched

powers-that-be who refuse to open the doors of opportunity and choice to all. We are a challenge to the mindset of greed...We are good medicine for you.” —Adrian Jacobs, Cayuga

“The more you know, the less you need.”

—Australian Aboriginal saying

“We are earth people on a spiritual journey to the stars. Our quest, our earth walk, is to look within, to know who we are, to see that we are connected to all things, and that there is no separation, only in the mind.”

— Lakota Seer

“The land is sacred; it belongs to the countless numbers who are dead, the few who are living, and the multitudes of those yet to be born.” —Penan, Sarawak, Malaysia