

# EarthConnection News

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## Faith for Earth: A Call for Action

Several months ago a new book was published entitled ***Faith for Earth: A Call for Action***. It was co-authored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Parliament of Religions. The message from the Faith for Earth Initiative in the opening pages notes that “We need a common ethical system of values no matter what religion we believe” (UNEP) and that “The context in which we will make our choices must include the full panoply of faith, science, and social institutions. If these institutions are to become agents of sustainability, they will need to be enabled by knowledge and inspired by faith.” (Parliament of World’s Religions).

The scriptural writings of each tradition as well as quotes from wisdom figures clearly articulate each faith’s concern for the environment and a commitment to honor care for creation not only in words but by actions.



The section on Catholicism notes that *Laudato Si’* was written by Pope Francis to every person living on the planet and that it encompasses the fields of economics, politics, education,

theology, and spirituality. It also states that “Since it was published, public perception of climate change as a moral issue has increased significantly and more people have been motivated to take action.”

The message from the Faith for Earth Initiative reminds us that:

- “We are the first generation in human history that has the opportunity to achieve sustainable and just societies. We have the knowledge, the technology and the wealth to succeed.”
  - “The context in which we will make our choices must include the full panoply of faith, science, and societal
- cont’d on p. 2

## Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub

The Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub is a nonprofit organization co-founded by 2019 Elizabeth Seton Award winner Colleen McSwiggin. It provides a “one-stop” drop-off location for items that can be recycled or reused, but that can’t go into traditional recycling bins.

This new center whose mission is “to revolutionize how people think about “things” and to provide a place where almost anything can be recycled or reused”, will open on April 1st and is located at 911 Evans Street 45204. The center will accept the following items for free:

**Art supplies:** supplies for beading, jewelry making, candle making, drawing, knitting and crocheting, sewing and needling, painting

**Glasses:** Sunglasses, reading glasses, and prescription eyeglasses

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*“The UN has adopted a Global Action for People and Planet through 2030, but a faith agenda is for eternity”*

**Did you Know?**



One ton of recycled paper can save:

- 17 trees
- 380 gallons of oil
- three cubic yards of landfill space
- 4,000 kilowatts of energy
- 7,000 gallons of water!



**Please Recycle Here** →

## Recycling Hub cont'd

**Shoes:** any kind, in any condition

**Health and Beauty Items:** containers for lip, tooth, or skin care, razors, blister packs, and cough/cold/flu packaging

**Medical equipment:** walking aids, wheelchairs, braces, slings, empty pill bottles (label removed), and X-ray films

**Metal:** scrap, pipe, keys, hangers, tins, hardware, magnets, and more

**Paper and cardboard**

**Party supplies:** gift bags, tissue paper, balloons, and more

**ALL #1-#7 plastics:** clean lids and caps, straws, shrink wrap, fishing line, corrugated plastic, hangers, bubble wrap, utensils, gift cards, Tyvek envelopes, and all plastic packaging

**Office and school supplies:** paper, notebooks, folders, glue, stapler and staples, rulers, dried out markers, erasers, backpacks, tape

**Styrofoam:** egg cartons, packing peanuts, foam core, molded foam

**Textiles:** denim, sheets, towels, blankets, carpet, fabric scraps and swatches, and more.

**Tools:** scissors, X-acto knives, heat guns, glue guns, gardening tools, screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches, pliers, and more

**Toys and Games:** Marbles, board games, plastic toys, puzzle pieces, plush toys, yoga mats, and more

**Wood:** planks and sheets, scraps, dowel rods, popsicle sticks, distressed wood, spools, and more

**For a Fee:** Batteries, lightbulbs, tires, smoke detectors and electronics . <https://www.cincinnati recycling and reuse hub.org/>

## Faith for Earth cont'd

institutions. If these institutions are to become agents of sustainability, they will need to be enabled by knowledge and inspired by faith.”

The document also encourages faith communities to practice what they preach citing the following statistics:

“Faith-based organizations own 8% of the habitable land surface, 5% of all commercial

forests, 50% of the schools in the world and 64% of schools in sub-Saharan Africa, 10% of the world’s total financial institutions, and 14% of its community development corporations. There are 37 million churches in the world with 34,000 (Christian) denominations. The current number of mosques in the world is around 4 million. There are 20,000 synagogues and countless temples. Adapting these

establishments to produce their own energy, reduce their carbon foot - print, and extend these benefits to neighboring communities will be a massive demonstration of practicing what we preach.”

The UN has adopted Global Action for People and the Planet through 2030, but this document reminds us that the faith agenda is for eternity. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33991/FECA.pdf?>

## Did You Know?

- That one recycled bottle saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for four hours?
- That each day, American businesses generate enough paperwork to circle the earth 20 times?
- That for every ton of paper recycled, we can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water?
- That recycling one aluminum can, can save enough energy to run a TV set for at least 3 hours?
- That recycling 2,000 pounds of cardboard can save more than 9 cubic yards of space in a landfill?
- That recycled plastic caps and lids can become park benches and picnic tables?

# What You Can Do

The following are some simple ideas that are environmentally friendly:

- Sign up for the free opt-out service at [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org) and get your name off the mailing lists for unwanted pieces of mail.
- Use bar soap instead of purchasing soap in disposable plastic containers or use a refillable soap container with liquid soap.
- Another site to reduce junk

mail and opt out of pre-screened credit card and insurance offers is [optoutpre-screen.com](http://optoutpre-screen.com).

- Learn about alternatives to household cleaning items that do not use hazardous chemicals.

<https://www.bhg.com/homekeeping/house-cleaning/cleaning-products-tools/homemade-cleaners/>

<https://keeperofthehome.org/homemade-all-natural-cleaning->

[recipes/](#)

- Buy organic foods that are free of toxic pesticides. Support farmers and companies who use organic ingredients.
- Give the gift of experiences with gift cards for restaurants, cinema, concerts, walking tours or adventure activities instead of physical products like plastic toys or gadgets.
- Shop at local farmers' markets when seasonally possible.



## The Plastic Problem-by Father Emmett Farrell

Studies project that by 2050, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish. Researchers estimate that on average, 8 million metric tons of plastic trash enter the ocean every year, an amount that keeps increasing. This pollution is ravaging our marine ecosystems, entangling and choking wildlife, such as seabirds, dolphins, fish and turtles, and even displacing plankton at the base of the food chain.

Scientists warn that pollution harms not only marine life, but also

human health, and that as climate change warms surface waters, health threats like algal blooms and outbreaks of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, are likely to become more frequent.

"Facing intensifying global efforts to curtail the use of oil and gas for transportation and energy — and at the same time seeking markets for the torrent of oil and gas from the U.S. fracking boom — the fossil fuel industry is looking to plastics as a lifeline," writes Antonia

Juhasz in Sierra Magazine.

"Today, 14 percent of oil and 8 percent of gas is used for the manufacture of petrochemicals, the essential feedstock of plastic production. The International Energy Agency predicts that by 2050, 50 percent of the growth in oil demand will be related to petrochemicals, overtaking the oil-demand growth related to automobile transportation," she adds.

**"8 million metric tons of plastic trash enter the ocean every year."**

## Resources

### Books

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Milkweed Publishers, 2014.

An excellent overview of the connection between indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teaching of plants.

Klein, Naomi. *How to change Everything: The Young Human's*

*Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*. Atheneum books, 2021.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*. Crown Publishers, 2021.

The question Kolbert explores is "After doing so much damage can we change nature, this time to save it?"

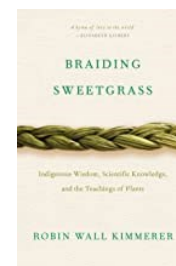
### Websites

<https://ecochallenge.org>

An excellent site which allows you to challenge yourself to take concrete actions to reduce your impact on the environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTBnAdrqZU4>

Relax and enjoy flowers blooming.







370 Neeb Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233  
Phone: 513-451-3932

Email: [scearthconnection@gmail.com](mailto:scearthconnection@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.scearthconnection.org](http://www.scearthconnection.org)  
Staff: Winnie Brubach, SC—Facilities  
Coordinator and Master Gardener  
Sue DiTullio—Administrative Assistant  
Caroljean (Cj) Willie, SC—Program Director

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

## Coming Events at EarthConnection

**April 8th and 15th**-Sr. Maureen Wild, SC (Halifax) from Gabriola Island, Canada will give a zoom presentation on “Sacred Pathways to Earth Healing-from cosmic grace and guidance to personal choice-Parts I and II.

**April 22nd**-EarthConnection will have multiple activities throughout the day. Check our website for more detailed information.

**May 6th**-Sr. Colette Kane, OP, will give a presentation from Ireland on exploring spirituality in the context of an evolving universe. Sr. Colette is the director of An Tairseach, an organic farm and ecology center in Wicklow, Ireland.

Programs are free but registration is required at: [www.scearthconnection.org](http://www.scearthconnection.org)

# The Cap to Benches Project Continues

Plastic caps and lids continue to pour in from throughout the country. EarthConnection (EC) is now the proud owner of two benches and a picnic table.

Sister Winnie Brubach and Associate Sue DiTullio recently made a trip in a rented box truck to pick up another bench and a picnic table. The bench weighs 185 pounds and the picnic table weighs 550 pounds.

Members of the Mt. St. Joseph University's football team helped to unload the new bench and table.

At a later time the picnic table will be relocated to the backyard of EC.

We are continuing to save lids and caps for another bench and picnic table which will be used with visiting groups.

