



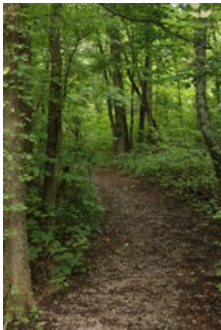
EarthConnection

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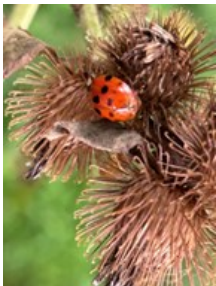
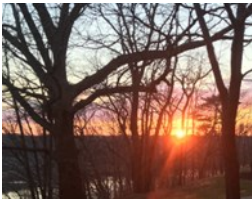
FALL/WINTER 2024

Climate Change: Causes and Effects

There has been a great deal of discussion about the causes of climate change. Climate change deniers would prefer to call the changes (stronger storms, melting glaciers, warmer oceans, thawing permafrost, rising sea levels, changes in plant and animal life cycles, damaged coral, more droughts and wildfires and more) natural variations in weather patterns.



However, the world's best climate scientists have studied our warming planet over many decades and 97% have reached an overwhelming consensus which places the burning of fossil fuels by humans as the primary cause of global warming today. One scientific study put it this way:



The odds of current global warming occurring without human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are less than 1 in 100,000.

Climate scientists have found that the warming is best explained by rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, put there by humans burning vast amounts of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

From having studied bubbles of ancient air trapped in ice, scientists know that before 1750, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was roughly 280 parts per million. That number is now above 420 parts per mil-

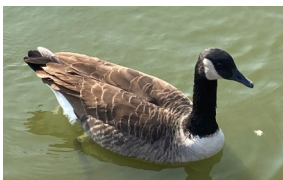
lion. Carbon dioxide acts like a blanket in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat and warming the planet.

However, a wide range of other emissions are related to the production of feed, animal transportation and other activities. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that, globally, the raising of livestock of all kinds is responsible for nearly 15 percent of all emissions related to human activity.

Cattle raised for meat and milk account for about two-thirds of total emissions, and pig production accounts for about 10 percent. Buffalo, chicken (for meat and eggs) and other animals like sheep
(cont'd on p. 2)

Globally, People Want Governments to Act on Climate by Katharine Hayhoe (Climate Scientist)

UN Survey. Around the world, awareness of the urgency of the threat climate change poses is growing, as are calls for climate action. This year, the UN Development Programme surveyed 73,000 people in 77 different countries, one of the largest surveys of its kind.



They found that 80 percent of respondents want their governments to do more to act on climate change. 72 percent said they want a swift transition away from fossil fuels. And 56 percent of those surveyed said they think about climate change "daily or weekly." Consensus. "The survey results

– unprecedented in their coverage – reveal a level of consensus that is truly astonishing. We urge leaders and policymakers to take note. This is an issue that almost everyone, everywhere, can agree on," said UN Development Program Administrator Achim Steiner.

Marina Curtain: A Youth Climate Leader

Marina Curtain, a 12th grade student at Walnut Hills High School, will give an in-person presentation at EarthConnection on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Marina has been a participant in The Climate Leaders Fellowship, which is a program provided by the Rustic Pathways Foundation in collaboration with the Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab. High school students from across the globe come together to complete capstone projects over the course of 12 weeks that address climate impact opportunities in their local communities. For her capstone project, she did

research on the impacts of climate change in Cincinnati, primarily severe flooding and increasing temperatures. She noted that these lead to an increase in exposure to dangerous pathogens and heat-related illnesses and that the number one cause of homelessness is poverty, which is often caused by the inability to pay for life-saving medical care. She has volunteered at the Center for Respite Care, an organization that provides care to adult individuals in Cincinnati who are suffering from homelessness along with acute medical issues. Marina invites you to come to EarthConnection

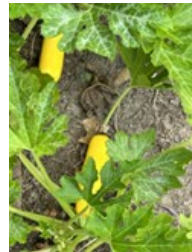
on Dec. 12 for a presentation, tour, refreshments, and an opportunity to be a part of a collaborative artwork that will be donated to the Center for Respite Care as a representation of our support. We kindly ask that you bring an item for donation from the Center for Respite Care wish list. Items listed on the flyer can be found here:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGW+CPk92c/6M_O4IQTV4-IxcvSrkvUyA/view?utm_content=DAGW+CPk92c&utm_c_a_m_-

EarthConnection's Garden

Sister Winnie Brubach, a master gardener, and her volunteer "Garden Ladies" recently noted that since they first started the garden in 2005, they have donated more than 15,150 pounds of fresh produce to a variety of food pantries.

Recipients of the produce include the Free Store Food Bank, St. Leo's Food Pantry and currently The Good Samaritan Free Health Center in Lower Price Hill.



Mt. St. Joseph University Students at EarthConnection

A group of students from Mount St. Joseph University (MSJU) worked at EarthConnection preparing reusable bags for S. Mary Ann Humbert who will use them with clients at the food pantry at Community Matters. Several professors from MSJU have also arranged to have their students visit EC and learn about renewable energy.



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

Recommendations

Books

Newell, John Philip. *The Great Search: Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home*. Harper Collins, 2024.

Osgood, Libby CND (editor). *Green Saints for a Green Generation*. Orbis Books, 2024 (This book has a chapter on Paula Gonzalez, the founder of EarthConnection.)

Websites

<https://katharinehayhoe.com>

Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe explores the latest in climate science, understand how climate change is already affecting us here and now, and discover hopeful solutions for a sustainable future.

<https://www.drawdown.org>

Project Drawdown is a leading resource for information and insight to climate solutions as well as multiple educational resources.



Reexamining Gift-Giving Practices (adapted from Education for Justice)



Did you know that we are consuming 400% more than we did 20 years ago?

As the Christmas holiday approaches, we are often overwhelmed by marketing and consumption. So much emphasis is placed on buying and receiving gifts, that the true meaning of the birth of Christ is often lost.

Do we ever consider the impact our consumption has on people and the planet? In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis critiques the culture of consumerism and its negative effects on the earth and on individuals. He warns that our current system of production and consumption has created a “throwaway culture,” where not only products but also people—especially those living in poverty—are discarded because they do not contribute to consumerism.

Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes the empowerment of all people and the importance of community-building. Pope John Paul II speaks of the need to help each person develop their full potential, affirming that every individual is in the process of “becoming.” Our actions should reflect this commitment by supporting others’ growth through collaborative and creative efforts.

Catholic Social Teaching challenges us to keep these principles in mind when engaging in gift-giving:

1. Support Ethical Labor Practices: Be mindful of products made in sweatshops or with exploitative labor.
2. Respect Human Dignity: Avoid giving gifts that undermine dignity,

such as violent toys or items promoting consumerism or inappropriate behaviors for young children. Choose gifts that celebrate people’s unique heritage and background.

3. Promote Empowerment: Select gifts that engage the recipient creatively—such as non-violent games, craft activities, and books that encourage imaginative play.
4. Make a donation in a person’s name to a cause important to them.
5. Give something handmade (e.g. a meal, cookies, or ornaments).
6. Spend quality time with someone by gifting things like experiences and classes.