



GREEN UPDATE SPRING 2012

Green Team

Spring 2012

Celebrate Earth Day 2012: The Year of Ethics of Energy

As people of faith, how do we use energy wisely, sustainably, and in keeping with our Biblical teachings?

Conversations about energy often revolve around the concept of scarcity. But the truth is that God has given us energy sources in abundance. We may have a finite supply of some sources of energy like coal and gas, but sun, wind, and water are examples gifts from our Creator with the potential to generate power in perpetuity. Creation is brimming with energy, and a Christian perspective on energy involves

acknowledging the abundance of God's Creation and the call to care for Creation including our "neighbors." Celebrate Earth Day Sunday **April 22, 2012** (resources at <http://www.ncccojustice.org>).

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it proclaims the psalmist (Psalm 24). In order to make wise energy decisions, we need to understand that ultimately the Earth is the Lord's and our decisions have an impact on each other and on Creation.



Earth Day Sunday
April 22, 2012

Climate Change is a Moral Issue

Consider sending a moral message to Capital Hill about the ways in which climate change threatens to hurt creation and our neighbor. The National Climate Ethics Campaign is collecting signatures for a "**Statement of Our Nation's Moral Obligation to Address Climate Change.**"

"We, the undersigned ... recognize that climate change is a real, dangerous, and rapidly worsening problem with deep moral implications. . . . We must .

. . . acknowledge and act on our long-standing moral obligation to protect current and future generations from suffering and death, to honor principles of justice and equity, and to protect the great Earth systems on which the well-being of all life, including ours, depends. . . ."

Read the full statement, see the current list of signers, and sign the statement at: <http://climateethicscampaign.org/>

Earth Hour 2012

March 31, 2012

8:30 PM

We only have one planet created by God. You can help honor and protect it. Participate in the world's largest single campaign for the planet: Earth Hour. It starts by turning off your lights for an hour at 8:30 pm on March 31, 2012 in a collective display of commitment to a preserving God's first gift to us. Think what can be achieved when we all come together and stand up for faithful stewardship.

Food Audits

Start your food audit! Get **The Good Food Toolkit**, a new faith-based food resource co-produced with the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future.

The Good Food Toolkit provides:

- A “food audit” that will enable your faith community to complete your food “scorecard”, assessing the food work you’ve done to date and the best areas for improvement.
- Planning tools to help you put healthy, sustainable food practices in place.



*Faithful eating is
faith-filled eating*

- Teaching tools and success stories to empower your faith community for sustainable food leadership. (<http://www.greenfaith.org>)

• **Need more info? Speaker? Resources?**

• **Contact:**

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Why Women Must Leave Home

At the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Marta Benavives, who serves as the global co-chair of Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP/SERR), emphasized that migration is often not voluntary. She argued that the key word in this workshop’s title, “Why Women Must Leave Home,” was “must,” acknowledging that “many of us have suffered exile.”

She urged the participants to spend time in discernment searching for a common thread between all of the common push factors that cause migration. “It’s because we have a system of thinking that prioritizes not people, not the care of the earth, but to make money... The UN is an instrument, and I’m very concerned that we’re not using this in-

strument for the good of human-

Participate to the BLUE

“we have a system of thinking that prioritizes not people, not the care of the earth, but to make money...”

Blue Lunchbox

LUNCHBOX challenge! Try to reduce the water footprint in your lunch by:

- Replacing meat with another source of protein or reducing your meat portion in half.
- Avoiding wasting food.

Educate yourself about water issues at www.onedrop.com or play the “water on your plate” online game and take the quiz to find out how much water your meal requires. Are you thinking blue?

As a follow-up take the home water audit and try the “100 ways to conserve water” at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>



*Water and
Food Security*