

## GREEN UPDATE SPRING 2011

### National Action:

On February 28<sup>th</sup> an action alert was sent to urge faithful Christians to contact their US Senators and Representative to support the US Environmental Protection Agency as it works to enforce the Clean Air Act. Several measures have been introduced to either cut funding for the EPA or for efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development. More information and a sample message to convey is available on the Women's Division website ([www.umwmission.org](http://www.umwmission.org)) under the Act tab. We must continue to work for a sustainable and healthy future for all God's creation.

### State Action:

The upcoming Wisconsin state budget proposed by Governor Walker includes at least two areas of concern. One is a proposed change to rules regulating phosphorus levels in water. The proposed "narrative" regulation would likely be in violation of the Federal Clean Water act. As a state bordering the Great Lakes, we have a special responsibility to keep our run off from choking our lakes and streams. The second proposal is to end state support for mandatory recycling. Cities and Towns would be faced with increased costs to their recycling programs which would probably mean a cut in the types of items recycled, not only adding to our need for more landfill space, but also undermining efforts by companies to use recycled materials in their products. Please contact your state representative and senator to urge them to continue to invest in the environmental health of our state.



### Save the Date!

June 17-19

**Midwest  
Renewable  
Energy Fair**  
Custer, WI  
([www.midwestrewew.org](http://www.midwestrewew.org))

### Earth Day – April 22, 2011

This year Earth Day lands on Good Friday. Consider making your week extra holy with the program "Where Two or More are Gathered: Eco-Justice as Community" from the National Council of Churches ([www.ncccojustice.org](http://www.ncccojustice.org)). It contains a bulletin insert, sermon topics and adult study ideas.

**Earth Hour** – March 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30 PM  
Turn off any unnecessary lights for one hour!

### Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light Event

([wisconsinipl.org](http://wisconsinipl.org))  
Rev. Sally Bingham – Guest Speaker

### **YOU ARE INVITED!** **WISCONSIN INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT LAUNCH EVENT!**

Sunday, May 15, 2011, 3:00-5:00 pm,  
Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 County  
Highway M, Middleton



Read the article from the March 2011 issue of **response** on Community Gardens or the one on Green Jobs. Think about how your unit or church can work to on projects to build a greener, healthier community for all of God's creatures.

Cokesbury has created a booklet for the Bishop's letter "**God's Renewed Creation: A Call to Hope and Action**". It includes the foundation document, a liturgical setting of the letter as well an adult and children's bible study resources. Dive into our spiritual calling to bring good news to a broken and hurting world ([www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com))

Did you know that many fragrances added to commercial cleaning products contain the toxic chemicals galaxolide and tonalide? **These chemicals are finding their way into our blood and breast milk, and have even been detected in newborn babies.** Since companies won't necessarily tell you which of their products contain synthetic musk, you may consider avoiding products from companies which continue to use them such as Proctor & Gamble and SC Johnson & Son, Inc or consider making your own cleaning products. More information can be found at [www.womenandenvironment.org](http://www.womenandenvironment.org)

### Engaging Youth

Want resources for youth to get into the green spirit? Try **Burst: Green Church** (available from Cokesbury as a leader guide and student booklet) or the card game **Cool-It** (complete with lesson plan for teachers) from the Union of Concerned Scientists ([www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)).

## Food, Faith & Earth Day 2011: Building Community

From Seder dinners passing on traditions through generations, to Thanksgiving dinners celebrating annual harvests, food build community in families, neighborhoods, and congregations around the world. This April, Sustain Dane is coordinating a day-long conference around the central role food plays in our lives. Food, Faith & Earth Day is both hands-on and inspirational, with representatives from a number of faith communities presenting panels, workshops, a keynote address and ending, of course, with a family-style meal.

Join your neighbors from many faith traditions on Sunday, April 3 at James Reeb Congregation (2146 East Johnson Street, Madison, WI 53704-4727), from 1 pm - 7 pm.

Keynoter John Leonard, Professor of Religious Studies at Edgewood, will talk about building community through food. Event (excluding meal) is free.

For more information and to register for the family-style dinner, catered by Underground Food Collective (cost: \$12), go to: <http://sustaindane.org/events/conferences/food-faith-earth-day/>