

You say you want a revolution...



God's earth – and the human and other living communities that depend on it – is facing a crisis. We must find new ways of living with the creation for the sake of our neighbors, for the wellbeing of future generations, and out of respect for the goodness of God's world.

We Can Work It Out!

- 1. Reduce consumption.** The average American requires 25 tons of materials from the earth each year to enable their lifestyle. Up to 70 percent of our greenhouse gases are due to household purchases and practices. Less stuff saves planet and climate and money!
- 2. Lower energy use.** Homes and cars are each responsible for one-third of our energy use. Cold water clothes washing takes 90 percent less energy; halving shower time saves 500 kilowatts and 750 pounds of CO2 yearly. Biking is 30x more efficient than driving – and positions you to pick up aluminum cans (saves 6 oz. gas/recycled can!).
- 3. Eat healthy food – for you and for the planet.** Halving meat consumption cuts dietary water demands by a third; going vegetarian will save 1.5 tons of greenhouse gases per year. Food waste (300 million pounds per day) = 6 percent of US greenhouse gases. Don't!
- 4. Go natural.** Take advantage of the sun or shade to heat and cool. Lawn “care”? Most of the 170 million pounds of pesticides and fertilizers applied every year end up in streams or groundwater – and we're in the middle of an insect apocalypse.
- 5. Get passionate/go public.** Commit yourself to simple acts of liberation – from the car, from the manicured lawn, from the larger house, from plastic. Be vocal and visible about earth care – God's struggling creation doesn't have time for us to be shy.
- 6. Contact NCP.** Visit our Sustainable Living Centers in VA and VT. Invite a speaker or workshop leader. Plant trees through our Two Million Tree Campaign. Join a Learning Tour to Alaska or the Amazon or Borneo to see what's at stake. Together, we can work it out!

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till and keep it.”
– Genesis 2:15

New Community Project

Peace through Justice Care for Creation Experiential Learning
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The Be(e/a)tlles Guide to Saving God's Good Earth



One tree in the rainforest can be a home to as many as 650 species of beetles. In honor of this amazing fact, and in honor of that little band from Liverpool of the same name, we offer

THE BE(E/A)TLLES GUIDE TO SAVING GOD'S GOOD EARTH

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It's as true today as when the band first sang it. Yet people in mega-consuming societies fall for it every time: _____ (fill in the blank: A guy, A girl, Success, Excitement) can be yours if you just _____ (drink, drive, wear, use) this _____ (soft drink, new car, cool kicks, laundry soap).

Can't buy me love...



In this pursuit, advertisers spend over \$1000 on each of us annually using 10,000 commercial images per day to convince us we ARE what we drink, drive, dress and drool over. And it works! We buy a lot – 60 items of clothing per year; we toss a lot – 60 million water bottles per day. Jesus even warned against worrying about what we wear, eat and drink back in his day, as it won't do you any good in the long run.

And he was right! It's not easy to swim against the consumption tide, as their goal is to make us discontented. Do we have the strength – and spiritual centeredness – to resist?

"You need certain things – everything else is just to show off."
– Jean Cramer at youth event

The world's forests are being lost at the rate of 25-30 million acres per year. In the US, only five percent of the original forests remain intact. Wherever it occurs, deforestation increases flooding and soil erosion, affects rainfall patterns, and hastens global warming, both from the CO2 released by burned or decaying trees and by the loss of the forest's CO2 absorbing ability.

Paperback writer...



Primarily due to loss of habitat, plants and animals are becoming extinct at a rate similar to the great extinction periods in earth's history. Climate change, made worse by forest loss, may wipe out fully one-quarter of all landbased species of plants and animals by mid-century.

The world's forests are cut for farming and ranching, lumber and sprawl – and increasingly, lost to forest fires. Some 10 million acres of the world's forests have been replaced by palm oil plantations, especially in Southeast Asia. (Palm oil is an ingredient in half the items in a grocery store.) As many as half of the world's trees are cut down for firewood or charcoal production by subsistence communities. The USA leads the world in paper consumption, using 30 percent of the world's supply – to the tune of 700 pounds per person annually, requiring 200,000 trees per day.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it."
– Psalm 24:1

US'ers drive some 8 billion miles per day – emitting about 200,000 tons of CO2. (It's estimated there may be 1.2 billion climate refugees by mid-century.) The true energy costs of driving are even higher, since creating the "support structures" for vehicle travel – car manufacturing, bridges, parking lots, highways – can add another 60 percent to the car's energy footprint.

Baby you can drive my car...



And there's ethanol: 40 percent of the US corn crop is used to make it, driving up the cost of food and causing tropical deforestation to replace that food. Yet, a University of Wisconsin study found ethanol creates 24 percent more greenhouse gases than gasoline.

Meanwhile, all this driving kills a million critters and a couple billion insects every day in the USA – one reason wildlife populations are down by 70 percent in 50 years, and insects are declining by 1-2 percent per year. And then there's the exercise we're missing. While three-quarters of us are overweight, when a trip is under a mile, 88 percent of the time we still take the car. Go figure.

"No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth."
– Jesus

Fresh water is the world's most valuable commodity. It is also one of many aspects of nature's bounty that is increasingly at risk.

We all live in a yellow submarine...



In many places in the world – the US, China, India, Saudi Arabia – water tables are falling faster than they can be replenished by rainfall, primarily due to crop irrigation. Around the world, 1.1 billion people lack access to clean water, causing over 1 million deaths every year.

Americans use about 80 gallons of water per person every day for household consumption. Add industrial and agricultural uses, and this zooms to 2000 gallons per day. This is 50 and 2 times the rates of Ethiopia and Germany, respectively. A quarter-pounder can require 500 gallons of water; a pair of jeans, 1500 gallons. US golf courses demand two billion gallons of water per day.

Wetlands are estimated to have an economic value of some \$78,000 per acre per year as they filter water, absorb excess rainfall, sequester carbon (200 tons per acre) and provide breeding grounds for fish. Yet half the world's wetlands have been drained and are forever lost. And the oceans—we've managed to over-fish them. Who could've imagined!

"God gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields."
– Job 5:10