



## UUs Prepare to Adopt Powerful Statement of Conscience

**The first weeks of June will be a time of thoughtful preparation** for the passage of a powerful SOC on Global Warming. Many UU Congregations have dedicated themselves for the last two years or longer to study and action on the issues surrounding global warming. The Final Draft Statement of Conscience became available just as we are going to press. You may read it at:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/ga06/FinalAgenda.pdf>

The UU Ministry for Earth will be reviewing the Statement carefully and critically, and we encourage our members to do the same.

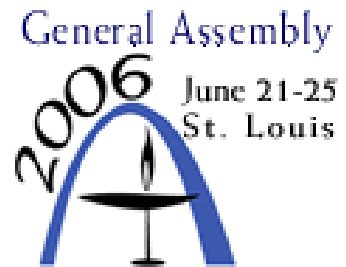
Hopefully many of you will be delegates to GA this year. If you will not be attending GA, take time to speak with your delegates about the SOC. Make sure they are informed regarding your congregation's response to the draft SOC and know of your individual and/or collective response to the final draft once it becomes available. Talk with them about any critical elements you believe are missing or should be omitted from the final SOC.

Those wishing to modify the Statement of Conscience should plan to

attend the entire Mini-Assembly which will be held for that purpose on Thursday, June 22, 2006 from 8:00-11:00 AM. Mini-Assemblies save Plenary Session time and permit freer debate than the plenaries do. After the Mini-Assembly and before the voting on the SOC in the Plenary Session on Friday morning, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) may incorporate proposed amendments into the SOC. The CSW is required to report all amendments to the GA delegates. They can prioritize the amendments, including the order of their presentation at the amendment microphone in Plenary.

UUMFE will be actively participating in the SOC process at GA. You or your delegates are encouraged to check frequently with the staff in the UUMFE booth for the latest updates and information and to read in advance the guide to delegates found in the Final Agenda.

UUMFE is hopeful that a profound UU statement on the issue of global warming will emerge from General Assembly. We are committed to and preparing for the implementation of an UU policy on global warming. ♦



### SOC Review Points

- Does it accurately state the threat of global warming?
- Does it articulate the serious ethical and justice issues connected with the issue?
- Does it connect the issue with our Unitarian Universalist spiritual values and principles?
- Does it call for action from the Unitarian Universalist Association as well as from congregations and individuals?
- Does it give UUs and their congregations clear guidelines for implementation?

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## On Community

By Claudia Kern, Chair, UUMFE

*“We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been — a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.*

*Community.*

*Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.*

*Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.”*

*Starhawk*

**Sometimes this Earth work is a little lonely.** My basement UUMFE “office” consists of a cluttered table, a computer; and, in winter, thankfully, a wood stove. Fortunately, I have found that connecting with real live voices, or, better yet, real live people keeps me going. The personal rewards of this one-on-one contact have gotten me thinking about sense of community as an important success factor for building a thriving, effective organization. What transforms a group of people connected by a website, email, phone, and occasional encounters at General Assembly or District gatherings into a true community? Here is how I view a few key elements.

### A common vision

As members of UU Ministry for Earth, we share the vision of living together in a respectful, reverent, and responsible covenant with the web of existence of which we are a part. Together we are imagining a new theology that blends a creation story based on the mysteries and wonders of the universe with the richness of our UU heritage.

### A clear sense of who we are

We members of UUMFE share nature as a major source of our spiritual sustenance. We are pioneers who are carving out a new paradigm of justice that embraces ALL living creation. We are, at heart, a small but tenacious group of UUs who are willing to take on the hardscrabble work of building a viable voice for the Earth among Unitarian Universalists.

### Participation

We are so in love with the vision of living in harmony with the Earth that we are willing to do the work to create that reality. We are committed to building an organization that will serve Earth justice as effectively as the UU Service Committee serves social justice. We are willing to say “yes” to the hard work of transforming possibility into reality.

### Willingness to share

We ministers for Earth are generous with our stories and activities, and thus we increase the impact of our efforts a thousand-fold. We empower one another with the fruit of our labors by sharing our stories, just as several congregations have done in this newsletter. Sharing builds community by offering inspiration and by making another’s work a little lighter.

Many of us may never meet nor speak, but, at heart, we share a common yearning that Starhawk describes this way, “We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been – a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community.” You and I are connected by our passion for life in all its dimensions on this blue-green jewel called Earth. As we continue to build a Ministry for Earth, may we be mindful, as we expand in numbers, to also deepen and nurture a sense of community with one another. ♦



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## There Is No “Out There”

by Rev. Louise Green

The following are concluding remarks of a sermon entitled “Mother is Melting” delivered on February 26, 2006 at All Souls Unitarian, Washington, DC

The awakening, the epiphany, to which we are all called is this: *there is no global warming “out there,” and us “in here,” safe in our sanctuary, safe in our homes.* We are all inextricably linked. When we value most our sprawling industrial development and the easy affluence of our One-Third World, then many suffer. When we put only our human life in the center of our consciousness, many suffer.

Bill McKibben describes it this way:

*“The idea that the rest of creation might count for as much as we do is spectacularly foreign, even to most environmentalists. The ecological movement has always had its greatest success in convincing people that we are threatened by some looming problem—or if not threatened directly, then some creature we find appealing, such as the seal or the whale or songbird....but what if we began to believe in the rain forest for its own sake?...people have begun to talk of two views of the world—the traditional, man-centered—anthropocentric—view and the biocentric vision of people as a part of the world...” (p. 174, *The End of Nature*)*

Susan Griffin sings a biocentric vision powerfully from another perspective, moving from water to land, from Ocean to Earth:

*We know ourselves to be made from this Earth. We know this Earth is made from our bodies. For we see ourselves. And we are nature. We are nature seeing nature. We are nature with a concept of nature. Nature weep-*

***“There is no global warming “out there,” and us “in here,” safe in our sanctuary, safe in our homes.***

*ing. Nature speaking of nature to nature.*

(p. 25, *Earth Prayers*,  
Elizabeth Roberts, Ed.)

The interconnections that we reflexively lift up in worship liturgy, celebrate in beautiful song, pay annual lip service to on Earth Day, are powerfully, terribly, awesomely true. We will live and die together, one vast web of global proportions, made of water and Earth, made of flesh and bone and blood, made of the same substances as found in stars and other far reaches of the galaxy.

Let us not respond to the reality of global warming, of vast planetary change, out of guilt or duty, as if our mother is telling us what to do. Let us respond out of grief, that our planetary home, our intricate Gaia organism, our Mother Earth is melting. We are all, every one of us, experiencing profound loss: the clueless and the knowledgeable, the complacent and the passionate. Our hope for healing will be in direct proportion to our individual desire to grow into a larger ecological self. We must deepen our understanding of a world of interconnection, an awareness that may move us individually and collectively to make sufficient change.

To confront global warming, we need a shift in consciousness itself. May our grief bring us home to Mother Earth, and in that homecoming, move us to act with urgency and clarity, for the sake of serving all. Amen ♦

### ENVIRONMENTAL ORDER OF SERVICE INSERTS AVAILABLE

The Beverly Unitarian Church (Chicago, IL) utilizes the environmental education Order of Service inserts created and distributed by the *Environmental Task Force of the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice*, an Illinois non-profit for the use of UU congregations in Orders of Service, on literature tables/racks, included in newsletters, and website pages.

The inserts can be secured in the original two column (printed back to back for Orders of Service format) electronic form by e-mailing [uusj@att.net](mailto:uusj@att.net). They can be viewed and printed in somewhat different formats on the web at: [www.uusforsocialjustice.org](http://www.uusforsocialjustice.org) and following the links to environmental products.

- The following topics could easily be adapted to your location:
- *Back To Basics -- Beat Global Warming With An Old-Fashioned Ceiling Fan*
- *The Consumer's Guide To Effective Environmental Choices*
- *Ten Things You Can Do To Stop Global Warming*
- *Water Conservation At Home*
- *Help Keep Drinking Water Clean*
- *Energy Star*
- *Eating Organic Food With Health And The Environment In Mind*
- *Reusing Old Clothes*

Thanks to Alan Lindrup of the Beverly Unitarian Church for sharing this great resource.

## THE ETHICAL CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL WARMING

By Claudia Kern, Chair, UUMFE

Are UUs in any way prepared to address the ethical quandaries that global warming has set before us? In a world in which we must stabilize and then reduce greenhouse gas emissions to less than half their current levels, on what basis will we make the choices that have to be made? How will we respond to the metaphysical challenge inherent in our UU Principles of reconciling the one with the many? Can we make the choices that need to be made while honoring the worth and dignity of the individual and the right of personal conscience? Can we move toward global justice and equity for humans while at the same time preserving and protecting the all-inclusive web of life of which we are all a part?

It is within this tension between the universal and the individual, that we Unitarian Universalists are called to respond. As we transition from educating ourselves to the science of global warming toward defining and implementing solutions, a serious ethical examination of the possibilities is critical. We as a religious community have a fundamental role to play in insuring that deep reflection on the ethical dimensions of climate change will take place.

As UUs, our principles give each of us a theological context that can help us articulate how we see the world and how we tell the story we are living. Our principles give us lenses through which we look at the world, analyze issues, and weigh solutions. For many of us, our seventh principle, "respect for the interdependent web of all existence," isn't just an idea, it is a lens that concentrates and shifts our perspective at a very fundamental level. Many of us temper the other six UU principles with the seventh.

What if the seventh principle were the contextual frame in which the world was to shape public policy on global warming? How might we respond to the following ethical questions with which the world will have to wrestle - questions whose implications are in many ways as terrifying as many of the physical effects of global warming? Among these questions are:

"We as a religious community have a fundamental role to play in insuring that deep reflection on the ethical dimensions of climate change will take place."

- Who is liable for the burden of preparing for and responding to global warming?
- What damages to humans plants and animals should be tolerated?
- What criteria are ethically relevant for allocating allowable emissions among nations?
- Can nations wait to reach their fair share until everyone agrees on an allocation scheme?
- What ethical significances does scientific uncertainty have in making climate change decisions?
- Do those who will be most harmed by climate change have rights to participate in climate change decisions that will impose risks on them?
- When are costs to national economies an ethically supportable justification for non-action on climate change?
- Should we recognize differences among people's need to emit GHG for basic subsistence needs as contrasted with luxury needs?

Unitarian Universalism is blessed with seven principles that articulate our common values. Alongside these principles stand the sources of our faith: direct experience, the words and deeds of prophetic women and men, wisdom from the world's religions, Jewish and Christian teachings, humanist teachings, and the Earth-wisdom traditions. From the content of these sources, a companion set of "social" or "secular" ethics may be defined. Rich in both secular and theological ethical guidelines, Unitarian Universalists have a unique and much-needed perspective to offer world governments, institutions, and citizens as we struggle to agree upon solutions and actions.

Without addressing the ethical implications of proposed mechanisms to reduce and mitigate the effects of global warming, any solutions can only lead to more tragedy and chaos in a suffering world. In truth, each of us, and most certainly our children, will have to make or live with difficult, nearly impossible decisions. Let us begin preparing our minds and our hearts to lead the way to ethical choices. ♦

*Editor's note:*

Dr. Donald Brown and Claudia Kern will be presenting a workshop at General Assembly 2006: *"Beyond Science: Ethical/Religious Dimensions of Global Warming,"* on Friday, 6/23/2006, 2:15:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM in America's Center, Room 229.



## Healthy Children - Healthy Planet

by Jeanne and Dick Roy, Founders,  
Northwest Earth Institute

**As adults, we are the children of the past,** we raise the children of the present, and we leave a lasting legacy for the children of the future. For each generation, the natural world is our sole source of resources to meet basic needs: food, water, air, and raw material for making goods, as well as our primary source of wonder and delight.

Most adults feel a very deep sense of responsibility for children in their immediate family. Genetically, we evolved to protect our young. Culturally, we expect parents to sacrifice and leave no stone unturned in providing for their children.

Ironically, in providing for our children, we may nevertheless be disregarding their future needs and, more generally, the needs of the Earth and future generations. For example, we may seek to enrich a child's life today through air travel without considering the attendant release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

Thus, the term, "healthy children – healthy planet," is a declaration of interdependence. The good health of children, either living today or born in the future, depends on the good health of the Earth. Conversely, the future health of the Earth will be a direct reflection of our commitment, and the sustained commitment of future generations, to care for it.

As our understanding of this interdependence has deepened, modern movements have emerged around the banners of "simplicity" and "sustainability." How can we live and work in a way that does not degrade the Earth or deny future generations the opportunity to live well? This orientation is quite different from that of the dominant culture in which a citizen is labeled a "consumer" whose purpose is to be educated to work, to make money,



and to buy things.

The emerging "Earth culture" is reflected, for example, in the growing interest in organically grown foods, "green" products, and sustainable investing. But many wish to address personal consumption habits in a far more direct manner. They recognize that Americans, with only 4.6 percent of the world's population, consume 25-30 percent of the world's resources. If everyone on Earth consumed at this level, we would need four Earths.

To reduce overall use of resources, these individuals not only buy differently, they buy less. They understand the direct connection between large homes and clear cuts, miles traveled and climate change, new plastic products and toxics in the environment, etc. As

they simplify lifestyle choices, their focus shifts from material enticements offered by the dominant culture to personal relationships with people and nature.

This movement toward an Earth culture is necessarily incremental. People are changing values and habits one step at a time, but collectively they are creating a subculture that will ultimately supplant the consumer culture.

Those who seek to make changes may feel at odds with the dominant culture. Resisting the impact of media and peer pressure can be difficult. For example, one may feel "out of it" not being able to discuss a popular television program or worry that a child feels deprived by not going to McDonald's.

Despite this temporary tension, we have an enormous opportunity to simultaneously enliven our daily experience and work as agents of change, alongside the others who are working to transform the consumer culture. We can simply focus on our primary circle of influence, the family and close friends. As our circle makes changes to provide a sustainable future, the dominant culture will follow, and generations of children will look back on our efforts with gratitude. ♦

### About the Authors & NWEI

Jeanne and Dick Roy are the founders of the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI). This article was originally published in *EarthMatters*, a publication of NWEI ([www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org)).

NWEI's latest discussion course, *Healthy Children - Healthy Planet*, is now available. Additional course topics include *Voluntary Simplicity*, *Exploring Deep Ecology*, *Discovering a Sense of Place*, *Globalization and its Critics*, and *Choices for Sustainable Living*

For more information,  
call 503-227-2807,  
visit [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org) or  
email [contact@nwei.org](mailto:contact@nwei.org).

### Meet NWEI Staff at GA 2006

NWEI Staff and volunteers will be at the UU Ministry for Earth booth during GA 2006. Visit the booth to learn more about the courses, and find out how you can bring the courses into your congregation or your community.

*Special note to*

#### **Green Sanctuary Committees:**

You can also explore how congregations are using the NWEI courses along their path to "Green Sanctuary" certification.

## All Souls Church RE Leads Recycling

By Mary Mitchell

All Souls Church in Braintree, Massachusetts, recently completed a month-long recycling project. A recycling theme was introduced to our children through a hands-on paper-making activity during Sunday morning religious education. This activity reinforced the concept that things like paper can be successfully re-used. Each child took home an attractive piece of paper they had made themselves!

At the outset, all the children reported that their families were already recycling. They understood the role of recycling in protecting and preserving the Earth. They knew that when we recycle, our landfills do not fill up as quickly, natural resources are preserved and energy is saved. We added that recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of air and water pollutants.

([www.massrecycle.org](http://www.massrecycle.org)).

Throughout the month of February, all households in the church were invited to record the number of items they recycled on a log sheet and the results were tabulated on a large bar graph. The instructions were as follows:

1. Count and record the number of items your household recycles each week.
2. Return your log sheet and drop it in the log sheet collection box at the end of the month to be tallied.

The following web resources were provided to participants who were encouraged to visit them and learn more about recycling and its importance in caring for Earth.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/recycle/recyclingbeyond.htm>, an online quiz about what to do with things you want to get rid of. The graphics used on the log sheet and bar graph came from this web-site.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/recycle>

[/recyquiz.htm](http://www.tappi.org/paperu/welcome.htm) This is a home recycling survey.

<http://www.tappi.org/paperu/welcome.htm>, geared for students and teachers with information and interactive activities about paper and paper recycling.

<http://www.massrecycle.org/links.html#links>, list of links about recycling for children.

At the final tally, with eighteen households reporting, the church community had recycled 2,198 items! It was exciting to see what an impact can be made when everybody joins together to make recycling a priority. We realized that what seems like a small amount of recycling from week to week adds up to a significant number over the course of a month. ♦



*Recycling RE Kids from  
All Souls Church, Braintree, Massachusetts*

### **GROWING GREEN KIDS**

1. Get clear about your own values. What kind of world do you want your children to live in?
2. Take your children outdoors often. Show them miracles!
3. Talk with them about Earth as an interdependent web. Explain in terms they can understand why you bike, recycle, or choose to buy/not buy certain items.
4. Ensure they hear that green is good from others, not just yourself.
5. Be a model. Do as you say.
6. Keep educating yourself.
7. Measure your family's ecological footprint: [www.ecologicalfootprint.com](http://www.ecologicalfootprint.com) and talk together about how to shrink it.
8. Volunteer as a family to "minister" to Earth – plant trees (see Ten Tree Challenge, page 11), join a clean-up day.
9. Offer to teach about nature and caring for Earth in your church's RE Program.
10. Celebrate by creating family rituals for each season of the year.

## YOUTH START SEATTLE GREEN SANCTUARY PROGRAM

By Amanda Ayling, University Unitarian Church, Seattle

"If you walk, bike, bus or carpool to work at least twice a week, please stand up," was the invitation issued to the congregation by the sixteen-year-old girl at the pulpit.

"Great, now if you use cloth napkins instead of paper ones at home, please stand."

She continued on with a list of twenty or so environmentally-minded actions. Each time, people would look around the sanctuary, proud to be standing for something they do for Earth, and interested in looking around to see how many people did what.

This was all part of a Sunday service put on by the high school youth at University Unitarian Church in Seattle with the theme of "Protecting Our Earth."

### **This service was a part of the Green Sanctuary Movement, initiated at UUC this year by our high schoolers.**

The Green Sanctuary Program has been a great project for our youth. UU teenagers generally have a high affinity and passion for the seventh principle, so Green Sanctuary has been easy for them to connect with. The program provides ample opportunity for hand-on, active, and fun projects. Plus, it is such a perfect model of activism for our teens – to clean up our own homes and habits as our first work in the world, and to see our own connections to the problem.

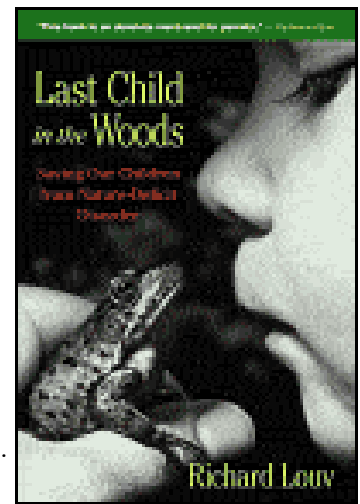
It was clear early on in the project, however, that our youth group was not particularly interested in the bureaucratic details of The Green Sanctuary accreditation process. They were interested in doing the audit and creating projects based on the church's most glaring deficiencies, but forming a committee, writing a plan, waiting for it to be approved, etc. wasn't so enticing. For one thing, many of our seniors will be gone next year, so they just wanted to START! And, for the most part, we have only nine months to work on a project in the youth group. In the summer, we all scatter to the winds, and, while many of our youth will return in the fall, each church year we have a somewhat different group of youth with somewhat different interests.

We ended up forming a committee of adults to support the work the teens started and to carry the project in the long term. I hope in the end the Green Sanctuary project at UUC will be a highly intergenerational endeavor and that the adult congregation will hold the course while the youth continue to blow wind in the sails. ♦

## Our Children: Good Reading

### **Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder** by Richard Louv

Louv writes, "Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in our self interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical, and spiritual health depends on it. The health of the Earth is at stake." This book is a must-read.



### **The Geography of Childhood: Why Children Need Wild Places**

by Stephen Trimble and Gary Paul Nabhan

In this Beacon Press book, two naturalists ask what may happen now that more children are denied exposure to wildness than at any other time in human history. The authors remember pivotal events in their own childhoods that led each to a lifelong relationship with the land. They tell stories of children learning about wild places and creatures in settings ranging from cities and suburbs

### **The Kid's Book of Awesome Stuff**

By UU Charlene Brotman

"The Kids' Book of Awesome Stuff" is grounded in science, and nurtures a sense of connectedness with nature ("You're part of a wonderful web of life!"). Some chapters: "You're Made of Star-Stuff"; "The Awesome Thing about Poop, Pee and Dead Stuff that Rots"; "The Ancestor of All Your Ancestors Was Invisible"; "You Live on a Speck in a Spinning Spiral". With puzzles, activities, stories and write-in pages, it's a child's own book or a resource for teaching the UU Seventh Principle. Ages 8-11.

### **Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection**

This UUMFE-produced resource is an invaluable tool for bringing Earth ministry to your religious education program.

Order online at <http://www.uuministryforearth.org/sppresource.html> or by calling the office. ♦



## Green Sanctuary Program Comes of Age!

By Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry and Green Sanctuary Program Coordinator

If visibility and participation are the indicators of success, UUMFE's Green Sanctuary Program can certainly be called a success. Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Program now recognizes **50 Green Sanctuaries**. Nineteen of those have been accredited since General Assembly last summer. Congratulations for the great work you all are doing! Meanwhile, **32 candidates** are actively working on their programs, including the ten who have indicated they're nearly finished. New applications are arriving now at a rate of about three or four per month!

### Green Sanctuary Celebration at GA 2006

This year's Green Sanctuary celebration at General Assembly will be like none before. Gini Courter, Moderator of the UUA and "gatekeeper" of the plenary sessions for the Assembly, has agreed that Green Sanctuary certificates will be presented to the congregations in a ceremony in front of the entire Assembly! Rev. Bill Sinkford, president of the UUA, has been invited to participate, but hasn't yet confirmed. This presentation will be very brief, but UUMFE will host an expanded Green Sanctuary celebration on Saturday, 6/24/2006 from 7:15:00 PM - 8:30:00 PM in the America's Center, Room 224. Here newly accredited congregations will be available to talk with anyone wanting a reality-based perspective on how to integrate environmental values into your congregation's life through the Green Sanctuary Program.

### New GS Review Process

In further news, we have established a new review process for both candidates and accreditation applications. All applications are now reviewed by a team to confirm that the requirements are met and to offer comments and suggestions on the congregation's process. The team "meets" by conference call once a month after each member has reviewed copies of the applications. Congregations receive notice of their status within one to two weeks after the review. I feel blessed by the quality and commitment of the team members: Dave Segel from the UU Church in Elgin, IL; Happy Bradford from the UU Church in Belfast, ME; and Cathy Cramer from First UU Church in Austin, TX. Barbara Ford, UUMFE Board member also sits on the team, bringing her experience as chair of the Community for Earth at First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR. These Green Sanctuary leaders represent very different congregations with enough direct experience to recognize what works in various situations. Thanks to these four team members for their time, expertise, and perspective which they so generously contribute to this critical task.

### Ongoing Green Sanctuary Projects

- In the next several weeks we will be posting on our website additional advice on the **environmental audit process** for Green Sanctuary candidates. It is increasingly clear that this step and how it interfaces with the Action Plan, is critical to a strong program so we want to help you do the best job possible.
- This spring we will produce **guidelines for continuing engagement** for accredited congregations. The Green Sanctuary review team held an extra conference call to discuss how best to encourage and publicize the ongoing work of these showcase congregations. Look for this guide at the end of May.
- UUMFE is producing an **environmental justice resource guide** this spring. It will contain a clear definition of environmental justice along with descriptions of EJ projects and suggestions for developing one in your congregation. We'll also include guidance for keeping the project going and engaging your congregation's commitment. The environmental justice guide will be released at a workshop on the topic at General Assembly. Questions, ideas, and suggestions for making the resource guide most useful are certainly welcome.
- Plans are underway for a **new edition of the Green Sanctuary Manual** to be produced next year, building on the wealth of experience in this maturing program. It's hard to believe the Third Edition of the Green Sanctuary Manual is three years old already, but it is beginning to show its age. The references are a little outdated, and with experience we know the process descriptions need to be expanded. We have engaged a volunteer to assist with this revision, and we will be looking for contributors to write new sections and for suggestions on what should be added.
- Check out the **new brochure** on the UUMFE website: <http://uuministryforearth.org/files/ProgramBrochure.pdf>. It describes my background and a variety of programs which I can bring to your congregation, including Sunday worship, Green Sanctuary workshops, and other eco-spiritual events such as retreats and summer camps. I like to combine events in a community if possible to make the trip more affordable. I still have one opening in May and one in early June, and several openings over the summer. Next fall is filling up fast, so call if you'd like me to visit.

This is an exciting time for Green Sanctuaries. It's exciting for all of us doing the work of the Great Turning. I am grateful for all the companions on this journey, and for all those of you who are building that Earth Community that you see in your dreams.

Blessings and Peace to all of you! *Katherine*

Rev. Katherine Jesch  
Director of Environmental Ministry  
[Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org)



## Twin Cities UUs are EcoMinded

By Madalyn Ciocci, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Recently, I was first to arrive in the room where our Green Sanctuary team was to meet. Brilliant sunlight blasted through the windows that filled the full width of the east wall. I sat down and intentionally left the lights off. By the time we got underway, I'd had to turn the lights off not once but twice, after people absentmindedly flipped them on.

It's not always *hard* work fighting global warming, but it is *always* work. Old habits are tough to change. It is the persistence that is hard. If it takes 15 tries for my kid to learn to eat broccoli, it takes 115 tries to get adults to stop automatically flipping on lights. I keep at it because of that pesky seventh principle that hangs at the bottom of our UU list like a knot holding all the other beads of principle on the rope, and because I don't work alone.

In January, 2005 a small group of UUs who all go around turning off the lights came together from 6 congregations around the metro Minneapolis/St. Paul area. This group, UU EcoMinds, was committed to getting our local congregations doing much more about global warming. Within a month, we had become a working group of the (also new) Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), welcoming the help they could give us with organizing and expanding our communication network. After all, passion only takes you so far!

### First Year: Jan-June, 2005

Armed with the knowledge that conservation is the simplest way to curb emissions, we found that selling compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) was an accessible starting place. "Just try one" we asked, providing education about CO<sub>2</sub> reductions and opportunities to buy the bulbs at-cost on the spot. We also promoted household purchase of green wind-generated electricity through our local utility's optional program. Through these small first campaigns in 2005 we calculated that roughly 425,000 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were prevented -- enough to keep us going.

When Richard Heinberg, peak oil expert and author of *The Party's Over: Oil, War, and Fate of Industrial Societies*, sought a venue for a public lecture, UU EcoMinds grabbed an opportunity that other local groups declined believing that he and the topic weren't mainstream enough! About 250 came to hear him. Within two months of his talk, Katrina hit, and everyone was talking about dwindling oil supplies. We were on the right track.

### Our second year: 2005-2006

We continue the focus on conservation and began encouraging congregations to seek Green Sanctuary certification through UUMFE. In addition, we supported congregations in responding to Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on the Threat of Global Warming. As a result at least 5 congregations submitted

comments on the SOC.

We also worked collaboratively to pass a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) in Minnesota, requiring 20% renewable electricity by 2020. This was our way of reaching outside the UU world, and using the democratic process to reduce our reliance on dirty coal. We organized 4 days of door-knocking to educate the populace about the proposed bill and gather postcard signatures. With small groups of 6-14 volunteers from our member congregations, we headed out. The end result was over 725 signed postcards delivered to the Governor and targeted legislators. Door knocking takes some guts, but after the first couple of doors, we had a blast! People thanked us, we were effective, and we developed cross-congregational and interfaith friendships.

We didn't work alone. Right off the bat, we aligned with two local groups that are also heavily committed to halting global warming and who are building broad coalitions. One of them (Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy) helped us pick target legislative districts, printed postcards, and provided walking maps for our RES effort. "...ME3 is in awe of UU passion in action", said J. Drake Hamilton, ME3's science policy director, in response to our grassroots effort. We also partnered with the newly formed interfaith Congregations Caring for Creation (C3), the Minnesota arm of Interfaith Power and Light. This group took our RES campaign and urged other faith congregations to take action on the issue as well. UU EcoMinds leaders in turn, helped C3 organize a series of about 15 free public lectures on global warming around the metro area. Headlined by arctic explorer Will Steger and local climate scientists, each event has drawn 100-250 people.

### We've learned some things along the way

- Not every group is a good partner. We didn't join with another local effort because its methods and goals seemed less constructive and clear.
- As a group, our hardest times are when we are trying to do too many things at once and aren't staying focused.
- Jobs and family have to be honored. You have to leave time for life, or you'll lose steam.

Global warming is a tough nut, it takes persistence, which requires help and support from others, clear focus on manageable goals. Do one or two things at a time, keep enjoying one another's company, and keep turning off the lights.

(Madalyn Ciocci, co-chair, UU EcoMinds is a member of First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. She can be reached via the UUMFE office. UU EcoMinds currently includes leadership from MN Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington, UU Church of Minnetonka, UU Church of White Bear Lake, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis and First Universalist Church of Minneapolis.)♦

## Earth Day Inspires Unique UU Events

**First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI** geared up for a Travel to Worship Sunday in May, by holding a bike fair in anticipation of Bike Month in May. Bike tune-ups were offered, and local shops demonstrated their wares, and cyclists shared their stories about using bikes for commuting and recreation. Maps of local biking trails and parking were provided.

**Spirit of Life UU in Odessa, FL** YRUUs distributed automobile tire pressure gauges to their congregation with flyers explaining the importance of maintaining proper tire pressure to reduce fossil fuel consumption. To learn how you can do this too, they recommend visiting [www.pumpemup.org](http://www.pumpemup.org).

**River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD** celebrated the whole month of April with an impressive array of activities, the most unique of which, a blessing of rehabilitated native turtles being returned to the wild.

**UU Congregation of Fairfax** in Oakton, VA included in their planned activities a "Glacial Melt Ice Cream Social" as an educational consciousness-raising event on global warming.

**Holston Valley UU Church** in Gray, TN focused on local foods with a speaker who feeds a family of seven homegrown veggies and fruit (3x day!) for the whole year. The talk was followed by a lunch using all local

ingredients, and a video called "The True Cost of Food". A directory of local food products and homegrown music to eat by were also provided!

**UU Church of Sarasota, FL**. Among the activities of this busy congregations, was a demonstration of solar ovens with information on how to support the distribution of solar ovens in third world countries. The Sarasota Green Team and the children of the congregation also learned the Elm Dance to lead the congregation in dancing it as a recessional on Earth Day Sunday, and carpooling was organized by zip code for traveling to church on Earth Day Sunday.

**Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA** hosted an interfaith "Energy Cost Reduction Workshop" with a local Baptist church. They also sold bumper stickers that read, : Going Slower...Saving Ga\$. Think Again Before You Pass."

The **UU Fellowship of Clarksville, TN** UU youth group volunteered at Dunbar Cave State Natural Area for Earth day on April 22... They supported "The Friends of Dunbar Cave" by helping to haul and spread mulch on the hiking trails. The mulch was made by recycling Clarksville residents xmas trees. UUFC members and friends have been supporting this annual event for several years. ♦

### UUMFE WALKS THE TALK !!! Offsets 75,086 lbs of CO2

Acknowledging the tension between the need to reduce travel and the need for community to continue our work, the UUMFE Board has **reduced the number of in-person meetings annually** from four to three and budgeted this year to offset the carbon emissions produced through board travel.

In addition, as part of our UU Funding Program Grant to train the new Regional Coordinators, we received funds to **offset the travel miles** to the training. UUMFE has offset the following travel miles for this fiscal year:

Auto: 6734 miles (4,879 pounds of CO2)  
Bus: 510 miles (1,996 pounds of CO2)  
Air: 106,764 miles (68,211 pounds CO2)

Our donation of \$187.29 to our partner, [Carbonfund.org](http://Carbonfund.org), will reduce the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere by 75,086 pounds. ♦


### UUMFE Rep Honored by Home Town

UUMFE Regional Coordinator, **Bruce Langmuir** was honored in April, 2006 by the Sudbury, Massachusetts **Earth Decade Committee** which presented him with the Jane Coddington award for citizens who have made a significant environmental contribution.

Bruce is Chair of the First Parish of Sudbury's Global Warming Action Group and also their Green Sanctuary Committee. He serves, along with Wendy Irvine, as UUMFE representative to the Mass Bay District and works tirelessly to educate UUs in his district about UUMFE and about the issue of global warming.

Congratulations, Bruce. ♦

It takes 70% less energy to produce a ton of paper from recycled paper than from trees.

 This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.



## The Ten Tree Challenge

*from Community UU Church, San Antonio, Texas*

UUs are known for discussions, educational programs, and even lobbying on progressive social issues. However, some social action committees may soon be rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty. This is not a metaphor. UUs and other progressives are getting their hands dirty by planting trees.

The Community UU Church (CUUC) in San Antonio, TX decided to plant and steward ten non-invasive trees in 2006, and issued a challenge to other groups to do the same. A few months later, 60 groups had signed up. CUUC Minister, Rev. Phil Schulman, founded the project and has been overwhelmed by the flow of volunteers. He is confident they will reach the goal to get 100 groups to plant and steward 1000 new trees in 2006.

Following CUUC's example other local groups soon took up the challenge. The Prosumers, a mental health empowerment group, decided to plant ten trees at mental health clinics with plaques that would read "Recovery is possible." An elementary school teacher then decided it would be a great project for her ecology club. The Alamo City Men's Chorale signed up. Another group plans to plant trees as memorials for people who are executed in Texas.

CPS, San Antonio's power company donated 300 native trees, giving a big boost to the Ten Tree Challenge (TTC). Community involvement provides the incentive for business participation, not only to donate trees, but also to plant trees to beautify business properties. This begins to



compensate for the great loss of trees caused by the sprawl of developing shopping centers, residential projects, and industries. Everybody wins.

**10 trees times 1039 UU congregations = a lot of trees**  
and a lot of captured greenhouse gases!

Most congregations will have no problem finding ten members who will plant and steward a tree, and in most areas Agricultural Extension programs or local nurseries will donate native saplings. Imagine the environmental impact if every UU congregation planted and stewarded just ten trees this year.

The 10 Tree Challenge will be included in the upcoming Global Warming Action Kit, available from UUMFE at GA 2006. You can also find more information and links on the UUMFE website:

[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) ♦

### Manchester, CT UUs Choose 100% Clean Energy

**Unitarian Universalist Society: East (UUS:E) is no longer paying for any electricity produced by fossil fuels or nuclear power plants.**

In addition about 50 UUS:E households have signed up to purchase 100% Clean Energy, and more are expected to sign up since their energy provider, Sterling Planet, offers an incentive to congregations whose members also choose this option. This action is a major step in UUS:E's **Green Sanctuary Action Plan.** ♦

*To learn more see the complete press release on this initiative at:*

<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/index.shtml#newsitem1144695996,70296>

### Make It Green! Building or Remodeling Help

If your congregation is considering a building renovation or construction program, find out more about the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification elements which could result in reduction of energy consumption and a 'greener' building while saving your congregation money!

The UUA is examining how these guidelines can be incorporated into our support of congregational growth and fundraising. ♦

*For further information, Contact*  
**UUA Office of Congregational Fundraising Services:**  
[fundraisingassistant@uua.org](mailto:fundraisingassistant@uua.org)



## Film Series Builds Earth Community

By Barbara Ford, UUMFE Board

The First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon is a large and very active community of faith and social justice activities. A bustling congregation, the social justice program is cited as one of the main reasons for its continued growth and influence in the larger community of Portland.

The ***Heart of the Earth Environmental Film Series***, presented yearly at the church, is becoming an eagerly anticipated annual event in the life of the church, and in the community. The UU Community for Earth, one of several social justice groups in the congregation, started the film series in 2004 as a way to bring church members and the larger community together in an Earth-centered cultural event that informs, inspires and interconnects. “We wanted to do something in the cultural realm to draw in people who might otherwise not participate in an environmental activity,” states Barbara Ford, present chair of Community for Earth, “and it seemed that films would be a good way for people

to come together to learn, experience, and talk about the Earth.”

Online research proved to be a fruitful way to find interesting films, and film resources. Simply by “googling” the words “environmental film”, citations for environmental film festivals, individual films, and film distribution resources became easily available. Some of the most recent award-winning films are being shown in a variety of film festival venues, including the D.C. Environmental Film Festival, the Hazel Wolf Film Festival, and the Planet In Focus International Film Festival. This information, including access to film distribution catalogs like Bullfrog Films, made it easy to find quality, artful films.

Programming was done with an eye toward themes, and balance between information and inspiration. “We purposefully include films that are artful and inspirational, in order to balance some of the more difficult information in other documentaries”, continues Barbara. “In the first season, we showed the film *Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time*, a beautiful film about the connections between art, spirit, and nature. We

managed to secure a venue for that film in a local non-profit movie house, in order to take advantage of the large screen for visual impact.” All other films have been shown on the church’s 10x10 foot screen, with an LCD projector. They include: *The End of Suburbia*, *Oil on Ice*, *Broken Limbs* (a film on sustainable apple orchards in WA state), and *In Light of Reverence* (a film on indigenous communities and the lands they seek to protect).

“We found it surprisingly easy to put the series together, with the available resources, and would recommend the idea to any congregation interested in bringing new ideas and cultural experiences to their community”, states Barbara.

### Film Resources

[www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com)  
(film distributor)

[www.planetinfocus.org](http://www.planetinfocus.org)

[www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org)

[www.hazelfilm.org](http://www.hazelfilm.org)

[www.roxie.com/rivers.html](http://www.roxie.com/rivers.html)  
(for Goldsworthy film) ♦

## Songbook Now Available on UUMFE Website

***Earth and Spirit Songbook*** by UU Earth Troubadour, Jim Scott, is now available for purchase on the UUMFE website with a portion of each sale supporting UUMFE. This must-have resource for educators, song leaders, church musicians and anyone who celebrates our amazing planet provides entertaining, educational songs of ecology, world humanity and peace.

***Earth and Spirit Songbook*** is an anthology of 111 old and new songs by many well known contemporary songwriters and is designed for group singing with participatory choruses, rounds, and counter melodies. All the arrangements include piano

accompaniments and chord symbols to be universally useful. Included are songs for Earth-oriented holidays, the beauty of nature, community, rights of passage, teaching about ecology, and peace and justice issues, as well as a number of songs for children.

Nearly half of the songs have some harmony parts delineated making it particularly useful to choirs and creative song leaders. The piano accompaniments, more involved than would be found in a hymnbook, catch the styles and rhythms from a variety of cultures. There are many pages of cross-references, notes for performance, and background materials on all the songs.

Jim Scott, a past Chair of the Seventh Principle Project, is available for concerts, singing workshops, worship services and more. He is a wonderful fundraising and awareness building resource for congregations practicing a ministry for Earth. To contact Jim, email [jim@jimscottmusic.com](mailto:jim@jimscottmusic.com) or phone 508-755-0995.

### To order

click “Resources” at  
[www.uuminyforearth.org](http://www.uuminyforearth.org)

Select the

*Earth and Spirit Songbook*  
\$29.00 includes shipping. ♦



## New UUMFE Resource for Environmental Justice

### *Giving Life the Shape of Justice*

By Rev. Katherine Jesch

As Unitarian Universalists, we understand that we're called to create a just society, so that the benefits we receive from that society do not come at the expense of others. To clarify the concept and help congregations design and implement appropriate Earth justice projects, UU Ministry for Earth is developing an Environmental Justice resource guide. This new resource will be unveiled at a General Assembly 2006 workshop on Friday afternoon, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Every Green Sanctuary commits to responding to the call to work towards justice, recognizing at some level that social justice is intricately intertwined with ecosystem protection. But exactly how justice relates to the environment and what we are expected to do about it raises more questions than almost any other

Green Sanctuary topic.

#### **Principles focus on Justice**

All seven of our principles focus on some aspect of justice for individuals, within our faith communities, and in the world, and each one has implications for ecological relationships for how we live on this Earth and how we treat one another and all living beings. We must recognize that we cannot afford to separate our ethic of justice for humans from protection of Earth's natural ecosystems, but neither can we protect ecosystems without addressing issues of social justice for human communities.

#### **Impacts not evenly distributed**

Environmental impacts tend to fall first and most severely on those who have the least capacity to protect themselves and their local envi-

ronment. These are usually poor and marginalized people, people of color, and all those who do not have a voice in the political and economic decisions which affect them, including future generations. Environmental justice is the work we do to equalize power for all those who bear the burdens of our lifestyles.

Earth justice also extends justice beyond humans to all beings on Earth. It means that extending justice beyond human societies to include all beings whose lives are shadowed by the burdens imposed on them by the inappropriate, unsustainable, and destructive life-styles of just one species.

#### **A People of Faith**

It's important for us to remember that we are not just another environmental group, arguing for saving trees, or whales, or a special place of beauty. As people of faith, we bring a certain moral authority and responsibility to speak out about issues of justice. The religious voice can be very powerful, calling our communities, our society to account for protection of the common good to insure that justice is served.

The Environmental Justice Resource Guide will provide a Unitarian Universalist theological framework and offer resources for you to explore the moral, ethical complexities of some of the most pressing social and environmental issues. With this context as a starting place, we'll suggest how you might choose an issue to respond to, given the interests and capacities of your congregation's members, identify actions that might be taken, and identify partners who might join with you in the struggle to restore justice in that situation.

If you are committed to justice that addresses the damage to all beings on this planet caused by unsustainable human activities, this resource guide offer strategies for making a difference. ♦

## Mother Earth vs. World's People: A Play

Perhaps the Most Important Trial in the History of Civilization

UU playwright Doug Stewart has just completed a new play based on the historic trial in which Mother Earth brings charges against World's People for "acting in ways to cause her grievous personal harm and limit her inherent civil rights to a fruitful existence." As the trial judge notes, "a serious charge, indeed!"

The play features Mother Earth summoning a series of witnesses from around her Earth to testify concerning the tragic effects global warming and climate change are having upon her. As examples, Mr. Rising Oceans claims it is not his fault that World's People are burning so much fossil fuel, while Ms. Melting Glacier explains why she and her glacier friends are now melting the entire year and the terrible effects it is having on the people below.

Mother Earth's case is made more difficult by the World's People's defense attorney, who supports the current U.S. administration's skeptical view of the whole global warming phenomena and cleverly challenges several witnesses' testimony. His final statement quotes author-cum-expert Michael Crichton.

The jury hearing this tremendously important trial consists of the play's audience. Upon hearing the closing statements of both sides, the jury must decide if Mother Earth's evidence is sufficient to find World's People "guilty as charged." Fortunately, the play has two available endings, depending upon the jury's decision. In either ending, the ways in which jury members themselves can help mitigate the effects of global warming are spelled out for them.

The play can easily be adjusted for length, depending upon how many witnesses Mother Earth chooses to call, with the minimum length being approximately 20 minutes. A script-in-hand staged reading, it is suitable for children, adults, or mixed casts, with a minimal amount of rehearsal time.

Mother Earth and supporting cast premiered the play on April 23 during the Earth Day services of The First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque. Thanks to the generosity of the playwright, this play will be available to you along with other resources for addressing global warming on a new UUMFE resource CD to debut at GA in June to be available for purchase online by the end of June. Watch for more details in your monthly UUMFE E-News. ♦

**GA 2006**  
**Environmental Justice**  
**Workshop**  
 Friday, June 23, 2006, 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM  
 Presented by Rev. Katherine Jesch

## Book and Film Reviews

### **URGENT MESSAGE FROM MOTHER**

By Jean Shinoda Bolen,

*Reviewed by Nancy King Smith,  
UUMFE Regional Coordinator, Ohio  
Meadville District*

*HELP WANTED: Everywoman. Home keepers for Earth. Must keep premises safe for all. Have concern for children's needs and development, ability to manage resources, resolve conflicts, work collaboratively, ask questions, listen, and learn from the experience of others, be empathic, and act with compassion for the benefit of all, including generations to come.*



Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World by Jean Shinoda Bolen is an eloquent call to action for women of all ages to save our planet, our society, our economy, our family structures, and ourselves. She frames the call as a plea from Mother Goddess/Mother Earth to her daughters for the matriarchal values of the ancients to be brought back to save the world from a patriarchal, monotheistic world that has gone awry. She believes that the dormant power of women together is the emerging untapped resource needed by humanity and by the planet and suggests that

women join together in non-hierarchical circles with a spiritual center to bring the healing power of the feminine to a critical mass.

Nature or nurture? Bolen describes differences in female abilities that contrast with standard male behavior that have to do with responses to stress and uses of communication. When women are stressed they are less likely than men to respond with "flight or fight", but rather, women look to social contact and nurturing opportunities. The concerns of mothers--to make the world safe for children--could move the world toward peace and sustainability for everyone. Bolen includes many stories of women, individually and collectively, who have made a difference.

Though not excluding men, the message is explicitly aimed at women, calling upon them for empowered maternal concern to balance and transform a masculinity defined as power and being in control. Desmond Tutu has praised Bolen's book saying: "We men have had our turn and made a proper mess of things. We need women to save us. I pray that many will read Bolen's work and be inspired then to act appropriately. Time is running out." ♦

### **Worship Resource**

#### **You Are Responsible For Your Own Theology - And Your Own Dishes**

We know that as Unitarian Universalists, we are encouraged to build our own theologies, taking from the wisdom of the world. We also know that we are currently in the process of finalizing our Statement of Conscience on Global Warming.

In order to minimize our use of energy--and thus our output of green house gases that create global warming--in the process of feeding ourselves, it's best if we look as close to home for the source of what we put in our dishes, and our tummies. We can cut down on the energy it takes to feed ourselves if we eat locally grown food that's grown organically and is low on the food chain.

We may now read a moving sermon on "An Ethic of Food of for Unitarian Universalists," by the Rev. Charlotte Shivers, at:

<http://uuministryforearth.org/sermons/EatingOurWayThruTheWeb.htm>

The sermon won the Schweitzer Sermon Award of the Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in 2004.

### **An Unnerving New Book On Changing Weather by Tim Flannery**

*Reviewed By Ed Arnold, UU Congregation of Atlanta*

People may want to check out a just published book on global warming and weather titled "The Weather Makers -- How Man Is Changing the Climate And What It Means for Life On Earth," by Tim Flannery, a professor at the University of Adelaide, Australia. I met Dr. Flannery at a presentation and book signing here in Atlanta recently. I asked him if anything would be different if he were writing his book now rather than last year. He said that impacts are coming much faster than he thought; scientists have been too conservative, to avoid criticism.

Flannery would like to optimistic. He writes, "If everyone who has the means to do so takes the concerted action to rid atmospheric carbon emissions from their lives, I believe we can stabilize and then save the cryosphere." But, even last year he thought we had no time to delay acting. In his postscript he concurs that our energy imbalance, left long enough, will mean the difference between survival and destruction of our species. The book includes recommended steps to reverse that imbalance." ♦

## Book and Film Reviews

### ***Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change***

by Elizabeth Kolbert (Bloomsbury Publishing New York, 2006)

Reviewed by Mary Ann Lawler, UU Congregation, Arlington, VA

The Earth's climate is changing. And Elizabeth Kolbert takes us on a disturbing global journey from Alaska to the Netherlands to the offices of Jim Hansen, the Director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA, to show us how real that change is. *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* makes the most compelling case yet for what is in store for us from global warming. As a former reporter for the New York Times and currently as a staff writer for the New Yorker she explains in lucid detail what scientists are saying about climate change. The speed and scale of that change are sobering and compel us to act now. All of us should read this book, share it, and give it to our skeptical friends as gifts.

### ***The Next Industrial Revolution and the Birth of the Sustainable Economy***

by William McDonough and Michael Braungart (2001, Earthome Productions)

Reviewed by Reena Kondo, UUMFE Regional Coordinator, NY Metro District

I would very much like to encourage people to see this film based on the book, "Cradle2Cradle". Time Magazine once called McDonough ( an American architect) and Braungart ( a German Chemist) "Heroes for the Planet" saying "their utopianism is grounded in a unified philosophy that - in demonstrable and practical ways - is changing the design of the world".

Learning about the ideas and projects of these two men leaves viewers feeling thrilled and hopeful about the possibility of cleaning up our environment and achieving sustainability. The goal of McDonough and Braungart is always to achieve really good results, not just make the world "less bad". They demonstrate this impressively. The film can be purchased or rented from Bullfrog Films: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>

### ***The Sustainability Revolution* by Andres Edwards**

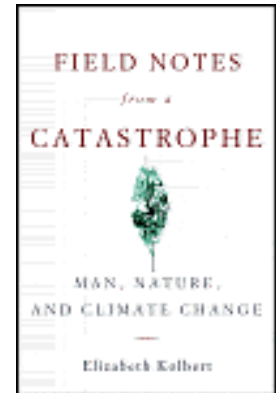
Reviewed by Frans Verhagen, Community Church of Manhattan UU

In his 2005 book "The Sustainability Revolution. Portrait of a paradigm shift" California educator and media designer Andres R. Edwards has given a compelling, encouraging and practical overview of the sustainability movement. It is a particularly important publication for the UU community as he outlines the development of the values underlying sustainability since 1987. It is in the area of Earth Charter value development and application that UUs can make an important contribution to the sustainable communities movement.

### **Three Books by Herman Daly**

Reviewed by Ed Cox, UU Congregation of Hillsborough, NC

I highly recommend three books by Herman Daly, two of which are published by our own Beacon Press. *Valuing the Earth: Economics, Ecology, Ethics* is a series of essential foundational essays on sustainability compiled into one volume. In *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future* Daly and Cobb propose the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare as a metric of "how we are doing" to replace the GDP and other purely throughput measures and offer a broad-ranging analytical assessment of our values as a society. The third book, *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*, describes how a reframing of the basic tenets of economics could more satisfactorily serve human goals. Rather than being prescriptive of any particular methods to achieve sustainability, these three works give us the yardstick by which to measure the results of what we would propose to do in the pursuit of sustainability. ♦





## Reduce What You Can, Offset What You Can't

by Eric Carson, UU founder of Carbonfund.org

UUMFE is teaming up with the nonprofit Carbonfund.org in the fight against climate change by offsetting the carbon dioxide emissions from the General Assembly 2006 in June. With the Arctic and Greenland melting at unprecedented speeds, hurricanes and tornadoes becoming more frequent and severe, CO2 at its highest levels in over 650,000 years, and Earth's temperature rising, we are living climate change and we all must do our part to stop it.

General Assembly 2006 participants have the option of paying an extra \$6 on their registration form to offset the air travel and other pollution from the event. Carbonfund.org will use the donations to support renewable energy and reforestation projects that reduce CO2, helping to make the event climate neutral.

### What are carbon offsets?

We are all responsible for CO2 emissions every day, when we turn on the lights, heat our homes, drive our car, buy food and clothes, or use our iPod. We can and must reduce our energy use. However, even our hybrid uses gasoline. Carbon offsets make it easy for people to remove their remaining carbon footprint by supporting projects, such as wind, solar and reforestation that reduce or offset an equal amount of CO2 that we are responsible for. Carbon offsets, along with green power, are an efficient and exciting way for any individual or congregation to reduce their climate impact to zero.

### And the cost?

Surprisingly little. The average person can reduce their entire climate impact – the average American is responsible

for 23 metric tons, more than 50,000 pounds, of CO2 emissions each year- for just \$8.25 per month. That's just a couple lattes to offset all your lattes.

### What can my congregation do?

Congregations must play an important role in the fight against climate change. First, your congregation can reduce its carbon footprint by supporting offsets or green power (Carbonfund.org provides 100% wind power for just \$.005 kWh). Second, by offering offsets and green power to your members you can help them be better stewards of the Earth.

Carbonfund.org was founded by fellow UUs Eric and Lesley Carlson of Silver Spring, MD and is dedicated to making it easy and affordable for everyone to reduce their climate impact. Their simple approach of education followed by low-cost and simple carbon reductions is making an impact, as they were recently featured in Time Magazine and their customer list is growing quickly. Carbonfund.org wants people to 'reduce what you can, offset what you can't'.

UUMFE is already utilizing our partnership with Carbonfund.org to offset our travel to board meetings and regional coordinator travel to trainings. In the near future, we will also be offering green power to UU congregations and members that can also serve as fundraisers for your congregation's environmental programs. For more information about the UUMFE carbon offset and green power work, please contact the UUMFE office or Carbonfund.org at [ecarlson@carbonfund.org](mailto:ecarlson@carbonfund.org). If you would like a flyer on our partnership, it may be downloaded from the website:

[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org)

## Kilowatt Ours, the Faith Edition

Many of you are familiar with the award-winning DVD, *Kilowatt Ours*, produced by Jeff Barrie (a member of First UU Church of Nashville TN) and Trust for the Future. This original documentary shows how the energy sources in our homes connect to the environment that's affected by energy production. It also offers practical suggestions for reducing home energy consumption.

### Challenge Grant Offered

UUMFE is very excited to be offered a challenge grant by the UU Fund for Social Responsibility to produce a faith-based edition of *Kilowatt Ours*, highlighting energy conservation efforts of churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious buildings across the country. This new version will explicitly connect lifestyle, economic, and environmental issues to faith, ethics and moral values. Accompanying materials will outline how churches can begin to take steps to become more responsible stewards of energy resources and more completely understand why they should be committed to doing so.

### Production to Begin Soon

As we continue our effort to raise the required \$6,550 in matching funds to complete the filming, Jeff is developing new script elements and working to identify potential case studies which will include UU churches. The production schedule calls for additional footage to be shot this summer, with editing and final production in the fall. *Kilowatt Ours, the Faith Edition* is slated for distribution next winter, and will be featured in our program at the 2007 GA in Portland. Watch for publicity about availability next January.

**To make your tax deductible contributions  
for this exciting project**

Send you check to

UUMFE, PO Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768

Insert on the memo line: *Kilowatt Ours Faith Edition*