

Study/Action Issue

Resource Guide 2004-2006

Threat of Global Warming

The “Threat of Global Warming” was selected by delegates at the 2004 General Assembly in Long Beach, California, to be the 2004-2006 Study/Action Issue (SAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. See the reverse for an explanation of where this SAI is in the process. Congregations and districts are invited to engage themselves in two years of study and action on the issue with programs of education and reflection, service, community organizing, advocacy, and public witness.

This guide lists a variety of organizations and resources that might be helpful. It is not a complete listing, but merely a sampling of what is available. **Listing should not be interpreted as endorsement by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.**

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WHERE THIS ISSUE IS IN THE STUDY/ACTION PROCESS

This particular issue was selected by the June 2004 General Assembly (GA) for study and action over the next two years. For a complete explanation of the Study/Action Issue process, including past business, see the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) website at: <http://www.uua.org/csw>.

IMMEDIATELY: Congregations and Districts Start Study/Action Programs; Comment by March 1, 2005

Congregations and districts are encouraged to begin programs of education and reflection, service, community organizing, advocacy, and public witness immediately following General Assembly. These may include: conducting study sessions, publishing newsletter articles, holding services on the issue, and undertaking action projects. Congregations and districts are encouraged to reflect on their study and action and give comments to the CSW by March 1, 2005. Feedback forms are included in the October mailing and are also available at www.uua.org/csw. These comments will help the CSW prepare for the GA workshop.

GA 2005: Ft. Worth, TX June 23-27

CSW conducts a workshop on the SAI. The program includes reports on successful practices and discussions about future possibilities.

OCTOBER 2005: CSW Prepares and Mails Draft Statement of Conscience; Congregations, Districts Continue Study & Action Program

Based on feedback received both in March and at the GA workshop, CSW prepares a draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) and mails it to all congregations and districts by the first Friday in October. Congregations continue their study and action, and send comments on the draft Statement of Conscience to the CSW by March 1, 2006.

SPRING 2006: CSW Edits and Places Statement on the General Assembly Agenda

After a review of the comments, the CSW redrafts the SOC and places it on the Agenda for consideration at General Assembly. In rare cases, if it seems like there is a great deal of disagreement on the issue, the CSW can recommend that the issue be studied for another year or dropped altogether.

GA 2006: St. Louis, MO, June 22-26

CSW conducts a mini-assembly to discuss and hear proposed changes to the draft SOC. Individuals proposing amendments must offer them in writing at the mini-assembly. CSW may revise the SOC to incorporate proposed amendments and makes all incorporated amendments available in writing to GA delegates. The CSW Chair, in consultation with the moderator, parliamentarian, and legal counsel, decides the order in which the GA may consider unincorporated amendments. The GA may then adopt the SOC by a two-thirds vote, refer it for one more year of study and action, or drop it.

APPROVAL: The Statement Becomes Official!

An approved Statement of Conscience becomes "official" UUA policy, to be acted on by UUA staff, districts, congregations, and individual Unitarian Universalists. The UUA staff, and particularly the Washington Office for Advocacy, use UUA Statements of Conscience to represent UU social witness positions to Congress, the Administration, and the media.

About this Guide

A Word on the Neutrality of this Issue and Study Guide

In order to best determine what the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association is on a given topic, and provide a rallying point for congregations, an issue—like global warming—is selected by General Assembly for two years of “Study and Action” by congregations. Opinions on how to best undertake this study and action vary widely, from those who desire absolutely neutral study materials to those who are only concerned with taking action. Sometimes whole congregations lean one way or the other, but it is more likely that both of these perspectives will be represented. We recommend finding a balance that works for you: have some programs where diverse points of view are genuinely welcome, but also take some concrete action.

The Association’s social witness process is a democratic one, in which any congregation or district may submit an issue for consideration. These proposals have never been neutral, and in fact often clearly suggest—at least to some extent—what our beliefs on a given issue are or should be. The Commission on Social Witness redrafts proposals into a standard format, and makes improvements as they see fit, but they do not substantially alter the spirit of the submission. To “neutralize” proposals would be to disregard the intentions of the submitting organization, which would not be in keeping with our democratic process.

Additionally, the General Assembly might have a long history of speaking out on the issue in question. When this occurs, the Study/Action process is not about creating a new statement out of a vacuum of neutrality, but rather about updating our policy given current circumstances.

With all this in mind, we have attempted to list enough resources in this guide so that users will have easy access to a broad range of perspectives on the issue. We hope you find it helpful!

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers of the UUA’s Seventh Principle Project, who provided invaluable assistance compiling the resources listed in this guide. Readers are encouraged to find out more about their work and resources at www.uuaspp.org.

Important Information about How This Issue Was Selected

Please note that “Threat of Global Warming” was selected after the sponsor of a competing proposal “Mass Extinction of Species,” encouraged delegates to support the former so that their votes would not be divided between the two. At the request of both sponsors, this guide includes a section on Species Extinction.

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THREAT OF GLOBAL WARMING

Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote individual and collective changes in the way we live and work in order to slow and ultimately reverse global warming?

Background and Reasons for Study: Greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide generated by burning fossil fuels, are trapping heat in earth's atmosphere and raising temperatures. The evidence is everywhere – retreating glaciers, thinning polar ice, and warming oceans and lakes. Scientists have estimated that global warming could increase worldwide average temperatures as much as eleven degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. Predicted effects include extreme weather, spreading disease, widespread species extinction, and large areas of the planet becoming uninhabitable because of rising sea levels or drought. Changes in plant and animal life are well underway, including alterations in the range and distribution of plants; dying coral reefs; shifting migration patterns of birds; declining numbers of some species such as Arctic ringed seals; and a potentially devastating impact on countless others, from polar bears to manatees and from salmon to krill (the base of the Antarctic food chain). Increasing acidity of the oceans from carbon dioxide absorption could eventually threaten the survival of shelled marine animals and calcium-containing plankton. Wildfires, which are difficult or impossible to control in earth's northern forests, will become more likely as the environment become drier. Yet many political and business leaders in this country have failed to take seriously a problem we ignore at our peril. Our experiences with the insecticide DDT and synthetic fluorocarbons should have taught us how much damage human activity can do to the environment. The risk global warming poses to virtually all life is a greater potential danger than any other we face today or perhaps ever have.

Significance to Unitarian Universalism: Transcendentalism awakened 19th century Unitarians to the experience of the sacred through the unfolding of the natural world. Our seventh Principle challenges contemporary Unitarian Universalists to remember that we are part of the interdependent web of all existence. The choices we make, coupled with the choices made by government and the private sector, profoundly affect our environment. We have a moral responsibility to future generations to mitigate global warming while there is still time.

Possible Study Questions:

- Do we know enough to be confident that the earth's climate is in fact changing in ways that are likely to severely impact life if it continues? Where is the point at which global warming becomes irreversible?
- How does science answer those who dispute the increasing evidence of global warming?
- How realistic are the prospects that fundamentally new technologies such as energy from hydrogen or the sun will bring the problem under control and enable us to maintain the life style we have become used to?
- Why is there so little public concern about what is going on? Is it psychological denial, or failure to communicate the problem in terms that will bring the issue home to ordinary people, or both?
- What are the economic and political forces in our society that for reasons of self-interest don't want the question of global warming to be taken seriously?
- What are other faith traditions doing nationally and/or locally to take action on this issue? Are there opportunities for joining forces with them?
- Should a centralized leadership effort focus on climate change be established in the UUA?

Possible Actions:

- Lead our communities by individual examples, making wise environmental choices even at significant personal cost.
- Adopt socially responsible investing practices that consider environmental impacts.
- Establish an office within the Unitarian Universalist Association dedicated to combating global warming by assisting individual Unitarian Universalists and congregations to study and act upon this problem.
- Engage other faith communities, environmental groups, and other community organizations to advocate for government programs and policies that reduce reliance upon fossil fuels.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements: Responsible Consumption is Our Moral Imperative (SOC 2001); Earth, Air, Water, and Fire (1997 Gen); Population and Development (Gen 1996); Safer Sources of Energy (1992 Gen); and Protecting the Biosphere (1989 Gen).

The preceding text was accepted at the 2004 General Assembly as the Study/Action Issue for 2004-2006.

Additional Suggestions for Study and Action

POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS

As citizens:

- Research and join the League of Conservation Voters (www.lcv.org) devoted to evaluating environmental credentials of candidates and voting records of incumbents.
- Identify the local or state level group involved in evaluating the environmental voting records of local elected officials.
- Ask your state representatives to set a renewable energy standard.
- Attend candidate forums and ask informed questions about energy policy.
- Run for local or state level office where action on climate change is currently more politically possible.
- Write letters to editors of newspapers and magazines.
- Advocate for energy efficiency, energy conservation building practices, and responsible fuel choices in the operations of your local government and schools.
- Support the “Climate Stewardship Act” (CSA), which sponsors Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) are expected to reintroduce in 2005 (as are the sponsors of a similar bill in the House). The CSA calls for a reduction in emissions of heat-trapping gases to 2000 levels by the year 2010, and creates a market-based system of tradable allowances to achieve this reduction. The UUA Washington Office will provide updates on this legislation via action alerts and website: www.uua.org/uuawo.
- VOTE!

As consumers:

- Pay attention to larger items FIRST, then take on smaller projects.
- Buy the most fuel-efficient car that meets your real needs, then also carpool and combine trips.
- Purchase your next home near mass transit line to reduce or eliminate auto travel.
- Opt for mass transit, bicycles, and other lifestyle changes.
- Consider replacing your refrigerator if it is over 10 years old.
- Choose a power company offering renewable energy.
- “Green” your household consumer purchases. There are extensive resources listed in this guide to help.
- Support eco-labeling and product certification efforts.
- Landscape with carbon-sequestering trees.
- Participate in consumer boycotts and recycling efforts.
- Buy produce from local organic farmers and eat less meat.

As family members:

- If you are moving, choose a place to live that reduces the need to drive.
- Set concrete goals for reducing your automobile travel.
- Make your next vacation an “eco-tourist” trip.
- Listen to and support what your children are bringing home from school about environmental issues.
- If no one is talking about global warming, raise the subject and begin a family study process.

As workers:

- Present management with proposals for conserving energy (and saving money!).
- Change your small business in a green direction as an owner/employee.
- Create a strategy to move your large business in a green direction as a manager/employee—greater impacts worth the extra effort.
- Shift to organic farming and set aside land for wildlife on your family farm.
- Choose an environmental job or career.
- Start a workplace discussion group (see www.nwei.org) to raise awareness.

As advocates, conservationists, activists:

- Join an action alert network. Many of the environmental organizations listed under web resources have advocacy alerts. One good advocacy organization with a focused climate change campaign in New England, Pennsylvania and Texas is Clean Air, Clean Water at www.cleanwateraction.org. In other states, contact Greenpeace USA: www.greenpeaceusa.org. For more on advocacy, see the SAI Resources section on the Seventh Principle Project website, www.uuaspp.org.
- Join/support a local organization working on a critical issue related to transportation, sprawling development, air or water quality, or energy use. Pay particular attention to groups led by people of color, who are often disproportionately affected, and work to implement the solutions they have identified for themselves.
- Join, support and engage in activities with one of the many organizations working “on the ground” at sites around the world—locally, nationally or internationally.
- Start a book or study group to discuss global warming and build relationships in your community.
- Host a film series.
- Sign up for regular email action alerts to learn about the UUA’s advocacy efforts and find resources for getting involved. Visit www.uua.org/uuawo for more.

As teachers and religious educators:

- Integrate environmental themes into your programs, worships, and classes. There are resources for teachers and religious educators on page 20.
- Spread the word, talk about these issues and what can be done.
- Support educational programs in schools, senior centers, and at civic meetings.

As investors:

- Research and invest in green companies and environmentally screened funds.
- Get involved in decisions of pension funds and other institutional investors.
- Take a shareholder petition or resolution to the annual meeting of a corporation in which you are a shareholder; OR purchase stock in a corporation you want to influence, then take a petition.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOR MINISTERS:

Congregations look to their ministers to provide religious and spiritual leadership for the challenges of our times. This is especially true for environmental issues, since the predominant secular approach to the environmental crisis has kept the theological and spiritual context in the background. The more you articulate the connection between our faith and the Earth, the more likely your congregation will come to know at the deepest level that working to protect the Earth is a religious issue.

- Preach on the issue of Global Warming from a spiritual perspective, then launch a congregational study group on the issue after that service.
- Make a priority of Earth-honoring worship to celebrate the interconnected web of life, to nourish and sustain spirits, and to inspire efforts to go forth to heal this broken world. Don’t wait for Earth Day to draw the connection between Earth, spirituality, and justice. The Seventh Principle Project’s worship guide *Honoring Earth*” is an excellent resource for sermons from a variety of perspectives.
- Regularly refer to an Earth-spirit connection in your sermons, newsletter column, and other spiritual practice activities. Whether just in passing when addressing other issues or in an entire piece focused on nature or the environment, your attention to the connection is crucial.
- Encourage use of Earth-related topics in covenant groups and other spiritual practice activities in your congregation.
- Offer an adult education class on eco-theology or Earth-based spirituality during this year of study and action. This will supplement and reinforce any other courses on the science of global warming, eco-justice, or sustainable living.
- If your community has an interfaith group for environmental issues, participate and invite members of the congregation to join you. With our inclusive UU theology, we can help create a welcoming space for un-churched seekers to participate. The visibility you gain by participating in the community can also bring new members to your congregation.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONS:

This much is clear: global climate change will not be resolved by individual actions alone; we must gather our collective creativity and commitment, and use our congregational capacity for collaborative efforts. The Seventh Principle Project's Green Sanctuary Program is a comprehensive approach to actualize a new congregational relationship with our planet. There are four program elements providing a framework for action with or without formally enrolling in the program. The program elements include:

Worship and Spiritual Practice

- Encourage your minister and worship committee to incorporate Earth honoring elements into your regular worship. The new Seventh Principle Project worship guide *Honoring Earth* is an excellent resource.
- If your congregation has an active covenant group program, propose that one or more eco-theology, earth-based spirituality, simplicity, or the spirit-nature connection be offered as covenant group topics.
- Celebrate the turning of the seasons with inter-general events that invite reflection on our connection with nature.

Environmental Education

- This year especially, nature and environment topics should be built into the children's religious education program. See the Seventh Principle Project's RE guide *Nurturing the Earth-Spirit Connection* for information and resources if you need suitable curriculum materials.
- Throughout this year, schedule regular forums, videos, book groups, and other events to help the congregation learn about the impacts of global warming and the effect on marginalized communities. Include the scientific studies as well as the social and economic impacts. Consider bringing in alternate views, trusting that everyone has the capability to decide how they feel about the issues and what they should do in their personal lives.
- Offer discussion opportunities for exploring the moral implications of our middle class lifestyles and imagine a collaborative solution from a spiritual perspective that would provide justice for all species.
- Provide opportunities in the congregation to share feelings of gratitude, hope, fear, reluctance, and even anger about the damage to Earth and the impending changes that will be required in our lifestyle. Joanna Macy's material on *The Work that Reconnects* is an excellent resource (www.joannamacy.net) for this.

Environmental Justice

- Based on your study of actual and projected social impacts of global warming, consider taking action on a particular issue affecting a community being impacted either in the U.S. or in another country.
- Join or create an interfaith group in your community to take on an environmental justice project OR initiate an environmental justice project with a congregation you are already working with on something else.

Sustainable Living

- Work with the *Interfaith Power & Light (IPL)*, a religious response to global warming. State level IPLs in many states help congregations and individuals reduce carbon emissions (see page 11 for contact info).
- Encourage members of the congregation to take a pledge to act individually to decrease their energy consumption and choose more efficient transportation methods. Calculate the energy savings from these actions collectively to measure the congregation's contribution to reducing global warming.
- Initiate projects that will make it easier and/or more convenient for members to conserve energy, for example, sell compact fluorescent light bulbs at coffee hour.
- Learn about your local energy provider's conservation and alternative energy programs. If there is a choice of energy sources, sign up for renewable sources.
- Implement a project such as bike to church or Sunday carools to encourage use of alternative transportation for Sunday worship and other church activities.

Take the next step toward becoming a UU Green Sanctuary (www.uuaspp.org).

THEOLOGICAL FRAMING: A Religious Response to Global Warming

“Our environmental problems will not be fully addressed until we come to terms with the moral and spiritual dimensions of these problems, and we will not find ourselves religiously until we fully address our environmental problems.”

--Steven Rockefeller interviewed in *Fugitive Faith* by Benjamin Webb, Orbis Books, 1998

This Study/Action Issue lays out a Unitarian Universalist path to addressing both sides of Steven Rockefeller’s challenge. Among Unitarian Universalists—and other people of faith—there is a growing awareness that environmental degradation presents moral issues requiring religious responses. The selection of Global Warming as the 2004-2006 Study/Action Issue provides a powerful opportunity for us to create part of such a response.

Global warming is triggered by the way we humans live on planet Earth. Our life-ways, in turn, are embedded in the social, economic, and political structures we have created to define where and how we live, what and how much we consume, and who controls distribution of benefits and costs.

We already recognize that we are called to be active in the world to heal damages from these structures. But even more fundamental than the social, political and economic dimensions, global warming is a moral and religious problem. Individual and shared spiritual orientations and theologies frame our values, beliefs and meanings, shaping how we see ourselves in the world, how we relate to one another and how we respond to the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part. Our answers to these *a priori* questions of morals, values, and faith shape our participation in social, economic, and political systems, for which we assume a share of creative responsibility. At the very least we are called to examine these fundamental beliefs and values; in doing so, we can create opportunities to put our fresh insights into action to create change in the world.

There are no spiritual traditions among humanity that lack a deep belief-tradition of respect and honor for our natural world. Deeply embedded in our human consciousness is a primal awe and gratitude for the air, water, solid ground, sunlight, and nourishing life forms that sustain our species. Have we not stood in awe of these at our most sacred ceremonies over the millennia? Our challenges in the early years of the 21st Century are to rediscover and re-member our humanity *within* the community of life, as *part* of the interdependent web of all existence. We must also face both our despair and our hubris, which keep us from responding to global warming and related issues best confronted on spiritual grounds.

We are not alone. We have much to celebrate. We have a thirst for justice. And we have a rich diversity of approaches from which to draw wisdom and strength. We are wealthy beyond words in the face of this challenge. Our world is calling us to respond from our spiritual wealth—to study, to grow in understanding, to realize our possibilities for action, then to emerge in gracious and assertive leadership, as we have done at critical times in the past on issues where others fear to lead.

We begin our response to global warming with the integrity of our 7th principle, which reminds us that our religious life is not complete without acknowledging and celebrating our relationship with our beloved Earth. In our 4th principle, we promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, reminding ourselves that truth unfolds only when we actively seek it—and our study of global warming involves a critical search for truth! And our 3rd principle calls for encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations—together we can explore the deeper traditions in the human-Earth relationship through worship, prayer, meditation, covenant groups, and other spiritual practices, while we also discover sources of support for our individual practices. And the beauty of this is that we will also grow our congregations as seekers encounter our responsive relationship with these most difficult of issues others fear to confront in our world!

Most importantly, as Joanna Macy exhorts in *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World* (New Society Publishers, 1998), we **begin with gratitude**: “We have received an inestimable gift. To be alive in this beautiful self-organizing universe – to participate in the dance of life with senses to perceive it, lungs that breathe it, organs that draw nourishment from it – is a wonder beyond words. And it is, moreover, an extraordinary privilege to be accorded a human life, to possess this self-reflexive consciousness, which brings awareness of our own actions and the ability to make choices. It lets us choose to take part in the healing of our world.” *–Provided by the UUA Seventh Principle Project*

Resources: Religious/Spiritual

I. Organizations/Websites

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life at www.coejl.org participates in many of the interfaith efforts related to global warming.

Earth Ministry www.earthministry.org is an ecumenical Christian organization based in Seattle, Washington. While most of their activities are focused on the Northwest region, they offer a variety of helpful study resources.

Harvard Series on Religion and Ecology <http://environment.harvard.edu/religion/information/index.html> offers faith perspectives on ecology with frequent reference to global warming. Available online and in book format.

Interfaith Climate Change Network is a collaborative effort of the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. “The Cry of Creation: A Call for Climate Justice,” an interfaith study guide on global warming, can be downloaded from www.protectingcreation.org.

National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Working Group includes various denominational statements on Climate change, among many other resources. <http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/index.html>.

National Religious Partnership for the Environment www.nrpe.org is an alliance of major Jewish and Christian faith groups in U.S. The NRPE integrates care for God's creation throughout religious life: theology, worship, social teaching, education, congregational life, and public policy initiative; and provides inspiration, moral vision, and commitment to social justice for all efforts to protect the natural world and human well-being within it.

Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle Project www.uuaspp.org, sponsors education and empowerment for UUs through their Green Sanctuary Certification Program and through educational and spiritual resources and workshops.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Environmental Justice Program (EJP) <http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp/index.htm> calls Catholics to a deeper respect for God’s creation and engages parishes in activities that deal with environmental problems, particularly as they affect the poor.

II. Articles/Periodicals/Programs

The following are available from the UUA affiliate Seventh Principle Project (www.uuaspp.org):

The Green Sanctuary Handbook explains the goals of the Green Sanctuary program and the steps involved in becoming a Green Sanctuary. Also includes a wealth of information and materials for raising awareness of environmental justice and encouraging individual and congregational action.

Earth-Honoring Worship: A Seventh Principle Worship Resource provides complete sermons, opening and closing words, chalice lightings, music and prayers for worship services honoring the Earth as well as ideas for celebrations and rituals.

Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection: A Seventh Principle Project Religious Education Resource contains ideas for curricula development, a bibliography of

available curricula, a curriculum map for UU RE curricula and ideas for intergenerational services. ■

The Earth and Spirit Songbook is a new resource for educators, song leaders, church musicians and anyone who celebrates our amazing planet. Edited by musician, composer Jim Scott. See: <http://www.jimscottsongs.com/>.

See also the *Greening Congregations Handbook*, available from available from Earth Ministry (www.earthministry.org) for a wide variety of information, ideas and resources for raising environmental awareness and stewardship in Christian congregations.

Earth Light: Journal for Ecological and Spiritual Living www.earthlight.org is an ecumenical and spiritually inclusive quarterly journal addressing the spiritual side of our lives and our connection with the Earth.

III. Books

*By the UUA's Beacon Press

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way Into the Future*. BellTower, 1999.

As one of the most eminent cultural historians of our time, Thomas Berry presents here the culmination of his ideas and urges us to move from being a disrupting force on the Earth to a benign presence. This transition is the Great Work – the most necessary and most ennobling work we will ever undertake. Berry's message offers profound ecological insight illuminating the path we need to take in the realms of ethics, politics, economics, and education if both we and the planet are to survive.

Carroll, John E, et al., eds. *The Greening of Faith: God, The Environment, and the Good Life*. University of New Hampshire, 1997. (Forward by Bill McKibben)

An accessible and insightful contribution to environmental ethics. Many of the contributors are already well known in environmental circles; all draw on interfaith and interdisciplinary sources; and all explore spiritual dimensions of human beings in nature. Essays in parts two and three draw explicitly on Jewish, Evangelical Christian, ecumenical Protestant, Roman Catholic, Buddhist, and Native American religious traditions to produce an undeniably interfaith conversation.

Gottlieb, Roger S. *Joining Hands: Politics and Religion Together for Social Change*. Westview Press, 2002.

Explores how religious ethics and progressive movements share a common vision of a transformed world and affirms that authentic religion requires an activist, transforming presence in the world for political struggles for democracy, human rights, and ecological sanity. Interpretations of civil rights, feminism, disability rights, global environmental movement, and fight against breast cancer.

Kaza, Stephanie and Kenneth Kraft, Eds. *Dharma Rain, Sources of Buddhist Environmentalism*. Shambhala, 2000.

Most Americans—Christian, Jewish, or Muslim—see environmentalism primarily as a matter of stewardship: we must care for the world God gave us and made us responsible for. But what is secondary to us is primary to Buddhists—*Dharma Rain* explicates the Buddhist notion everything is one. Trees, animals, rocks, air, and water are all, simply, us.

Kowalski, Gary. *Science and the Search for God*. Lantern Books, 2003

This work by a UU minister establishes “the interconnected web of all existence” as a vision of reality that is supported not only by spiritual intuition, but also by

the cutting edge of physics and the life sciences. The book offers an excellent introduction to Process Theology, an ecologically friendly school of religious thought that many religious liberals will find both convincing and attractive. Kowalski's earlier theme of our human kinship with animals and all the natural world is extended in this volume to embrace the physical and psychic energies that make our species a strand in the great living time-and-space system.

Macy, Joanna and Molly Young Brown. *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World*. New Society Publishers, 1998.

The authors provide insights into angst and describe the way forward out of apathy to ‘the work that reconnects,’ as well as examples of dealing with the roots of pain and despair, while bringing home the truth of our connectedness to this world. They point out the fallacy of assuming we can fix whatever problems we create and provide tools for dealing with burn-out by doing the ‘work that reconnects,’ while recognizing the role of community and encouraging us out of an ‘us’ vs. ‘them’ orientation.

*Rockefeller, Steven C. and John C. Elder (eds.), *Spirit and Nature: Why the Environment is a Religious Issue*. Beacon Press, 1992.

Leaders from major traditions around the world speak out about what spiritual resources we may turn to in our age of unprecedented danger to our planet.

Suzuki, David, *The Sacred Balance*. Greystone Books, 1997.

This very readable book discusses the biological basis of humankind's connection to nature as well as our spiritual desire for rediscovering our place in the web of life. It concludes with examples of individuals who are working to reestablish our link to nature and suggestions for individual action.

Wirzba, Norman, *The Paradise of God*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Wirzba offers a “vision of a new religious environmentalism,” arguing that the doctrine of creation should be read as a statement about the moral and spiritual meaning of the world and of the human place in the world. From the Yahwist-Christian traditions, he offers a revised formulation of humans as part of a created whole, rather than as autonomous, unencumbered individuals in a theologically and ecologically sensitive rendering of Genesis.

Resources: Business/Consuming/Economics/Investing

I. Organizations/Websites

Alliance to Save Energy <http://www.ase.org/> is a storehouse of suggestions on how to cut energy use and waste; tracks political developments on energy issues at the national and state levels

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy <http://www.aceee.org> Provides consumer information on energy efficiency, including a *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*, *What You Can Do to Save Energy and Money: Checklist for Action*, and *The Most Energy-Efficient Appliances*.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/index.cfm
Provide consumers with greenhouse gas offset option.

BuildingGreen.com at www.buildinggreen.com to sign up for the *Environmental Building News*, providing updates on green building developments and browse through information on more than 1,700 green building products.

Business for Social Responsibility Business and the Environment at <http://www.bsr.org> (BSR) is a global organization that helps member companies achieve success while respecting ethical values, people, communities and the environment.

BuyGreen at www.buygreen.com for a guide to green products and services.

Center for a New American Dream at www.newdream.org provides extensive resources on lifestyle shifts including guides to how to buy green, how to parent in a consumer society, and how to advocate for changes that support more sustainable consumption.

Center for Small Business and the Environment
www.geocities.com/aboutcsbe promote small businesses and entrepreneurs that are succeeding by developing and using new technologies and processes

Co-op America Green Pages Online
www.greenpages.org lets you search for over 25,000 products and services from 2,000 green companies. See also their Responsible Shopper site at www.responsibleshopper.org

Ecological Footprint www.rprogress.org estimates consumption of natural resources.

Energy Star at www.energystar.gov is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through energy efficiency.

Environmental Defense's Tailpipe Tally at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/more lets you check your car's greenhouse emissions, compare before buying.

Forest Stewardship Council at www.fscoax.org is an independent, membership-based organization promoting responsible management of the world's forests through developing standards, a certification system and trademark recognition.

Good Stuff: A Behind-the-Scenes Guide to the Things We Buy <http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/goodstuff/>

GreenBiz.Com www.GreenBiz.com A resource center on business and the environment.

Green Book at <http://www.greencars.com/> to view ranks and comparisons of all cars and trucks according to environmental friendliness.

Green Guide at <http://www.thegreenguide.com> is filled with practical information for making informed choices in our daily lives. While not focused on global warming, it covers this and many other questions and concerns about environmental issues that impact our daily lives. A very positive and practical source of information.

Green-e Renewable Electricity Certification Program
www.green-e.org provides an easy way for consumers to quickly identify environmentally superior electricity products in their region.

Greenhouse Network has "20 Simple Steps to Reduce Global Warming," at:
www.greenhousenet.org/action/20steps.html.

Interfaith Power & Light at www.theregenerationproject.org/ipl or by email at info@theregenerationproject.org or by phone at 1-415-561-4891. Originally founded as Episcopal Power and Light; it had its earliest success in California when 60+ churches switched from traditional power sources to clean renewable electricity. Today, each IPL has its own approach and its own leadership to encourage and guide congregations and individuals in exploring renewable energy options and energy conservation measures.

International Ecotourism Society (TIES) at www.ecotourism.org promotes responsible travel to natural areas—travel that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people. TIES creates an international network of individuals, institutions and the tourism industry, educates tourists and tourism professionals, and influences the tourism industry, public institutions and donors to integrate the principles of ecotourism into their operations and policies.

Investor Network for Climate Risk www.incr.com has Investor Guide to Climate Risk identifying action steps for plan sponsors and fund managers as well as the companies in which they invest. PDF available at: http://www.incr.com/investor_guide/

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Center for Building Science at <http://www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov/> provides a web-based, do-it-yourself home energy audit tool.

Rocky Mountain Institute www.rmi.org is recognized for its innovative green building design and energy-efficient and climate-friendly technologies for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Safe Climate for Individuals features a climate audit for homes. www.safeclimate.net/individual.php.

Safe Climate for Business www.safeclimate.net/ is an excellent website with a downloadable "Working 9-5, An Office Guide with step-by-step suggestions on how to go about greening offices.

“Take Action for Climate Change” http://www.biodiversity911.org/climate_change/climate_change_action.html 31 ideas for taking action that are colorful and family-friendly.

US Business Council for a Sustainable Future at <http://www.bcse.org/int-climate.htm> tracks developments in the renewable-energy industry especially as they relate to ongoing international climate negotiations and provides real-time information on key state climate change and energy-related activities.

II. Articles/Periodicals

Business Week cover story from August 16, 2004 on why businesses care about global warming. For example, in every single instance when a business has reduced greenhouse gas emissions, it has saved money. http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/04_33/b3896001_mz001.htm

Chelsea Green Press catalog www.chelseagreen.com Chelsea Green’s purpose is “to stop the destruction of the natural world by challenging the beliefs and practices that are enabling this destruction and by providing inspirational and practical alternatives that promote sustainable living.” All books and catalogs on chlorine-free recycled paper, with soy-based inks, as possible. To order catalog visit website or call 802-295-6300, ext. 101.

Real Goods catalog. www.realgoods.com. Recognizing that the world's dependence upon fossil fuels has invariably led to the degradation of our atmosphere and environment, *Real Goods* provides to consumers goods and equipment--‘renewable energy technologies’—that are clean, cost-effective, and non-polluting. To receive a free print catalog, please call 800.762.7325.

Solar Today is an award-winning bi-monthly magazine that covers all solar technologies, from photovoltaics to climate-responsive buildings to wind power. Regular topics include building case studies, energy policy and community-scale projects. www.solartoday.org

III. Books

Brower, Michael and Leon, Warren, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists*, Three Rivers Press 1999.

This book identifies the 4 Most Significant Consumer-Related Environmental Problems, the 7 Most Damaging Spending Categories, 11 Priority Actions, and 7 Rules for Responsible Consumption. Learn what you can do to have a truly significant impact on our world.

Cole, Nancy, and Skerrett, P.J., *Renewables Are Ready: People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions*, Chelsea Green Press, 1995.

Case studies of efforts to implement renewable energy at the local level, along with advice on how to implement a project.

*Daly, Herman and John Cobb, Jr. *For the Common Good*. Beacon Press, 1989, 1994.

Economist Herman Daly and theologian John Cobb, Jr., team up to describe how conventional economics and growth-oriented industry have led us to the brink of environmental disaster, and show how we might create a different future. They detail a far-reaching blueprint for a highly decentralized economy built around small communities, scaled to human needs and including natural stewardship.

Dauncy, Guy and Patrick Mazza. *Stormy Weather*. New Society Publishers, 2003.

Practical actions that can be adopted by individuals, groups, cities, businesses, and governments. <http://www.earthfuture.com/stormyweather/>.

Elgin, Duane. *Promise Ahead: A Vision of Hope and Action for Humanity's Future*. Harper Collins, 2000.

This sequel to the 1981 classic *Voluntary Simplicity* describes two powerful sets of converging trend: 'adversity trends,'—including global climate change and mass extinction of species—and 'opportunity trends'—such as the use of the internet for social awakening and change.

Gerson, David and Gilman, Robert. *Household Ecoteam Workbook: A Six-month Program to Bring Your Household Into Environmental Balance*, Global Action Plan for the Earth, 1992.

A step-by-step guide to help a group of households work together to evaluate their consumption and reduce environmental damage.

Hawken, Paul, Amory Lovins, Hunter Lovins. *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*. Back Bay Books, 2000. <http://www.natcap.org>

Describes practices in 'a new type of industrialism' that is more efficient and profitable while protecting environment and creating jobs.

Heede, Richard. *Homemade Money: How to Save Energy and Dollars in Your Home*. Rocky Mountain Institute, 1995.

Information on which energy-saving measures make economic and environmental sense and advice on how to get started.

Hill, Julia Butterfly. *One Makes the Difference*. Harper Collins, 2002.

Advice on how to promote change and improve the health of the planet, distilled into an essential handbook. Packed with a variety of charts, diagrams, and interesting factoids, the book offers a series of steps and easy-to-follow lessons.

Lotter, Donald W. *Earthscore: Your Personal Environmental Audit & Guide*, Morning Sun Press, 2002.

Order copies of this 36-page audit from: Morning Sun Press, PO Box 413, Lafayette, CA 94549, phone/fax: 925-932-1383. Single copy, \$5 plus free shipping for UUs. Five or more copies, please call for discount price.

McDonough, William and Braungart, Michael, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, North Point Press, 2002.

A doable vision that challenges the notion that human industry must inevitably damage the natural world.

Roberts, Paul, *The End of Oil*, Houghton Mifflin, 2004

Bill McKibben says, "This is the best book ever produced about our energy economy and its environmental implications." Other reviewers have found it among the most balanced of recent books on the global implications of a vanishing resource.

Schaeffer, John and the Staff of Real Goods. *Solar Living Sourcebook: The Complete Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living*, Chelsea Green Press, 1997.

The distributors of a mail-order catalog have compiled information on products for people who want to live more sustainably.

Resources: Species Extinction

I. Organizations/Websites

Conservation International www.conservation.org protects the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity in the hotspots, major tropical wilderness areas and key marine ecosystems in more than 30 countries on four continents. Quarterly e-magazine is downloadable, Summer 2004 issue focuses on climate change and biodiversity. <http://www.conservation.org/xp/frontlines/>

National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org provides very accessible information, impact on animals, good materials for discussing with children.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity www.biodiv.org

World Conservation Union (IUCN) at www.iucn.org maintains the "Red List," the global list of endangered species.

World Wildlife Fund "Climate Change Programme" http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/climate_change/index.cfm for good, accessible information and downloads on renewable energy sources.

II. Articles/Periodicals

Nature, January 8, 2004 issue has an article, "Extinction risk from climate change," pp. 145-148, written by 16 scientists from the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil South Africa, and Australia. They estimated the risks of extinction as a result of climate changes over the next 50 years in six diverse regions representing 20% of the Earth's land area and a range of terrestrial environments. Projections of three scenarios of climate change led to a midrange estimate that ~24% of plants and animals will be extinct or committed to extinction by the year 2050. The authors conclude that climate change, and its resulting loss of suitable habitat "is likely to be the greatest threat (to species survival) in many if not most regions."

III. Books

Kunich, John Charles, *Ark of the Broken Covenant: Protecting the World's Biodiversity Hotspots* (Issues in Comparative Public Law), Praeger, 2003.

Presents a guide and survival manual for protecting the worlds' endangered biodiversity.

Leakey, Richard, *The Sixth Extinction*. Doubleday, 1995.

Leakey is an internationally known paleo-anthropologist whose research into humankind's evolutionary past builds on that of his famous parents, Louis and Mary Leakey. In this work, he outlines the spasms that have come close to extinguishing life on planet Earth at critical points in its five billion year history, and advances the alarming evidence that the planet may now be in the grip of a mass extinction even larger than that which wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million

years ago. Unlike prior catastrophes where asteroids or other natural causes were to blame, the current emergency is the result largely of human impacts on natural systems.

Wilson, E.O., *The Future of Life*. Knopf, 2002.

Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson is a foremost authority on biodiversity and the looming extinction crisis, largely due to habitat loss and climate change threats. He estimates that up to half of all global plant and animal species may be gone within the 21st century unless we take major steps toward conservation on land and sea. This book offers a short, up-to-date summary of the best science documenting loss of critical ecosystems and suggests policy directions that might mitigate the impending extinction disaster.

Resources: General and Scientific Information

I. Organizations/Websites

Clean Air--Cool Planet at www.cleanair-coolplanet.org creates partnerships in the Northeast to implement solutions to climate change and build constituencies for effective climate policies and actions; site links to articles and reports about how climate change will affect you, as well as to climate calculators and educational puzzles and games.

Climate Action Network at www.climateactionnetwork.org is a worldwide network of over 340 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual actions to reduce human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

Climate Change Knowledge Network, <http://www.cckn.net> brings together expertise, experience and perspectives from research institutes in developing and developed countries active in the area of climate change.

Climate Ark at <http://www.climatesolutions.org/> is the premier climate change and renewable energy Search Engine dedicated to promoting public policy that addresses global climate change through reductions in carbon dioxide and other emissions, renewable energy, energy conservation and ending deforestation.

Climate Calculator www.climcalc.net allows you to estimate your personal CO2 emissions and compare them to the average for your area.

Climate Neutral Network www.climateneutral.com provides technical support and a science-based "climate cool" certification.

Climate Solutions at <http://www.climatesolutions.org/> is an excellent site, includes a compilation of practical steps to reduce emissions for individuals and families, as well as business, agriculture, industry and public institutions.

Environmental Defense links science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to society's most urgent environmental problems. <http://www.environmentaldefense.org>

Free The Planet! www.freetheplanet.org, site of the student environmental movement, provide resources for student activists, like their Cool the Planet to Stop Global Warming campaign.

Friends of the Earth is the U.S. voice of an influential, international network of grassroots groups in 70 countries. <http://www.foe.org/camps/intl/climate/index.html>.

Greenpeace <http://www.greenpeace.org> has a Climate Change Campaign and offers in-depth coverage of cause, evidence, problems, predictions, and solutions.

International Center for Local Environmental Initiatives at www.iclei.org is an association of cities, towns, counties, metropolitan governments, and local governments working to build tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions. See particularly their "Cities for Climate Change" program.

The League of Conservation Voters www.lcv.org is devoted to evaluating the "greenness" of political candidates and to supporting those with strong environmental credentials. Their Environmental Scorecard evaluates the votes and positions of national and, increasingly, state elected officials.

Natural Resources Defense Council uses law, science and the support of more than 1 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things. <http://www.nrdc.org>

Nature Conservancy Climate Change Initiative features an on-line library at: <http://nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/index.html>

Pew Climate Center at www.pewclimate.org is an excellent web resource committed to the development of a wide range of reports, briefs, and policy analyses that add new facts and perspectives to the climate change debate.

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) www.psr.org promotes public policies that protect human health from threats of nuclear war and other weapons of mass destruction, global environmental degradation, and the epidemic of gun violence in our society. Excellent downloadable resources including: "Responsible Actions to Reduce Climate Change and Energy Use" and "Death by Degrees," a series of state-by-state reports of the public health implications of climate change.

Sierra Club <http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/> promotes solutions to global warming using current and cutting-edge technology that will reduce our use of fossil fuels.

Union of Concerned Scientists <http://www.ucsusa.org/> Provides materials written by scientists for non-scientists; summarizes the climate change issue and offers detailed subsections.

World Resources Institute www.wri.org is an environmental think tank that goes beyond research to find practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives with a staff of more than 100 scientists, economists, policy experts, business analysts, statistical analysts, mapmakers, and communicators, many downloadable reports: <http://climate.wri.org/publications.cfm2003>.

Worldwatch Institute www.worldwatch.org provides resources on climate change, renewable energy, and consumption. See especially their "Climate Change Questions and Answers."

II. Articles/Periodicals

Earth Island Journal www.earthisland.org News, analysis, and commentary on environmental issues. Published Quarterly.

The Ecologist www.theecologist.org Investigative environmental magazine.

E Magazine September/October 2004. "Getting Warmer" by Jim Motavalli, at <http://www.emagazine.com/view/72066>.

Foreign Service Journal, March 1999. An excellent article by John Holdren on the national security implications of climate change: "Six Reasons-Think of the Earth as a Supertanker Heading Full-Steam toward an Iceberg. Somebody Better Take the Wheel." Available at: <http://www.afsa.org/fsj/March%2099/sisreasons.cfm>

Fortune magazine, Feb. 9, 2004 issue describes Pentagon thinking about dramatic climate change associated with shutting down the Gulf Stream, and concludes that it is likely to pose a major threat to our national security. <http://www.fortune.com/fortune/technology/articles/0,15114,582584-1,00.html>

Grist online magazine for environmental news with humor at www.gristmagazine.com.

National Geographic, February 2004 has an article titled, "The Case of the Missing Carbon," on pages 88-117, with a good discussion of the carbon cycle and its role in

climate change. The first few pages can be found at: nationalgeographic.com/magazine/0402

National Geographic September 2004 issue has an extensive report on Global Warming.

Our Planet, the magazine of UN Environmental Programme www.ourplanet.com.

Science, November 14–December 5, 2003. "Modern Global Climate Change," by Thomas R. Karl and Kevin E. Trenberth.

Time Magazine "Life in a Greenhouse" Special online edition of Time Magazine covering climate change and **global warming** including the latest political issues (available only to subscribers of Time Magazine) at http://curtain.timeinc.net/TD/challenge.jhtml;jsessionid=1XXAY5S1RTJP2QAMG4ERQBQ?zone=TD&_requestid=27588

Yes! Journal of Positive Futures covers the gamut of issues that affect our lives and the lives of future generations. Includes perspectives from many popular writers: David Korten, Frances Korten, Hazel Henderson, Hunter and Amory Lovin. Book reviews, tips for living, resources, etc. Fall 2004 issue focuses on energy and climate change and is available from Seventh Principle Project as a membership premium. For information see www.uuaspp.org.

III. Books

Book Review: *NY Review of Books*, Vol. 51, No.10, June 10, 2004. "Crossing the Red Line," by Bill McKibben, is a review of 10 new books/publications on the environment, several of which are on global warming. Excellent discussion.

Athanasious, Tom and Baer, Paul, *Dead Heat: Global Justice and Global Warming*, Seven Stories Press, 2002.

Explains the science behind global warming, outlines the political reasons that governments have not acted to reverse climate change, and argue that both environmental and economic factors must be considered to create a solution that puts public good before corporate profit.

Barnes, Peter. *Who Owns the Sky?* Island Press, 2001.

Global warming has finally made clear the true costs of using our atmosphere as a giant sponge to soak up unwanted by-products of industrial activity. As nations, businesses, and citizens seek workable yet fair solutions for reducing carbon emissions, the question of who should pay-and how-looms large. Yet the surprising truth is that a system for protecting the atmosphere could be devised that would yield cash benefits to us all.

Brown, Lester R., *Plan B: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*. Norton, 2003.

In separate chapters Brown describes our unsustainable behavior with regard to water, soil, climate, and social conditions, then gives the corresponding solutions to each problem behavior in four subsequent chapters, citing the World War II mobilization as proof that a timely implementation of solutions is possible. "The choice is ours ...We can ... preside over a global bubble economy expanding until it bursts ...Or we can adopt Plan B and be the generation that stabilizes population, eradicates poverty, and stabilizes climate."

Burroughs, William James, *Climate Change: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Undergraduate textbook on climate change, suitable for the general reader interested in a better understanding of climate change. Give balanced coverage of the physical principles of the global climate, its behavior, and evidence and consequences of past change. Takes a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to encourage critical thinking.

Gelbspan, Ross. *Boiling Point: How Politicians, Big Oil and Coal, Journalists and Activists Are Fueling the Climate Crisis--And What We Can Do to Avert Disaster*. Basic Books, 2004.

In this follow-up to *The Heat is On*, Gelbspan argues that unchecked, climate change will swamp every other issue facing us today and claims that addressing climate change would resolve many of our other economic, social, and political issues, included the national security crisis. Indeed, what began as an initial response of many institutions—denial and delay—has now grown into a crime against humanity. Fortunately, he offers more of his roadmap for averting a full-blown climate catastrophe.

Goodstein, Eban *The Trade-Off Myth*. Island Press, 2000.

Economist Eban Goodstein provides an in-depth examination of the deep-seated, but ultimately mistaken, American belief in a widespread jobs-environment trade-off. Remarkably, his is the first book to state the unambiguous truth about jobs and the environment.

Hartmann, Thom. *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*. Three Rivers Press, 1998.

A very readable presentation of the facts about the current environmental crises and how our current culture has lost the wisdom of earlier cultures. After discussing how earlier cultures lived sustainably, the author suggests ways to remake our culture into a more sustainable one both environmentally and spiritually.

Leggett, Jeremy, K. *The Carbon War: Global Warming and the End of the Oil Era*, Routledge, 2001.

A forceful description of the science and politics of global warming from a European perspective.

Lynas, Mark. *High Tide: The Truth about our Climate Crisis*. Picador, St. Martins Press, 2004.

This book takes us around the globe to meet people in communities and villages experiencing the most impact from global warming—from flood ravaged England to drought stricken Inner Mongolia, from the drowning island of Tuvalu to the melting permafrost of Alaska, the reality of global warming can no longer be denied. The author traveled to remote corners of the world to see the evidence up close and personal. (Note: Please follow up with Gelbspan or Speth roadmaps for a more positive future.)

Motavalli, Jim, *Feeling the Heat: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Climate Change*, Routledge, 2004.

Feeling the Heat consists of chapter-length visits by well-known authors to actual world "hot" spots, where people are already coping day-to-day with the consequences of climactic disruption.

Pollack, Henry N. *Uncertain Science...Uncertain World*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

This book contains several discussions about global warming, particularly the last chapter entitled 'In a climate of uncertainty.'

Pringle, Laurence. *Global Warming*, Seastar Books, 2003.

This book for ages 8-12, describes causes and solutions with 30 color photographs and extensive glossary.

Speth, James Gustave. *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of Global Environment*. Yale University Press, 2004.

This book by one of the perennial leaders in the environmental movement is both alarming and hopeful. Gus Speth explains why current approaches to global problems do not work and provides a critique of the failure of U.S. leadership (in which he has played a part!). Setting forth eight steps to a sustainable future, he argues that dramatically different and far-reaching actions by citizens and governments are now urgent. This is an

essential book and includes both "Resources for Citizens" and "Further Reading: A Bookshelf." (Study Guide available.)

Tennesen, Michael, *Complete Idiot's Guide to Global Warming* (Complete Idiot's Guides), Alpha Books, 2004.

Comprehensive guide separating fact from fiction and addressing effects upon ecological, sociological, and economic environments worldwide.

Weart, Spencer R. *The Discovery of Global Warming*. Harvard University, 2004.

A history of how scientists reached their conclusion on global warming--by way of unexpected twists and turns and in the face of formidable intellectual, financial, and political obstacles--is told for the first time in here. This book not only reveals the history of global warming, but also analyzes the nature of modern scientific work as it confronts the most difficult questions about the earth's future.

Resources: Government

I. International

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Recognizing the problem of potential global climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 to develop a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. A comprehensive, in-depth source of information: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

International Energy Agency, Greenhouse Gas

Programme <http://www.ieagreen.org.uk> provides an introduction to climate change as well as information on technical solutions.

International Institute for Sustainable Development-Climate Change <http://www.iisd.org/climate/>

Millennium Development Goals The Millennium Development Goals, created by the World Bank, IMF, OECD, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, and accepted by the UN General Assembly, commit the international community to an expanded vision of

development, one that vigorously promotes human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress in all countries, and recognizes the importance of creating a global partnership for development.

www.developmentgoals.org

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.htm is a massive scientific endeavor to assess the condition of the world's ecosystems comprehensively--including the pressures we are placing on them, our dependency on their services, and the gaps in our knowledge. Draws on the knowledge of local experts, natural and social scientists, government officials, business leaders, and academics.

National Academies (Science, Engineering, and

Medicine <http://www.nas.edu> brings credible science into the policy process and public arena are reflected (see especially "environmental issues").

The Union of Concerned Scientists at

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_environment/global_warming/index.cfm provides an excellent source of information about global warming with clear information from a group with a very strong scientific staff and longtime reputation for activism in the scientific community.

UN Environment Program/GRID-Arendal

<http://grida.no/climate/> is a source of excellent graphics and statistics on climate change.

UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative

(www.unepfi.net) focuses on the risks and economic costs of climate change and publishes reports on climate change and the financial services industry.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) at www.unfccc.int contains press releases,

reports, and general information on U.N. and other climate-related events, in-depth, up-to-date.

World Health Organization

(www.who.int/health_topics/climate/en/) provides accessible information on the impacts of climate change on human health.

World Meteorological Organization's World Climate Program at www.wmo.ch/index-en.html provides global weather forecasts and warnings and includes a wide range of climate data and assessments under its "Climate" topic.

II. US GOVERNMENT and POLICY

Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC)

tracks current and historical atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, as well as other greenhouse gases, through the at: cdiac.esd.ornl.gov

Climate Change Science Program

at www.climatescience.gov gives information on U.S. research on climate change and contains highly technical reports.

Congress: US House of Representatives: On March 30, 2004, The Climate Stewardship Act of 2004 (HR 4067) was introduced into the House by the co-chairs of the House Climate Change Caucus, Cong. Wayne Gilchrist (R-MD) and John Olver (D-MA), as a bipartisan bill, similar to one narrowly defeated in the Senate last year, to fight global warming by capping greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging technological innovation. A list of the co-sponsors and provisions of the bill (and of other bills before Congress) can be found on the web at [Thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov). Contact information for U.S. House of Representatives and Senate is available at: <http://www.eff.org/congress.html>
Contact information also available at: <http://www.senate.gov/> <http://www.house.gov/>

Department of Energy

<http://www.energy.gov>

Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/climate> for fact sheet on US Global Climate Change Policy.

Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/>, excellent and comprehensive website complete with several very useful downloadable documents and useful resource center, gives a clear, concise overview of global warming, starting with more general information and delving into specifics.

National Assessment of the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change was called for by a 1990 law has been conducted under the US Global Change Research Program in response to a request from the President's Science Advisor. Available at <http://www.gcrio.org/NationalAssessment/>.

National Energy Policy Initiative

at www.nepinitiative.org (NEP) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, foundation-funded project designed to support the development of a stakeholder-based national energy policy.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Comprehensive weather history data and more at <http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory: Status of renewable energy research at <http://www.nrel.gov>

National Science Foundation Report, Abrupt Climate Change: Inevitable Surprises

www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309074347?openDocument. This December 2001 publication discusses links between greenhouse warming and other human alterations of the climate system and the possibility of large, abrupt, and unwelcome regional or global climatic events.

Pentagon: Imagining the Unimaginable: An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and its Implications for United States National Security. A report by Peter Schwartz and Doug Randall. Pentagon study on the national security implications of an abrupt climate change involving a possible abrupt change in the ocean's thermohaline circulation. The administration has tried to suppress it. www.ems.org/climate/pentagon_climatechange.pdf.

Resources: Alternative Viewpoints

III. Books

Bailey, Ronald. *Global Warming and Other Eco Myths: How the Environmental Movement Uses False Science to Scare Us to Death*, Prima Lifestyles, 2002.

A collection of twelve articles discrediting “false science,” “ideological environmentalism,” global warming, the dangers of CO₂, and organic agriculture.

Essex, Christopher, and McKittrick, Ross. *Taken By Storm: The Troubled Science, Policy and Politics of Global Warming*, Key Porter Books, 2003.

Discounts global warming premised on the idea that the physical phenomena in climate and weather are among the most complex in nature, and science can say very little about what they will do in the future.

Lomborg, Bjorn. *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Challenges widely held beliefs that the world environmental situation is getting worse and worse.

Michaels, Patrick. *Meltdown : The Predictable Distortion of Global Warming by Scientists, Politicians, and the*

Media, Cato Institute, 2004.

Climatologist Michaels acknowledges that the earth is warming because of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, but he insists that the warming will probably be modest and that nature and humanity will easily adjust to it.

Moore, Thomas Gale. *Why We Shouldn't Worry about Global Warming*. Cato Institute, 1998.

This book explains why global warming is not a problem, and anyway would be too expensive to fix. Moore claims, "If it becomes a real problem at some future time, many steps can be taken without crippling our economy."

Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran, *Power to the People: How the Coming Energy Revolution Will Transform an Industry, Change our Lives, and Maybe Even Save the Planet*. Farrar, Strous & Giroux, 358 pp.

This book presents an argument that, although the climate is changing, we need not be concerned because science and technology will create the necessary solutions.

For Teachers and Religious Educators

Energy Activities for Faithful Youth from Interfaith Coalition on Energy, Melrose Park, Penna., is available in UU Seventh Principle Project's Religious Education Resource. Order at www.uuaspp.org.

EE-Link at <http://eelink.net> for a full range of environmental education programs, products, and services.

Global Warming Kids Site at <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids/index.html>

“I’m Alright Jack” at www.bbc.co.uk/climate/adaptation/jack.shtml is an interactive game about the impacts of our day-to-day choices on climate.

Interfaith Climate Change Campaign has a curriculum guide available at:

<http://www.protectingcreation.org/about/documents/Cry%20of%20Creation.pdf>

National Library for the Environment at <http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE> for a full range of environmental education programs, products, and services.

North American Association for Environmental Education has a site with a lot of educational material on the environment, including climate change, at: <http://eelink.net/eactivities-airandclimate.html>

RMI for Kids—Energy at <http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid473.php>

US EPA materials for children at <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids/index.html>

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS

I. Audio

Audio tape sets are for sale from New Dimensions World Broadcasting Network (www.newdimensions.org), 1-800-935-8273. Some programs are available for listening on the web. See particularly “Deep Ecology for the 21st Century” and “Bioneers.”

II. Video

Great videos are available from Bullfrog Films www.bullfrogfilms.com with discounts available for activist groups. Some films have study guides available. Titles include:

- Affluenza
- The Air We Breathe.
- Baked Alaska.
- Big Spuds, Little Spuds.
- Cooperating for Clean Air.
- The Harriman Alaska Expedition Retraced.
- Once and Future Planet.
- Rising Waters: Global Warming and the Fate of the Pacific Islands, Save Our Land, Save Our Towns.
- Silent Sentinels.
Subdivide and Conquer.
- Turning Down The Heat: The New Energy Revolution

We Are All Smith Islanders, produced by the Chesapeake Climate Change Network. You can read more about it and order copies at http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/ccan_documentaries.htm

End of Suburbia. The end of cheap oil will mean big changes in lives and the systems we depend on. In this new documentary, a dozen diverse experts explain when global oil production peak and begin falling. They speculate on how oil prices going up and up will change our lives with decline of suburbs, higher food prices, and economic stagnation, especially in the global economy. (78 minutes, copyright 2004) \$24 from www.endofsuburbia.com

Taken For a Ride. Explains why America's transit system is the worst in the industrialized world. Two generations ago, Americans depended on thriving privately owned streetcar lines across the nation, but then the auto and oil industry, led by General Motors, bought and dismantled the streetcar lines. The private auto stopped being a luxury and became a necessity. (52 minutes, copyright 1996) \$80 to community groups from www.newday.com/films/Taken_for_a_Ride.html

Conservation International wants you to know approximately 25% of all CO2 emissions result from deforestation. Films on tropical forest conservation are available at <http://www.conservation.org/xp/CIWEB/publications/videos/index.xml>

God’s Creation and Global Warming. National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Working Group. 22 min. Good as a discussion starter especially on the question of why religious groups should get involved. <http://www.webofcreation.org>

Some free films are also available from www.thefilmconnection.org.