



## Unity EarthCare Team

# SUGGESTED RESOURCES



*Environmental concerns for our planet home are complex and diverse, as are the many views regarding possible courses of action. Some of these resources reflect how world consciousness is expressing in the physical realm today. We know that at the level of Spirit all is well and whole, and at the same time there is more unfolding to do in the expression of this Spirit of wholeness. We believe it is valuable to be aware of what is happening in the world and what people think when considering our own actions. We do this in part so that we may communicate intelligently with others. We do this, too, so that we can discern the steps we want to take to be part of the healing.*

## Unity

[www.unity.org/bethechange](http://www.unity.org/bethechange) **Unity EarthCare (UET) Team, a ministry team of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM)**. Documents for starting EarthCare activities in churches and centers, connections for mentoring, resources list, EarthCare logo for local use, personalized support for EarthCare work in centers or Regions, etc. Email contact at [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

[www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/](http://www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/) **Northwest Region of UWM** offers a PATH guide for establishing earth care programs in churches and centers, environmental audit forms, prayers, celebrations, and activity ideas to download.

## WEBSITES

### Interfaith Organizations

[www.CoolCongregations.com](http://www.CoolCongregations.com) offers online carbon calculator for congregations as well as individual households.

[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org) **Earth Charter Initiative** is a program of the United Nations Environmental Program, and grew from the UN's World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit) held in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. Copies of the Charter and materials for children, youth, and local community programs are available from the website.

[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org) **Earth Ministry** has several useful resources, including a speakers network, resource lending library, the Greening Congregations program, lists of educational materials produced by several organizations, including youth materials and their own *Greening Congregations Handbook*---a complete "toolbox" of spiritual essays, how-tos for setting up a program, and ideas and resources.

[www.energystar.gov/congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/congregations) **Energy Star Congregations** program of the Environmental Protection Agency. Free guidebook, technical support, information on awards eligibility and more.

[www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org) **Eco-justice Ministries**

[www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org) **Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns** sponsor workshops on Energy Pledges, the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, and energy-saving measures and rebates. Their latest program encourages Portland residents to buy locally-grown, seasonal foods.

[www.iowaip.org](http://www.iowaip.org) is Iowa site for Interfaith Power and Light. Has files for free download: a carbon calculator (EXCEL spreadsheet) and tutorial, checklist of data to input, and 2 lists of ways to lower your carbon footprint (under \$25 and over \$25). Goal is to for households to lower their carbon footprint, then track how much carbon is saved by your congregation. Workshops offer demos on how to use carbon calculator, and provide suggestions/info for organizing a program in your church.

[www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org) **National Council of Churches of Christ—Eco-justice Working Group** has comprehensive on-line store of educational materials on environmental spirituality, including suggested sermon topics, Environmental Justice Congregational Covenants, and an Energy Stewardship Guide. Website links to environmental programs of several Christian denominations.

[www.nrpe.org](http://www.nrpe.org) **National Religious Partnership for the Environment** includes links to the Evangelical Environmental Network, the National Council of Churches of Christ – Eco-justice Working Group, the Coalition on the Environment & Jewish Life, and the Environmental Justice Program of the United States Catholic Conference.

[www.protectingcreation.org](http://www.protectingcreation.org) **Interfaith Global Warming Campaign** has extensive information and links to other websites.

[www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com) **Season of Creation**, founded by Norman C. Habel, promotes celebrating Creation during month of September through Feast of St. Francis on October 3. Habel is the editor of the **Earth Bible**, a series of theological reflections on the Christian call to care for creation. Includes *Seven Songs of Creation*, a collection of liturgies for celebrating and healing Earth. The website has numerous worship resources available for free download.

[www.theregenerationproject.org](http://www.theregenerationproject.org) **Interfaith Power and Light** initiative between faith communities and utility companies encourages energy efficiency, congregational covenants, and rebate programs for individuals, churches, and businesses. Programs are currently in 18 states, with the hope to establish programs in all 50 states.

## Faiths & Denominations

### Unity

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### Episcopalian

[www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm) **Episcopal Public Policy Network** has resources on environmental issues. In 2008 they featured a series of Lenten guides responding to climate change.

### Evangelical Christian

[www.creationcare.org](http://www.creationcare.org) **Evangelical Environmental Network** promotes the Creation Care program for Evangelical churches. They publish the magazine *Creation Care*. The website features fact sheets, activities for families, and a bibliography of books.

### Lutheran

[www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org) **Web of Creation** is sponsored by the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, IL. Several free downloads, including a *Training Manual for Green Congregations*, a comprehensive guide for starting creation care.

### Presbyterian

[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org) **Presbyterians for Restoring Creation** is a nationwide network for Presbyterians who care for God's creation. Through their website, a quarterly newsletter, on-line resources, and regional and national events, they educate, advocate, and build community for eco-justice.

### Judaism

[www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org) **Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life** includes several resources for greening synagogues, including building & grounds and youth & adult education, and responding to climate change.

### Roman Catholic

[www.columbiariver.org](http://www.columbiariver.org) **Columbia River Pastoral Letter Project** was created by Catholic Bishops in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. After sponsoring a series of public interfaith meetings, the project culminated in an eloquent letter for sustainable management of the Columbia River Basin. An inspiring example of "faith in action"!

[www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp) **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – Environmental Justice Program** includes extensive resources for dioceses and parishes, including youth ministry and families, outreach, legislative advocacy, and links to regional projects including the Columbia River Pastoral Letter and the Northeast Bishops' Letter on the Environment.

### **Unitarian-Universalist**

[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) **Unitarian-Universalist - Green Sanctuary Program.**

Numerous on-line resources, including energy pledges and success stories, books including *Green Sanctuary* which provides a framework and tools for starting a project, and *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection*, a curriculum resource for children.

### **Unity**

[www.unity.org/bethechange](http://www.unity.org/bethechange) **Unity Churches International EarthCare (UET) Team.**

Documents for starting EarthCare activities in churches and centers, connections for mentoring, resources list, EarthCare logo for local use, personalized support for EarthCare work in centers or Regions, etc. Email contact at [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

[www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/](http://www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/) **Northwest Region of UWM** offers a PATH guide for establishing earth care programs in churches and centers, environmental audit forms, prayers, celebrations, and activity ideas to download.

### **International**

[dhallman@uccan.org](mailto:dhallman@uccan.org) (email) **World Council of Churches / Climate change program.**  
[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org) **United Nations Environment Programmed - Interfaith Partnership for the Environment.**

## **FILMS**

[www.thomasberry.org/Film](http://www.thomasberry.org/Film) offers films about famous “geologist” and Passionist priest Thomas Berry and also film renderings of his written works. Also available at [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com) **Bullfrog Films** (P. O. Box 149, Oley, PA 19547, 1-800-543-FROG).

[www.greenplanetfilms.org](http://www.greenplanetfilms.org) **Green Planet Films** - Nature and Environmental DVDs (P. O. Box 247, Corte Madera, CA 94976).

[www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net), official website for *An Inconvenient Truth*, documentary from Al Gore. Can also go to [www.ecojustice.org/TruthGuide.asp](http://www.ecojustice.org/TruthGuide.asp) to download free guide.

[www.kilowattours.org](http://www.kilowattours.org) **Kilowatt Ours** is an award-winning documentary to promote energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Website offers ways to save energy and track your energy savings, plug into your community, and get involved with national issues.

*One Man, One Cow, One Planet; How to Save the World.* A film exploring the use of biodynamic-organic method, versus the corporate mantra of infinite growth in a finite world, as a means for farmers to reclaim their farms and their livelihood.

<http://www.cloudsouthfilms.co.nz/films/onecow/about.html>

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION**

[www.theclimateproject.org](http://www.theclimateproject.org) The **Climate Project** consists of 1,000 dedicated volunteers from throughout the United States trained to educate the public about climate change and potential solutions.

[www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org) **Earthwatch Institute** engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. In their program, laymen join scientific expeditions for two weeks to assist with research in biology, sociology, and history.

[www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd) **Empowerment Institute: Low Carbon Diet.** Reduce your carbon footprint with a fun, easy-to-use, community-based program. Materials include a book, online household calculator, and materials for children.

[www.focusonthenation.org](http://www.focusonthenation.org) **Focus on the Nation.**

[www.goodguide.com](http://www.goodguide.com) Ratings of natural, green, and healthy products.

[www.thegreenoffice.com](http://www.thegreenoffice.com) **The Green Office.**

[www.kilowattours.org](http://www.kilowattours.org) **Kilowatt Ours** is an award-winning documentary to promote energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Website offers ways to save energy and track your energy savings, plug into your community, and get involved with national issues.

[www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org) **Northwest Earth Institute** has eight discussion courses for adults (healthy children, global warming, deep ecology, voluntary simplicity, sense of place, sustainable living, globalization, and sustainable food systems). The books are available by organizing a discussion group and contacting a group coordinator.

[www.worldcentric.org](http://www.worldcentric.org) **World Centric** is a non-profit organization working to reduce economic injustice and environmental degradation through education, community networks, and sustainable enterprises.

## BOOKS

### Pray and Inspire

*Canticles of the Earth: Celebrating the Presence of God in Nature* by F. Lynn Bachleda (Loyola Press, Chicago: 2004).

*Earth Prayers: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth* edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon (Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco: 1991). Includes calendar of Earth celebrations with suggested prayers.

*Earth's Echo: Sacred Encounters With Nature* by Robert M. Hama (Sorin Books, Notre Dame, IN: 2002).

*Every Part of This Earth is Sacred: Native American Voices in Praise of Nature* edited by Jana Stone (Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco).

*God at Every Gate: Prayers and Blessings for Pilgrims* by Brendan O'Malley (Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, PA: 1997). A book of Celtic prayers.

*With Beauty Before Me: An Inspirational Guide for Nature Walks* by Joseph Cornell (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA: 2000). A “take-along” pocket book of quotes from many sources.

*Poets of the Spirit* edited by Don Compton (W.W. West Inc., Bend OR: 2004). Includes a beautiful “Chinook Prayer Ceremony” suitable for group/liturgical reading.

*The Soul of the World: A Modern Book of Hours* by Phil Cousineau, photographs by Eric Lawton (Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco: 1993).

*When the Trees Say Nothing: Writings on Nature* by Thomas Merton, edited by Kathleen Deignan (Sorin Books, Notre Dame, IN: 2003).

### Learn and Share

*The Compassionate Universe* by Eknath Easwaran (Nilgiri Press, Berkeley, CA: 1989). A 7-week discussion series based on this book, with affirmation cards and bulletin inserts, facilitator guides, Sunday talks, and meditation transcripts is available at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org), go to Programs/EarthCare/.

*Creation Spirituality* by Matthew Fox (Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco: 1991).

*Earthstewards Handbook* by Danaan Parry and Lila Forest (Sunstone Publications, Cooperstown, NY: 1991).

*The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry

*The Earth’s Imagination* and *The Powers of the Universe* CD series, et al by Brian Swimme

*Ecological Intelligence: How Knowing the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy Can Change Everything* by Daniel Goleman

*The Elegant Universe* by David Green

*Enough* by Bill McKibben, (Henry Holt, New York 2003).

*The Four-Fold Way* by Angeles Arrien (Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco: 1993).

*The Hidden Messages in Water* by Masaru Emoto (Beyond Words Publishing, Hillsboro, OR: 2004).

*Plan B 3.0* by Lester Brown and published by the Earth Policy Institute. A report on the conditions of water, oil, atmosphere, soil, and food on the earth and the outline of a plan to restore the earth to a carrying capacity that would work for everyone. Free download at: [www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm](http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm).

*Quantum Theology* by Diarmuid O’Murchu



*Rare Earth* by Ward Brownlee

*Reconnecting with Nature: Finding wellness through restoring your bond with the Earth* by Michael J. Cohen. (Ecopress, Corvallis, OR 1997).

*The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering our Place in Nature* by David Suzuki (Greystone Books, Vancouver BC: 2002).

*The Sacred Tree: Reflections on Native American Spirituality* by Four Worlds Development Project (Lotus Light, Wilmot, WI: 1985)

*Silent Spring* by Rachael Carson (Fawcett Crest, 1964).

*The Story of Stuff, with Annie Leonard.* (<http://www.storyofstuff.com>). A 20-minute, fast paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world.

## TAKING ACTION

**Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream.** (<http://awakeningthedreamer.org>).

Sponsor or become a facilitator of this four hour symposium, which explores the interrelationship of three of humanity's most critical issues: Environmental Sustainability, Social Action and Spiritual Fulfillment.

*50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth* by John, Sophie and Jesse Javna (Hyperion Books, New York, NY: 2008).

*Clean and Green: the Complete Guide to Nontoxic and Environmentally Safe Housekeeping* by Annien Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, Woodstock, NY: 1990).

*Green Living.* Edited by E/The Environmental Magazine (Penguin Books, 2005).

*Greening Congregations Handbook: stories, ideas, and resources for cultivating creation awareness and care in your congregation.* Available at [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org). Includes resource lists by denominations (also interdenominational), plus an appendix of curricular aids, annotated bibliography of books, and a song bibliography.

*How to be Green* by John Button (Century Hutchinson, London England: 1989).

*A Moving Guide to Earth Care* by Unity Church of Portland, OR. Started first Unity Green Team in Northwest Region. Booklet describes how to start a Green Team and has a wealth of suggested activities. Available at [unityportland@qwest.net](mailto:unityportland@qwest.net) on love-offering basis.

*The Recyclers Handbook: Simple Things You Can Do* by The Earthworks Group (Earthworks Press, Berkeley, CA: 1990).

*Wake Up and Smell the Planet* edited by Brangien Davis (Skipstone, Seattle WA: 2007).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**SOUNDS OF NATURE - 2009 CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM.** From Unitarian Universalist Church, 8 lessons for children of all ages, with ideas to expand into 2 or more sessions. Eighth lesson also contains complete multi-generational service. Lessons use music to help connect with each other, other cultures, and the myriad rhythms of Nature. Stories, crafts, music, and other hands-on activities included. Other resources for children available at [www.uuministryforearth.org/orderform](http://www.uuministryforearth.org/orderform), including *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection*, an index of children's spiritual education resources sorted by nature-themed topics.

“Children and Our Sacred Earth” in *Something More* by Jean Grasso Fitzpatrick

*Growing Up Green* by Alice Skelsey and Gloria Huckaby (Workman Publishing, New York: 1973). Selected chapter titles are *Discovering the Green World: It's a State of Mind*, *Start with a Beautiful Day*, *Take a Woodland Walk*, *The ABCs of Gardening*, and *Sharing the Designs in Nature*.

*How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*, Lynne Cherry and Gary Braasch (10-14 years, Teacher's Guide available).

*Journey to the Heart of Nature* by Joseph Cornell (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA: 1994). Includes environmental activities for young adults.

*Keepers of the Earth* (1989); *Keepers of the Animals* (1991); *Keepers of Life: Discovering Plants* (1994); and *Keepers of the Night* (1994) by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac (Fulcrum Inc., Golden, CO). These books blend environmental activities with traditional Native American stories. Teacher's guides can be purchased separately.

*Play Lightly on the Earth* by Jacqueline Horsfall (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA). Includes activities for younger children (ages 3 to 9).

*Sharing Nature with Children* (2nd ed. 1998) and *Sharing Nature With Children II* (1989) by Joseph Cornell (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA). The first book is considered a classic in environmental education for children; a companion video can be purchased separately.

### Children's Books

Dawn Publications at [www.dawnpub.com](http://www.dawnpub.com) (excellent resources, thoroughly vetted, numerous awards)

*All I See Is Part of Me* by Chara M. Curtis

*Baby Earth* by Michele Petit-Jean

*The Big Book for Our Planet*, Durrell/George/Patterson, editors

*Born with a Bang; From Lava to Life; and Mammals That Morph* by Jennifer Morgan



*Brother Earth, Sister Sky* by Susan Jeffers

*Dear Children of the Earth; and Our Home, Too* by Schim Schimmel

*The Everything Seed* by Carole Martignacco

*In the Beginning* by Virginia Hamilton

*Just a Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg

*The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

*Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood

*On the Day You Were Born* by Debra Frasier

*Voices of the Wild* by Jonathan London