

Mobilize the Earth

Engage Your Faith for Earth Day 2012



The ways in which we relate to the basics of life—food, energy, land and water—on a daily basis are embodiments of our respect for Creation. Wondering how your congregation can foster a faithful relationship with Creation? Kick off a campaign around April 22 (Earth Day) or June 5 (World Environment Day). EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC), Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) programs encourage congregations to undertake an action campaign, rooted in worship, education, contemplation and prayer, in the spirit of Earth Day 2012's theme of "Mobilize the Earth"TM (www.earthday.org). Congregations are invited pick one of the following themes— **Food, Energy, or Land and Water**—to mobilize their congregations, *not just for a day, but for a season*.

1. Food

Educate and Inspire:

Screen *Nourish* as part of the Cool Harvest program of Interfaith Power and Light.

As farmer and poet Wendell Berry so accurately said, "How we eat determines to a large extent how the world is used." *Nourish* compellingly illuminates the ethical issues of our daily bread with a diversity of voices including youth.



Act:

- Hold a *Cool Potluck* at your screening to raise awareness of how different food choices can add to or decrease your "climate footprint." Examples of foods with a lower climate footprint include local, organic food and whole foods. See www.Coolharvest.org for guidelines and ideas.
- Start a *Healthy and Sustainable Food Drive* using resources from Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership (IFFP) found at www.faithandwellness.org.
- Cap your efforts and make a long-term impact by adopting a food purchasing or healthy eating policy for your congregation. IFFP has developed policy and guideline examples and can assist you.
- Engage youth in an IFFP *Food Justice Plunge* or presentation.

Contact: Sean McEvoy at (503) 221-1054, ext. 215, or smcevoy@emoregon.org about any of these opportunities or to borrow or purchase a *Nourish* DVD (\$15).

2. Energy

Educate and Inspire:

Preach and Teach on Energy and Climate Ethics.

The pressure is on to extract and export more natural gas and coal in the United States, slowing the transition to a clean energy economy. The ethical issues are complex and many. The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program (NCCEJP) is providing Earth Day Sunday worship materials on the theme of Energy Ethics and is holding webinars on different energy ethics topics throughout the year. Get resources at www.ncccojustice.org/energy. For interfaith resources go to www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/.



Act:

- Lead by example. Complete an energy audit of your religious facility and start by implementing low-cost or no cost recommendations. A great online audit tool can be found at <http://coolcongregations.com/calculator/>, which also includes waste, land stewardship and other practices that impact the climate.
- Study the “Statement of Our Nation’s Moral Obligation to Address Climate Change,” and sign on at www.climateethicscampaign.org.
- Take action on coal exports in the Pacific Northwest at www.PowerPastCoal.org.
- Start a Cool Congregations campaign, to help congregation members measure and reduce their energy use and carbon footprint. Celebrate members’ collective accomplishments.
- If you are in the Portland region, start a Weatherize for Good campaign in your congregation with OIPL and get \$100 for every member who completes a home energy remodel. Start by organizing a Weatherize for Good House Party. Call Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214, to schedule a presentation on Cool Congregations or Weatherize for Good and get materials.
- If you are a home-owner, renter and apartment dweller in Energy Trust of Oregon territory, get a free energy saving kit at <http://oregon.energysavvy.com/>.
- Enter your sermon or faith message contest in our Earth Words Contest. Find out more at www.emoregon.org/power_light.php.

Contact: OIPL for audits, presentations and DVDs, and faith-based study resources on energy efficiency and renewable energy at oipl@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054, ext. 214

3. Land and Water

Educate and Inspire:

Explore the significance of land and water in your faith tradition and ethics developed around them. Use our new *Congregations Caring for Watersheds and Wildlife* handbook to find resources for education and worship to celebrate your local ecosystem, available at www.emoregon.org. If you are in the Portland area, join our April 24 or 26 *Congregations Caring for Watersheds and Wildlife* workshops. Learn about the relationship of indigenous tribes to the land by attending ceremonies open to the public. NCCEJP offers faith-based land, water and wilderness education and worship resources at www.ncccejustice.org.



Act:

- Improve the stewardship of congregations’ land to benefit watersheds and wildlife, reduce maintenance, and create space for spiritual renewal and education in partnership with INEC and local water or wildlife conservation organizations.
- Host a presentation on naturescaping, stormwater management or organic gardening for residences at your congregation.
- Participate in a watershed workday with your local watershed council.
- Hold an outdoor worship service with a care for Creation theme.
- Serve as or get matched with a mentor for your congregation’s land care project in the Portland area for 2012-2013 through INEC.

Contact: Alison Warren at awarren@emoregon.org or (503) 221-1054, ext. 210.

Please send us your plans for Earth Day and any stories you would like to share to inspire others and for media outreach to awarren@emoregon.org. Thanks!