

*INEC's mission
is to connect,
inform and
empower
individuals and
congregations to
work for justice
and the care
and renewal of
the earth.*

Religious leaders call for bold energy conservation plan

On February 26, Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, in concert with 20 other states' climate change campaigns, released the Oregon version of "An Interfaith Call for Energy Conservation and Climate Justice," an open letter on the Senate Energy Bill. There were over 1,200 religious leaders across the country, including 84 from Oregon, who signed on. The leaders called on every U.S. Senator to promote "energy conservation, fuel efficiency and alternate energy development to protect God's creation and God's children," as they deliberate on the energy bill.

Signers of the letter felt that this is an especially important time for leadership on energy issues. The Rev. Gail McDougale, senior pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Salem, explained, "This is a time for

Continued on page 2



Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign Update

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign was successful in its second year, building strength in the grassroots pew, as well as support from Oregon religious leaders. Four regional conferences were held in Medford, Portland, The Dalles and Eugene, reaching over 300 people. Three religious leader sign-on letters were sent to the media and elected officials. Media coverage was excellent including three op-eds, 20 newspaper articles, coverage on eight television stations and over 15 radio spots. Campaign

members across the state visited with members of Oregon's congressional delegation. Dozens of congregations have responded with creative education and action programs.

The campaign is coordinated by the National Religious Partnership for the Environment with the National Council of Churches and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. A Washington, DC-based director was hired at the beginning of the year. In 2002, the campaign will place special emphasis on public policy advocacy. It will also

Bullitt Foundation offers matching grant

The Bullitt Foundation recently awarded INEC \$15,000 with a \$5,000 challenge match grant for funds INEC raises. The grant will fund INEC efforts in the areas of global warming, energy and sustainable agriculture and enable INEC to serve new areas of the state.

The Bullitt Foundation is committed to the protection and restoration of the environment of the Pacific Northwest. This commitment includes environmental problems that disproportionately impact lower-economic people in both urban and rural communities.

Donations of \$50 or more will be matched. Please respond by July 30, 2002, using the enclosed envelope.

bring a religious and moral perspective to the debates on global warming and energy policy by educating the media about implications of religious and moral values for particular global warming and energy policies. Its activities include the establishment of congregation liaisons across the state to help inform their congregations of resources, events and advocacy opportunities and a June 2 conference in Beaverton (see calendar). *If you are interested in serving as the liaison for your congregation, please call Jenny at (503) 221-1054.*

Energy Conservation Plan

Continued from page 1

Senators Smith and Wyden to consider deeply this opportunity for faithful stewardship of God's creation. To ignore the reality and consequences of global warming is to close our eyes to a problem that we leave for future generations to solve." According to Rabbi Emanuel Rose of Congregation Beth Israel of Portland, "Many communities of faith take seriously the protection of the poor and vulnerable. Given that climate change is certain to cause unthinkable suffering, not just for humankind, but for all of creation, we have an obligation to take action and to urge our political leaders to do so as well."

Rooted in moral values and concern for God's creation, the letter supports effective policies to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels that harm our health, creation and national energy security.

The specific policy initiatives include the following:

- Substantially raise vehicle fuel economy across the board in the shortest feasible timeframe,

and require SUV's, minivans and passenger cars to meet the same standards.

- Support substantially increased funding for inter-city rail and metropolitan mass transit to provide attractive and functional alternatives to single occupancy autos.
- Invest significantly more resources in renewable energy research and development with a focus on wind, geothermal, solar and biomass technologies.
- Increase funds for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and other programs to alleviate economic hardship on low-income people caused by high energy prices.
- Include carbon dioxide as a regulated pollutant from power plants.

For the full text of the Oregon version of "An Interfaith Call for Energy Conservation and Climate Justice," please check our Web site, www.emoregon.org.

Eco-Ministry News is published by the Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC), a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). We invite you to join in our work. For more information, to get involved, or to submit articles for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact Jenny Holmes, INEC program director and newsletter editor, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278 or by e-mail at inec@emoregon.org. You can also obtain more information about EMO and INEC by visiting EMO's Web site, which is at www.emoregon.org.

We've moved!

The INEC office has moved from Hopewell House to the EMO central office. Our address is 0245 SW Bancroft, Suite B, Portland, Oregon, 97201, and our phone number is (503) 221-1054. The INEC e-mail address remains the same, inec@emoregon.org.

Before moving, INEC contributed sustainable features to its new space. The office was painted with recycled latex paint from Metro. New, remanufactured office furniture was purchased from Steelcase's Revest line. Revest creates like-new furniture by rebuilding Steelcase office furniture and replacing parts and electrical components with new products and finishes, which saves money and reduces environmental impact. Steelcase now purchases renewable energy for its manufacturing plants where available. If your congregation is looking for new furniture or office products, we encourage you to consider buying recycled and sustainable projects that are now widely available. Web sites that can help you locate these products are Green Seal: www.green Seal.org and EPA: www.epa.gov/oppt/eppl.

In the News

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign was mentioned in a



February 26, front page article in *The Oregonian*, "Energy issues lead faithful to larger pulpit," which explored how diverse religious groups across the nation are advocating for just energy policies. On February 27, the *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* noted the comments of the Rev. Gwen Drake of Dallas United Methodist Church, one of several religious leaders in the Campaign who attended Senator Gordon Smith's February 21 town hall meeting in Dallas, a town west of Salem. *The Jewish Review* ran an extensive story on the launch of the Jewish community's climate change effort through the Northwest Jewish Environmental Project on March 1.

Unfolding of the Senate Energy Bill

The Senate Energy Bill (S 517) traveled a rough path through the Senate this March. The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign has been closely following the bill and effectively mobilizing a broad base of the faith community through phone calls, letters, visits with Senate staff and participation in town hall meetings. Some of the bill's energy conservation and renewable resources language has been greatly weakened or removed from the legislation. Despite those setbacks, there have been some major victories.

Senator Smith (R-OR) and Senator Wyden (D-OR) both voted for stronger fuel efficiency standards. This element is crucial to sound energy conservation policy. The second victory occurred when Senator Kyl's (R-AZ) amendment to strike the 10 percent renewable energy production requirement for electric utilities was rejected. Senators Smith and Wyden voted, with our support, against it. Renewable energy production is, quite simply, too important to allow voluntary oversight by the utilities themselves.

Our encouragement at this moment rests in high hopes for future energy bills. The recent favorable votes on higher fuel efficiency legislation, and agreement in the Senate that renewable energy is so important that enforcement of at least 10 percent renewable energy production is needed on the national level, have set the stage for even greater success the next time renewable energy is debated in Congress.

A short history of the bill follows:

March 7 – Senator Voinovich's (R-OH) amendment reauthorizing the Price-Anderson Act was passed.

Among other provisions, the Act indemnifies Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensees until 2012, and thus is a major defeat for clean and safe energy advocates.

March 13 – The Levin Bond amendment passed. It encourages increased production of alternatively fueled and hybrid vehicles but had extensive loopholes for light duty trucks. Senators Smith and Wyden both voted against this bill. Later, Senator Miller (D-GA) proposed an amendment that would completely exempt pickup trucks from increased fuel efficiency standards beginning in 2004, when this legislation would take effect and carry on indefinitely. Senator Wyden voted against this, but Senator Smith voted in support. Unfortunately, this amendment passed.

March 21 – Our senators voted against three amendments that each would have weakened the bill in significant ways. Senator Kyl's amendment to repeal the

requirement for 10 percent renewable electricity production would have made all renewable electricity production by utilities voluntary. Senator Murkowski's (R-AK) amendment would have made any renewable electricity portfolio requirements voluntary, as well. Senator Kyl then offered an amendment that would have given state governors veto power over certain provisions in the Federal mandate if it would adversely affect electricity production in their state. Thankfully, all three failed.

Our senators have been very receptive to the voice of the faith community. Organizers believe that the faith community's advocacy informed our Senators' chosen positions on energy conservation and renewable resources, when critical votes on the energy bill took place.

– Drew Strayer



Join the Interfaith Climate Change Network

Faith-based climate change and energy advocates have a great new tool at their disposal. The Interfaith Climate Change Network is an electronic advocacy network focused on the issue of climate change that will provide members with information and suggestions for actions to take at home and in their congregations and will link them with others through public policy advocacy.

The network has a Web site (www.protectingcreation.org) that provides these suggestions and has information about pending U.S. legislation and other policy decisions that relate to climate change. The Web site also has sample letters that you can send to your U.S. senators and representative and other policy makers right on line. Those who join will be contacted by e-mail periodically (not deluged!) and alerted to new developments and opportunities for public policy advocacy. E-mails will contain background information for other activities as well. To sign up, register here: www.protectingcreation.org.

Go Green!

OIPL provides new outreach for congregations and their members

The mission of EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL) is to educate congregations and their members about renewable energy and energy efficiency and to equip them to take action. Over 65 groups and congregations received presentations from OIPL from April to December 2001. Locations of outreach included Portland, Medford, Corvallis, Salem, Newberg, Pendleton, The Dalles, Bend, Hood River and Prineville. Participants were provided with tools and ideas to save energy and encouraged to sign-up for green power to help slow global warming and reduce other environmental impacts. To make a public commitment to energy stewardship, many congregations have taken the OIPL Energy Pledge. One of these congregations, Unity Church of Portland, has the goal of serving as a model green congrega-

tion for their denomination's regional body.

New Energy Choices

Thanks to the passage of Senate Bill 1149 in the 2001 legislature, starting on March 1, 2002, residential and small business customers of Portland General Electric (PGE) and Pacific Power were provided with a new portfolio of renewable energy choices. All of these options are mandated by the state and do not affect the quality of your electric service. The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign was part of an effort by environmental, consumer and low-income organizations, led by the Fair and Clean Energy Coalition, to protect small customers from an unpredictable open market while allowing new energy choices. These choices, as described by Renewable



Northwest Project are:
Blue Sky or Clean Wind[™] (Fixed Renewable) – You can choose to buy 100 kWh increments of new wind generation each month from PGE's Clean Windsm program or Pacific Power's Blue Sky program.
*Green Mountain Energy*sm (GME) *electricity* (Renewable Usage) – Oregonians can purchase 100% of their electricity from 100% renewable resources with GME electricity, which consists of geothermal and new wind sources. GME is working with Pacific Power and PGE to provide customers with this new 100 % renewable option that covers all your energy usage.

Continued on next page

Congregational energy pilot program draws praise

Creating and passing a bill into law is only half the battle. Implementation can be a complex learning process for all parties involved. Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) has certainly found that to be the case with Oregon's new law, which allows non-profits to take advantage of the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC). The BETC provides up to 35 percent of the cost of energy efficiency projects. A business takes the tax credit, retains 1.5 percent and passes 33.5 percent on to the non-profit.

OIPL developed the project in partnership with the Climate Neutral Network and Norm Thompson Outfitters, Inc. Our goal was to help congregations with high

use by the wider community make substantial investments in conservation while easing cost or cash flow constraints. In just two or three years, the conservation projects would pay off the initial costs and begin saving large portions of the congregations' yearly energy bills.

According to the Oregon Office of Energy (OOE), OIPL is one of the key pioneers in helping institutions take advantage of the law and work out its trouble spots. Suzanne Dillard, OOE staff member, noted, "I am so excited by what your organization has done to bring so many project applications through our office. You folks are the cutting edge. It seems like so many organizations are just sitting by and

watching to see if this program is really as great as it looks. With your efforts at the beginning of this program, we can expect many more organizations to sign on in the near future. This will really make a difference. You are exactly what this program needs."

Our hat is off to the congregations that participated in the project. Their efforts will have an exponential effect on energy conservation in this state as many more organizations follow their example. A more complete story on the project will be offered in the next issue of *Eco-Ministry News*.

– Jenny Holmes

Continued from page 4

Green Mountain Energysm Salmon-Friendly Plan (Habitat) – If you would like to make an additional contribution to native fish habitat while purchasing 100% renewable electricity, you can sign up for the Salmon-Friendly plan. Your bill will include an additional contribution to the Pacific Salmon Watershed Fund, managed by For the Sake of the Salmon, that supports native fish habitat in Oregon.

A broad array of consumer and environmental groups are encouraging customers to take advantage of this historic choice. The response by customers so far has been very positive. Over 12,000 customers have signed up for the renewable options since the program launched.

If you would like to sign up, please call 1 (866) GMTN-633 or check their Web site: www.greenmountain.com/or. Mention code #1016 to benefit INEC and/or your congregation.

New OIPL Opportunity: Benefit the Earth and Your Congregation

Starting this spring, OIPL will be providing new resources and training for people to educate their congregations about renewable energy, the renewable options provided by their utility. It will continue providing presentations to congregations interested in learning more about green power and energy efficiency. OIPL also is partnering with GME to provide incentives for congregations and their members to “go green.” Each member of a congregation who signs up for one of the Green Mountain Energysm electricity choices can have \$10 go towards their congregation or toward OIPL’s energy efficiency services. After signing up, call OIPL at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278 if you want the \$10 to go to your congregation.

Highlights of 2001 & 2002 Plans

2001 Actions

Expanding religious constituency for just and sustainable public policies:

We organized four regional global warming conferences, and religious leaders signed three statements on global warming and energy.

Promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration:

We were pleased to work with Washington Association of Churches and Montana Association of Churches to gather key Northwest religious leaders together to explore regional partnerships.

Building bridges between diverse environmental viewpoints:

Organized clergy consultation on the role of the faith community in the Klamath Basin water crisis and provided models for dialogue.

Creating sustainable food systems:

We published the second edition of *Portland's Bounty, a Guide to Eating Locally and Seasonally in the Portland Area*. We also assisted with the development of a food policy council for the City of Portland.

Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy purchases:

Our Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project provided 65 presentations to congregations and groups across Oregon. A pilot energy efficiency finance project for congregations was started.

Nurturing green congregations:

INEC’s work was supported by or connected to over 110 congregations.

Advocating for policies that promote sustainability and justice: Advocated for energy and global warming legislation.

2002 Plans

Our goal is to establish 50 congregational liaisons who will share information, resources and alerts with their congregations and recruit over 300 participants for the Interfaith Climate Change Network.

We will continue to develop a regional partnership on religion and the environment and plan a 2003 Oregon interfaith environmental summit. Also, we will organize and co-sponsor events on global warming and other interfaith and theological dialogue events.

We will continue to participate in dialogues on salmon recovery and will convene a regional citizens’ forum in an area of emerging environmental conflicts.

Our participation in food coalition efforts and the formation of a food policy council for the Portland region will continue. We will provide congregations with resources and educational opportunities on food sustainability issues.

Congregational representatives will be trained to educate their congregations about renewable energy and conservation. We will continue presentations to congregations. A special energy efficiency project for rural congregations will be launched.

We will support congregations in developing environmental programs by providing consultation.

We will establish contact people in every state district, assist with EMO’s Voters Guide and advocate for strong national energy policy.

Community garden celebrated

The Patton Community Garden is the 26th and newest garden in the Portland Parks & Recreation Community Garden Program. The garden grew from a partnership between Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Portland Parks & Recreation (PPR), with a grant from the Bureau of Housing & Community Development. It serves the North Portland community, as well as the residents of EMO's Patton Home—an assisted living facility for older adults and people with disabilities and low-incomes. EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) program was a key catalyst for the garden's development.

The garden creates an outdoor community center for Patton Home residents and the wider community, as well as contributing to food security and public health in the Humboldt Neighborhood by providing fresh fruits and vegetables, physical activity and social interaction. Tess Beistel of Friends of Portland Community Gardens (FPCG) notes, "In this time of budget cutting and tightening of city funding, it feels very special to be building something that adds so much to our community."

The opening celebration for the garden—co-sponsored by EMO and INEC, PPR and FPCG—was held on March 9 in the Patton Home community room and garden. David Leslie, executive director of EMO, and Kathy Murrin of PPR opened the celebration. Leslie recognized the value of the garden project, stating, "The Patton Home Community Garden is a place for Patton Home residents and the broader community to meet and work together. It is an essential part of our Patton Home community

redevelopment plan that will ensure that Patton Home is truly a long-term productive community asset."

Neighbors, community gardeners and Patton Home residents gathered for the festivities and to recognize those who brought the Patton Garden to life. Jenny Holmes, director of INEC, and Leslie Pohl-Kosbau of the PPR's Community Garden Program gave special thanks to the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, Friends of Trees, Hands on Portland, FPCG, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps and the countless volunteers who have been integral to the growth of the Patton garden programs.

The celebration featured guest speaker Vern Nelson, the "Hungry Gardener" columnist for *The Oregonian's Home and Garden* magazine. With the cutting of the grapevine ribbon at the entrance gate, the new Patton Community Garden sign in the garden's native plant habitat was unveiled. After months of volunteers working to construct the garden's signature white picket fence, guests put the last ones in place. It was a symbolic end to the opening celebration of such a unique and vibrant garden.

Thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals that have also provided support for the garden: Portland Nursery; New Seasons Market; Pacific Power; SOLV; Bosky Dell; Shorty's Nursery; American Compost & Recycling; Deep Creek Garden Center; the Gardener's Choice; Leslie Pohl-Kosbau; the former staff of Patton Home, who planted the community garden idea; and Kali Robinson, with Only NW Natives; and Kirsten Gellella for their work on the gardens.

— D'Anna Saul



The gardening programs at Patton Home invite donations and volunteers to sustain and develop what has been built. They are seeking volunteers with gardening experience to help care for the native plant habitats and to lend expertise, as they work on building the foundation for a gardening program for residents.

For more information, please contact D'Anna Saul at (503) 221-1054, ext. 276.

Portland's Bounty— Inspires eaters and equips local food advocates

The second edition of *Portland's Bounty: A Guide to Eating Locally and Seasonally in the Greater Portland/Vancouver Area* has proved a hit in the Portland Metro region and beyond. In just three months, one-third of the 2,000 copies printed have been sold. Over a dozen bookstores and retailers in the Portland area are selling the guide. We have received many good comments from a diverse group of people including gardeners, farmers, policymakers, cooks, economic development organizers and emergency food providers.

The guide is \$8.50 per copy. Postage is \$3.00 for the first copy and 50 cents for each additional. To order, call the Portland's Bounty order line at (503) 736-0835.

Congregational resources: video reviews

New video *Columbia River Watershed Pastoral Letter* released

The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good video beautifully illustrates the principles of the 2001 Pastoral Letter from the Catholic bishops in the international watershed region of the United States and Canada. The bishops came together to “develop and implement an integrated spiritual, social and ecological vision for our watershed home, a vision that promotes justice for people and stewardship of creation.” It is this collective vision of stewardship for the river that they eloquently express in this video, not just for Catholic audiences, but for all in our region.

The video is a wonderful resource for congregations and individuals. It can educate, promote discussion and serve as a call to action, to look to the beautiful creation of God in our midst and our responsibility for it.

The pastoral letter, as well as a reflection guide to enhance group discussion after viewing the film, can be ordered through the Portland Archdiocesan Office of Justice and Peace at (503) 233-8361 or mspeck@archdpdx.org. The 14-minute video is available for a \$7 donation through the Washington State Catholic Conference by calling (206) 301-0556 or e-mailing wsc99@aol.com.

Dr. Jack Dymond highlights global warming video

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign (OIGWC) are offering a new video for congregational use, *Global Warming: The Challenge*. The video was filmed at the October 2000 kickoff conference for the OIGWC and features Dr. Jack Dymond, a scientist who has become very popular with Campaign

participants because of his ability to so clearly and compellingly communicate the nature of global warming from a scientific perspective. Dr. Dymond is a professor at Oregon State University's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences.

Two versions of the video are being offered. The 37-minute version includes an introduction by Dr. Russ Butkus, Theology Professor at the University of Portland. The 35-minute version features a popular Jewish song as the introduction to Dr. Jack Dymond's presentation.

To purchase the video, please send a check for \$9, payable to EMO/INEC with a note on the memo line: “GW video.” (Please indicate the 37- or 35-minute version.) For more information, call INEC at (503) 221-1054, or e-mail inec@emoregon.org.



Food Policy Summit Held

Local governments plan for drinking water, transportation, waste disposal and more, but one necessity of life is usually left out of the planning picture—food. A long-term vision of participants in INEC's food sustainability events and programs has been to develop a food policy council for the Portland area to ensure that food concerns are integrated into planning and policy decisions. That vision is now coming to fruition. INEC's November 2000 “A Place at the Table” event was a key venue for Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman to invite citizens to work with him to form a food policy council. A group of participants responded and devel-

oped a proposal that led to the Portland Sustainable Development Commission's support for the idea.

As a next step, individuals and groups, including INEC, co-organized a February 2, Food Policy Council Summit. The event brought together a diverse group of over 100 people to suggest issues that the new food policy council should be aware of, to name opportunities on the horizon, and to identify key players. Political leaders present included Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo De Steffey and Metro Council Member Rex Burkholder. Keynote speaker, Mark Winne, director of the Hartford Food System

and long-time leader in the community food security movement, was introduced by INEC director, Jenny Holmes. Winne gave an overview of food systems, the important roles food councils play and how they can flourish. Participants especially valued the opportunity to make connections with people from diverse backgrounds and interests. It was clear that there is a growing interest in food system issues and great excitement about the potential for good food policy to enhance the region's quality of life.

For more information on food policy, call Jenny at (503) 221-1054.

Eco-Ministry Calendar

April 28

Earth Day Celebrations, Oregon Zoo. The Race to Stop Global Warming 8K run, 5K walk, 1K children's fun run and diaper dash. For information and to register, go to www.racetostopglobalwarming.org. The Procession of the Species is an artistic celebration of the natural world, starting at Lincoln High School at 11 a.m., winding through downtown and ending with a MAX ride to the Oregon Zoo at noon. The Earth Day Expo from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. will feature earth-friendly displays and exhibits presenting environmental information, fun activities for the whole family and innovative products.

June 2

Global Warming: Science, Faith and Action. 1 to 6 p.m. Global Warming Forum, Bethel United Church of Christ, 5150 SW Watson, Beaverton. Cost: \$10; \$5 students and seniors. The forum will cover scientific and ethical aspects of global warming and equip people and congregations to take action. Sponsored by EMO and Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign in partnership with Bethel UCC Outreach Committee. To register, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

June 29

Be a Partner with the Good Earth: Oregon Garden Watershed Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Garden in Silverton, OR. A day of deeper understanding and reflection on our earth home. Displays on what is being done and what can be done

to care for our world and educational seminars for educators, back yard gardeners and the faith community take place around the garden. Cost: \$7 admission to Oregon Garden.

July 11-14

Earth's Energy, God's Light: Faithful Responses to the Energy Crisis Linfield College, McMinnville. Eco-justice ministries conference includes worship, workshops, science and theology plenaries, energy fair and site visits. Sponsored by Presbyterians for Restoring Creation. Co-sponsored and co-organized with Eco-Justice Unit of the Presbytery of the Cascades. EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power and Light will be providing workshops. For information, call (888) 728-7228, ext. 5811 or Jenny at (503) 281-8175 (eve.), or visit www.pcusua.org/prc.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of OREGON
INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR EARTH CONCERNS
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B
Portland, OR 97201

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1327
Portland, Oregon