

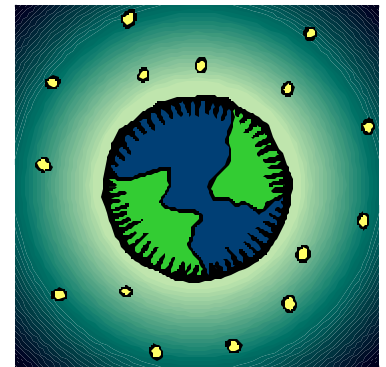
*INEC's mission
is to connect,
inform and
empower
individuals and
congregations to
work for justice
and the care
and renewal of
the earth.*

Summit on Climate Stewardship set for Sept. 18

Do religious organizations have a role to play in stopping global warming? The short answer is yes, and the long answer is, resoundingly, yes. On Thursday, Sept. 18, 2003, the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign will present the *Oregon Faith Leaders Summit on Climate Stewardship*, in Salem, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Through exploring the religious and moral imperative for Earth stewardship, briefings on policy and science and dialogue, the event aims to re-energize faith communities to address climate change and will inform new directions for the next stage of the Campaign. The Summit is for lay leaders, clergy and other religious leaders with a desire to become more effective in their efforts to care for the Earth, especially for

Earth's climate system. More information can be found at www.emoregon.org or by calling Jenny Holmes, campaign coordinator, at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278. The registration deadline is Sept. 10. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch and a resource guide.

Global warming is commonly known as the most overarching threat to Creation in our time. The Summit will provide the latest scientific and political information and discuss the faith community's most constructive possible response to the increasingly alarming facts of climate change. Underlining the importance of this involvement, The Rev. Dr. Wayne Hill, chair of the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Steering Committee,



says, "Global warming is a moral and religious issue because it causes so much suffering, especially among the poor ... so religious organizations have a key role to play here."

The Summit's morning program features a keynote by Dr. Kent Bransford of Physicians for Social Responsibility on "Human Health, Social Justice and Climate Change."

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Founders award received at Sustainability conference

EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) received its *Founders of a New Northwest* award from Sustainable Northwest at a May 31 Sustainability Gala, which concluded the 2003 Sustainability Forum in Portland. The award reads as follows: "In recognition of your innovative work to build a sustainable economy in the Northwest. For refusing to sacrifice the good of the people for the good of the land –

finding a new path which honors both. For giving of yourself to a vision of the human community working together – able to think beyond itself to embrace the entire biological community and from one generation to many."

With close to 200 nominees to choose from, the selection committee focused on "those who went out on a limb, taking a personal risk, to get their innovative business or project off the ground." Profiles of the

Founders, including INEC, can be viewed at www.sustainablenorthwest.org. INEC played a key role in helping organize two well-attended panels – one on beliefs, values and sustainability and the other on how congregations are putting faith into action – for the Forum's new Spirituality and Sustainability track. It also provided two Greening Congregations workshops.

Summit on Climate Stewardship

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Bransford is followed by a review of campaign progress at the state and national levels and an interfaith panel of diverse religious leaders speaking to the moral and religious dimensions of Earth stewardship and human-caused climate change. Bill Bradbury, secretary of state and chair of Oregon's new Sustainability Board, will serve as the lunch speaker. Afternoon sessions will include a public policy panel and dialogue and discussion on how we can be more effective and strategic in our actions and the next steps for the Campaign.

The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign is coordinated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in partnership with the Northwest Jewish Environmental Project. The goals of the campaign are to: 1) educate people of faith in congregations and other religious bodies on global warming, 2) encourage congregations to use less energy, purchase green energy and advocate for expanded investment in renewable energy and conservation and 3) communicate a message on global warming to the media, elected officials and others in positions of leadership.

Thank you to our funders!

In the second quarter, INEC received funding from the following foundation and denominational sources: The Brainerd Foundation (\$4,000); The United Church of Christ Hunger Program (\$4,000) and Presbyterian Hunger Program (\$5,000), for Community Food Security; and Hardy Plant Society (\$800) and Portland Home Garden Club (\$250), both for Patton Home Garden Projects.

Congregational involvement sought for community food security effort

Since INEC started its efforts to promote community food security ministries in 1997, community food security has increasingly become a pathway for connecting the faith community's longstanding concern for hunger with sustainability and economic justice. Thanks to support from the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the United Church of Christ Hunger Program, INEC will be partnering with congregations and community groups to host Community Food Security workshops throughout the Willamette Valley. The workshops will explore the connections between food and faith, ways to educate your congregation and tools for starting and sustaining community food security projects and ministries. Each workshop will be organized to build a local network for mutual support and action. INEC is also documenting congregational food projects underway.

If you would like to host a workshop at your congregation or you have a project to share, please call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

Thanks to volunteers and interns

Volunteers play an increasingly vital role in INEC's mission. We are deeply grateful to all who have volunteered this year. INEC's Mennonite International Visitor Volunteer, Mirjam Romeijn, returned to the Netherlands in July after 11 months of service. After working for bit, she plans to get training to use horticulture and pet therapy while working with the elderly. Mirjam assisted with INEC's programs in numerous ways including program support, assisting with the Patton Home therapeutic horticulture program and organizing the Earth Day Garden Party.

In July, Anna Fedman, a religion major at Brown University with an interest in environmental education, served as the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign Intern, providing indispensable assistance in organizing the *Oregon Faith Leaders' Summit on Climate Stewardship*.

Matt Magee, a recent graduate of Whitman College in environmental

studies and political science, is currently volunteering with the Campaign in media outreach. Cecily Bruce serves as the therapeutic horticulture coordinator at Patton Home and has played the lead role in starting the program. Serving as the Congregational Liaison Coordinator, Nancy Miller keeps liaisons informed through special e-mails and the *Eco-Notes* electronic newsletter, as well as assisting with liaison program development. Diane Pinney has also provided valuable help in organizing a meeting and preparing resources for liaisons, as well as documenting stories of congregational projects available on INEC's Web page at www.emoregon.org/inec.htm.

The talent and passion these volunteers share is a real blessing. **Thank you!**

Eco-Ministry News is published by INEC, a program of EMO.
Editor: Jenny Holmes.
Contributor: Allison Wiley.

INEC joins Tillamook Rainforest Coalition

This spring INEC joined the Tillamook Rainforest Coalition (TRC) – a broad coalition of businesses, organizations and individuals working to protect the largest continuous unprotected tract of coastal temperate rainforest left in the lower 48 states. The forest's 810 square miles – an area larger than Crater Lake and the Columbia River George combined – sits on the slopes of Oregon's Coast Range mountains. Abundant rainfall (up to 200 inches a year in some areas) and mild temperatures make this rainforest one of the best places on the planet to grow trees. These trees not only provide clean water, wildlife habitat and shade streams, they also sustain jobs both in the recreation and wood and paper products industry. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Board endorsed the Coalition's 50/50 plan that supports

use of 50 percent of these lands for clean water, recreation and fish and wildlife and 50 percent for sustainable forestry. EMO's Environmental Ministry Committee took a field trip to sites in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests in May to listen to perspectives of state forest managers and environmentalists. Another field trip is being planned in September that will include a discussion on religious perspectives on forest stewardship.



Call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278, if you are interested in participating. For more information about the Coalition and its events go to www.TillamookRainforest.org.

Patton Home garden party celebrates community building and earth stewardship

To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, INEC sponsored a party at the Patton Home Community Garden, located on the grounds of EMO's Patton Home, a drug- and alcohol-free, single room occupancy housing facility. The event included a barbecue provided by EMO's Delizioso Catering, as well as a work party to get the community garden and other garden areas in shape.

The Patton Home Community Garden is the 26th garden in the Portland Parks and Recreation Community Garden Program. The garden grew from a partnership between EMO and Portland Parks and Recreation with a grant from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development. It serves

the North Portland community, as well as residents of the Patton Home. Thank you to Portland Nursery, Wild Oats and Whole Foods Markets for their in-kind donations for the event.

Transportation choices and quality of life: special faith community screening coming up

Zig Zag: Real Stories, New Angles is a television program and Web site that explores how transportation choices affect our neighborhoods, cities and communities. According to the producers, "Moving from home activities to school activities, from work places to play places and back again occupies an ever increasing amount of our time. Transportation is not the destination, but without it, we never get where we want to go." This fall, Metro, Oregon Public Broadcasting and community groups will create a dialogue on transportation in the state of Oregon and beyond. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has served on the advisory committee for the Community Media Project, which launched the pilot program. The television program will be completed in Nov. 2003 and will be broadcast on OPB. INEC will host a special screening for the program, featuring dialogue on faith and transportation choices. For more information, go to www.zigzagshow.org/home.

Volunteer opportunities

INEC has a number of volunteer opportunities for people interested in contributing their time and talents. We are in immediate need of a part-time office assistant to come in one to two days per week to assist with a variety of clerical and program support tasks. The Patton Home Garden project is looking for congregational groups or individuals to help with monthly work parties or to adopt-a-plot. INEC is also looking for interns for our Eco-Justice Marketing Pilot Project (sustainable youth group fundraisers) and the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign.

Please e-mail inec@emoregon.org or call Jenny at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278, for volunteer position descriptions.

INEC Resources

The INEC Congregational Liaison Program supports people and groups within a congregation in greening their congregation. Liaisons are provided with educational materials for their congregation, opportunities for training and to gather with other liaisons to share ideas and support one another, opportunities to participate in meetings with policy makers and community leaders, and more. To request an application form, send an e-mail to inec@emoregon.org.

Eco-Notes is INEC's electronic newsletter that provides news of faith-based environmental efforts, INEC updates, a calendar of events and resources for reflection and action. To subscribe, send an e-mail to sympa@onenorthwest with "SUBSCRIBE inecnews Firstname

Lastname" in the subject line. Another electronic tool is *Climate and Faith*, which provides advocacy alerts, news of significant developments related to global warming and ideas for action. To subscribe, follow the steps above but substitute "climateandfaith" for "inecnews."

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light provides energy audits, solar assessments, consultations, presentations on renewable energy and conservation and a renewable energy incentive program. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

Other Resources

Ethics for a Small Planet: A Communications Handbook on the Ethical and Theological Reasons for Protecting Biodiversity, Jane Elder, Ed., The Biodiversity Project, 2002. *Ethics for a Small Planet* is designed to help organizations and individuals be more effective in communicating about biodiversity protection as a moral and religious concern. The book can be ordered for \$30 per copy from the Biodiversity Project by calling (608) 250-9876.

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• **Winter & Spring Events**

• *Celtic Spirituality and Our World*. INEC will sponsor workshops on Celtic spirituality and care for the Earth with local congregations. The first workshop will be held in McMinnville in January. For more information, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 278.

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ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES of OREGON
INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR EARTH CONCERNS
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B
Portland, OR 97239

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