

## Suggested Readings and Websites

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### WEBSITES

#### Interfaith Organizations

[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org) **Earth Charter Initiative** is a program of the United Nations Environmental Programme, 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** is based in Seattle, WA. They have several useful resources, including a speakers network, resource lending library, and the Greening Congregations program. Their website lists educational materials produced by several organizations, including youth materials and their own *Greening Congregations Handbook*. The handbook is 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. The website offers a free guidebook, technical support, information on awards eligibility and more.

[www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org) **Eco-justice Ministry** is based in Boulder, CO. Among other resources, they have a study guide for congregations for the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. Go to [www.eco-justice.org/TruthGuide.asp](http://www.eco-justice.org/TruthGuide.asp) to download the free guide.

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

[www.theregenerationproject.org](http://www.theregenerationproject.org) **Interfaith Power and Light's** initiative between faith communities and utility companies encourages energy efficiency, congregational covenants, and rebate programs for individuals, churches, and businesses. Programs are currently in 30 states, with the hope to establish programs in all 50 states. Online resources include a carbon calculator for churches. [www.iowaip.org](http://www.iowaip.org) has materials for the “Cool Congregations” program available for free download.

[www.emoregon.org/earth\\_concerns](http://www.emoregon.org/earth_concerns) **Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns** is based in Portland, OR. They sponsor workshops for churches on energy-saving measures and rebates, solar installations, and green building and renovation. Free downloads include a handbook and other resources for starting a church program in Community-Supported Agriculture.

[www.ncecojustice.org](http://www.ncecojustice.org) **National Council of Churches of Christ—Eco-justice Working Group** has a comprehensive on-line store of educational materials on environmental spirituality, including Earth Day Sunday worship packets, sermon topics, Environmental Justice Congregational Covenants, and an Energy Stewardship Guide. They have website links to the environmental programs of several faiths.

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

## Faiths & Denominations

### 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. The site has 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, youth & adult education, and responding to climate change.

### Roman Catholic

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

### Unitarian Universalist

[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) **Unitarian Universalist - Green Sanctuary Program** website has numerous on-line resources, including energy pledges and success stories. They have two books: *Green Sanctuary* provides a framework and tools for starting a project, and *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* is a curriculum resource for children.

### Unity

[www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx](http://www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx) **Northwest Region, Association of Unity Churches'** website has prayers, celebrations, and project ideas to download.

[www.unity.org/bethechange/](http://www.unity.org/bethechange/) **Unity EarthCare Congregation Program**, sponsored by the Association of Unity Churches' earthcare ministry team, offers three levels: adopting a covenant; completing three activities; or being certified as an EarthCare Congregation. Download a brochure and forms to enroll.

## Music & Films

[www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com) **Bullfrog Films** (P. O. Box 149, Oley, PA 19547, 1-800-543-FROG).

[www.canyonrecords.com](http://www.canyonrecords.com) **Canyon Records** features contemporary Native American music.

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

[www.putamayo.com](http://www.putamayo.com) **Putamayo** features samplers of contemporary music from around the world.

[www.folkways.si.edu](http://www.folkways.si.edu) The archives of the **Smithsonian Institution** (trust organization for the National Museums in Washington D.C.) includes a treasure trove of American folk music recorded by musicologists in the 1930s. For world music recordings, go to [www.smithsonianglobalsound.org](http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org).

## BOOKS (and FILMS)

### 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 a calendar of Earth celebrations listed by month with suggested prayers.

*Earth's Echo: Sacred Encounters With Nature* by Robert M. Hamma (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

*A Brief History of Everything* (2000) and *The Integral Vision* (2007) by Ken Wilber (Shambhala Publications, Boston, MA).

*The Compassionate Universe* by Eknath Easwaran (Nilgiri Press, Berkeley, CA: 1989). A seven-week discussion series based on this book, complete with sermon transcripts, is available at [www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx](http://www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx).

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

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

*The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos* by Brain Swimme (80 minute video: Center for the Story of the Universe, Mill Valley, CA: 1996). A book by the same title is also available.

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

The **Northwest Earth Institute** has eight discussion courses for adults on: healthy children, global warming, deep ecology, voluntary simplicity, sense of place, sustainable living, sustainable food systems, and sustainable workplaces. Go to [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org) to order.

*Thomas Berry: The Great Story* (49 minute DVD: Bullfrog Films, [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com), (800) 543-FROG). An inspirational biography of one of the pioneers in the eco-spirituality movement.

## Act

- 50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth* (1989) and *The Recyclers Handbook: Simple Things You Can Do* (1990) by The Earthworks Group (Earthworks Press, Berkeley, CA).
- Clean and Green: the Complete Guide to Nontoxic and Environmentally Safe Housekeeping* by Annie Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, Woodstock, NY: 1990).
- Food Sovereignty for All: Overhauling the Food System with Faith-Based Initiatives*. A handbook on starting a local food program. Available for free download from Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, [www.emoregon.org/food\\_farms](http://www.emoregon.org/food_farms).
- Green Sanctuary* by UU Ministry for Earth. This guide for the Unitarian Universalist program provides a framework and tools for starting a project. Go to [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) to order.
- Greening Congregations Handbook* by Earth Ministry This handbook is a complete “toolbox” of spiritual essays, how-to’s for setting up a program, and ideas and resources. Order from Earth Ministry at [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org).
- Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* by David Gershon (Empowerment Institute, Woodstock, NY: 2006). A user-friendly guide for reducing your household’s “carbon footprint.” Includes carbon credits for all activities. The author’s *Green Living Handbook* (2008) has more ideas.
- A Moving Guide to Earth Care* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2008) by Unity Church of Portland, OR. This booklet describes how to start a green team and has a wealth of suggested activities and green tips for newsletters. The booklet is available at [www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx](http://www.unitynwregion.org/Programs/EarthCare/tabid/166/Default.aspx).

## Youth Ministry

- 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*.
- 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.
- Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* by UU Ministry for Earth. This guide for the Unitarian Universalist program is a curriculum resource for children. Go to [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) to order.
- Play Lightly on the Earth* by Jacqueline Horsfall (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA). Includes activities for younger children (ages 3 to 9).
- Save The Earth: An Ecology Handbook for Kids and Others* by Betty Miles (Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 1974). Each chapter looks at a part of nature (land, air, and water), gives information, and then has a number of projects for children to do. Activities include advocacy: e.g. writing letters to Washington D.C., writing a newspaper story, and holding a press conference.
- Sharing Nature With Children* (1979; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1998) and *Sharing Nature With Children II* (1989) by Joseph Cornell (Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA). The author’s first book is considered a classic in environmental education for children; a companion video can be purchased separately.