



# The Order of the Earth

## News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008

[www.theorderoftheearth.com](http://www.theorderoftheearth.com)

**Please  
subscribe!**

### A poem by **Sandy Chilcote**

Newfoundland, Canada

in the sunshine  
wherever the sun shines  
the orange coral of warm seas  
pearls of Thai nautili  
padparadsha jewels, lotuses  
pomegranates and persimmons  
the soft interiors of guavas  
smelly beneath trees in Florida's heat  
the underbellies of ringneck snakes  
hidden beneath logs in a hollow  
plate fungi near June's Pond  
the decorated rocks of the  
Ironstone River  
glowing circles on  
brown suspended newts  
caterpillar prickles,  
dogberries on the ash  
porcupine quill baskets by  
the Iroquois  
and the iron rust on  
New River Bridge  
the tea orange of Yi-Xing pots  
and a thatched hut burning  
beside a flowering cherry tree  
my own inkseeds



*"I truly hope that my poetry will  
help people to love  
what they live and experience."*

Sandy Chilcote

The Order of the Earth  
is now

**ONLINE!**

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[www.theorderoftheearth.com](http://www.theorderoftheearth.com)



Shown here (left to right) at Musser Gap, a 423-acre Centre County property protected in 2007 by ClearWater and incorporated into Rothrock State Forest: Jean Aron (Board of Directors and author of *The Short Hiker*), Katie Ombalski (ClearWater Conservation Biologist and Musser Gap project manager), Ford Stryker (Board of Directors), Dan Crust (immediate past president, Board of Directors), Walt Ebaugh (past president and retired hydrogeologist), Jeff Sturniolo (President, Board of Directors), Barbara Fisher (a founding member, served all 27 years as Director), and Jennifer Shuey (ClearWater Executive Director).

Visit the group's website <http://clearwaterconservancy.org> to see what else they're working on! Photo supplied by ClearWater Conservancy

## ClearWater Conservancy Receives Award

### Land Trust Recognized for Saving 4,000 Acres

From ClearWater Conservancy  
February 22, 2008

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania — ClearWater Conservancy, a Centre County-based nonprofit land trust and natural resource conservation organization, was the first recipient of the Quality of Life award from the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County Thursday evening.

ClearWater Conservancy was formed in 1980 with the mission of promoting conservation and restoring natural resources in central Pennsylvania through land conservation, water resources protection and environmental outreach to the community.

With the completion of three new conservation easements in 2007 (Eagle Field, Kettle Run Farm, and the Fisher Farm), this local land trust has nearly doubled the amount of land that it protects with conservation easements, now 1,170 acres. Altogether, ClearWater

has protected over 4,000 acres through easements, ownership, and purchase and transfer to state agencies.

To help pick up the pace of natural resource conservation in the places that matter most, donors can support the ongoing implementation of the Nittany Valley Conservation Action Plan with a pledge to ClearWater's Campaign for Conservation.

For more information contact Jennifer Shuey, Exec. Dir., at 814-237-0400 or [clearwaterconservancy.org](http://clearwaterconservancy.org).

## Organic Farming Slows Climate Change

### Organic Farming Sequesters Carbon Dioxide

by Bill Boteler  
Natural Resources Council

For 23 years The Rodale Institute in Kutztown Pennsylvania has been conducting an experiment which is gradually yielding some dramatic conclusions about how organic farming tech-

niques, if widely adopted, may alter what is happening to our planet. On 12 acres, The Rodale Farming Institute Systems Trial® or FST, has been comparing three agricultural management systems side-by-side: one conventional, one legume-based organic, and one manure-based-organic. In 23 years the two organic systems show an increase of soil carbon of 15-28%, the

conventional system showed no increase.

When carbon is taken out of the atmosphere and stored for long periods of time it is called sequestration and it was one of the goals of the Kyoto Protocol to increase sequestration as well as cut down on carbon emissions. While such sequestration will not solve the problem of global warming, it can help buy us precious time to

overcome the technical and political barriers to rapid reduction in carbon emissions. But how significant could this effect be?

According to Paul Hepperly, the Research Manager at Rodale, organic farming techniques they have tested can sequester about 1,000 pounds of carbon per acre equivalent to about 3,670 pounds of carbon dioxide with cover (continued on 15)



# About Us

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 2

## From the Editor



### Dear Reader,

A funny thing happened this month. We got more good stories, photos and information than normal from our own circle of friends! I had tons of clippings and newsy emails I wanted to include, but my friends overran me inadvertently.

I was thrilled!

When I first envisioned "The Order of the Earth," the idea was of this little band of people whom I knew (or didn't actually know), who were determined to use their lives to protect our planet. People who were truly devoted to the cause of a cleaner world, a peaceful future, sanity, children honored, nature revered; you get the idea.

When I first started this newspaper, I began searching for articles that represented the kind of world I wanted to live in, not the world I see in the mainstream media.

I had an interesting revelation thanks to all of the folks who contributed this month (plus all those who proceeded them). THIS IS MY WORLD! On these pages, you are going to read about a world that makes me happy. Good people doing good things.

I recently told Sr. Miriam MacGillis of Genesis Farm, who sent the photo on page 15, that one reason I think I do this work is to keep my own happiness alive in these dreadful times. She was instrumental in building my understanding of the importance of cherishing the deep bond we have with Earth many years ago. A small group of us started studying Thomas Berry's Dream of the Earth and creating projects that reflected the wonders of the universe and our role as humans in it.

This newspaper is my final contribution to that Great Work; I expect to be doing this for the rest of my life.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Arikia Millikan for working hard on the layout and design and Matt Cleveland for enhancing our Web site (see ad page 9) and agreeing to keep it updated. THANK YOU, ARIKIA AND MATT! You brighten our world.

Fondly, Iona

## Inside The Order

- 3 Lolita, Baby by Zach Chludil
- 4 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Part IV: Impacts from Climate Change
- 5 Derrick Jensens' Endgame
- 6 Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us Part IV: Energy Survey by Jennifer Barrie
- 7 Women's Page: april asparagus by Barbara Knox Val's Vegetarian Recipe Column by Valerie Stanley
- 8 Green Youth: untitled poem by Emma Wolin Captain Green Coloring Book Contest
- 9 Rainforest Rising by Barbara Rimbach
- 10 Road Fee Conflict Shuts Down Oilmen by Chuck Hayes
- 11 Editorial: Climate Skeptics Continue to Create Confusion by Iona The Bush Administration's War on Science by Annalee Newitz
- 12 Iona's Corner: Special Guest Joyce Utmar
- 13 Letters to the Editor
- 14 to 16 Grassroots Power

## Wish List

- One month's printing of 1,500 color copies.....\$570
- One month's postage.....\$75
- Two new cartridges for small color printer.....\$40
- Six new cartridges for large color printer.....\$120
- One-half tank gas to pick up papers.....\$12
- One month's phone and Internet.....\$60
- 50 recycled corrugated boxes for bulk mailing.....\$45
- External hard drive.....\$120

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Let us know what YOU are doing to help create or restore ecological balance in your life and in the world.

DEADLINE: APRIL 12

Email us at

[ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net)

## "The Order of the Earth News" is a Monthly Publication

**Our Goal:** To create a hugely successful newspaper that will report the story of people around the world working to protect their land bases, strengthen local communities and achieve a 90% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030.

**Our Mission:** To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful compassionate and creative.

**The Dream:** Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish again.

**Publisher/Editor** – Iona Conner  
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**Layout/Design** – Katherine Lukaszewicz and Arikia Millikan  
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*Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Grassroots Coalition. Just write "OE" on the memo line and send to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks!!*



Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 3

## Look Here, Lolita Baby

Zach Chludil explains the multifaceted threats of climate change to one saucy lady.

**W**hen it comes to the sometimes ultra-sensitive term of “global warming” there tends to be two levels of reaction. There is a population that realizes that there is a problem, and then there is another large group that does not believe there is a problem. If the timetable for effects to ensue was 20-50 years out, there wouldn’t be nearly as much need for drama, but with current scientific reports not suggesting but URGING that we have less than a decade (approximately 7 years) to reverse the trend of greenhouse gas emissions before we face irreversible damage, there is obvious reason for people to get excited.

But let’s not freak out. No radical act or system of acts is going to curb humanity’s destructive trend. However, by spreading general awareness, and the execution of precise, clear and calm action, we humans can and will prevail. I realize that it can be hard to be calm when the clock is ticking, but what other choice do we have? Hysterics are not going to win over the percentage of the population who is unaware of the Earth’s problem, which in essence, is our collective problem.

Staggering on, as humanity has done for ages, we have faced catastrophes, pandemics and wars. Despite these harsh landmarks littered throughout our blessed and cursed existence, there has been one thing, and one thing only that enabled us to persevere. That is each other. Whether it was the Bubonic plague, Holy Wars, the Great Depression, racism, recession, famine or corruption on the grandest landscape (White House back yard), we have gotten each other through the hard times. The climate crisis is no different – it is up to us, and together through the unification of awareness and action, we can overcome!

With that being said, in question/answer format, I’ll present some facts and clear up some confusion to help you get more familiar with the current conditions of not only the Earth, but also ourselves. (In more than one way, this may be like a first date, a little awkward and unsure at first, but we’ll get there – I can already see 2<sup>nd</sup> base, hah). My friend Lolita will ask the questions, and I will do my best to answer. Here we go.

**Lolita:** All right wise guy, what is global warming?

**Zach:** Well Lolita, it’s simple yet complex. There are many factors, beginning with –

**L:** Could you answer the question please?

**Z:** Feisty hmm ... OK. Global warming is the now-rapid heating of the global climate. Meaning that across the board, the temperature has risen substantially and unequivocally year after year for the past few decades. There are many reasons for this –

**L:** Well, I live in Michigan and the winter seems normal to me, it snows all the time.

**Z:** That is true Lo, but THAT is the difference between “weather” and “climate”. The weather where you live is called a microclimate. In other words, the town you live in is just one microclimate, and when you add up all the microclimates of

the world, the average is no doubt rising, and rising fast. So despite the snow in your area, the global climate is getting pretty balmy – to say the least.

**L:** So the fact that it’s snowing and cold doesn’t mean that global warming is a joke?

**Z:** That is correct, The only joke is that our U.S. government has actually amended scientific reports to alter the perception of global warming. Can you believe that? Who would have thought that George, that God-fearing Christian, would pull such a stunt?

**L:** Probably everyone who voted for Kerry.

**Z:** Hah, not bad Lolita. You political princess ... . (I’m safe on 1<sup>st</sup>)

**L:** So what if the temperature is rising? That doesn’t sound that bad.

**Z:** On the surface it doesn’t sound so bad – but let’s resist the temptation to be short-sighted in this

knowledge quest. There are a lot of devastating effects that come along with rising temperatures.

**L:** Oh?

**Z:** Oh yeah. Get ready for the breakdown sweetness, here it comes: As the temperature rises, Greenland, that huge white place on the map (for now) – and all the polar ice caps are melting and shrinking at an alarming rate. These unique features account for the overwhelming majority of the Earth’s fresh water. Remember, the oceans are salty. So as these crucial ice masses thaw, melt, and disappear they become the ocean; therefore, quickly increasing the water volume of the seas, which also alters the pH, which severely threatens virtually all marine life that lives in the oceans.

**L:** What about shrimp? They are my favorite.

**Z:** Well, the next decade or so should tell just how the species will adapt to higher acidity levels in the water. I certainly don’t know the actual fate of shrimp or any other sea creatures – but I do know that all marine life has already begun to face a chemical change that could possibly cause wide spread extinctions. To put this into perspective, imagine if the chemical composition of oxygen suddenly changed. Would our lungs still be able to use the air? It’s that sort of scenario. And think of how many fish and crustaceans in the ocean feed peo-



ple like us... If something goes sour, we could be in big trouble.

**L:** Wow, that’s terrible.

**Z:** Well, don’t get sad on me yet, Lolita. We’re just getting started. We’ve barely gotten our feet wet. The challenges that marine life face are a precursor to the changes that human existence must face as well. If we carefully observe our surroundings there is a lot to be learned. Scientists have been doing just that for years and their findings are not encouraging.

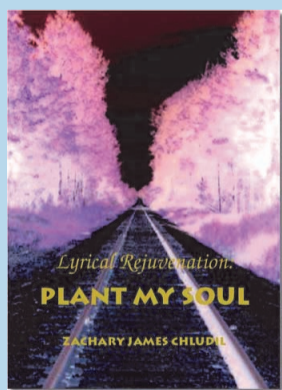
**L:** Well, tell me more. You left off with the ice-caps shrinking and the oceans rising.

**Z:** Yeah, so I am about to explain what is called a “positive feedback effect,” which is actually a HUGE negative. You see, Greenland and the ice caps aren’t just a source of fresh water – they serve MANY more critical purposes, besides being cold and cooling the planet, the next important purpose is reflecting a good portion of the sun’s radiant heat. Greenland and the poles make up about 10% of the Earth’s surface. As the other 90% of the Earth’s surface absorbs the sun’s heat, that 10% is reflected off of the ice and back into space. Normally we never feel it, and therefore the (Continued on page 14)

To read Zach Chludil’s poetry, order a copy of his book, *“Plant My Soul: Lyrical Rejuvenation.”*

Please send a check for \$18 to  
Iona Conner  
HCR 83 Box 881  
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255

All proceeds go to helping **The Order of the Earth** thrive in the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism and industry.



# IPCC Report

## Part IV: Examples of Impacts from Climate Change

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 4

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Annual Assessment Report was released November 17, 2007. "[This is] the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future," said Geoffrey Lean of "The Independent" on the report's release. Since ours is, above all, a Global Warming paper, we are presenting the report as a series. For better graphics, please go directly to [www.ipcc.org](http://www.ipcc.org).*

### Figure SPM.7 (right)

Studies since the Third Annual Report have enabled more systematic understanding of the timing and magnitude of impacts related to differing amounts and rates of climate change.

Figure SPM.7 presents examples of this new information for systems and sectors. The top panel shows impacts increasing with increasing temperature change. Their estimated magnitude and timing is also affected by development pathway (lower panel).

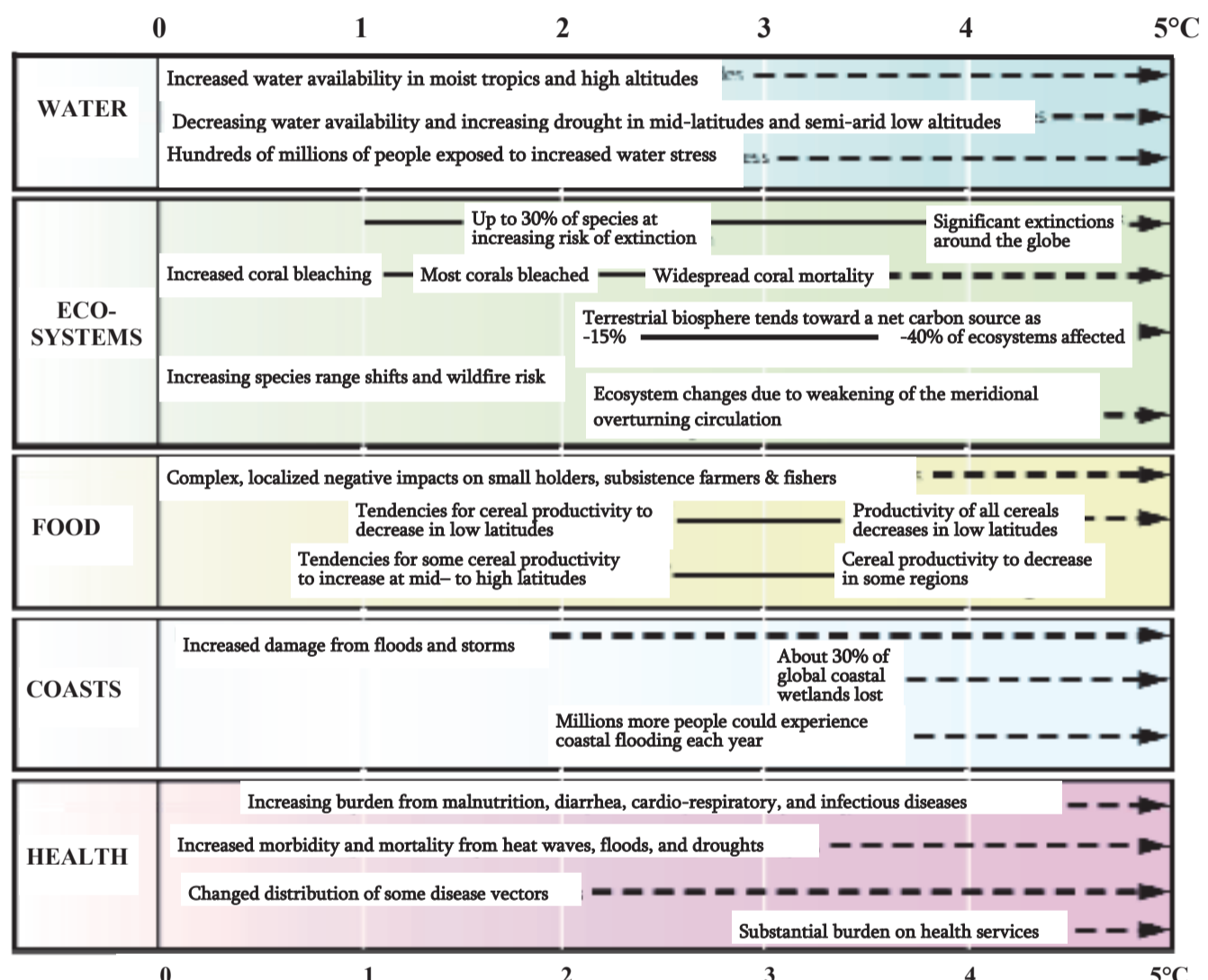
**Upper panel:** Illustrative examples of global impacts projected for climate changes (and sea level and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> where relevant) associated with different amounts of increase in global average surface temperature in the 21st century. The black lines link impacts; broken-line arrows indicate impacts continuing with increasing temperature. Entries are placed so that the left hand side of text indicates the approximate level of warming that is associated with the onset of a given impact. Quantitative entries for water scarcity and flooding represent the additional impacts of climate change relative to the conditions projected across the range of Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES) scenarios A1F1, A2, B1, and B2 (see last month's "Order of the Earth News"). Adaptation to climate change is not included in these estimations. Confidence levels for all statements are *high*.

**Lower panel:** Dots and bars indicate the best estimate and *likely* ranges of warming assessed for the six SRES marker scenarios for 2090-2099 relative to 1980-1999.

### Examples of Impacts Associated With Global Average Temperature Change

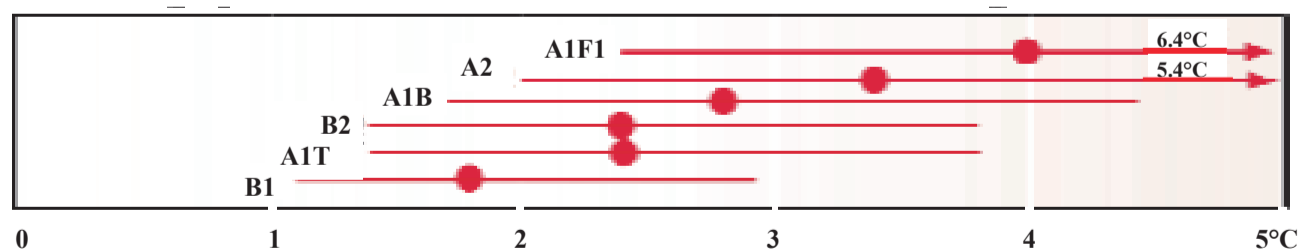
(Impacts will vary by extent of adaptation, rate of temperature change, and socio-economic pathway.)

**Figure SPM.7: Global Mean Annual Temperature Change Relative to 1980-1999 (C°)**



"Significant" is defined here as more than 40% based on average rate of sea level rise of 4.2 mm/year from 2000 to 2080.

### Warming by 2090-2099 Relative to 1980-1999 for Non-Mitigation Scenarios



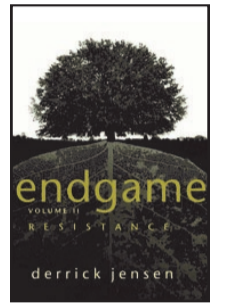
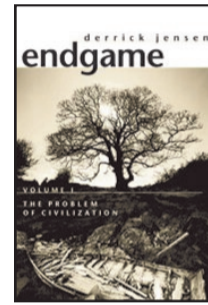


Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 5

## Endgame by Derrick Jensen



Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book *Endgame* “the best work of nonfiction in 2006....*Endgame* is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes.”



Questions.  
Who feeds you?  
What is the source of your life?  
To whom do you owe your life?  
If your experience — far deeper than belief or perception — is that your food comes from the grocery store (and your water from the tap), from the economic system, from the social system we call civilization, it is to this you will pledge back your life. If you experience this social system as the source of your life, you will be responsible to this social system. You will defend this social system to your very death.

If your experience — far deeper than belief or perception — is that food and water come from your landbase, or more broadly from the living earth, you will make and keep prom-

ises to your landbase in exchange for this food. You will honor and keep and participate in the fundamental predator/prey relationship. You will be responsible to the community that supplies you with food and water. You will defend this community to your very death.

When the social system into which you’ve been enculturated is destroying the landbases on which all life depends, that question of who you are responsible to — to whom you make and keep your promises — makes all the difference in the world.

\*\*\*

Here are some more questions. To whom will you be called upon to answer? By whom do you wish to be called upon to answer?

With every word I write — especially when what I write scares me — I think about these questions. And here are the answers I come to every day. I write for the salmon, and for the trees, and for the soil beneath my feet. I write for the bees, frogs, and salamanders. I write for bats and owls. I write for sharks and grizzly bears. When I find myself wanting to not tell the truth as I understand it to be — when I find the truth too scary, too threatening — I think of them, and I think of what I owe them: my life. I will not — cannot — disappoint them.

And I consider myself answerable to — responsible to — the humans who will come after, who will inherit the wreckage our generation is leaving to them. When I want to lie, to

turn my face away from the horrors, to understate the magnitude of what we must do and what we must unmake, to give answers that are not as deep and clear and real as I can possibly comprehend and articulate, I picture myself standing before humans a hundred years from now, and I picture myself answering to them for my actions and inactions. Them, too, I will not — cannot — disappoint.

I can sometimes lie to myself. I could probably even lie to you. But to them — to all of those to whom I hold myself responsible — I could never lie. To them, and for them, I give my brightest, deepest truth.

Reprinted with permission from the author. *Endgame, Volume II: Resistance.*



The Public Utilities Commission proceedings are moving along with outstanding testimony being given by our expert witnesses. Their testimony will be available on the Web site if you have an interest in reading them. The next major event in these proceedings will be the Technical Evidentiary Hearings in Pittsburgh beginning on March 24 and concluding on April 11. See [www.stophetowers.org](http://www.stophetowers.org), for a GREAT ACTION PLANNED for APRIL 5

We need to have a significant presence at these hearings and are working to organize buses to take YOU to them. We do not have a price for the buses yet and are working to make them as cost-free as possible. However, the price of gas and parking, not to mention the inconvenience of driving in Pittsburgh, would make the bus trip well worth any minor cost. PLEASE, make preparations to attend as many of these hearings as possible. Rebecca Foley is in charge of organizing this effort. You can reach Rebecca at [rfoley1@windstream.net](mailto:rfoley1@windstream.net). Send her an email and let her know when you will go.

Technical Evidentiary Hearings: State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; (412) 565-7781

Monday, March 24 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday, March 25 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, March 26 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday, March 27 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday, March 28 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Monday, March 31 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday, April 1 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, April 2 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday, April 3 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday, April 4 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Monday, April 7 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday, April 8 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, April 9 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday, April 10 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday, April 11 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM



## Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us, Part IV: Energy Survey

[Ed.: This program was developed by Jeff Barrie and his sister, Jennifer Barrie, in Nashville, Tennessee. It will be a series as I go through the lessons myself. The DVD is wonderful. It won "Best Environmental Film" at the 2007 Southern Appalachia International Film Festival.]



Jennifer Barrie doing a Kilowatt Ours program. Photo supplied by Jennifer. [jen@kilowattours.org](mailto:jen@kilowattours.org)

The purpose of this pre-viewing activity is to encourage students to begin thinking about energy use and habits at home. This activity is intended to be an introduction to *Kilowatt Ours*.

### Objectives

1. To increase awareness of personal energy consumption;
2. To understand energy production and consumption; and
3. To identify possible solutions to energy issues.

### Time

One hour (including viewing a 38-minute version of *Kilowatt Ours*)

### YOUR PERSONAL ENERGY SURVEY (BEFORE YOU WATCH KILOWATT OURS)

1. People in my home wait until they have a full load of clothes before doing laundry.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

2. I close the refrigerator door quickly after I decide what

I want to eat.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

3. The thermostat in my home during winter is set at (pick the closest one):

- 1 - 80° F (degrees Fahrenheit) (very warm)
- 2 - 70° F (warm)
- 3 - 65° F (cool)

4. When I leave a room, I turn the lights off.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

5. My family uses low-wattage light bulbs or compact fluorescent lights when possible, instead of incandescent light bulbs.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

6. During the summer, the thermostat in my home is set at (pick the closest one):

- 1 - 65° F
- 2 - 72° F
- 3 - 78° F

7. I close the windows and doors when the heat or air-conditioning is on.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

8. When no one is home for four hours or more, I adjust the thermostat (lower the temperature to 60° F in the winter and turn it up to 85° F in the summer).

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

9. I turn off or unplug the TV, CD player, computers and other appliances when no one is around or not using them.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

10. When possible, people in my home dry their clothes outside on a clothesline instead of in the clothes dryer.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

11. I use fans to help cool my home during the summer.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

12. People in my home wait until they have a full load of dishes before using the dishwasher.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

13. We recycle in our household (metal, plastic, glass, cardboard and paper).

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

14. When it is cold in the house, I put on a sweater or hat to help stay warm.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

15. In our home we wash our clothes in cold water instead of warm or hot water.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

16. I take showers for (pick the closest one):

- 1 - 20+ minutes
- 2 - 10 minutes
- 3 - 5 minutes

17. We set our hot water heater between 120° F and 130°.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

18. When my family leaves the house for more than one day, we adjust the temperature on the hot water heater, thermostat (air conditioner or

heater), and refrigerator.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

19. I know how to read the electric and gas meters at my home.

- 1 - No
- 2 - I think so/Sort of
- 3 - Yes

20. I look at my electric and gas bills each month to keep track of my household's energy use.

- 1 - Never
- 2 - Sometimes
- 3 - Often

Add up the total score of your responses.

For each survey question, response 1 = one point, response 2 = 2 points, response 3 = 3 points.

27 or less: You have lots of room for improvement! You can start to make changes to save energy and money.

There are many different simple actions you can take, beginning with the ideas in this survey and at

[www.kilowattours.org](http://www.kilowattours.org).

28 to 51: You have made a great attempt to save energy, but you can still improve your habits to save even more. Think about areas in which you can make changes in your life.

52 to 60: Congratulations! You have done an excellent job with energy conservation! Your habits save both energy and money. Keep it up!

### Iona's Results

My score was 55 (remember, I've been at this a long time). But here's what I learned: I had no idea we should lower our refrigerator temperature when we're going away for over a day. I scored a "1" on the last question. I only look at the dollar amount of our electric bill (and cringe).

# Women's Page

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 7



## april asparagus

I woke chilled, to hear wind  
lashing my metal roof with whips of rain.  
I burrowed deep into my bed;  
saw chipmunks, foxes, mice in flooded dens,  
wet fur smelling like sodden, soiled blankets.

I lay awake, eyes shut.  
What if the creek floods,  
covers the road, strands me on my hillside?  
Window frames might leak again.  
Water once filled my basement  
when the sump pump failed;  
if it thunders, my dog will start  
her frantic pawing; it will take hours  
to comfort her.

Rain slackened some;  
a metronome of dripping drops.  
I went to the bathroom.  
Thirsty, I drank cold well water  
from the faucet, its taste sweeter  
than finest Perrier.  
This rain would recharge wells,  
bring on fat green spears  
of new asparagus.

With chatter on the roof a whisper,  
I drifted into sleep, dreamed of breakfast:  
fresh asparagus omelet, toast,  
strong hot coffee.



Barbara's book of poems, "the limberlost," was copyrighted and published in 2005 and is available for \$10. Her own illustrations adorn the book and will delight you. To get your copy, send a check payable to "Barbara Knox," 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.

## Val's Vegetarian Recipe Column

- Large Flour Tortillas (refrigerated kind)
- Old El Paso Canned Vegetarian Refried Beans
- Basmati or Jasmine Rice
- Shredded Cheese or Soy Cheese
- Guacamole
- Shredded Green or Red Leaf Lettuce
- Diced Red Onion (optional)
- Diced Red Tomato

Make the rice in a rice cooker or a pot on the stove; set aside when done. Take a flour tortilla and put it in a large pan with a bit of olive or safflower oil. Warm up the tortilla. As it's warming, put 3-4 T. (tablespoons) of the rice and 3-4 T. (tablespoons) of the refried beans (or vary according to appetite) in a bowl and thoroughly combine the rice and beans. Place inside the warming tortilla, about a half inch away from one of the edges of the tortilla. Pat down the rice and bean mixture on one half side of the tortilla. At this point you can add some shredded cheese or soy cheese until it starts to melt. Take the outside edge of the tortilla closest to the rice and beans and fold it over the rice and beans. Pat down tortilla covering the rice and beans mixture. Right before you are ready to flip over the half of the tortilla that has no ingredients on it, add the cold ingredients and fold in thirds. Flip over the tortilla and pat down; flip over so both sides are equally warmed. Enjoy!

[Ed.: We tried this and was delicious. I was clumsy flipping the tortilla because I'm not used to cooking these.]

Valerie Stanley is an attorney, animal law professor and an old friend. Her dream is to make eating vegetarian easy and fun because "our health, the animals and our environment truly deserve a break today."

She quotes T.M. McNally:

"And it is of course trucks and automobiles and jet fuel — the hard facts of modernity — that have made both God and horses increasingly irrelevant to our culture. What is lost is our respect and affection for — our connectedness to — our fellow creatures, as well as a divine admonition to care for them properly."



## WHAT'S GREENER? Chicken or Beef? Or Vegetarian? Or Vegan? from the Live Earth blog



There's been lots of debate on our blog about how best to eat green and healthy. We recently shared some information on sustainable seafood — but we thought it was time to discuss eating meat — are some options better than others, if you do decide to eat meat? Where can you look for local, organic food? Is local always the right answer? Is it greener to be vegan than vegetarian? How have you convinced people to eat less meat? What other answers are you looking for from our green team about what's on your plate? Check our blog at the end of the week for a response from our green team — but in the meantime post your perspective — and your best recipes at <http://www.liveearth.org/?p=352>.

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# Green Youth

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 8

## Untitled

by Emma Wolin



*Fifteen-year-old Emma Wolin holds her cat, Tallulah. They live in Maplewood, New Jersey. Emma is one of our distributors and this poem first appeared in the zine "khubz," Winter 2007. Photo by Emma's mother, Melissa Wolin*

you say you're free  
but you're really not you see  
you're a slave to anything you can sniff,  
smoke, swallow or drink  
anything to make you  
anyone but yourself

the revolution's near  
but you won't be here  
physically, maybe  
but you're never fully aware

you drain the passion out of your body  
when you stick the needle in your arm  
causing not only yourself —  
but everyone harm

your life's what you make of it  
don't you think it's time to admit?  
you're hiding from someone  
you'd never want to face:  
yourself

what a waste.  
i know there's more to you than dependency  
you too, can be free

you've got potential that seems infinite —  
if you'd only quit  
the habits i'd never wish upon anyone

it's not going to be easy  
but I see it in your eyes  
that fiery passion  
that never dies  
except for when they glaze over  
with that dope-inflicted haze

HLS demos, fucking up starbucks,  
serving food not bombs,  
trying to change everything  
that's gone corrupt and wrong

these may be the last days, as you say  
but there's no one i'd rather spend them  
with than  
my family, my friends, all acquaintances

in every smile i see a window  
to a joyous soul,  
an enlightened mind

we link arms  
and strip the rest of their arms  
unite and defy those who oppress us  
never let them get the best of us.

## "Green" Coloring Book Contest: "Captain Green Greens Frederick County"

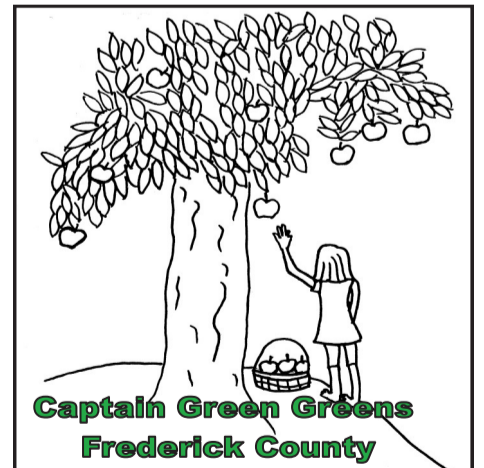


*Friends of Frederick County, a non-profit, non-partisan organization in Frederick County, Maryland that advocates quality of life, sustainable land use, watershed protection and a stable economy, recently sponsored an art contest for a coloring book whose purpose will be to educate children on the environmental issues facing Frederick County. Winning art will be displayed at the Delaplaine Art Center during an event on April 22nd 7-8 pm, Earth Day. Commissioner Jan Gardner will write the forward for the book.*

The coloring book will feature **Captain Green** (created by Frederick-area artist, Stephen Blickenstaff, for *Friends of Frederick County*), important fictional superhero in this effort, include the children's artwork and be accompanied by easy to understand educational narratives on the following issues:

- **Homegrown Here:** Buy Frederick County produce and products and see that our farm families not only survive but thrive!
- **Communities are for Living, Working and Playing:** Studies show that living close to amenities enhances one's quality of life.
- **Recycling:** Let's not produce more of the same, but instead reuse what we've already made!
- **Streamside Buffers:** Be a steward and make sure the streams and rivers leaving Frederick County are as clean as they can be.
- **Bike It and Hike It:** Support the county's bikeways and trails plan; ride to shops, schools and movie theaters; use less gasoline and keep our air cleaner.
- **Go Solar Frederick:** Soak up some rays!
- **Parks and Protected Areas:** Natural landscapes protect wildlife, watersheds and enhance our quality of life;
- **Farmland Preservation:** Farmers can receive preservation funds by selling their right to develop land — and continue to farm.

For more information, visit  
[www.friendsof  
frederickcounty.org](http://www.friendsof Frederickcounty.org) or  
[friends@friendsof  
frederickcounty.org](mailto:friends@friendsof<br/>frederickcounty.org).





# Paradise

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 9

## RAINFOREST RISING: An Eco-Travelogue

by Barbara Rimbach, Salisbury, Maryland



Barbara Rimbach resting during a long day's hike through the rainforest in Costa Rica. Photo by Lou Rimbach

### PREDAWN WAVELIKE

**ROARS** of Howler monkeys, luminous blue Morpho butterflies flitting in and out of sight ... towering vine-clad trees .... exotic flowers ... pairs of scarlet macaws taking flight .... These are just a few indelible images and memories of my time spent this January in the remote Costa Rican rainforest of the Osa Peninsula. A rainforest rising, an acknowledged national treasure!

The Osa Peninsula lies in the Southwestern corner of Costa Rica. Rainforest meets empty black sand beaches and Pacific waves. Our exploration of Corcovado National Park included miles of beach hiking before ever entering the cool and beckoning forest. Unlike other Costa Rican rainforests, that while protected are also commercialized centers of eco-tourism, the Osa is a vast and remote sanctuary for all manner of endangered wildlife, boasting incredible biodiversity. We were privileged to meet some of the local heroes determined to keep it so.

### Getting There ...

To reach the Luna Lodge — our peaceful and comfortable rainforest destination — we had to fly from Baltimore to Miami, and then on to San Jose. After spending a fun night in the Costa Rican capital, we caught a morning flight on a small plane to the village of Puerto Jimenez on the Osa Peninsula. There a jeep from the lodge met us for a rough two-hour ride to the ends of the earth, or so it seemed! We made countless river crossings, saw cattle, herons, monkeys, parrots, even gold-panning squatter camps along the river.

Our route took us through ranching and farming areas. Much rainforest has been cut down to make way for the cattle industry. At last fields gave way to forests and finally to Pacific coastline. The Luna Lodge sits at the end of the road, on a forested hillside, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and adjacent to the protected rainforest preserve of Corcovado. Our intrepid hostess and lodge builder, Lana, met us with tall glasses of ice water. So began our

rainforest adventure, an education in appreciation and awareness.

### While There ...

Our week was spent observing, committing to camera and memory the exotic sights, sounds and scents of this wonderful new environment. Alone, or with a guide, we hiked steep forest trails, black sandy beaches, swam in waterfalls and rivers, kayaked lagoons, read and rested in rocking chairs over-looking great natural splendor. We lived comfortably and simply, according to the natural rhythms of the forest surrounding us. We ate nourishing fruits, fish and grains.

Does this sound like Eden? For me ... the Earth as God intended!

### Amazing Biodiversity!

The Osa, less than half the size of Rhode Island, harbors a diversity of habitats and a wealth of species — lowland forests, cloud forests, mangrove and freshwater swamps, lagoons, beaches, and coral reefs — 5000 species of plants, including more than 700 species of trees (many of which are endangered), 375 species of birds, including Costa Rica's largest population of the endangered scarlet macaw, as well as

Central America's largest population of squirrel monkeys. Large cats such as jaguars, pumas and ocelots survive here and are among the 124 species of mammals of the Osa. Also inhabiting the Osa, are 40 species of freshwater fish, 8000 species of insects, 117 species of reptiles and amphibians. Wow! But, as valued as the Osa is by Costa Rica, this pristine sanctuary is under the constant threat of commercial interests.

### Save the Osa!

As timeless as the week had seemed, all too soon our departure loomed. The daily appearance of the beautiful blue Morpho butterfly — fluttering across the path just ahead or beside me — took on increasing significance. The Morpho with its luminous beauty, its fleeting and elusive qualities, became for me a kind of talisman, symbolizing the miracle of Osa's rainforest, and the importance of its survival! We must do whatever we can! Please consider how you can help with reforestation wherever you are! And send a donation to ...

**Amigos of Costa Rica**  
(tax-deductible)  
[www.amigosofcr.org](http://www.amigosofcr.org)

**Osa Campaign**  
[www.osacampaign.org](http://www.osacampaign.org)

\*Visit [www.lunalodge.com](http://www.lunalodge.com)



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Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 10

## Road Fee Conflict Shuts Down Oilmen

by Chuck Hayes, with permission



Twin Lakes Hiking Trail, Allegheny National Forest. Photo by Bill Belitskus, Allegheny Forest Defense Project

SHEFFIELD TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania (*Warren Times Observer* February 14, 2008) — As oil and gas company workers arrived for work at the Sheffield Township well sites on the morning of February 8, one by one, they were advised they had been "kicked off" the job.

They weren't receiving orders from their employer, Duhring Resource Company of Sheffield, but from the U.S. Forest Service. Steve Tachoir, president of Duhring, said, "They forgot that we are co-owners and what they had done was kick us off our own property."

The workers were handed a copy of a notice from Bradford District Ranger Anthony Scardina, stating, "As a result of failure to pay a commercial road use permit for the commercial use of these roads on National Forest System lands, all commercial use of the roads by Duhring Resource Company employees, and their associated contractors, must cease until the commercial road use permit is paid in full."

Duhring was told to shut down its wells and leave the Cherry Run area.

By the end of the morning, five independent contractors and four Duhring employees had been "kicked off" the property by the Forest Service.

Forest Service law enforcement personnel at the scene, said Tachoir, told Duhring employees and contractors if they did any work on the well sites they would be subject to citation or arrest.

Duhring has never disputed that it owes the Forest Service a fee for the use of Forest Service roads leading to well sites.

Only the amount was being disputed.

Under a complicated formula which takes into account the amount of Forest Service road used, the type of road and traffic, the Forest Service said that the oil company owed the agency \$14,092.70.

The oil company had maintained in letters written to the Forest Service as recently as a week before the incident in Sheffield Township that the agency had included in its calculations a few roads that would not be used and other miscalculations.

Duhring contended the amount of money owed for use of the forest roads was closer to \$10,000 than \$14,000.

Tachoir said the company offered to meet with Forest Service personnel in an attempt to resolve the disputed permit fees.

"The letter was sent and we heard nothing," said Tachoir. "There was no response to our concerns about the calculations."

The letter outlining the company's concerns about the fee was sent on January 30.

Without warning, said Tachoir, on the morning of February 8, Forest Service law enforcement personnel began turning employees and contractors away from the Sheffield Township well sites.

The threat of citations and arrests represents a departure from the Forest Service's approach in the past, said Tachoir.

Tachoir produced a letter which former Bradford District Ranger John Schultz had written to the company in 2006 regarding management of stone pits near Forest Road 148.

In that letter, said Tachoir, the district ranger, expressed a much different approach to working with the company than was demonstrated the morning the Duhring wells sites were shut down.

"The threat of arrest is not the best approach and I regret that any misunderstanding might have occurred on that matter," said Schultz. "Our principle interest is to properly manage the surface resources under our jurisdiction. Our first and preferred approach is to work cooperatively with the oil and gas

industry to resolve concerns and other issues."

Duhring paid the \$14,092 roads fee "under protest" on Monday and the check was accompanied by a letter to Allegheny National Forest (ANF) Supervisor Leanne Marten, stating, "The ANF has used the threat of arrest to bar Duhring and its contractors from Duhring's new well locations. The ANF's threat remains in place until Duhring pays the contested road use amount. The ANF's threat even precludes Duhring from using roads which Duhring has constructed."

The letter said that the oil company cannot afford the consequences of the ANF's arrest threat and if it does not pay what the Forest Service demands, there will be serious financial losses to the company.

By Tuesday, with the disputed fee in hand, the Forest Service told Duhring that activity could resume at the Sheffield production site.

Duhring paid the disputed fee in protest after general counsel for the Forest Service told Duhring that one of its options was to pay the \$14,092 under protest and then seek reimbursement.

The possibility of civil action to recover financial losses from several days of lost production remains.

In the letter to Marten, the oil company said, "Unless Duhring is willing to accept the consequences of delay or arrest, Duhring has but little choice to pay under protest."

Attempts by the *Times Observer* over a two-day period to have a Forest Service representative comment on the matter were unsuccessful.

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[www.nofrillsfancy.com](http://www.nofrillsfancy.com)

**Thank You!**

Jeannette Bartelt, Frederick, Maryland

# What's Going On?

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 11

## Climate Skeptics Continue to Create Confusion

Editorial by Iona

These guys will not quit. Despite the most horrible consequences of Global Warming beginning to play themselves out, the "skeptics" held a meeting in New York City the first weekend in March.

Rest assured they are preparing massive and well-funded campaigns to continue to throw bad science into public conversations about global warming, especially in the mainstream media, whereby most people get their news. They will be devious. Their goal is to confuse enough people to delay any restrictions on dirty fossil fuels which cause Global Warming, or Climate Change.

They are formidable opponents. We must watch them carefully and expose their shenanigans. This is not going to be easy. Their Web site is full of muck ([www.heartland.org](http://www.heartland.org)). Heartland represents people who don't want government regulation for environmental problems. Look at the state we're in, fighting tooth and claw to preserve every single environmental law that protects us and our planet.

"Many attendees (of the conference) say it is the dawn of a new paradigm. But many climate scientists and environmental campaigners say it is the skeptics' last stand," states Andrew C. Revkin of *The New York Times* on March 2, 2008.

"Interviews and e-mail exchanges with half a dozen polar climate and ice experts last week produced a rough consensus: Even with the extensive refreezing of Arctic waters in the deep chill of the sunless boreal winter, the fresh-formed ice remains far thinner than the yards-thick, years-old ice that dominated the region until the 1990s," Revkin continues.

One way to help you think as you read suspicious reports and slippery ads from fossil fuel companies is this:

**FOLLOW THE MONEY!**

## The Bush Administration's War On Science

by Annalee Newitz

*alternet.org* February 27, 2008 —

Over the past eight years, the lives of millions of people in the United States and beyond have been endangered by the U.S. government. No, I'm not talking about the war in Iraq. I'm talking about the quiet, systematic war the government has been waging against science.

You may have heard about gross examples of the government censoring scientific documents. For example, it was widely reported last year that a government regulatory group excised at least half of the statements Centers for Disease Control director Julie Gerberding was set to make at a congressional hearing about how climate change will affect public health.

You may also have heard about the scandal in 2004 when a whistleblower at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revealed that five of the seven members on a panel of "independent experts" stood to gain financially from shutting down a scientific investigation of a controversial mining technique called "hydraulic fracturing." The panel claimed that in its expert opinion, the technique didn't require regulation, despite many scientists' concerns that it might pollute groundwater.

But these are the stories that hit the headlines. There are hundreds more where they came from, and many of them are documented meticulously in a study released earlier this month by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) called "Federal Science and the Public Good."

The UCS report documents, in chilling detail, how agencies have fired scientists who disagreed with government policies. For example, in 2003, experts in nuclear physics were dismissed from a panel within the National Nuclear Security Administration because some of them had published about how the George W. Bush administration's beloved "bunker buster" weapons weren't very



effective. And scientists who spoke out against the administration's stem cell policy were booted from the President's Council on Bioethics.

Worse, the government has falsified scientific studies to bolster its policies and undergird its ideological positions. Perhaps the most egregious example of this was when the EPA lied outright to Americans that the air around Ground Zero directly after September 11 was safe to breathe. In fact, according to the UCS report, the EPA made this statement without even testing the air. As a result, the authors of the report write, "Thousands of rescue workers now plagued by crippling lung ailments continue to feel the impact of this public deception." There's also an example of the Food and Drug Administration inventing a fake study to support its decision to approve the drug Ketek, along with many others.

Most intriguing, though, is the UCS report's suggestion that **many federal regulatory agencies may in fact be breaking the law** by cutting real science out of government policy decisions. Both the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act require the EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to base their decisions on

"the best scientific data available." And yet the UCS has documented countless examples of both agencies, as well as others, refusing to take into account the latest research on climate change, animal populations, and systems biology.

It would be intriguing to see a lawsuit based on the fact that these agencies aren't using "the best scientific data available," but the UCS doesn't suggest that as a remedy. Instead, the report concludes by looking to the future of federally funded science, suggesting ways the next presidential administration might remedy the failures of the last.

First on the agenda would be to bring a scientific adviser back into the cabinet. (Bush dismissed this adviser from the cabinet.) The UCS also suggests that the next president repeal Executive Order 13422, which gave an obscure regulatory body known as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a lot of control over how regulatory agencies handle science. Currently the OMB has the power to revise the findings of scientists within those agencies, despite the fact that the OMB has little to no scientific expertise. And finally, the UCS asks that the government extend protections to whistleblowers within the government who come forward to report on the very kinds of abuses the UCS has reported (often with the help of whistleblowers who lost their jobs or worse).

Hopefully the next presidential administration will relegate this report to the status of historical document instead of a warning about our future. Science is crucial to the management of the nation, and without it we're no better than a medieval kingdom.

*Annalee Newitz is a surly media nerd who is fifteen feet tall, and she has a federal agency science report that proves it. Reprinted with the author's permission.*

[annalee@techsploitation.com](mailto:annalee@techsploitation.com)



## How On Earth Did I Become a Radical Environmentalist Grandmother?

Continuation of a book by Iona, Part 4



### My Sister

I have the most wonderful sister in the world. Joanie is such a light in my life. She is so full of love for me and my family. She understands things about me that nobody else does. We are lucky to have unconditional love between us. Somehow we were raised without jealousy to divide us.

Now, that doesn't mean we didn't scrap as children. We did. I can remember us running through the house to escape each other and the winner was the one who locked herself in the bathroom first for safety. Sometimes we were singing falsetto "opera," chasing each other. "Strike me not." "I strike you." I hated opera; I think Joanie did, too.

I'm not sure how Mom managed as a single mother after Dad broke her heart by leaving when we were young, five (me) and four (Joanie). Fifty-seven years ago divorce was very rare, so were working mothers. But Mom was well-educated and went out to work. Our neighborhood was like an extended family, so we little girls managed fine.

One of Mom's first jobs was as a Welcome Wagon greeter for newcomers. She often reminisced about how adorable, blonde Joanie would accompany her and hold her basket of goodies while I was in Kindergarten. Joanie had the cutest smile. I'm sure doors opened quickly for them.

Even though Joanie was always smaller than me, she once defended me by shoving a "friend" of mine who had called me "Fatso." My spunky "little ister" had more courage than I did! I went home crying. To this day, Joanie stands by my side. I love her dearly. I can always count on my sister.

Once I moved away to college, we stopped living close to each other. When Joanie graduated a year later, she went off to Germany as a graduation present and didn't come back to the States to live until 19 years later. By then I was living in New Jersey. She married a friend of mine and moved to New Jersey, just when I moved on to Maryland!

Well, Joanie is in my heart wherever I go.

I have the most wonderful sister in the world!

## The Order of the Earth Column: Putting Earth's Needs Ahead of Our Own Hanging is Fun

by Iona



This is a clothespin.

People use it to hang clothes out in the fresh air on nice days.

It saves a lot of energy and makes your clothes (and especially sheets) smell luxurious.

If someone is concerned about global warming, (s)he will jump at the opportunity to hang clothes outside or on a wooden rack inside on wet days when the hamper can no longer wait for sunshine.

There are many ways to string up a clothesline. My husband, John, made a mighty one out back with 4 x 4s and eight eye bolts to hold four lines.

I use my new clothespin apron made by Jeannette Bartelt. (See her ad on page 9.)

I have been hanging clothes all my life and it's very rewarding. When we were growing up, Mom had an umbrella-type clothesline in our little back yard. Later, as a young mother myself, I hung out my babies' cotton diapers. I still enjoy the fresh air and sorting through our wet clothes to find ones that match in size or shape or purpose. It's as though I'm creating a tapestry in our back yard..

In previous homes, I have hung clothes strung across our patio at waist height in a snooty condominium where it was prohibited. In a low-income apartment, our clothes hung on the tree outside our back porch, where clotheslines were also prohibited. Ignorant people legislate against clothes lines.

I have been stubborn. I hope you will be, too!

## Guest Columnist: Joyce Utmar

I hang my clothes all the time — my Mom (Helen Utmar) was a fresh-air freak about it. My dryer seems to be broken and I don't care — it is for emergency use only — like a sudden storm leaving clothes soaking wet! It may be a wiring problem or the machine gave up the ghost. I have four basement lines, too. Ooooo, there is a retractable indoor line that is handy for those with aesthetic sensibilities. We had one strung on the second floor landing of the Bowie Manse.

I bet you wear organic cotton bloomers, the first ones pictured! (Ed.: Actually, I do have a pair like this, and a 'sexier' pair in black. They're wonderful.)

I am partial to 100% cotton briefs — not sexy, but fully functional. So breathable — I never did like synthetics for those. Out here in Baltimore and Carroll counties quite a few of us routinely hang wash outside.

As my Mom said, "WHY PAY FOR HOT AIR?"

Now I am inspired to write up a "Living Green" column for the church newsletter. Little tips on recycling (nothing far-out, just easy ones) and being stewards of the Earth — an aspect of Christianity that is often neglected. Next issue will have a bio of Kateri Tekakwitha, patroness of ecology and some information on stewardship.

My editor says I'm "on a roll."

[Iona: We met Joyce about ten years ago when we visited St. Alphonsus church in Woodstock, Maryland during that phase of our work when we were helping churches start up environmental committees. I am always delighted to hear from her and this time, her timing was perfect. We'll run her article on the Paper Retriever (a fundraising paper recycling program at her church) next month.]



Cartoon submitted by Joyce Utmar

# Letters to the Editor

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 13



Dear Iona,

The March issue looks great — as always! You keep blowing me away with how *The Order of the Earth* keeps growing and looking super every month. And now the Web site!

It's like I said from my experience with my documentary, that one person can really make a difference in this world.

Keep going!

Katherine Lukaszewicz, Frederick, Maryland

[Ed.: Katherine is the one who first transformed "OE" into a beautiful publication with her computer wizardry last September. She also produced the film "Organic Frederick: A Portrait of a Growing Community," which won the Aegis Video and Film Award last year. See [www.organicfrederick.com](http://www.organicfrederick.com).]

## And Now: A Word from Al Gore!

Dear Iona,

Thank you so much for your kind note and congratulations on starting "The Order of the Earth" Newspaper. This is such a great idea and I believe your paper will make a tremendous impact on combating the climate crisis.

Again, congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment. I am confident that you will find immense success. I look forward to following your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Al Gore, Nashville, Tennessee

[Ed.: Naturally, this was on Mr. Gore's official stationery. You'd better believe Al is now on my subscribers' list.]

Good Morning Iona,

I think your paper is fine. If you mention this is your very beginning [when you are trying to get ads], people will understand and will admire you from the work you have done.

I'm not worried about my ad (Ed.: bottom right on this page).

I received the papers you sent yesterday. I left 10 with the post officers who care about Cottonfield and want to learn more about your paper! I will deliver them to our five local libraries (two at Brookline, one at Allston, one at Brighton and one at Harvard University Yan-Jingo Library when I go for the lectures).

We will have a Food System Tour meeting on April 5th at the Grassroots International office in Boston, and I will bring 10 to share with our Environmental Leadership Program fellows.

Have a good Day!

Yeumei Shon

Cottonfield

## Earth Prophecy and the Way Out

by Dr. Glen Barry  
[earthmeanders.blogspot](http://earthmeanders.blogspot)

December 23, 2006, conclusion

We need to go far beyond better light bulbs and hybrid cars and fundamentally reorganize human existence . . . Major initiatives are needed in the realm of population control and reduction; terrestrial, aquatic and hydrological ecosystem protection and restora-

tion including no more logging or other industrial development in ancient forests; the pursuit of sustainable economies requires a rethinking of both agriculture and economics, and the embrace of appropriate green technologies. **And finally the world can not be saved and the prophecy avert without strengthened global governance, global demilitarization and a reallocation of these funds to the programs above and urgent efforts to tackle terrible inequitable poverty which plagues the world . . .**

As all hell starts breaking loose, and society and individuals refuse to make the types of changes listed above, there is another option I have considered academically in depth — and that is an Earth Revolution to topple the whole rotten, polluting, inequitable and Earth-killing economic system.

If all else fails, a band of Earth insurgents must rise to eliminate Earth destroyer's property, principles and economic system. A vast, well-financed network of Earth rebels will develop to make a last ditch effort to save salvation. Simultaneously such a movement would promote practitioners of truly sustainable agrarian, relocalized and democratic living to step in to provide the solutions to reconstitute humanity and the Planet post collapse and revolution. We must be prepared to work with seeds, workable permaculture methods, and ways to help people reconnect to the Earth to feed and house themselves while nurturing a sick global patient — Gaia, the Earth system.

Let us all recommit ourselves this year to organizing, advocating and protesting to stop and reverse Earth destruction; at the personal, campaign and global policy levels. And let us prepare for the final battle to avert global ecological Armageddon, by living as sustainably as possible given social constraints and preparing the knowledge, seeds, tools and methods to fight for a future for Homo Sapiens, the millions of species with which we share existence, and the Earth's being.

Let us together find the way out from this horrific Earth Prophecy.

## Corrections

In our March issue, we incorrectly stated that Arikia Millikan, our new Layout and Design volunteer, is a Science Journalism major at Michigan State University. Arikia is a Psychology major at the University of Michigan. She will graduate April 26th and we wish her success and happiness, no matter where she goes or what she does.

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# Grassroots Power

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 14

(Continued from page 3)

Earth maintains its normal cyclical temperatures.

**L:** So, as the ice melts, it's like the Earth is losing some of its protection from the sun. What is causing all of this in the first place?

**Z:** Yes, through ice-melt the earth is losing some of its natural protection. There are numerous reasons for this, but by far the most prevalent factor is the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted from humanity's consumption of fossil fuels. In other words, carbon dioxide. As humanity's carbon output is emitted into the atmosphere, it not only absorbs the sun's heat, but also blocks additional reflectors from the Earth's surface. This process traps heat within the atmosphere and therefore, results in a magnified effect, which explains the significant rise in global temperatures.

**L:** Wow, so... How exactly does all this carbon dioxide get into the atmosphere?

**Z:** Glad you asked. When it comes to carbon dioxide emissions, there are primarily four sources. The biggest and most crucial to amend is the carbon dioxide that is produced from burning coal to make electricity. The simple burning of coal accounts for over 40% of the carbon in our atmosphere. Carbon produced from cars is second, hovering around 20% and then existing building infrastructures and planes make up most of what's left. This toxic build up, coupled with the no-reflection factor, the rising seas, plus all the direct and indirect effects, culminate in quite the frothing brew of global concern.

**L:** So what does all this mean?

**Z:** It means that we have a lot of work to do. If we don't start using alternative energy sources and limiting wasteful consumption, we are on the verge of some serious consequences. Lolita, we have rising action and I don't mean that in a good way.

**L:** Hey! Stop that!

**Z:** We are quickly crossing into dangerous territory. By dangerous I mean that the world has never been this hot while humans lived and there is scientific evidence to prove that.

**L:** Hmm... I haven't noticed much of a change, although the past few summers have been warm...

**Z:** Yeah, a degree or two actually feels good at first, but as species start to disappear, the indirect effects will surely begin to take a toll on humans until the direct effects start to surface. Marine-life was just one example; eco-systems will be altered globally and all kinds of problems have already started to occur.

**L:** Really, what else...?

**Z:** Well, again this is just one example, but apply this generally and you'll get the picture: In the Pacific Northwest, where timber is a staple industry, thousands of acres of forests are being destroyed by rising insect infestations. The reason for this is as follows: Because of global warming the normal winter freeze is not occurring, which in effect, isn't killing off the normal majority of the insects' eggs. Therefore, you have acres of devastation because you have an increased population of pests over a longer period of time (extended spring and summer). Not only does this hurt nature, and the timber industry – but the ripple effect stems all across the economic landscape. **As the dominoes fall, companies go out of business, people lose jobs, and in one way or another, the effects of global warming come around to affect each one of us, monetarily.**

**L:** Did you say money?

**Z:** Oh yeah I did. People have every reason to be worried about the economy, but there is a certain danger zone associated with putting the cart before the horse, Lolita. If global warming is addressed properly, it will spring new industries, like wind turbines and solar power installations and green conversions of existing buildings. (Calling all entrepreneurs!) But, if global warming is not addressed properly then the looming recession will not only happen, but will likely be catapulted to an extraordinary level of woe because of disastrous environmental factors.

**L:** Whoa....

**Z:** No, woe. Ha!

**L:** Shut up, this is serious!

**Z:** See, green conversion, (safe at third!). But Lolita, that was an indirect effect to humans. Wait until you hear the direct effects... As billions of metric tons of ice melt because of increasing intensity from the sun's heat, as a result of the incubation from carbon emissions, and the ice becomes ocean... Where do you think all the water is going to go?

**L:** It will just get higher, right?

**Z:** High, like small islands will be submerged and shorelines around the world will be under water.

**L:** No way!

**Z:** Puts a new meaning on ocean front property huh? Now I don't mean to panic you but if a polar ice cap or a chunk of Greenland happens to submerge, the oceans could very likely rise many feet. Keep in mind how many millions of people across the globe live in port cities... There's more; as the ocean rises, it takes in the sun's heat and warms considerably, which creates more water vapor through evaporation, which brings us to another "positive feedback effect." With the immense amount of greenhouse gas in our atmosphere, the oceans' water vapor (which will be in record high concentrations because of the warming oceans) will be trapped within our atmosphere and therefore the sun's heat takes on a further incubator effect. The Earth and its inhabitants just keep on cooking. You see the vicious cycle?

**L:** What!?!? You have got to be kidding! So, the emissions from cars, and coal burning for electricity are trapped in the atmosphere and they incubate the water vapor that rises from the oceans?

**Z:** Man Lolita, I never knew you had such a passion for this stuff... (wink, wink) But yeah, you got it.

**L:** That is terrible!

**Z:** Yeah but cool down, don't panic. We'll get it.

**L:** How???

**Z:** Well, it starts by having conversations like this one. First we need to be informed, which is easy enough. You know how much people talk; we just need to insert some productive subject matter. Once we are all aware of the Earth's changes, we have to pull together to reduce car-

bon emissions and live more efficiently. It sounds like a lot, but it is amazing how this could actually all come together. We just need strong leaders, Lo. Feel like leading?



**L:** What could I possibly do that would help a problem this big?

**Z:** Oh man, the possibilities are endless ... but I'll shed light on a few simple ideas (no pun intended) and that is through resourceful use of electricity. Check this out – fossil fuels are what have brought on this debacle and until we get away from them, change isn't going to be easy. But, if we start using alternative energy sources like wind and solar power, it will be a breeze. (OK, I intended that pun.)

**L:** So really, what should I do?

**Z:** Well, keep in mind everything you use for electricity is pumping carbon into the atmosphere. So try to cut out the energy that is going to waste. Try to limit your usage to what you actually need. Turn off unnecessary lights, turn off computers at night, don't let your car run longer than you have to, save air conditioning and heating use for when you are actually home. Cut out all waste. Take what you need – but not more than you need. Just think if we all did that – and think of big corporations, too – if everyone was energy-conscious, we could solve half of the problem overnight! So, start talking about it. Let's make a difference.

**L:** I'm ready, Zach!

**Z:** Lolita baby, it's all of us or none of us, So let's team up and create our fate. Spread the word.

# Grassroots Power

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 15



**Harvest Festival at Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey where the Community Supported Agriculture members, even the youngest, know where their food comes from. Photo courtesy of Genesis Farm**

(Continued from page 1) crops and rotation under organic full-till management. But in a recent interview he also stated that "...there is additional opportunity to combine our system with compost and no tillage to get substantially more carbon sequestration or fixation, up to three times our previous calculations."

If we use the more conservative estimate of 3,670 pounds per acre and multiply this times the 160 million acres in the U.S. planted in corn and soybeans, it would capture 293 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year or about three-quarters of the reductions required of the U.S. under the Kyoto Protocol. Because total U.S. cropland is 431 million acres, the potential is even greater. This does not even include savings resulting from the fact that or-

ganic production, according to Dr. David Pimentel of Cornell University, uses about 63% of the energy consumed in conventional farming.

We don't really know why organic techniques sequester so much carbon but researchers believe it is probably related to the slower rate of breakdown of organic matter. In conventional agriculture, the application of man-made nitrogen fertilizers accelerates decay sending more carbon back into the atmosphere. To make matters worse, the synthetic fertilizer also kills natural soil fungi called mycorrhiza. Work by agriculture researcher Dr. David Douds shows that mycorrhiza are more prevalent in organic systems and that they slow down the decay of organic matter.

But there are other benefits to this system which make it relevant to what is happening right now to farms throughout the world. It is estimated that 20% of potential food crop production is lost because of unfavorable weather such as drought, flooding, unseasonable temperatures, and storm damage. These extreme weather patterns have been on the increase, probably due to climate change. Research by Dr. Pimentel showed that yields of corn and soybeans were not less for the organic systems, except during drought years when organic systems yielded 25 to 75% more. The reason for this is that increased organic matter in the soil means more moisture is retained.

Efforts are afoot to harness such processes for the benefit of farmers worldwide. It would be especially beneficial if small farmers could benefit from global carbon trading. At present, it is easier for large forestry projects and cleaner industrial processes to gain access to carbon credits. If the amount of carbon being captured in soils and trees by small farms can be measured accurately, this can change. According to Louis Verchot of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICARF), "The potential for large sums of money to flow to developing countries through carbon trade is real."

ICARF and The Earth Institute at Columbia University and Michigan State University are studying how to integrate data from satellites, field surveys and labs to measure the amount of carbon being stored on farms and in forests. This information is being used to help NGO's like World Wildlife Fund, Care International and World Vision to gain carbon financing for projects.

Hopefully, the potential of the soil to

slow climate change can be harnessed to buy us enough time to cut our consumption of fossil energy. At any rate, it is worth looking at how organic agriculture can rebuild soils using inexpensive technologies that farmers in developing countries can afford and it is reassuring to think that this can be done without a reduction in food production.

*Bill Boteler is a writer and environmentalist living and working in D.C.*



## **Congo, Rwanda, Uganda United to Save Gorillas**

World Wildlife Fund via Environmental News Network, February 22, 2008 -- Borders will matter less to central Africa's mountain gorillas following the launch of a strategic conservation plan and an associated project which covers adjoining areas of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are only about 720 gorillas left in the tropical mountain forests shared by the three countries ... The gorillas' natural habitat is threatened by the destruction of these forests and the great apes themselves are victims of poachers. Protected area authorities of the three countries launched a 10-year Transboundary Plan to improve community livelihoods and contribute to the stability of the region, while assisting in strengthening and making similar the three countries' policies and laws on the conservation and management of the protected areas.

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# Grassroots Power

Volume 8, Number 4, Issue 73: April 2008, Page 16

## Sierra Club Adopts Zero Waste Cradle-to-Cradle Principles for the 21st Century: Club's plan is Win-Win for Business and the Environment

SAN FRANCISCO, California (March 1, 2008) — The Sierra Club announced adoption of a landmark policy on Zero Waste at its Board Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia last weekend. The new Zero Waste Policy provides governments at all levels with a leading-edge plan that links environmental health with economic prosperity. The plan proposes specific roles for government, manufacturers, and consumers to address the waste crisis facing our country.

Governments are obligated to protect public health and the environment, but present waste management practices are not protective. In contrast, this Zero Waste Policy fosters an economic system that fully values people and the environment.

Ann Schneider, Chair of the Club's Zero Waste Committee, notes, "The Sierra Club's Zero Waste Policy addresses not only the quantity of waste we generate, but also its toxicity, and its important links to climate change and corporate responsibility. Most importantly it aims to prevent waste by design rather than manage it after the fact."

Zero Waste focuses on reducing waste and reusing products, then recycling and composting the rest. A key

component of Zero Waste is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

"The familiar example of EPR is the refillable bottle," says Schneider. "The producer takes the bottle back and reuses it with minimal use of energy and natural resources. This idea can be extended to other products, including appliances designed to be easily disassembled for repair or reuse."

The Sierra Club policy would require businesses (producers or first importers) to recover, at no cost to taxpayers, their products when consumers are done with them, as a condition for sale in a jurisdiction. If brand-owners are responsible for channeling their products safely back into the environment of the marketplace, they will start making products differently, so that they can be reused. Designing products for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling is called the "Cradle to Cradle" approach.

Two other key components of Zero Waste are (1) land-use policies and zoning that encourage development of reuse, repair and recycling businesses in business districts, and (2) local government management of food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials. Diverting organic materials dramatically reduces waste, eliminates the problem of methane produced in landfills, and provides compost needed to restore depleted soil.

For consumers, the adoption of Zero Waste plans will make "green living" much simpler and easier, with products

that can be repaired, disassembled, and conveniently dropped off where purchased, and reuse, recycling and composting services for people at home, at work and at play.

Bill Sheehan, Co-Chair of the Zero Waste Committee notes that "The Club's focus on Extended Producer Responsibility lends additional momentum to a growing movement in the U.S. to tackle waste at its root cause and develop policies that prevent waste rather than just managing it at the end-of-pipe."

Schneider added, "The Club will work with its over 700,000 members throughout the United States to promote these goals, principles and policies."

For more information visit [www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/](http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/) or contact: Ann Schneider, Chair, Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee at 650-697-6249; or you can email her at [Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org](mailto:Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org).

## Carbon Output Must Near Zero to Avert Danger

by Juliet Eilperin, excerpt

*Washington Post* March 10, 2008 —

The task of cutting greenhouse gas emissions enough to avert a dangerous rise in global temperatures may be far more difficult than previous research suggested, say scientists who have just published studies indicating that it would require the world to cease car-

bon emissions altogether within a matter of decades. Their findings, published in separate journals over the past few weeks, suggest that both industrialized and developing nations must wean themselves off fossil fuels by as early as mid-century in order to prevent warming that could change precipitation patterns and dry up sources of water worldwide...

Although many nations have been pledging steps to curb emissions for nearly a decade, the world's output of carbon from human activities totals about 10 billion tons a year and has been steadily rising...

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Cal.), who is shepherding climate legislation through the Senate as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said the new findings "make it clear we must act now to address global warming."

## What Can YOU Do?

Contact your federal senators (202-224-3121) and demand that they support a strong climate bill. Senator Boxer's bill is called American's Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191). If you don't know who your senator is visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

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