

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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Can We Avert Disaster?

Clean Energy is the Choice of the Future

GLOBAL WARMING IS the most urgent problem facing human civilization today. Rapid warming is compromising the ability of ecosystems to support the great diversity of life we have on earth.

Our Friends of the Earth member groups tell us that they are being impacted right now by global warming. The head of Friends of the Earth Nepal spoke to members of Congress and the press this spring about the rapidly melting glaciers in the Himalayas. Residents have never seen anything like this, as glacial lakes are filling to the bursting point from this melting, villagers dwelling in the valleys below are living in constant fear of catastrophic floods.

For the past four decades your support of Friends of the Earth has enabled us to challenge governments and industry to shift to clean energy. In the mid-1970s our experts Amory Lovins in *Soft Energy Paths* and Wilson Clark in *Energy for Survival* mapped out a sustainable energy strategy for modern civilization. These two pioneering thinkers demonstrated that the United States does not need to be mired in pollution from fossil fuel energy since we have an extensive range of options for renewable energy and improvements in energy efficiency.

Our 1980 publication *Energy, Vulnerability and War* presented the timely message that centralized systems to produce and distribute electricity are vulnerable to natural disasters, war, sabotage, and acts of terrorism.

Today we are continuing this historic battle at a time when the oil



photo credit: Lisa Matthes

Brent Blackwelder, President

industry and other powerful energy interests are setting the policy for the Bush administration.

Two major signs of change in the political dynamics of the issue come from the growing interest shown by religious congregations acting to save God's creation from the ravages of global warming and from the actions being taken by the insurance industry.

In the aftermath of last year's hurricanes, the insurance industry

“The choice between clean energy and highly polluting fossil fuel energy is now being made across the nation.”

began canceling homeowner policies from Long Island to Florida and the Gulf Coast. Swiss Re, the world's largest reinsurance company, underwrote the production of the movie *The Great Warming* that lays out the terrifying scientific evidence but also highlights the moral dimension to climate change by including input from religious leaders. Friends of the Earth is a co-sponsor of this film.

The choice between clean energy and highly polluting fossil fuel energy is now being made across the nation. In places like Kansas, where there is enormous wind power potential, new coal power plants have been proposed. One proposed coal power complex near Dodge City would become the largest new source of greenhouse gas emissions in North America if it is constructed. New coal power plants would also increase mercury emissions in the state by 64%.

The emerging concern on global warming amongst religious congregations may be a decisive factor in the decisions made in Kansas between coal and wind power and may determine whether the United States will take a leadership role in clean energy or continue to massively increase its global warming pollution.

Brent Blackwelder

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Can We Avert

Global Warming – A warming of the average global temperature caused by a build up of greenhouse gas pollutants in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are greenhouse gases. They are released by burning fossil fuels for electricity, automobiles, airplanes and ships. The warming of a few degrees can cause vast changes in the climate, mass extinctions, and jeopardize human civilization as we know it.

“Business-as-usual” scenarios... imply changes that constitute practically a different planet.

– James Hansen,
NASA’s Head Climate Scientist

I say the debate is over. We have the science. We see the threat. And we know the time for action is now!

– California Governor
Arnold Schwarzenegger

By Lisa Grob

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN or heard of “An Inconvenient Truth,” Al Gore’s new movie on global warming, or “The Great Warming” or the HBO special, “Too Hot Not To Handle.” Concern about global warming has spread from scientists, to Hollywood, to the pages of *Time* and *Parade* magazine, and is now a regular feature on many major media outlets. Congress is getting into the act with 13 different bills currently under consideration to deal with global warming.

There is consensus that the planet is warming, that human actions are accelerating the warming, and that without a course correction the consequences will be catastrophic.

‘Warming’ may sound benign but the rise in our average global temperature is unprecedented in human history. In fact, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hasn’t been this high for three and a half million years. The 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire century, perhaps even the millennium. Scientists project future warming increases between 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100.

While the planet has experienced many changes in climate over the course of its existence, this period of global warming is happening so rapidly that many of the world’s species won’t have the time to adjust to the rate of change. As a point of comparison, since the pre-industrial era, atmospheric concentrations of car-

bon dioxide have increased nearly 30 percent. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that by 2100, without emissions control policies, carbon dioxide concentrations will be 30-150 percent higher than today’s levels.

The impacts of global warming on the United States are sobering. As you look at the list below, unfortunately, you’ll recognize that many of these impacts are present day reality rather than predictions of a distant future.

- **Increased incidence of severe weather events** – In the last 30 years, the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has nearly doubled.
- **Loss of wetlands, sea level rise and beach erosion** – For instance, the EPA reports that a 1-3 foot increase in sea level over the next century is projected to submerge at least 70 percent of Louisiana’s remaining salt marshes.
- **Increased drought and deluge** – Precipitation in California decreased by 20 percent in the previous centu-

Disaster?



ry. Southern New Hampshire had its wettest May on record this year with 18 inches of rain.

- **Increased heat mortalities and increased incidence of air pollution and high ground-level ozone days** – In some areas, the incidence of heat mortalities is expected to double by 2050.
- **Increase in the range of insect-borne diseases** – Malaria and dengue fever are expected to travel northward as increased temperatures make northern climes more hospitable to disease carrying mosquitoes.
- **Destruction of natural habitats** – The mangroves of southwest Florida will experience serious losses.
- **Water shortages** – California's Sierra snow pack, which serves as the state's largest reservoir could shrink by a third by 2060, and to half its historic size by 2090. Increases in the salinity of drinking water sources from sea level rise could cause critical water shortages in New York City and coastal areas.

The impacts of global warming are being felt internationally as well. Low-lying areas in Bangladesh, and the small island nations are feeling the impacts acutely as sea level rise continues to encroach on their lands. For instance, in Bangladesh sea level



photo credit: Reuters/Robert Galbraith

Global warming will bring more storms like Hurricane Katrina. This plea for help appeared in the aftermath of Katrina in New Orleans.

rise is predicted to inundate more than 15 percent of Bangladesh, displacing more than 13 million people – if no action is taken to stop global warming. In Nepal, millions are threatened with severe flooding as the Himalayan glaciers melt.

The federal government has been sitting on its hands on this one. The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement signed in 1997, set targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 160 countries. The United States initially agreed to join the Kyoto Protocol. However, in 2001,

the Bush Administration rejected the agreement in favor of a voluntary program of emissions cuts. But voluntary reductions haven't worked. Since 1990, U.S. total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increased by 16 percent primarily due to an increase of 19.4 percent in CO₂ emissions – the predominant greenhouse gas.

Solutions

The first step towards climate stabilization is reducing greenhouse

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(continued from page 5)

gases emitted from fossil fuel combustion. As you can see from the pie chart, the majority of our carbon dioxide emissions are from electricity generation, transportation, and industrial processes.

Climate Stabilization

Friends of the Earth advocates for the adoption of aggressive local, state, and federal policies to achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The scientific community believes that there is a tipping point beyond which reductions we make won't be able to stem catastrophic climate disruption. NASA's head climate scientist, Jim Hansen, believes that drastic reductions need to be made by the middle of the century. The Intergovernmental Panel in Climate Change (IPCC), an international agency, assembled under the authority of the United Nations to monitor global climate, reports that we must reduce emissions by 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Friends of the Earth Europe and our

Friends of the Earth affiliate in the United Kingdom advocate for 3 percent annual reductions.

Transportation Emissions Reductions

Personal automobiles account for the largest portion of our transportation emissions. Implementing currently available clean energy technology and improving efficiency could substantially reduce these emissions.

Improving Auto Efficiency

Technology exists today to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by doubling automobile fuel efficiency. An assortment of vehicle technologies could substantially increase fuel economy, including switching to gas-electric hybrids, smoother-rolling tires, slicker aerodynamics, and more efficient transmissions and engines.

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Cars

A plug-in hybrid electric vehicle is a standard hybrid car, such as a Toyota Prius, with extra batteries. The plug-in hybrid looks and feels like a "regular" vehicle, but has the option of being plugged in to any regular out-

let at home or in a parking garage. After charging, the plug-in hybrid can travel from 20 to 60 miles on battery power alone, depending on the size of the battery. When a plug-in hybrid's batteries are depleted, the car operates just like a normal hybrid and runs off gasoline. Plug-in hybrids can also be designed to run on biofuels (read more below).

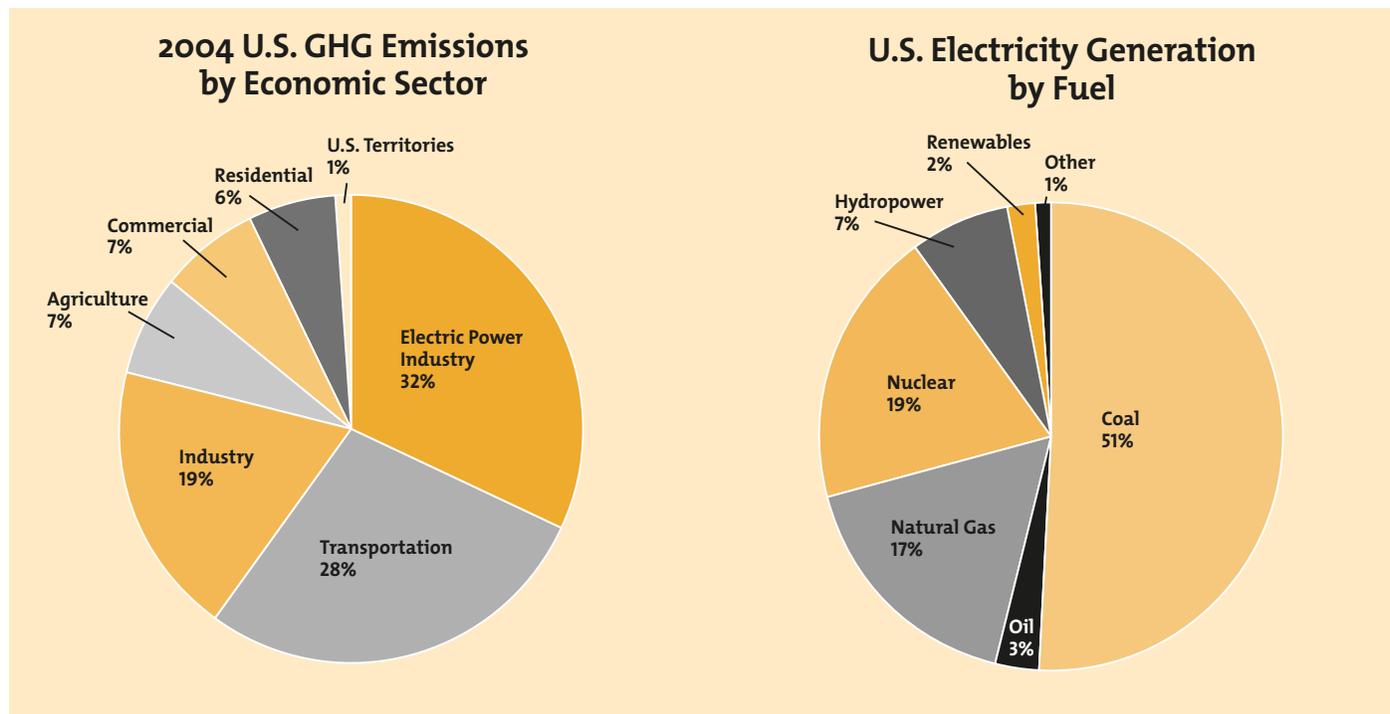
No major manufacturer is currently making plug-ins available to the public. A Toyota Prius conversion may be available later this year and commercial vans are being manufactured by Daimler-Chrysler.

Alternative Fuels for Autos

Biofuels

Biofuels are plant-based fuel alternatives to gasoline that can power your car. Ethanol is the most common biofuel; it can be used as a replacement to gasoline. Biodiesel, most commonly made from vegetable oils, is another alternative.

If done the right way, biofuels can be part of a shift to a more sustain-



source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

able energy future. Most ethanol is produced from corn. With corn ethanol, there are modest reductions in greenhouse gases, but these emission cuts could disappear if the factories that produce ethanol use coal as their power source.

In the future, we will be able to produce ethanol from corn stalks, grain straw, and native grasses like switch grass. If ethanol were produced from a perennial plant like switch grass, we could achieve emission reductions of a much higher percentage – possibly 90 percent. However, further development is needed to realize the full potential of switch grass-based ethanol.

Electricity Generation

Energy Efficiency

A recent report conducted for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group by Synapse Energy Economics shows that the U.S. can substantially reduce global warming pollution through efficiency improvements in power generation. The report concluded that modest investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy would allow the U.S. to reduce global warming pollution from the electricity sector by 47 percent by 2025.

Clean Energy

About half the electricity that powers our homes and businesses is fueled by coal, which releases more carbon dioxide than any other fuel. We need to dramatically reduce the amount of coal we use to generate electricity. The U.S. government has given out more than \$35 billion in subsidies for coal and other fossil fuels in the last five years. These resources would be better spent supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Wind Power

Electricity can be generated from wind through the installation of a



turbine or windmill that creates electricity as the wind blows. The good news is that harnessing the power of wind with turbines has the potential to power the entire U.S. In fact, the wind potential of just three states, could serve all of our electricity needs. We aren't anywhere near tapping the full potential of wind power. With only a fraction of the electricity we use generated from wind – we have nowhere to go but up.

Wind energy generates no GHG emissions. It's a home grown product that will enhance our energy security. It is cost competitive with electricity generated from fossil fuels and will be even more so as the technology continues to advance.

Wind also has tremendous economic advantages. Production of wind turbines is a burgeoning industry that can employ thousands. According to the American Wind Energy Association, every megawatt of wind power manufactured, installed, or serviced creates 22 man-years of employment. Also, some of the best wind sites are in rural areas where investment and employment from wind power will promote rural economic development.

This June, the American Wind Energy Association, U.S. Department of Energy, and National Renewable Energy Laboratory committed to develop an action plan to provide up to 20 percent of the nation's electricity from wind energy. This is an ambitious goal that needs an ambitious timetable.

Solar Energy

Generation of electricity from solar energy is another promising alternative. Photovoltaic systems change sunlight into electricity. And, solar thermal systems work by using the sun's energy to heat a fluid that in turn creates steam and turns a turbine to produce electricity. There are no greenhouse gas emissions from solar energy. It has many of the same advantages of wind, however, the technology is not currently as cost competitive as wind power.

The Department of Energy unveiled plans to decrease the cost of solar to be competitive with existing sources of electricity in 10 years. The program also aims to deploy solar electricity to power roughly 2 million homes by 2015. The Solar

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Energy Industries Association reports that this plan would reduce 10 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually. The program would also add 30,000 new jobs in the solar industry. The implementation of this program will depend on Congress appropriating the increased funds.

Industrial and Commercial Emissions Reductions

Energy Efficiency

There are tremendous gains that can be made to improve energy efficiency in industrial processes. The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy plans to make a 30 percent improvement in the energy efficiency in the nation's eight most energy-intensive industries—aluminum, chemicals, forest products, glass,

metal casting, mining, petroleum refining, and steel by 2020, and contribute to commercializing over 10 industrial energy efficiency technologies by 2010.

There are a number of steps the commercial sector can adopt.

- If older power plants, which aren't currently required to meet current Clean Air Act standards, were upgraded or replaced, emissions would be reduced.
- Build more energy efficient homes and buildings. New homes that carry the EPA Energy Star label operate 30 percent more efficiently than homes built to the Model Energy Code.
- Computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, and other home and office equipment that carry the Energy Star label are 13 to 40 percent more energy efficient.

Assuring our Future

There are number of voluntary programs currently underway that seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

These programs alone will not put us on the path to climate stabilization. We do have all the right ingredients for success: energy efficient technology, abundant clean energy resources, the can-do American spirit, and a burgeoning concern about global warming. But we need to coordinate our programs and policies and enact federal legislation that requires mandatory cuts.

Voluntary programs aren't going to achieve the drastic reductions we need. Our incentive system needs to be shaken up. Instead of the bulk of our resources rewarding actions that pollute our planet, we should be putting everything into the development of clean energy and improvements in energy efficiency. ○

Would Nuclear Power Help?

Although the generation of power from nuclear power plants does not emit greenhouse gases – nuclear power is not emissions free nor is it safe or cost-effective.

Here are a few key points on nuclear power:

- Mining, processing and transportation of uranium (the key ingredient for generating nuclear power) does generate GHG emissions and causes other environmental harms.
- Accidents at nuclear power plants are still a serious possibility.
- Nuclear power plants cost more than \$4 billion and 10 years to construct.
- Nuclear power plants are a potential terrorist target.
- Generating nuclear power produces radioactive waste that must be stored and managed for millennia, and there is still no long-term storage system in place for the radioactive waste we have already produced.

More Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/globalwarming
 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: www.ipcc.ch
 U.S. Global Change Research Program: www.usgcrp.gov
 NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies: www.giss.nasa.gov
 NOAA's National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov
 ABC News: abcnews.go.com/Technology/GlobalWarming

Everyday Choices

THE CHOICES EACH OF US MAKE every day have an impact on the planet. Make a commitment to be a Friend of the Earth!

Reduce Energy Use - Reduce Emissions



- ▶ Replace conventional light-bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs and look for appliances with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star label.
- ▶ Turn off computers and other appliances when you're not using them. For appliances that suck energy even after they have been shut down, get a smart strip at www.smartstrip.net.
- ▶ Weather-proof your home to keep it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- ▶ Choose to buy clean energy from your public utilities – see www.renewus.org for links to utility companies that offer clean energy.
- ▶ Encourage your congregation to choose clean energy – see www.theregenerationproject.org for more information.

- ▶ Eat locally grown and organic foods. Food often travels hundreds or thousands of miles to your table – if you can buy it locally it will save energy.



- ▶ For more tips, go to: www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips and to calculate your global warming impact, go to: reference.aol.com/nowyouknow/globalwarming/calculator.

Make Smart Transportation Choices

- ▶ If you can, walk, bike, or take public transportation instead of driving.
- ▶ If you drive, try to combine trips, and when it's time for a new car, look for the most fuel efficient model.
- ▶ Keep your car well-maintained. Replace the oil on time and check tire pressure once a month. For more tips, go to: www.fueleconomy.gov.



Reuse and Recycle

- ▶ Recycle your cell phone. There are precious metals in your phone that require energy to produce. Go to www.collectivegood.com for a free shipping label to recycle your phone.
- ▶ Recycle plastic, glass, aluminum and paper products.
- ▶ Reuse household items by buying used and donating your household items to charities.



Spread the Word

- ▶ Talk with your friends and family about the impacts of global warming and what can be done to stop it. Find out more about the impacts at www.foe.org/globalwarming.
- ▶ Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about global warming and the need for clean energy. Go to www.foe.org/globalwarming for an online tool.



Look for news and activities to help stop global warming at www.foe.org/globalwarming. ○

Moulin Blue in San Francisco

A carbon-neutral event. Carbon dioxide off-setting donated by 3 Phases Energy

BLUEWATER NETWORK will host *Moulin Blue- a cabaret extravaganza for the oceans* in San Francisco on September 15th. The event will sup-

port ongoing efforts to protect coasts and oceans from marine vessel impacts. If you are interested in tickets or have an auction item to

donate, please see the web site at www.bluewaternetwork.org, call Samara Dun at (415) 544-0790 x12 or email sdun@bluewaternetwork.org ○

World Perspectives on Global Warming

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH invited representatives from our member groups in Nigeria, Nepal, and El Salvador to Washington, DC this spring to raise awareness on the impacts of global warming worldwide. They shared with us some of the impacts that are being felt in their countries right now and their concerns about the future.

Africa

Asume Osuoka,
Friends of the Earth
Nigeria



I have personally experienced the impacts of climate change in the Niger Delta. Virtually, every two years we are experiencing severe flooding. People no longer have the confidence to plant crops. They are not sure if the flooding will destroy everything.

The Niger Delta is a low area. Even the minimum projected sea level rise from global warming will lead to the inundation of large areas. It's a real problem beyond what we are already experiencing.

Elsewhere in Africa, we are experiencing severe desertification. Recent studies indicate that this is caused by global warming. There is very limited fertile land that is left because of desertification. In places like Sudan, the conflict is rooted in the competition for access to fertile land. Many people are being displaced from their homes. It is a sad situation.

Nepal

Prakash Sharma,
Friends of the Earth
Nepal



Global warming is really affecting us. Our glaciers are melting. The highest peak in the world, Mt.

Everest, is melting and new glacial lakes are being created. It is also increasing the volume of water in existing lakes. There are potentially 20 glacial lakes that could burst any day – they can't contain the increased volume of water – the people, land, cattle, bridges, infrastructure downstream will be wiped out if one of these lakes burst.

The lives and property of these people are at great risk. It could happen any day – like an atom bomb.

We didn't create this problem. The problem was created in the West. The people of Nepal can't sleep at night for fear of a lake bursting. Nepal can't fix this problem alone. Greenhouse gas emissions have to be stopped. They have to be reduced. Developed countries need to help mitigate the problem also – and remove some of the water in these lakes. Otherwise we will have a catastrophe in Nepal.

Central America

Raquel Cruz,
Friends of the Earth
El Salvador



We are experiencing the impacts from global warming in Central America. Losses and harms caused by global warming in Central America are becoming more evident every day. In El Salvador, rivers that before were permanent are now seasonal, and rivers that are normally dry from November to April are now completely dry. Increases in the intensity of droughts will impact food production and the livelihoods of many Salvadorans.

We are also concerned about the increased intensity of severe weather events like hurricanes that is

“In El Salvador, rivers that before were permanent are now seasonal, and rivers that are normally dry from November to April are now completely dry.”

caused by global warming. In October 2005, Hurricane Stan struck Mexico and Central America. The storm caused pervasive flooding, the overflow of rivers and gorges, and landslides that buried houses and people. The countries most affected in Central America were Guatemala and El Salvador, where the governments declared a national state of emergency.

The people most affected by the storm, as always, were the families who live in extreme poverty. In Guatemala, at least 1,500 people were killed and up to 3,000 were confirmed missing. Panabaj, an impoverished Mayan village near Lake Atitlan in the department of Solola, was wiped out by a mudslide that killed every member of the community. In El Salvador, 65 people died, 300 communities were affected, and more than 54,000 people were forced to leave their homes.

In Central America, people are beginning to understand that these catastrophes are occurring with increasing intensity because of climate change. These countries contribute very little to the problems compared to industrialized countries, but Central Americans and other people from poor nations will bear the brunt of the impacts. ○

Thank You to Herman Warsh

By Brent Blackwelder

OVER THE LAST 36 YEARS Friends of the Earth has been fortunate to enjoy the leadership of many caring and far-sighted people. Herman Warsh, who died this past spring, was one of these.

Herman was the chair of our board of directors from 1986 to 1991 and guided the merger that joined the Environmental Policy Institute, Friends of the Earth, and the Oceanic Society into a more powerful global advocacy organization.

Herman wanted to be on the cutting edge, and he was never afraid to give the green light to those of us who wanted to do some hard-hitting work, whether on nuclear power or agribusiness, fighting the coal industry or the Army Corps of Engineers. Having a chair who was not afraid to be bold and to take

risks was a crucial morale booster for the staff.

When I proposed in 1990 that we send a scientific team to the Persian Gulf to document and get action on the many environmental catastrophes (oil fires, spills, etc.) spewing forth in the aftermath of the first Gulf War, Herman was right there with the support we needed.

Herman was on the cutting edge and knew where the action was. He provided support for our initiatives on the environmental impacts of trade agreements before it was on the public radar. I recall marching in Seattle in late 1999 in the historic protest against the World Trade

Organization and, lo and behold, I look over and there were Herman and his wife Maryanne marching right along beside me.

Visiting Herman in 2005, I was impressed by how much information about our work he kept wanting to get his hands on. All of us are better as a result of the life that Herman led.

The memorial service at Herman's ranch on July 12 was filled with people from all walks of life who spoke of this remarkable man and his ability to inspire, to assist, to change people's perspectives and views, and to bring out the best in others. ○

Request from the family of Herman Warsh: In lieu of flowers please do a good deed in the name of Herman Warsh. Let us know and we will pass it on to his family. Contact: Lisa Grob, lgrob@foe.org

Working Assets Members: Vote for Us in the 2006 Donations Ballot

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of Working Assets, please don't forget to vote for Friends of the Earth when your ballot arrives at the end of the year. The distribution of funds is determined solely by how many votes each group receives. The more votes we get, the more funding we get. It's that simple.

You can also choose to 'round-up' each bill that you receive throughout the year. If you are not a member, please consider joining at www.workingassets.com. Sign up for long distance service and get a free pint of Ben & Jerry's ice cream every month for a full year. ○



We Must Care for the World that God Created

By Rabbi Frederick Reeves,
The Temple, Atlanta, Georgia

I RECENTLY SAW A SCREENING of the film *The Great Warming*. As part of the program, there was a panel of interfaith clergy, and I was the Jewish representative. The point of the film is that as a result of the output of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, global temperature is increasing. I am going to assume that this information is not news to readers of this magazine. Nor was it news to me. But what was news to me was the idea that we as a religious community have a place in this discussion; we are needed to stimulate the politicians and scientists to solve the problem.

As an individual, I have had a concern about the environment for some time. It began in Earth Science class, where I first heard the expression “greenhouse gases.” Then in college, I was part of the effort to ensure that recycling bins were on every floor of the dormitories so that all of the cans and bottles which college students go through would not end up in a land fill.

When I became a parent, my outlook on so many things changed. No longer looking at the world from the point of view of a sole consumer, I became concerned about the legacy that we would be leaving my children. What kind of world would my children bring their children up in? Lessons like Hurricane Katrina and the idea that storms are growing in intensity because of global warming



made thinking about their future all the more grave.

As a rabbi, there is no wiggle room on the need to protect the environment. Judaism is considered more “this worldly” than some religions, meaning that we concentrate on making this world better and improving the lives of those around us. Central to Jewish thinking is the idea that we live in a broken world and that we are partners with God in the work of fixing the world, in Hebrew *tikkun olam*.

One of the texts that illustrates that partnership comes from the creation story itself. After God has created humans, God says, “Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it.” [Genesis 1:28] The idea that we are to master the earth could be understood in two different ways. On the one hand, it could mean that we are the masters of the earth, and therefore we can do what we want to with it. But that is not how Jewish tradition has understood this text.

Built into the rabbinic mindset is the idea that the entire universe belongs to God. When we dwell on this planet, we do not own it; we hold the land on loan from God. Since God owns the land, Jewish commentators have understood the verb “master” as “to take care of.” People had a job – to tend the Garden of Eden: to weed it, to water it, to make sure that it grew as it was supposed to. We were not free to uproot the garden. Rather, we are here to care for the world that God created.

In the Talmud, the rabbis developed the idea of *bal tashchit*, do not destroy. They developed the idea from Deuteronomy 20:19 in which it says when Israel is engaged in war, we should not destroy the trees growing around cities to which we are laying siege. In the verse, a rhetorical question is asked: “Are the trees human beings to withdraw before you into the city?” From this question, the rabbis realized that not only should we care for the earth, but that we were obliged to avoid the wanton destruction of it.

We can fix what we have broken. It will not be easy, and it will require the partnership of the political, scientific and religious communities to create the desire, the means, and the will to develop new technologies either to produce power from sources other than fossil fuels or to clean the carbon dioxide out of the air. But we can fix it. And we need to. And we will – for ourselves, for our children, for God. ○

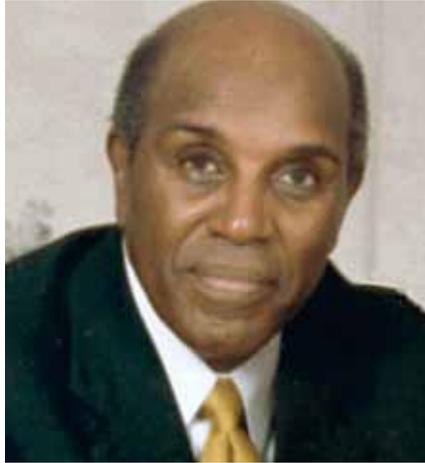
Save Our World From Us

By Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley,
Senior Pastor, Providence Missionary
Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia

I HAVE, FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, regarded myself as an informed, enlightened, educated, and involved human being when it comes to critical issues that negatively impact the lives of people. In college I became deeply committed to the civil and human rights movements as we fought for the dignity and equal rights of all who call themselves Americans. Championing the cause for social justice and racial equality virtually consumed my life as I completed my undergraduate and graduate school education.

Becoming a psychologist and a pastor in the African-American community afforded me the access to positively make a significant difference in this segment of society. I was satisfied that I was completing my calling until two weeks ago when I was invited to view a film entitled *The Great Warming*. As far as I was concerned, the invitation was just another event which was sponsored by a group of “environmental alarmists” attempting to solicit support and raise funds. Since I was invited by someone I highly respect, I graciously and reluctantly consented to attend.

On May 18, 2006 my total perspective on environmental issues and life in general was drastically altered. I became a converted devotee to doing everything in my power to speak truth to the issues that can change the man-made exploitative behavior that is literally destroying the environment that God created for us to live in, enjoy, and have our being.



What was so EARTH shattering about that fateful day in May? I learned, for the first time, about the carbon dioxide that is not being absorbed by trees because we have cut them down. I was shocked to see and hear that the need for massive fossil fuel burning is depleting our natural resources and polluting our air. Yet, we continue to dig and drill for more and more coal and oil rather than seek alternative energy sources. This depleting and defoliating fuels our greedy needs and is a malicious overuse of precious natural resources. Furthermore, the global appetite for energy is rising rapidly. The U.S. Department of Energy says that global energy use will grow by 50 percent during the first quarter of the century. Our ‘oil addiction,’ has serious implications for our global climate.

What does all of this mean to an African-American pastor in Atlanta, Georgia who daily is concerned with the elimination of poverty, curtailing homelessness, improving and providing health care, decreasing unemployment, lessening teenage pregnancy, reducing crime, curbing violence, eliminating racism and trying to assist people through another day?

It became crystal clear to me as I watched *The Great Warming* and engaged in subsequent conversations with Friends of the Earth representatives, that environmental concerns must become an integrated, active part of the life sustaining messages in the African-American community. These essential messages must be mandatory teachings throughout all faith traditions, if we are to survive.

The faith community consistently prides itself on being in the prevention and healing business. Therefore, if we are serious about what we teach and preach, our message must speak clearly and boldly to:

1. Reduce levels of energy consumption; and,
2. Shift to clean energy sources like wind and solar.
3. Learn how to effectively join forces with those who are more knowledgeable about improving environmental conditions; and,
4. Discuss in sermons, seminars, workshops, and lectures about health issues, weather conditions, economic concerns, and the negative impact of global warming which are all connected to how the environment is regarded.

There is so much that *can* and *must* be accomplished when we know what is happening to our environment and its direct impact on each of our lives. No one person, group or organization can bring about complete *awareness* and comprehensive *change* alone. The faith community must become a far reaching, consistent voice, from pulpits, to exhort the masses to understand, get involved, speak out, and be converted to “SAVE OUR WORLD... FROM US!!” ◉

Interview with a Friend of the Earth

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH'S Bluewater Network division asked one of its dedicated supporters, Mike Kerwin, how he and his wife Amy incorporate environmental beliefs into their work and life. Here's what Mike had to say. Thanks, Mike, for being an inspiration to us!

Q: How do you incorporate your environmental concerns into your business practices?

A: *There is an environmentally "better" choice in almost everything we do at work and at home. At Lorax Development in San Francisco, we build homes using green materials and environmentally conscious practices. Our homes are built on empty lots within the city because infill development keeps suburbia from expanding. We use solar for power and heat, collect rainwater, and use insulation made from recycled blue jeans. One of our recent houses provides water for every use except drinking water. If the code allowed, a simple technical "fix" would let us provide that too.*

Q: Where do you envision green building going in the next 10 years?

A: *Green building practices will simply become common building practices. But it will take new laws and consumer demand to make this happen. More demand equals more commercially available homes.*

Q: Will this market include the average consumer anytime soon?

A: *When the average consumer realizes that a green home is a better quality home: Healthier, stronger, more energy efficient. It's not just a political and social statement; green homes are better for the person living in it.*



Mike, Amy, and Maggie at the Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Resort

Q: How do you and your wife, Amy, incorporate environmental concerns into everyday decisions at home?

A: *Amy drives a Prius, and uses the public library, which is the oldest and best re-use program in the world. The biggest impact we can make is to support laws and organizations that work for the environment, like Bluewater Network. We believe that the most impact is made by legislation and education. And, as Amy says, it's important to vote with your pocket, too, to build markets for sustainable products.*

Q: How do you make environmental choices when you're away from home?

A: *When our family travels we choose to vacation at environmentally friendly resorts. "It's all about the animals" is our mantra. We saw how environmental education can make a difference on a recent trip to the Jean Michel-Cousteau resort in Fiji — which was an auction purchase from last year's Bluewater Network fundraiser. The resort actively engages the local people in education programs so that they are active participants in saving the reefs that surround the islands. The resort utilizes solar power and sponsors reef protec-*

tion programs, and on-site education for local island school children.

Q: What role do you think energy plays in conservation?

A: *Energy plays a huge role. From greenhouse gas emissions to air quality, not to mention the damage from extraction of natural gas, coal and oil. The energy we consume has direct environmental impacts. We need to use the cleanest energy available. In any scenario we can think of, the cheapest and best source is solar. Solar design has come a long way in recent years and the technology is rapidly improving.*

Q: Why do you support Bluewater's work and Friends of the Earth's?

A: *I am impressed by Bluewater's willingness to take on the big guys. Consumer demand and legislation will create change, and Bluewater's aggressive tactics incorporate both approaches.*

Q: What environmental issue concerns you the most, especially since you have a young child?

A: *Global warming and over crowding. We have spent our free time together instilling a love for the great outdoors. Whether it's Lake Tahoe and the Sierras, or the Pacific Ocean and North coast, our daughter Maggie has grown up with a love and respect for animals and their natural surroundings.*

Q: Do you have any other thoughts about what it means to be an environmentalist?

A: *Perhaps it means you take personal responsibility for your garbage, waste, and activities that impact the natural world. And most importantly, respect for the healthy soil, clean air and pure water that are an inalienable right of all inhabitants of this planet. ○*

U.S. Mayors & States Commit to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Elizabeth Bast

ALTHOUGH THE U.S. FEDERAL government has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, cities across the United States are taking action on their own to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As of May 2006, 230 mayors representing over 45 million Americans have committed to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their cities to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

In February of 2005, on the same day the Kyoto Protocol went into effect, Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle, Washington, challenged cities around the United States to take local actions to combat global warming and launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement initiative. Under the agreement, cities commit to strive to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities. Cities also agree to urge their state and the federal government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat Kyoto targets and to urge the U.S. Congress to establish a national emissions trading system.

Clean Cars & Clean Power

Cities around the country are taking aggressive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city of Seattle is cutting city government emissions, including transitioning its 3,000 vehicle fleet to hybrid technologies and using biofuels. City government emissions are now more than 60 percent lower than



1990 levels. Additionally, the city electric utility, Seattle City Light, has achieved zero net greenhouse gas emissions – the only electric utility in the country to do so.

The city of Chicago, Illinois, has replaced 130 traditional city vehicles with hybrids and has installed 10,000 bike racks around the city. San Francisco, California, has the country's largest municipally-owned fleet of alternative-fuel vehicles, a recycling program that puts nearly two-thirds of the city's trash back into use, and the largest city-owned solar-power system in the country.

State Efforts

In the absence of federal leadership, states around the U.S. are also taking significant steps to reduce emissions. The northeastern states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New

Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont have agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that uses a market-based system to cut emissions. And in California, Governor Schwarzenegger passed an executive order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

At the federal level, the Bush administration continues to staunchly oppose greenhouse gas reduction targets, even though the United States is responsible for nearly 25 percent of total worldwide emissions. Local and state leadership on climate change is filling the breach while the federal government refuses to act. ○

Join the Monthly Giving Society

THE MONTHLY GIVING SOCIETY honors those members who have made a generous commitment to support Friends of the Earth with a monthly gift.

Monthly giving provides Friends of the Earth with a dependable and efficient source of income that allows us to plan our long-term campaigns. With your support we can concentrate our resources on conserving, preserving, and restoring our natural resources and the health of our communities.

Monthly giving can make a big difference to Friends of the Earth and a smaller impact on your budget with modest monthly gifts. Giving this way is environmentally and budget friendly. You also save time and effort. There's no need to buy postage, paper or envelopes. You can arrange for an automatic deduction from your account or charge your gift.

Last year we spent 10% of our revenues on fundraising. If more of our members moved to monthly giving, this would be an immense help in cutting these costs.

When you join our Monthly Giving Society, you will receive these exclusive benefits:

- **Automatic Membership Renewal.** We will renew your membership automatically as long as you maintain your support as a monthly giver.
- **No More Solicitations.** All monthly givers are exempt from mail solici-

tions. By reducing our costs, we can use even more of your gift for our programs.

- **Annual Giving Summary.** Each year, we will send a summary of your gifts for your records.
- **Monthly givers will receive invitations to special events.**

I hope you will join our Monthly Giving Society. Your support is critical to Friends of the Earth's mission. To join the society go to www.foe.org/contribute or call Rosemary Greenaway at 1-877-843-8687, ext. 722. ○

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A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at Friends of the Earth, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW Suite 600, Washington DC 20036-2008. Toll-free number: 877-843-8687. Or, for residents of the following states, by contacting any of the state agencies: **CALIFORNIA** – A copy of the Official Financial Statement may be obtained from the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts, Department of Justice, P.O. Box 903447, Sacramento, CA 94203-4470 or by calling 916-445-2021. **FLORIDA** - A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida registration # CH960. **KANSAS** Annual financial report is filed with Secretary of State #258-204-7. **MARYLAND** For the cost of copies and postage: Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. **MICHIGAN** MICS 10926. **MISSISSIPPI** – The official registration and financial information of Friends of the Earth, Inc. may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement by the Secretary of State. **NEW JERSEY** INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. **NEW YORK** Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. **NORTH CAROLINA** FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. **PENNSYLVANIA** – The official registration and financial information of Friends of the Earth may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. **UTAH** – Permit #C495. **VIRGINIA** State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218; 1-800-552-9963. **WASHINGTON** - Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of the State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422; 1-800-332-4483. **WEST VIRGINIA** West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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