

# Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

July 2, 2021

**A Discipline of Hope:** I have just finished a one-week Friends General Conference workshop called *Muscle Building for Peace and Justice*, with Pamela Haines, a Quaker from Philadelphia.

She says *"People prepare for war by going to boot camp. They are challenged to do things they have never done before, use muscles they never knew they had. They practice, stretch and exert ... What if we put the same kind of intention, practice and hard work into developing the skills to wage peace?"*

Pamela walked us through 10 practical skills of non-violent living and action in order to be a force for peace and justice. (You can find the whole list [here](#).) I want to share just one:

**A discipline of hope is** *"a repeated decision to be present to the goodness of reality regardless of all the reasons for despair. ... It involves getting access to perspectives and information that are not readily available in the media. It means talking about things that give us hope."*

I've decided to practice the hope discipline by including something hopeful each time I write this newsletter.

## Something that gives me hope:

Jill Hoyenga sent this link to an [NPR article](#): Majiga-Kamoto was named one of the six winners of the 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize for her work on banning plastic bags that were killing goats in Malawi. Her fight with the plastics lobby epitomizes the spirit of the prize. *"She mustered the troops, the grassroots communities, to take on the government and big industry and won several times ... She not only won the ban in law but is now holding the government's feet to the fire to enforce it."*

## Ecogeneration Plastics Recycling Take-Back

was postponed to July 11, 2021, 11:30 a.m. at Hilyard Community Center.

We will continue to collect plastics until then, but only by appointment Please do not leave plastics at the Meeting House: Call or text Cynthia Black (541-344-3082, 1425 W. 10th Ave.) or Mary Ann Petersen (541-844-5520, 1048 E. 25th Ave.) for drop off at our houses. We will accept only clean, separated plastics, #1 Bottles and Jugs, #2, #4, #5- with no labels. [The details are here](#).

This is an experiment, and so far, I'm underwhelmed by the response. Mary Ann and I have had very few contacts. **Maybe this is not a need or interest in our Meeting community?**

**Bike and Hike Revolutions Ride:** Sunday, July 11, at 2 p.m. Here's proof that you don't need to drive a car to get to a great hiking spot. Combine two of our favorite, and climate appropriate, ways to travel: Gently paced 5-mile ride and 30ish minute hike. Meet at Amazon Park Rec Center (2700 Hilyard St), ride south to the Martin Street trailhead. Park bikes and hike up toward the Ridgeline Trail, or you can play at the park while others hike, followed by return trip to Amazon Park. Hosted by Climate Revolutions by Bike (I'm on the Hub Committee).

**My Earthcare Intention this month** (from Jill Hoyenga): I am on the organizing committee for a professional organization annual conference. I would like to transition to a more sustainable model. This month we decided that instead of new tee shirts for conference volunteers every year we would purchase reusable vests with a clear pocket for sponsorship logos.

**Northwest Natural Gas franchise agreement in a nutshell:** A franchise agreement is a negotiated contract between a municipality and utility provider, that grants the utility the right to serve customers and often specifies a fee remitted back to the municipality. Eugene last negotiated with NWNG in 1999, and as part of that agreement, the city got 5% of the utility's gross revenues, about \$1.4 million annually.

Natural gas is one of the biggest carbon polluters in Eugene. A city analysis has suggested new policies, such as restricting new gas hookups and infrastructure, banning incentives for gas utility service and gas-fired appliances, and levying a fee on NWNG to help transition gas customers to electric heating - all of which would help Eugene achieve its climate goals by 2030.

In 2018, city staff started a conversation with NWNG about renewing the franchise, and indicated that they wanted to include carbon reduction in the negotiations. NWNG was understandably reluctant and they did not come to a new agreement before the old one expired in May 2021.

But now, NWNG has tentatively agreed to help the city meet climate recovery goals, using the state's emissions reduction program: That's a voluntary incentive program for natural gas utilities to invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

No agreement has been signed yet, and the mayor & the majority of the council are calling for a work session to review the progress of the Climate Action Plan before they approve any franchise agreement. One councilor said: *"How can we, realistically, expect a for-profit, fossil fuel industry to voluntarily reduce emissions unless we have robust, regulatory oversight?"* Stay tuned!

**Facing Adversity: Choosing Earth, Choosing Life** is a 70-minute documentary (recommended by Quaker Earthcare Witness) that explores the speed, depth and magnitude of our growing planetary crisis, and the opportunity we have to meet this crisis consciously. The film examines key challenges (climate change, inequities, species extinction, overconsumption, etc.) and also stories of transformation and inspiring resilience.

*"Engaging with this paradox — an unfolding global crisis paired with the opportunity to awaken to and serve the well-being of all of life — is the work of our lifetimes."*

**Query:** Does anyone want to watch this film, then discuss it on zoom? Let me know!

**Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter** is distributed monthly or bi-monthly, and will include:

1. Reports of positive earthcare related steps we (members and attenders of EFM) have taken or intend to take. These can be small or large, anything at all related to caring for the earth.
2. Information on topics of interest, such as plastics recycling and oceans. Send me any links or information you have researched, with the sources listed.
3. Links and dates for upcoming earthcare action events.

**Next publication date: July 24, 2021.** Please send news and information that relates to earthcare to Cynthia Black, editor, [cynblack55@gmail.com](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com).