

Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

August 18, 2021

Report on Video: Several of us watched a documentary online called "*Facing Adversity: Choosing Earth, Choosing Life*", and then met to discuss it. The video stressed that we need to solve the global governance and ecosystem problems that have been created by this 200-year period called the Great Acceleration of Massive Growth.

We need a cultural aspiration that is different than growth, and we do that by creating as low to zero-waste as possible, working for climate justice and ecological restoration, and advocating for the end of economic and population growth, over-consumption, species extinction, and inequities. These radical ideas fit exactly with the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, equality, integrity, community, and earthcare.

We need to get literate, and get aligned. We all know we are in a crisis, and we can't go back to how things were. We must "*midwife the birth of the new systems that will help us all survive.*"

That's a tall order, but the film offered many examples of communities coming together to support change. We should assume that we can still make a difference. "*We are going to have to go through this*", but we can do it together.

A little plug for Electric Bikes: Are you curious about electric bikes? Join me at the Electric Bike Expo on Friday, August 27th, 5-8 p.m. at the Campbell Community Center, for an opportunity to meet local e-bike makers and shop owners, test ride an e-bike, talk with people using their e-bikes to commute or to haul their kids, learn the rules of the road, and so much more. *An electric bike just might be the solution to using your car less!* This event is hosted by City of Eugene Transportation and is FREE and open to everyone. Come join in the festivities and family friendly fun! More info [here](#).

Report from [350 Eugene](#): The UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change 2021 report is out and as we already knew, warming and its catastrophic consequences are accelerating. The work we do this summer is crucial. Listen to Greta Thunberg's thoughts in this [YouTube video](#):



Very simply put, at a personal level and at a system level, we must:

1. Change the amount of energy we consume, and
2. Change the composition of that energy by electrifying the economy with as much energy from zero carbon sources as possible.

YES to low-carbon lifestyles & work, plant-based diets, walking, biking and electric transportation, transit, stay-cations, and minimizing polluting habits like plastics.

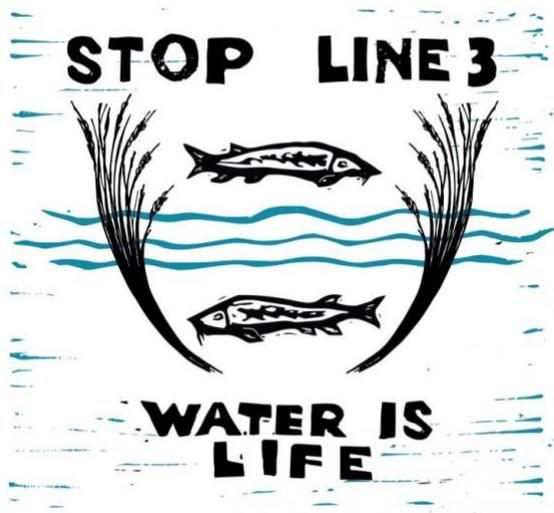
YES to demanding our officials and corporations pivot away from planet heating energy sources to an economy-wide, swift & equitable transition to renewable power production & storage, putting people before profits.

Personal and systemic changes. We have to do BOTH!

A Discipline of Hope is "*a repeated decision to be present to the goodness of reality regardless of all the reasons for despair*". It's my hope that this UN report, and the worry and concern it generates in each of us, will inspire more of us to take action, to have a conversation, to be part of the change we need.

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Stop the line 3 Pipeline: A recent article on the [Quaker Earthcare Witness website](#) says, "We are coming together across Quaker organizations, meetings, and churches to call on Friends to support the growing Indigenous-led movement in northern Minnesota to resist the construction of the Line 3 pipeline. This final gasp from the fossil fuel industry would bring nearly a million barrels of Canadian tar sands crude oil to U.S. refineries every day. Instead of building new fossil fuel infrastructure, we must transition to renewable energy as quickly and equitably as possible."

QEW is offering three online trainings that will help you be a more effective water protector, should you wish to travel.

Or Take Action from Home:

Call President Biden at 202-456-1111 or [write him an email](#) to #StopLine3.

[Donate money](#) for jail support, or [donate money](#) to directly support the Line 3 Indigenous organizers.

Share what's happening on the frontlines on social media by following #stopline3 and #defundline3, especially when there is police repression or violence.

From [Better Eugene Springfield Transportation](#):

As Oregon is experiencing more and more heat domes and wildfires linked to climate change, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) continues planning to widen highways like it's the 1950s.

In particular, ODOT is pushing forward with its plan to widen Highway 126 between Veneta and Eugene from two to five or more lanes, adding a center turn lane, exit lanes, and possible roundabouts along the route. According to ODOT, the project's goal is to address the growing volume of commuters who live in Veneta but work in Eugene, as well as addressing safety concerns. However, the deadliest safety concern identified in the area is speeding, not congestion...

The Highway 126 project has been labeled as a safety issue, mentioning key phrases such as "bicycle or pedestrian facilities," but instead seems to be a capacity issue. The project highlights the housing crisis that exists in our area...and people needing to commute farther from home to work. Coupled with speeding car drivers, the answer isn't to throw more lanes into the mix; the answer is complicated.

The proposal would also require filling sensitive wetland along Fern Ridge Reservoir. But ODOT planners are saying that they anticipate receiving a categorical exclusion, i.e., the lowest tier of environmental reviews.

With a price tag of \$200 million, the project is a very expensive way to not fix a problem. There are better ways to spend that kind of money to improve safety without contributing to climate change, for example, building much needed bike lanes and safer walking conditions for people all over Lane County.

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My Earthcare Intention this

month: I told you already that my daughter asked us to please not buy new plastic toys for Aldo. That, along with the experience of cleaning and recycling so much plastic last month, has led me to try to reduce as much new plastic from my life as possible. So far-

*I switched to powdered laundry soap that comes in a box.

*I ordered **bars** of shampoo, conditioner, and dish soap from [Silver Falls Sustainability Company](#). These come with no packaging except the paper packing envelope! I've tried them once and they seem great.

*I plan to take jars with me to Kiva to see what I can buy from their bulk cleaning supplies section!

Hint from Carol: I've had great success unclogging drains using one cup baking soda, one cup white vinegar and a lot of boiling water (you must use a full cup of the soda and vinegar to make it work). It's worked every time, although sometimes I have to repeat the process two or three times. But it's better than pouring poison down the drain.

And a question: How do you keep vegies crisp in the frig without using plastic bags? I've had no success with using mesh bags--stuff wilts in a day.

Earthcare Support Meeting:

Monday, September 6, at 7 p.m. Please join us every month on the first Monday, by zoom, to share our ideas for creative actions and celebrate our successes. If you want the link, let me know! Cynthia Black (541-344-3082, cynblack55@gmail.com). We might try to meet in-person once in a while, too, at a different time, if all of our out-of-town participants can make it into town.

Earth Care Minute: The following statement (prepared by the Earth Care Committee of Camas Friends Church) was recently embraced and approved by Camas Friends at their last meeting for business:

As a Greening Meeting, we seek to express our love for Creator by showing reverence for Mother Earth and all of Creation: soil, elements, water, air, wind, creatures, and humans. Toward this end, we will seek a deeper understanding of our relationship with Creation and commit to steward Mother Earth's resources more justly and sustainably. We will promote action through personal, tiny radical steps, as well as by joining with neighbors in local, state, national and international communities taking big steps, speaking out for change. A commitment to these steps will lead us to live in harmony with our neighbors and all Creation, and demonstrate our love for The Divine.

At our next support meeting, can we discuss preparing a minute for our Meeting?

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

1. Reports of positive Earthcare related steps we 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: September 17, 2021. Please send news and information that relates to earthcare to Cynthia Black, editor, cynblack55@gmail.com.