

Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

Thank you to those who attended the earthcare threshing session on June 14. I took notes on lots of good ideas, and one of those ideas was to form a support group, as one way to celebrate our successes and help with next steps. I also heard a desire for no new zoom meetings, so I thought we could start off with a "Support Newsletter".

I plan to put it out monthly or bi-monthly, and include:

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

This newsletter can also help form content for our upcoming new Earthcare web page!

Next publication date: July 3, 2021. Please send news and information that relates to earthcare to Cynthia Black, cynblack55@gmail.com.

Plastic Recycling: [How Big Oil Misled The Public Into Believing Plastic Would Be Recycled](#): This is an NPR Morning Edition report from September 2020 that uncovers the truth about plastic recycling, that ever since China stopped accepting our plastics 3 years ago, most plastics have been going into landfills. And plastics companies knew this all along:

"There is serious doubt that [recycling plastic] can ever be made viable on an economic basis," one industry insider wrote in a 1974 speech."

The plastics industry touted the lie about recycling plastic, but never intended it to really happen:

"You know, they were not interested in putting any real money or effort into recycling because they wanted to sell virgin material,"... And they are. Analysts now expect plastic production to triple by 2050."

So what can we do about it?

Setting an Intention: My daughter asked her family to please not buy *new* plastic toys for Aldo. I've been doing my best to only buy wooden and cloth toys new, and find used plastic ones. This seems like a good intention for ALL plastic products- since plastic lives forever, why not take the time to search for used items?

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About Ecogeneration: This company has a Recycling Take-Back Program in the Lane County Area, and seems to be legitimate. They say:

"We take pride in knowing that we are actively working to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills while preserving our resources for future generations. Currently, we have a huge emphasis on recycling plastics within any stream that we can find. When we accept recycling from the community we are taking responsibility for ensuring that it gets recycled, while also working to assure the highest quality product for our recyclers. ... None of the plastic waste that we collect is shipped outside of the United States."

Ecogeneration Plastics Recycling Take-Back

June 27th, 2021, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Hilyard Community Center. [The details are here.](#)

I took the initiative to book a time, because they were going fast - 1:30 p.m. (which is during our Business Meeting). Volunteers needed:

- to collect and sort clean plastics (preferably in the 4 quadrants of the city, to minimize car trips).
- to drop off at Hilyard Center at 1:30, June 27th.

I'll advertise this in the weekly as well.

About Fossil Free Eugene: My favorite local climate action group is **350 Eugene**, which has many smaller sub-groups and action groups.

Fossil Free Eugene is one new coalition of grassroots organizations in Eugene that is part of 350. They are working to get the city off of "natural" fracked gas by asking for:

- The transition of all utilities in Eugene to 100% renewable energy by 2030.
- A ban on construction of all new fossil fuel infrastructure in Eugene
- A fee on NW Natural and other climate polluters to create a justice fund to transition low income and historically marginalized communities from fracked gas to electric appliances, and to retrofit these homes to increase efficiency.

Read [their latest letter to the City of Eugene](#), signed by over 30 local and national groups!

Here are a couple easy ways you can get involved with this coalition:

- 1) Submit Letters to the Editor to the Eugene Weekly or Register Guard! Check out their [Letters to the Editor](#) page for some inspiration.
- 2) [Send an email to your City Councilor!](#) (A form letter is available at this link).