

## Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

September 18, 2021

### Webinar - The Future of Natural

**Gas:** Wednesday, September 22, 12-1 p.m. A discussion about the role of natural gas as we strive to rapidly decarbonize our energy systems. This webinar will answer the questions of whether it is possible to decarbonize the natural gas system, and how we can protect the most vulnerable communities during the transition. Hosted by Electrify Now! [Register here](#). If you cannot attend the webinar, please register anyway and they will send a link to the recording.

**Beach Clean-Up:** Join us at Heceta Beach, north of Florence, on Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., for this annual event sponsored by SOLVE. [Register here](#). Registration will make check-in go faster. The EFM Earthcare Group and the Children's Committee are organizing this together, as a community opportunity to help keep our beaches healthy! Bring gloves, a face mask, a reusable bucket or bag, a water bottle, and an old colander to sift the sand for tiny bits of plastic and cigarette butts, which can be harmful to shore birds and marine life. A mask or face-covering is required during check-in and at any time when social-distancing is not possible. SOLVE will provide recycled trash bags and disposable work gloves. Check-in and receive supplies in the lobby of Driftwood Shores Resort. For more information and possible car-pooling, contact Cynthia.

### Earthcare Support Meeting:

Monday, October 4, 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.

**The Loving Earth project:** Darlene and I finally finished our fabric art panels and essays for this British exhibit. (Jill is working on one, too!) See more about the project, and so many samples of beautiful artwork [HERE](#).

### Crossroads



In the Willamette Valley of Oregon, we are at the beginning of a great drought, which is affecting our drinking water and our hydroelectricity. We are experiencing devastating wildfires and extreme air pollution from the smoke.

Robin Kimmerer says in Braiding Sweetgrass that "... all the people of the earth will see that the path ahead is divided. They must make a choice in their path to the future. One of the roads is soft and green with new grass. ... The other path is scorched black, hard; the cinders would cut your feet. ... we have a choice ahead, a crossroads."

My choice is to bike - we don't even own a car. Over short distances, driving an average gasoline or diesel car emits more than ten times the CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer compared to cycling. In our 60's now, we ride electric bikes, which produce even fewer emissions than regular bikes, or even walking, because of less food fuel expended.

# Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

September 18, 2021

## Spotlight on Action / Groups:

[Friendly Water for the World](#) is a non-profit organization that grew out of a collaboration between the Olympic View Friends Church in Tacoma and Olympia Friends Meeting. Their mission is to **expand global access to low-cost clean water** technologies and information about health and sanitation through knowledge-sharing, training, applied research, community-building, peacemaking, and efforts at sustainability. Although Friendly Water for the World is committed to Quaker testimonies, it is non-denominational and welcomes individuals from other faiths and traditions.

**Bill to Improve Water Quality and Services for Western Tribes:** [Here is a link](#) to more information about the bill that Jill mentioned. Senators Wyden and Merkley introduced this legislation for tribal communities in Oregon, who are suffering from inadequate water infrastructure. This act will help move these communities out of the cycle of temporary and emergency fixes by ensuring **stable and reliable federal investments** in water infrastructure projects.

[Oregon Interfaith Power and Light](#) is a project of Ecumenical ministries of Oregon. OIPL encourages faith communities to strive for accountability in our energy decisions. Their vision is a rich, abundant life for all creation rooted in renewable resources for a society **moving into a post-fossil fuel era**. OIPL realizes its vision through grassroots advocacy for climate change solutions, policies and initiatives, and by providing opportunities for theological and spiritual reflection. OIPL has a [Cool Congregations Carbon Checklist and Action Menu](#), that is close to the Washington version of a "Greening Congregation".

*Is this something we want to pursue?*

**Befriending Creation** is the quarterly magazine of Quaker Earthcare Witness. The September 13th edition has this article by Mary Jo Klingel, [From the Clerk's Table](#):



*"I know that many Friends and many others struggle with feelings of helplessness and despair as the news worsens. We ask, "What should I be doing?" ... Quakers everywhere are able to offer an alternative to society's "Can Do" culture of urgency, productivity, and problem-solving because we are, in our practice, receptive. ... to be receptive is not to do nothing! It is to bet your life on the truth that there is an energy that is in essence loving that will guide and protect us."*

**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: October 8, 2021.** Please send news and information that relates to earthcare to Cynthia Black, editor, [cynblack55@gmail.com](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com).