

Eugene Friends Meeting Earthcare Support Group Newsletter

August 13, 2022



SOLVE
Taking Care of Oregon

Mt. Pisgah River Clean Up:

The Interfaith Earthkeepers, with which EFM is affiliated, has adopted a portion of the Willamette River to care for. We are invited to join other churches and faith communities in Eugene on Sunday, **August 14**, at 2- 4 p.m. Register on the [SOLVE website](#). We will meet at Buford Park North Trailhead and Parking Lot for our safety talk at 2:00. (This is the gravel parking area closest to the river - equestrian parking lot, just on the left (North) after crossing the bridge over the Willamette). We will pick up litter along the riverside, in the river, and along the riparian trails, from 2:00-4:00. Minimum age is 13 for individuals and 7 for those with an adult. Details on what to wear and what to bring are on the registration web page. If you don't have a parking day pass for Lane County Parks, Buford Park or Mount Pisgah Arboretum, just show up at the parking area, sign the Lane County Parks and Rec Waiver, and we will provide a day pass. Young people are especially encouraged to help - and we will celebrate our efforts with swimming!



Plastic Trash Art: “*Art that educates and promotes change*” is the motto of Washed Ashore gallery in Bandon, which creates artwork from trash found in our oceans. In addition to their galleries in Bandon and Coos Bay, they have travelling exhibits, with one currently at the Smithsonian, and provide educational programs for school children. Got plastic from your last beach visit? You can leave it at one of their two plastic drop off locations, in Bandon and North Bend. Check out their [beautiful website for more information](#).
(From Carol)

Please comment on what "old growth" is: You may already know that mature and old growth forests play a major role in moderating climate change by capturing and holding on to atmospheric carbon. The older the trees, the better. President Biden knows this too. On Earth Day, he directed the US Forest Service and BLM to define mature and old growth stands and take an inventory of those mature and old growth forests under their management, with the intention to protect those trees. His agencies are now asking to hear from you, that we support this initiative. And the devil is in the details. **While it varies across the many ecosystems in the country; here is how we define it in the Pacific Northwest:**

- big living trees over 80 years old
- dead snags for wildlife
- large dead trees lying on the ground
- large logs in the streams
- a “multi-story canopy”

The required inventory will be based on the final definition that will drive agency decisions for years to come, so it's important that they get it right from the start. Help them get it right! [Send your comments here](#) by **August 15**. From [Friends of Douglas Fir National Monument](#).



Worship for Unity with Nature: The Earthcare Support Group invites everyone who wishes to join us for a Meeting for Worship outdoors at the Eugene Friends Meeting House, in the labyrinth area, on Sunday, **August 21**, at 11 a.m. (This will take the place of the indoor in-person worship.) We will have a circle of chairs (appropriately distanced), a brief introduction and acknowledgement, and then settle into worship as usual. Masks not required outdoors. Join us! Cynthia Black, Linda Harding, and Carol Giantonio.



Ecological Grief: Engaging with the Emotional Impacts of Climate Change:

Please join Quaker Earthcare Witness for an experiential workshop, on Thursday, **August 25**, from 4-5:30 p.m. PDT. Ecological grief is all around us, we all carry it with us. This workshop will be an introduction to the phenomenon —what it is, how to engage with it, and why it's important. We'll explore those tender places in our own hearts where ecological grief dwells and offer them sacred attention. Engaging in these feelings with a spiritual community supports resiliency and helps us be more deeply attuned to the actions we are called to take as Friends. [Learn more and register here.](#)



The Western Environmental Law Center uses the power of the law to safeguard the public lands, wildlife, and communities of the western U.S. (Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, Montana, Colorado) in the face of a changing climate. *"We envision a thriving, resilient West, abundant with protected public lands and wildlife, powered by clean energy, and defended by communities rooted in an ethic of conservation."* A recent victory prevented expansion of the Bull Mountain Mine near Billings, Montana, which would have resulted in the worst greenhouse gas emitter in the U.S. Their ratings of President Biden on the environment are not encouraging. They are challenging 74% of the permits to drill for oil and gas that he has granted. Read more about their activities at westernlaw.org. (From Carol)

NW Natural is misleading voters with their campaign (excerpts from a letter from Ethen to Mayor Vinis and Council Member Semple): 360 Eugene and others advocating for an end to the rule and role of fossil fuels in endangering our city and planet have it right, not NW Natural. NW Natural is counting on our present dependence on their product to keep our homes warm, our stoves cooking, and our water hot. The truth is NW Natural's primary sources are fossil gas extraction from fracking. Even before that gas reaches our homes in NW Natural pipes, great quantities of methane, 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, are released into the air by fracking. Carbon dioxide (and some deadly carbon monoxide) are still the planetary endangering waste products of our appliances burning natural gas.

Fliers targeting voters and asking them to "be a voice for energy choice" to lobby you and other councilors sent by NW Natural to voters arrived in today's mail. They make it sound like the choice of gas and electricity must be left to consumers. But consumers have little choice once new homes are built connected to NW Natural lines and appliances are served by those lines. One day, if this company gets all its fuel from landfills and sewage or animal waste digesters the option to have natural gas heating and appliances serve newly laid NW Natural lines to new developments and homes may make some sense. Now it doesn't. Now NW Natural is green washing us with its propaganda.

Eugene may be able to reach carbon neutrality with some assurances if our zoning and development ordinances require new homes to be built to the highest greenhouse limiting standard, primarily total electric homes. But we are less likely to do so as a city if we keep the status quo of equal access into newly built homes for natural gas and electricity. (From Ethen)

Electrify Eugene Campaign: On July 27th, the Eugene City Council passed four motions that put us on a pathway to reduce local emissions through ground-breaking building electrification policy! We have finally made tangible progress on the climate front in Eugene after YEARS of dogged, fearless advocacy. With a bit more work, it looks like we'll be the first city in Oregon to mandate all-electric in new building construction! **NEXT STEPS:** Get rested for the big push in September ahead of the fall Eugene City Council work sessions and electrification public hearing. (Save the council meeting dates: **September 12th and 26th** at 7:15 pm. Time to speak truth to power! (From 350 Eugene)

EWEB is offering \$300 rebates for E-bikes. [Link is here.](#) Their goal is "to increase access to more affordable, zero emission electric bikes and support our community's commitment to transportation electrification and active transportation options." Funding for this program is in part made possible by the Oregon Clean Fuels Program. The applicant must be the purchaser of the bicycle and be an EWEB residential electric customer with an active account or an authorized individual under the account. The rebate is \$300 and not to exceed 50% of the cost of the bicycle, and you can only get two rebates per EWEB residential electric account.



Next Earthcare Support Meeting: Monday, September 1, 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).

EFM Earthcare Mission:

Support: Share about our individual efforts for earth-care, offer encouragement, and celebrate our successes.

Education: Offer educational opportunities and suggestions for earth-care action, with each other and the Meeting.

Action: Plan and work together on earth-care actions as a community of Friends, under the care of the Peace and Justice Committee.

Minute on reducing Plastic: As part of our mission to educate, we are working on a minute (an agreement with our Meeting) to reduce plastic use and production. If you want to help with research or writing of this minute, contact Cynthia or Linda.

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: approximately September 9, 2022. Please send news and information to Cynthia Black, editor, cynblack55@gmail.com.