

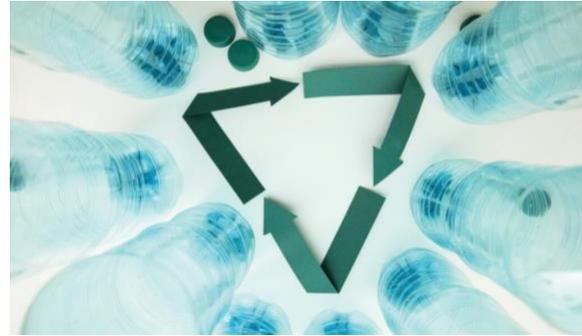


**Join 350 Eugene** to help to reduce our emissions from new residential “natural” gas use. Attend the Eugene City Council public forum on January 25th, February 13th & 27th (starts at 7:30 pm; sign-up at 7:00 pm in person or at 7:15 on Zoom); You can find the [Zoom link here](#). It’s important that they hear from diverse voices. If you haven’t made a public comment yet, consider using these [talking points](#) to start 2023’s local climate activism right! Plan to speak for two short minutes. Thank the council for advancing this important policy. The opposition will be there - let’s make sure there are more of us than them.

If attending council meetings and speaking are not your thing, how about sending a very short email to the mayor, manager and council saying you support adopting electrification policy now? They count every email of support! Here's the [email address](#).



**Unpacking the packaging potential of mycelium:** Plastic waste is an ever-expanding problem, with approximately 380 million metric tons of new plastic added to the world every year. But what if there were an alternative material that could replace petroleum-based plastics? **There is one possibility: mycelium, the white, root-like structure that grows beneath mushrooms.** “Mycelium consists of massive branching thread-like hyphae, which is stretched and split into substrates,” mycologist Ajay Singh writes in his paper, Development of Sustainable Myco-material from Fungi. [Check out the article here!](#) (From Paul.)



**The Plastics Problem:** A recent New York Times article about plastics talks about the two sides in the international plastics negotiations: Fifty nations have joined the [High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution](#), which is pushing for a treaty that will limit production of plastic, with binding targets for every nation that signs the pact.

Three goals of **High Ambition Coalition:**

1. Restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels
2. Enable a circular economy for plastics that protects environment and health
3. Environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste

Other countries, including fossil fuel-producing nations like Saudi Arabia and the United States, want a global agreement that focuses on recycling and is built on voluntary commitments. Environmental advocates generally prefer the first version, because, so far, recycling hasn’t proven effective at the scale necessary. (from Linda)

**Divest from Forest Destruction:** On December 6th, the Industrial Forests Working Group of the Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance hosted a webinar **Connecting Forests, Climate and Divestment: a Webinar about Wall Street Timberlands Exploitation**. The webinar explored the connections between the climate, forest, and divest movements, digging into the role of Wall Street asset managers in exploiting our forests and timberlands. **Please check out the [YouTube recording of the presentation](#).**



**January Worship Sharing:** Quaker Earthcare Witness is hosting monthly online worship sharing groups in partnership with Ben Lomond Quaker Center. The next one is on Tuesday, January 24th, at 4 p.m. In worship sharing, we gather in small groups to focus on a particular question (or questions) to explore our own experience and share with each other more deeply than we would in normal conversation. It seeks to draw us into sacred space, where we can take down our usual defenses, and encounter each other in “that which is eternal.” We welcome all to join us! Together we are creating more opportunities for Friends to be in spiritual community with one another. [REGISTER](#)



**An Earthship** is a style of architecture developed by architect Michael Reynolds to behave as passive solar earth shelters, made of both natural and upcycled materials such as earth-packed tires. Earthship communities were originally built in the desert of northern New Mexico, near the Rio Grande, and the style has spread to small pockets of communities around the globe. They are constructed to use available natural resources, especially energy from the sun and rain water. The designs are intentionally uncomplicated and mainly single-story, so that people with little building knowledge can construct them. Linda recently visited one, and was excited! [Read more here.](#)  
*(from Linda)*



**New rule to strengthen water protections:** On December 30, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers announced a new definition of “waters of the United States,” a classification that has been debated for decades. **Under the new definition more wetlands, lakes and rivers will qualify as federally protected under the Clean Water Act,** which was signed into law 50 years ago. The act regulates water pollutants and empowers the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to define which particular bodies of water are protected by law. Protected bodies of water qualify for federal programs pertaining to oil spill prevention, water quality regulation and more. In a news release, the EPA said the new rule is intended to reduce uncertainty from changing regulatory definitions, protect people’s health, and support economic opportunity. For more information check out the [EPA website.](#) *(from Jill)*

**Winter Retreat:** The Eugene Friends Meeting's annual winter retreat theme is “*Visions of Earth Care from Indigenous perspectives.*” On Friday, February 3, 6:30-8:30 pm, we'll watch the film **Gather**, with refreshments and discussion (or watch it from home on Netflix), and on Saturday, February 4, 9:00 am--3:00 pm we'll hear a talk by Randy Woodley, along with varied discussion and worship opportunities. (participate either in person or by Zoom). Please help us get a count of how many to expect. RSVP to [DLZeiss@yahoo.com](mailto:DLZeiss@yahoo.com) and tell us (1) if you'll attend in person on Friday, and (2) if you'll attend in person or by Zoom on Saturday.

## Your stuff is actually worse now:

According to this article, [How the cult of consumerism ushered in an era of badly made products](#), our cheap products of 10 years ago were better quality than our cheap products today - design trends, such as using more glue and fewer screws, and more plastic instead of metal, are making our things not work as well. Design has shifted more toward manufacturability and appearance than functionality, when it should be a balance of all three. Your goods probably have a shorter life span than they did years ago, and if you want to repair them — especially tech — you'll come up against major barriers. The answer is for consumers to **buy less or secondhand, identify quality, learn to take care of what you own, and advocate for regulations and legislation such as "right-to-repair laws"**. (from Darlene).

**Observations:** Many of us have been inspired by the writing and work of our Friend Maryanne Petersen. She writes beautifully about beavers and restoration, among other topics. [Check out her writing here](#). And she also has [podcasts here](#).



**Next Earthcare Support Meeting:** Monday, February 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](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com)).



Friends Committee  
on National Legislation

## FCNL's climate goals this year:

- Advocating for just implementation of approved funding and ensuring that communities can smoothly and efficiently use these new benefits.
- Building bipartisan support for policies like carbon pricing.
- Holding the federal government accountable for delivering funding to developing countries who have shouldered a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis.

[Read more about FCNL's climate goals here.](#)



## 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.

**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 - small or large, anything at all related to caring for the earth.
2. Information on topics of interest. 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: late February 2023.** Please send news and information to Cynthia Black, [cynblack55@gmail.com](mailto:cynblack55@gmail.com).