

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

November, 2007



## UN Millennium Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Today we are being inundated with information about the environment and global warming. Everywhere we look, be it TV, newspaper or radio, we see heads of nations, politicians, celebrities, promoting and encouraging all to "protect our environment." WHY? Why should we be "eco-conscious"? SIMPLE: "Because we live on this earth, and this is the only place we can live...for now. If we treat it like the city dump, it becomes dirty and unlivable. If we treat it well...the earth stays clean." ([Library.thinkquest.org](http://Library.thinkquest.org))

Most of us are doing our share - we recycle, we purchase items that are environmentally friendly, yet do we truly recognize the importance of our actions? Are we deeply committed? Often we go through the motions because everyone is doing it or find it easy to recycle since most communities supply recycling containers.

We must look deeper into ourselves - examine our motives, our intentions and most importantly, the degree of commitment we have to Mother Earth, the Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals. So let's have a look!!!

We communicated with some of our Associates and Sisters regarding this commitment issue and this is a part of what we heard.

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I use only organic products, shop at farmers' markets or small farms in my area. Do not use pesticides in the garden (vinegar kills weeds). Associate Theresa Mitchell

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We stay tuned to the Earth Charter Goals. We do what we can in our daily lives. Don and I did a three night presentation for our parish adult education classes on consumerism and saving energy.

Associates Don and Joan Matson

This year I am planning on highlighting the Millennium Development Goals as our parish focus. Starting Sept. 30th, we are starting three projects. Two projects that we are doing are from the MDGs. We are getting free trade coffee "Java for Justice" and pushing to get more people to make it their Christmas gifts.

The parish is taking on the Heifer Project, especially the children and youth. We will be working out the particulars at our Faith Formation meeting. The parish is also doing the "malaria nets" for our Advent project.

Sister Marie Ann Brent, Alaska

I use appliances after 7 pm.; use tap water, not bottled water. I treat the earth and resources with respect.

Associate Liz McCarthy

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

"Ensure Environmental Sustainability" (MDGs #7 Care for God's Creation)) reminds us to be eco-conscious. "Being eco-conscious means being aware of what we are doing, buying, using, and what that does to the environment." ([Thinkquest.org](http://Thinkquest.org))

Both documents, the Earth Charter and the MDGs, urge us to take that extra step because we can make a difference! Being informed, alert, and vigilant about environmental issues will enable us to take action and implement some tasks in our daily lives to support our commitment to our future vision. Some small steps taken now can help eradicate a large footprint of destruction in our future. Below are listed a few ACTION STEPS that we can implement now.

### ACTION STEPS

- \* Do not overfill the gas tank. The gas pump clicks off and tells you when the tank is full. Filling beyond this point can result in spillage and pollution.
- \* Do not tailgate (having to stop and then accelerate again wastes gas and creates excessive exhaust).
- \* Look at packaging (don't buy products that have excessive layers of packaging that ends up in landfills).
- \* Save wire hangers and return them to the cleaners.
- \* Return plastic or recyclable pots back to the nursery.

Explore the websites below for interesting information to share with others:

www: [justgive.org](http://justgive.org)

www: [library.thinkquest.org](http://library.thinkquest.org)

www: [coopamerica.org](http://coopamerica.org)

www: [environmentaldefense.org](http://environmentaldefense.org)

Our thanks to the Associates and Sister Marie Ann Brent who shared their experiences.

Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee