

I am the Lord, who made all things, who stretched out the heavens alone, who spread out the earth.
Isaiah 44:24

Making a difference — together

Each person has the potential to change the world, but working along with others is often the most efficient way.

- If churches or other like-minded people band together, companies are more likely to respond. "There's strength in numbers. If you're a parish with 600 families, and a parish council paying the bills, you might send out a letter...telling a utility company you want them to reduce emissions," says energy consultant Michael Mangano.

- Ernesto Cortes, Jr., is a regional director of the Industrial Areas Foundation, a national network of community organizations which has founded citizens groups from Iowa to California. He has helped create jobs through the promotion of water and sewage treatment facilities for the Rio Grande Valley.

- Mountain climber David Brower, who died at age 88, believed that "We need to try to save the Earth at least as fast as it's being destroyed." He worked for decades on behalf of environmental organizations.

Robert Cox, the Sierra Club's president, said: "Like the...redwoods he cherished, David towered above the environmental movement and inspired us to protect our planet."

- Over the years, the Adkins Road dump, one of many "holier dumps" in beautiful Appalachia, became an eyesore. Karen Engle, director of a grassroots environmental group in Kentucky, decided to clean up the area. She mobilized others. TV cameras will monitor the site to discourage illegal dumping.

- Noted chimpanzee researcher and activist Jane Goodall began Roots and Shoots in Africa. Now a worldwide club, it encourages children to work on environmental and humanitarian projects.

"I feel a desperation to make people see what we are doing to the environment, what a mess we are making of our world," said Dr. Goodall. "Every individual can make a

Into the future

Environmental scientist Dr. Jessica Tuchman Mathews, reflecting on changes since the first Earth Day in 1970, said: "There have been some big successes. We've changed behavior. Think of everything that is now an accepted part of the political landscape—the clean air act, the clear water act, masses of laws and regulations to protect the environment."

Every government, every citizen, every human being has a mission to fulfill in caring for the world—and home—that we share. "He who would be a friend of God," Mohandas Gandhi said, "must either remain alone or make the whole world his friend."

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for He has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.
Psalm 24:1-2

"God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things...to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us."

"In the past we have exercised the high dominion of (humankind) with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail."

"May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for Thee, and that they love the sweetness of life. Amen."
St. Basil THE GREAT

Want to do more?

Check out our Environmental Resource List for suggestions and strategies on improving the well-being of our world.

See our website: www.christophers.org

Call: 212-759-4050

E-mail: mail@christophers.org

Or write: The Christophers,
12 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017.



"Humans are the only species able to go everywhere in the world, which also means that we have the capacity to do good or ill everywhere.

"The hardest case to make for acting on an environmental conscience is that it is the right thing to do. Yet, in the end, it may be the only case worth making. If we do not respect nature, we do not respect ourselves."
—ROGER ROSENBLATT

Who's responsible?

The air we breathe...the water we drink...the soil beneath our feet...God's creatures, great and small...the treasures of our environment give us sustenance, livelihood and enjoyment. They are gifts from our Creator. We, in turn, show gratitude by taking some responsibility for the condition of the world.

While each person has different opportunities and obligations, no one and no nation is exempt. Young or old, rich or poor, we affect the well-being of our earth, our home.

In their statement *Renewing the Earth*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote, "As citizens, each of us needs to participate in this debate over how our nation best protects our ecological heritage, limits pollution, allocates environmental costs, and plans for the future."

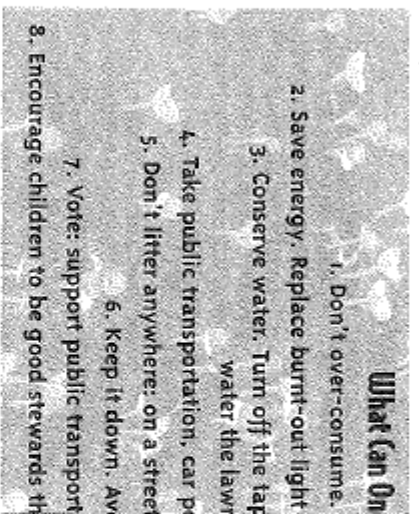
Through creativity, dedication and a healthy self-interest, individuals in all walks of life can preserve and protect God's Good Earth.

A global challenge

From retreating glaciers to thinning polar sea ice to warmer nights, there seems to be increasing evidence of global warming.

Writing in the *Milwaukee Catholic Herald*, Margaret Plevak says many scientists are afraid that global warming will cause "rising temperatures that could flood coastal lands, alter crop yields worldwide, spread insect-borne diseases like malaria, and cause certain plants and animal species to die out."

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere. Since the



What Can On

1. Don't over-consume.
2. Save energy. Replace burnt-out light bulbs.
3. Conserve water. Turn off the tap water the lawn.
4. Take public transportation, car pool.
5. Don't litter anywhere: on a street.
6. Keep it down: Avoid honking.
7. Vote: support public transportation.
8. Encourage children to be good stewards of the planet.

19th century Industrial Revolution, we have produced ever-increasing amounts, primarily through the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. Tackling the problem is a challenge for fossil fuel-dependent countries. Economic interests often prevail. When Indian authorities tried to close polluting factories in New Delhi, thousands of workers protested. When it is a question of protecting public health vs. protecting jobs, there are no easy answers.

Still, representatives from more than 170 countries met in Japan in 1997 for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They drafted the Kyoto Protocol to curb global warming. It sets specific goals for industrialized nations to meet in cutting greenhouse gases.

Many environmentalists want a change to renewable energy sources such as fuel cells and solar or wind power. Governments and individuals need to learn what's available and feasible.

God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Spiritual motivation

Spirituality motivates many environmental activists who see Earth's resources as God's gifts. "It's the integrity of creation," says Father Michael Crosby. "The more you look at the effects of the burning of fossil fuels, the more you're convinced that we have to be speaking out on behalf of the preservation of the planet."

difference. Froots and Shoots groups all do activities in three areas: helping animals, helping people and helping the environment."

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your Master. Matthew 25:21

Health and the environment

When a nation's public health system functions well, "there are no epidemics, food and water are safe to consume, the citizens are well informed regarding personal habits that affect their health, children are immunized, the air is breathable," writes Laurie Garrett in *Betrayal of Trust*.

But when a government breaks faith with its citizens, public health breaks down. In one example, Garrett shows how years of a corrupt dictatorship in one African nation left its hospitals in ruin and unable to cope with an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus.

Wealthier countries cannot be complacent since the international movement of people and products means that "The community is an entire world. It watches and squirms as plague strikes Surat (Congo), Ebola hits Kikwit (India), tuberculosis overwhelms Siberian prisons, and HIV vanquishes a generation of Africans. Public health needs to be global prevention."

SINCE 1945, THE CHRISTOPHERS have used the media to spread the message that God's Kingdom is here and you can make a difference. The nonprofit organization is rooted in a Judeo-Christian tradition of service to God and humanity expressed in His truth—His desire to fight evil on earth, then to crown the faithful.

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