

PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2007
FORT MONMOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

QUESTIONS:

1. What table/display contains the public health study and assessment for Fort Monmouth base workers, military, and local residents who may have been exposed or contaminated by pollution, hazards and toxins in the air, water, soil on the base?
2. If there is no study, why has it not been done?
3. Are base workers, military and local residents aware of unusual illnesses or sickness for themselves or others.
4. Is the base really as clean as is being presented?
5. What are the costs for proper cleanup? Is there an economic interest in under reporting existing conditions?
6. What has been the record in toxic base cleanups around the country and world?
7. Why has the pentagon been seeking exemptions from US public health and environmental laws?
8. Have you researched the Fort Monmouth environmental documents at the Monmouth County library's reference desk in Shrewsbury?
9. Why are these documents not available more easily on a Fort Monmouth, RAB or FMERPA website?
10. Why has the RAB- remediation advisory board been in existence for about a year, but the public has not been allowed to attend environmental briefing meetings? Why does the RAB report to the army, but not to FMERPA? Why is it called remediation, not clean up?
11. Why does FMERPA have a separate environmental subcommittee that has not been included on the year of environmental meetings?
12. How can the subcommittee determine how suitable something is for redevelopment when they have been excluded?
13. Who is liable if new occupants of the base get sick or find contamination (DOD, army, RAB, FMERPA environmental subcommittee, FMERPA, Eatontown, Tinton Falls, Oceanport taxpayers)?
14. Why does MATRIX want to privatize the remediation/ clean up?
15. Does this allow a bypass of regulations, laws and liability? Would Matrix also get the contract to oversee this? Is this a conflict of interest?
16. Does a nfa- no further action ruling by the nj dep a mean that the site is clean or is it linguistic detoxification?
17. Does fencing off a contaminated area the best thing for future generations?
18. What is the condition of streams, ponds and bay areas at Fort Monmouth?
19. What effect has the pouring toxic things into the drains and sewage system had humans and on the ecosystem?
20. What effect have broken tanks and pipes carrying these things had on underground soils and water?
21. What is the status of the ash and toxic landfills? Is there a proper liner at every site?
22. What is the status of the toxic pit outside the Myer blg. that was covered with lime? Has it moved toward the blg.?
23. What about the radiation, PCB, asbestos contaminated sites?
24. How are sensitive native american sites being protected?
25. When will life support systems of air, water, earth protection be understood as important to survival?

For more information
Military Toxics Project www.miltoxproj.org
Stop Military Toxics www.stopmilitarytoxics.org
Fort Monmouth Earth Renaissance Peace Alliance www.fmerpa.us
shannoncasey@monmouth.com

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Dear Superintendent James Habel, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Brower, Assistant Superintendent Tina Gordan, Business Administrator/Board Secretary Brian Smyth, Board of Education Members, School Administrators, Counselors, Transition Team and all concerned about education excellence,

Good day to all and may the wonders of spring inspire us! (beginning 7:44am today)

Due to increased responsibilities with my work, I ask you to remove my name from those being considered for Wall Township Board of Education. I wish the candidates well in their efforts in representing the common good for all and moving us from the brutality of medieval times /middle ages to a vibrant, evolving earth renaissance ecozoic era. Indeed all are needed for this transformation and I will continue to participate and add my voice to the chorus.

Some of the areas that I will continue to address are as follows.

The high school is starting a new business program. The attachment is educationally relevant in that area.

The apollo alliance is one organization working with the new federal administration in the areas of green jobs, renewable energy and rebuilding america. This is one part of a hopeful growing vision and global reality in which we must educate our children in building a safe, creative, restorative, sustainable future.

In light of that I am in favor of transforming the Wall jrotc (junior reserve officer training corp) program into the jretc (junior restore earth training corp) program.

The nice jrotc instructors can stay if they can adapt to and provide leadership in the new jretc curriculum which is grounded in nonviolent conflict resolution rather than guns and weapon systems. We will stop training child soldiers. The focus will be based on addressing and removing all root causes of war, including racism, sexism, classism, anthropocentrism, and all forms of human and earth exploitation.

We will study successful economic conversion models of the proverbial turning swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, tanks into tractors, shields into solar panels, and study war no more. Wall has a wonderful, proud tradition in organic gardening/farming that must be revitalized!

We will continue the good community service work, but fundraisers will not be for trips to gun competitions and military bases, but towards healing all the war wounded.

We can empower the children in advocacy and healing for soldiers and veterans and by including efforts by veterans for peace and iraq veterans against war in the areas of staffing the gi rights hotline, agent orange/depleted uranium illness, post traumatic stress disorder (illness), traumatic brain injury, gulf war illness syndrome, homeless, self medicating, suicidal veterans, navigating the va system, denial and rejection of medical and educational benefit claims, recruiter misinformation/ lies, eliminating weapons of mass destruction (including those made in the us), conscientious objection options, and helping to educate children in the pros and cons in making informed choices on enlisting and questions to ask recruiters who are under tremendous

pressure to make quotas. Local veterans including those on the board of education can provide first hand experience in a number of these areas.

The military uniforms will change to hiking clothes to lead children in the awe and wonder of outdoor wilderness awareness experiences, water and earth studies. Heavy boots will be replaced by going barefoot when possible to reconnect to the natural world. Marching will be transformed by the words of Henry David Thoreau, "If a person does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." As Einstein stated the problems of today can not be solved by the same thinking that caused the problems.

The peacemaking curriculum will be academically rigorous, and experientially demanding, but will also provide the child and adult with practical tools to address serious local to global issues and challenges. This would include the study of inequality and injustice in areas of economics, class, race, gender, laws and policies and models working as successful remedies worldwide.

Physical education classes will focus on teaching fun, interactive, participatory cooperative games and activities that will strengthen the heart, mind and spirit of the child.

Our definition of security will expand beyond security cameras, lanyards, locked doors and lock downs to understand the importance of clean, living air, water, soil in our local to global commons. Local organizations like clean ocean action and their student ocean advocates provide a local working model including a wonderful student summit. The earth charter provides in depth study and analysis of local to global challenges to human and earth health and well being. Those with knowledge of law can help teach children how to put these principles into law as earth rights. Democracy must be expanded to include rights for all life forms. Some countries have taken steps into that direction.

Child, teacher, parent, community involvement must be expanded. Some board of ed's have a student representative who can express ideas and concerns and report back what is happening at meetings that may be of interest. Students from film and media classes can produce film for showing on school tvs and also aired on local public access cable channels for community members who can not attend meetings.

Now a request for a clarification of existing policies.

Please clarify and ensure clearly that the 7th grade children and /or their parents/guardians will not be subjected to a 40 minute jrotc presentation including gun demonstrations as was done with the 8th grade children.

In the spirit of fairness and equality, jrotc should only get equal time as any other elective presentation. We have already seen a full court push by administration and staff to push 8th grade students into jrotc through the student and parent orientations at the expense of every other elective. This was unprofessional, unethical. Clearly the unequal favoritism treatment violated educational standards.

As you know jrotc needs to recruit a certain number of children into their child soldier classes in order to justify their existence. Clearly the thinking here is that the ends justifies the means. This is a dangerous precedent. Why do jrotc instructors and literature continue

to say they are not recruiters while jrotc classes get credit for career counseling education. Also books and curriculum, and military representatives celebrate jrotc success in recruitment? Why are jrotc instructors not officially trained as physical education educators allowed to give physical education credit to children they are not qualified to teach?

Why were there only jrotc child soldiers greeting parents and students at the doors, handing out programs and acting as guides at parent/ student orientation? Who ordered this? Who is making these decisions? Why is there no oversight? Why were no other students involved? Why were no other student groups, clubs etc. asked or represented? Why was it also this way last year and despite promises from administration no changes occurred this year?

Why are there weapons in school with a zero tolerance policy for weapons? What are the additional expenses to pay instructors to teach children how to shoot guns?

How can this be justified when core curriculum courses like earth science labs can not be offered because of lack of space and funding, but "naval military science" and weapons systems are offered and pushed.

How can 23 positions including anti bullying education be cut from Wall schools last year, and more this year, but funding for teaching shooting as a sacred priority continues untouched and jrotc was expanded into the intermediate school? What was the decision making process in expanding jrotc into the middle school? Why was the jrotc instructor included in this process decision, but not one of the 23 other positions were given the same privileged treatment? Why the unequal, unethical, unprofessional, preferential treatment?

What is meant by recruiter's goals of school ownership? How is it achieved? Has it been achieved in the Wall Township school district?

Why is jrotc the only curriculum that the BOE and administration have no control over, no input into, and no oversight on? Does this raise any concerns?

What protections have Wall BOE and Administrators enacted to protect children from stressed and pressured recruiters that may not tell the truth in trying to meet their mandatory quotas?

What are Wall BOE and Administration responsibilities and liabilities when insuring a child's educated and informed consent in this recruitment decision making? Are they helping to present the pros and cons to these military decisions? Why or why not? Is it done in jrotc classes? Why or why not? What more could and should be done to protect and help the children? Who is invited to speak to jrotc classes and who is not?

What is the first impression upon walking into Wall High School? What is in the glass show case across from the office? Are gun shooting awards really the most important thing that the Wall administration and community are most proud of showing in their education system? Is this really the essence of the mission statement? Is this the mountain top goal of child development and career preparation.

Why did the BOE call in Wall police when these issues were being discussed? Is this a frivolous waste of taxpayers funds? Why the fear of dialogue? Why the illegal crackdown on rights to free speech and redress grievances? Why the interruption of public speakers? Why must

BOE officials and lawyers review public handouts to the BOE board before they can receive it? Isn't this a waste of taxpayers funds. Why is there no objective criteria used to determine what would be rejected? Will the superintendent voluntarily take a pay cut from the \$192,000 salary and car allowance as a show of solidarity of community members going through tough economic times or staff asking to contribute to health care costs.

Is this the creativity, excellence and renaissance we are seeking and preparing for our children?

What are murals, artwork and mascots in the schools? What messages do they convey? What do they inspire? What are the hopes, dreams and visions of the children and community? How do these icons and symbols help or hinder in reaching these goals? Is it time to change or transform any of these? What will bring healing? I look forward to your response. Thank you for your service.

Please forward these comments and questions to the Wall Board of Education, Wall Education Administrators, Transition Team Members, guidance counselors, and any interested persons

Sincerely your,

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Recipient of rotc college scholarship

volunteer soldier and veterans advocate - *volunteer*



now is the time for prophecy
to speak
to act
to serve
to denounce
to announce
to be visionary
to give vision of
the new way
rooted in
the ancient way
to go deep
into the
living waters
deep into the
living earth
sink roots deep
into the
water aquifer
sink roots deep
into mother earth
into the core
into the deep dark
rich moist earth
even further into
the molten lava core
where the fire
where the embers are glowing
ready to meet with the
air-the oxygen
to give birth to an
eruption-
a volcano of pure energy
pure heat
colors of
red, yellow, black and
white flowing together
bursting forth from the core
where all are one
all is one
the genesis where
all begins
mixing together in fire
then percolating

getting ready for the birth
waiting for the opening
waiting for the right time
there is some stretching
of mother earth
some discomfort
she knows the time
is coming
this natural way
when the new and the
ancient dance
reinvent themselves
the new dancing within
the shell of the old
the new guided by the
teachings of the ancient ways
the new moving through
the ancient birth canal
formed of so many years
so very many years
new-red hot
yellow hot
black hot
white hot
so very hot
so pliable- ready to move
ready to flow
ready to join
ready to burn
ready to make its way
but first must wait
for the moment
for the right time
the ancient ways have the wisdom
and will create the right time
for fertile ground to
receive the seed
the ancient ones can not be rushed
they are rock
time tested
time formed
they were young once
they were the lava once
they were hot
they were burning
they flowed quickly
they burst forth
into new life
so full of expectation
so full of promise
so full of new ways
extending their reach
as far as the river
would flow
they know the cycles
they know the ways
it is deep in their dna
they remember - the beginnings
they remember their early days
their early years

they remember them fondly
all that energy
wow- what a rush
just to think about it
they feel the warmth
just feeling
just thinking
just remembering
wow
such fond memories
of the early years
such is the ways of the ancients
they know
they run deep
they understand the ways
they know and accept their roles
and take their responsibility
very serious
they nurture and pass on the wisdom
and know when it is time
to get out of the way of that
hot flowing red, yellow, black and white
but they know they are
not out of the way
they provide the birth canal
they provide the foundation
they provide the structure
the banks of the river
for the flowing stream
the new flows wild
within the arms, the legs
the body of the ancient (ones)
and so it is
and so it goes
everything old is new again
the ancient dancer
comes to life
as this new flow of energy
this electricity moves through her
she teaches the basic
dance moves
and the new one listens
sometimes impatient
so eager to master it all
so quickly
but the ancient dancer
knows this
she was this young -once
she looks, listens and waits
until the young one is ready
then she teaches the basics
she passes on the very beginnings
you must start with the very beginnings
she says
but why the new life cries out
i want to jump, i want to
skip- i want to flow
i want to fly
all in due course my darling
precious one

all in due course
you will have your own path
you will flow into lands
i have never been
you will see things i
have never seen
you will know things
i have never known
and when you are ready
you will slow a little
you will harden a little
you will cool a little
and you will see that
it is time to take your
place among the elders
the ancient ones
and will i fly asks
the eager new one
my dear, my darling
you have been flying since
your very beginnings
you have been moving
you have been flowing
you have been living
for such a very long time already
but sometimes it takes
an even longer time to see this
and you will see this- finally
when you take your place
among the elders and
you seem to be not moving
not flowing
and right at this moment
you will see

just as you- become the
springboard for others to fly
for others to move
for others to flow
for others to see
wow
said the young one
it sounds so exciting
but also a little bit tiring
just thinking about it
don't worry
there is plenty of time to rest
when you need to
all in due time
all in due time

but when do i start my lessons
we have already started
a long time ago
start by slowing down
for a moment and
just remembering
just remembering
your past
which is the past of the ancients

the elders
they have blazed a trail that
has brought you to this moment
honor their efforts
learn their ways
and continue your journey
within these ways of the ancients
you will always be with them
and within them
and they will always be with you
and within you
do not be afraid
push off into the river
and flow
you'll be a natural

and all this teaching is passed on
in the womb
within the earth core
within the beginnings
of the beginnings

and the fireball
heats up with the passion
and this compassion
and this excitement
and this impatience
so very ready to go
but held back at the
starting line
until the time is right

and the time is right

and the time is now

open the gates
let it flow
the ancient ways
and the raw energy
the wisdom
and the excitement
the rock
and the lava
the outside and
the inside
let it flow, let it flow
let it flow
the time is right
let it flow
the guiding path
and the flowing river
the ancient ones and
the young ones
sometimes even moving together
in this dance
sometimes even changing roles
sometimes even exchanging roles
the ancient becoming new

the young becoming wise

all mixing together
all moving along
and sometimes resting
for a while
then on the journey again
actually- always on the journey
always on the journey

this circle
coming around to the beginning
and seeing anew
seeing fresh
this circle
beginning again

so- breathe
don't forget to breathe
breathe deeply
go deeply
within
to the ancient place
within
trust-and go there
to the well- to the reservoir
drink from this well
and be refreshed
and go deeply
to the core
to the warmth
to the fire
to the spark
and rest
feel the warmth
let it fill you
let it become you
become the core
become the warmth
become the fire
become the spark
and rest
and breathe
and breathe
breathe life into
the core
breathe life into the warmth
breathe life into the fire
breathe life into the spark
and rest
and breathe
breathe deeply
become one with
the red, the yellow,
the black, the white
the burning embers
which is within you
which is you
your core

the beginnings
 the ancient ways
 ready to be born anew
 breathe it into being
 rest
 and when ready
 slowly release
 be gentle with yourself
 breathe deeply
 and when ready
 slow open
 like a budding
 flower in spring
 like a hatching
 bird in spring
 like a thawing
 frost
 in spring
 like an emerging
 seed in spring
 like a butterfly
 from a cocoon
 in spring
 like a dawning
 of a new day
 in spring
 there is gentleness
 there is tenderness
 there is loveliness
 in this spring
 and we together
 we con-spire
 we breathe together
 there is this one breath
 there is this one breathing
 there is this one life
 and together we
 give birth
 we co-create
 with the ancient
 this great mystery

and this spring
 is ever ready
 within us
 especially in the winters
 when things are so
 crystal clear
 we bring forth
 our being
 from the core
 from the inside
 like when
 mother earth is ready
 she moves around
 a little bit and
 sometimes a lotta bit
 she makes an earthquake
 she mumbles and grumbles
 you know birthing

ain't always that easy
 there is discomfort
 there is pain
 but then the new life
 so anyway
 earth mother
 starts shankin
 rattling and rolling
 something is going on
 getting things ready
 for something new
 some are afraid
 but there is no need to be
 this is natural
 the core needed to awaken
 the embers had been sleeping
 and needed a wake up call
 because the first few times
 the first few attempts
 to wake the embers
 did not quite work
 they just rolled
 over and tapped
 the snooze on the
 alarm box
 but like all good
 parents- mama knew
 it was time for
 the young one to get
 up and get moving
 so she first gently
 sang the good morning
 song and caressed
 the young one
 the young one loved this song
 it gave them such comfort
 it was a song going way back
 it resonated in such a deep way
 like when mama rocked me
 tenderly in a rocking chair
 oh, the comfort of that feeling
 that tenderness, that nurturing
 that lovely, oh so lovely song
 ahh, the sleep is so beautiful
 the dreaming is so beautiful
 the awakening is so beautiful
 although sometimes the awakening
 can take a little longer or a
 little more effort
 if the sleep or dreaming
 was not so deep- not so soundful
 and the morning not so nurturing

in that case we just need
 to tap the snooze alarm
 and rest a little more
 and sleep a little more
 and dream a little more
 and moma
 that's alright with her

she does love you very deeply
and wants the best for her
young ones

but there comes a time
when moma gets older
and needs a little help
she can't get around like
she used to
she needs some help
she moves around a bit more slowly
but the young ones
although ready were up late
last night and are sleeping in
so moma knows they need to rest
to catch up with their sleep and dreams
so she lets them rest
and she does what she can
but she is getting older
and is getting sick and needs help
her forest lungs are hurting
her life blood rivers and oceans are hurting
her fertility soil is hurting
her children- the two legged, four legged, crawling ones
winged ones of the air, swimming ones of the waters
are hurting
and in her grief she cries, but to her horror
even her rain tears hurt as they leave the clouds

this winter is so long
and difficult
i need to awaken the
sleeping ones to help me
give birth to the spring

surely they are ready
they have been nurtured
they have been taught the
wisdom of the elders
they have rested and have
remembered their origins
their beginnings
they know we are all
interrelated- all connected
they know we are all one
they know the fire is within
them
they know the living waters
are there to nourish them
they are fire and water
they are ancient and new
they are wisdom and innocence
they are patient and eager
they are beauty
they are rich earthy darkness and bright shimmering light
they are rock and flowing
they are beginning and end
they are timeless, formless
they are tender, generous

they are passion and compassion
they are love
and they are ready

they must be ready
i need them now
the time is now
now or never
i will send a signal
i will wake them from
the slumber
i know they will come
and be with me
in this time of need
i will send a signal
and i will open up
for them to be born
through me
coming from the core
the origin from the beginning
together the ancient
and the new

and so it was
she sends out a call
a message- a plea
this is the time
you are the one
this is the place
and deep down in the core
in the essence of all that is
and all that was and
all that ever will be

the call was heard

no more snooze alarm buttons
no more excuses
the time was now
and there was a rumbling
in the tummy
a fire lit in the gut
as they prepared for
the journey (knowing they had everything they need)

the embers awakening
red, yellow, black, white
earth mother moved and shaken
with urgency, expectation and hope
she had brought the spring
so many times- but this time she needed to
really concentrate
and breathe deeply
this was- she could sense
a really important time
so she moved and stretched
and rocked and rolled
and breathed and cried

6
until slowly a small path
to the center, the origins, the beginnings
the core- opened a tiny bit

enough to allow air to
reach in- and when that
happened the embers burst into
flames- a beautiful light
of indescribable beauty and
warmth

and the colors came together as one

but how do we get out
and join you and be with
you

squeeze through she said
but we might get dirty and it might be uncomfortable
yes- that is good and needed she said
in your birth you embody the
richness of the earth in all her diversity

so the journey began as they squeezed through
and they came to the living waters and stopped
so what now
we might get wet and muddy and messy
or get extinguished
do not be afraid
these are the living waters
the marshes where life begins and flourishes
besides you need them as you move through the next opening
so they jumped and danced together
earth, air, fire and water in the darkness
breathing together, conspiring together
moving from the core outward

and earth mother breathed deeply with
anticipation
this birthing thing was good, but it took
a lot of effort and a lot of letting go
she knew the final passage would be a
challenge and all her energy and resources
would have to be summoned to help

so she brought forth the winds
and trees and oceans and rivers and
rain and two legged, four legged, winged ones,
swimming ones, crawling ones, the ancient rocks
and in all their diversity
in all their hurt and brokenness, in all their beauty
and togetherness they were one-
the great mystery

and with that they breathed
together- they conspired together
and earth mother
filled with completeness and joy of all

her family was moved

and all were moved
and all felt the fire within
and all felt the living waters within
and all felt connected to their core
to their shared origin- to their connectedness
(of all)- to the great mystery

and at that moment there was
great healing and a great opening of hearts
and love flowed forth abundantly

and with that - earth mother
opened and like a volcano pored forth a
lava of earth, wind, fire and water in
the colors of red, yellow, black and
white
gushing forth
spirit of life-renewing the
face of the earth

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2/18/06 (+13 billion years)

4:50 am

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The Earth Charter Initiative

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THE EARTH CHARTER

 [DOWNLOAD IN RTF](#)

PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

Earth, Our Home

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution. The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

The Global Situation

The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species. Communities are being undermined. The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering. An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.

The Challenges Ahead

The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world. Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and together we can forge inclusive solutions.

Universal Responsibility

To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone

shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.

PRINCIPLES

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.

- a. *Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.*
- b. *Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.*

2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.

- a. *Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.*
- b. *Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.*

3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.

- a. *Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.*
- b. *Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.*

4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

- a. *Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations.*
- b. *Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.*

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.

- a. *Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.*
- b. *Establish and safeguard viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and*

- and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.
- b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves.
 - c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

- a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.
- b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.
- c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards.
- d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.

11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.

- a. Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them.
- b. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries.
- c. Strengthen families and ensure the safety and loving nurture of all family members.

12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

- a. Eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin.
- b. Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods.
- c. Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies.
- d. Protect and restore outstanding places of cultural and spiritual significance.

IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.

- a. Uphold the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on environmental matters and all development plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.
- b. Support local, regional and global civil society, and promote the meaningful participation of all interested individuals and organizations in decision making.
- c. Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.
- d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.

- e. *Eliminate corruption in all public and private institutions.*
- f. *Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.*

14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

- a. *Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development.*
- b. *Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.*
- c. *Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.*
- d. *Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.*

15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.

- a. *Prevent cruelty to animals kept in human societies and protect them from suffering.*
- b. *Protect wild animals from methods of hunting, trapping, and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering.*
- c. *Avoid or eliminate to the full extent possible the taking or destruction of non-targeted species.*

16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.

- a. *Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.*
- b. *Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes.*
- c. *Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration.*
- d. *Eliminate nuclear, biological, and toxic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.*
- e. *Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace.*
- f. *Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.*

THE WAY FORWARD

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles. To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally: Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision. We must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.

Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good, short-term objectives with long-term goals. Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership. The

partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.

In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations, fulfill their obligations under existing international agreements, and support the implementation of Earth Charter principles with an international legally binding instrument on environment and development.

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

• View the Earth Charter Document

Select Language:

THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT | THE EARTH COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 319-6100 | SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA | TEL: +506-205-1600 | FAX: +506-249-3500 | EMAIL: info@earthcharter.org

VALUES and Principles for a sustainable future

www.earthcharter.org

United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development

Aug 26 - Sept. 4, 2002 Johannesburg, South Africa

www.johannesburgsummit.org

What is the dream of earth?
What is the collective story of the Universe?
How did it all begin?
Where is it going?
What is the purpose of life on earth?
What is the role of the human species on earth?
How many diverse life forms exist on earth?
How many species are now extinct?
Is earth alive?
Is earth a living entity?
Does earth have rights?
Does earth have a right to exist?
Do all species have rights to exist?
Does a mountain have a right to exist?
Does a river have a right to exist?
Does water, air, soil have rights to exist?
Do trees and whales and giraffes have rights to exist?
Do humans have rights to exist?
Who determines rights to exist?
What is justice?
What is compassion?
What is beauty?
What is creativity?
What is interdependence?
Can life exist without interdependence?
What is needed for life to exist?
What is needed for life to flourish?
What is the story of each being's existence?
Is everything interconnected?
Is everything part of the whole?
Is everything needed to complete the story?
Could this be considered an earth community?
What is the intention of each being?
What would be their notice of intent?
Is there a collective intention of all?
What would be that notice of intent?
What should a notice of intent include?
Should all beings be taken into account?
Should the rights of all beings be included?
Should all life forms be included?
Should all species be included?
Should earth be included?
Who would speak?
Who would be heard?
How would this be done?
What is the present condition of earth?
What is the present condition of the species?
Why are so many going extinct?
What role does fear have in all this?
What role does courage have in all this?
What role does story have in all this?

What is the present story?
Is it inclusive?
Does it include all?
What is its intent?
Does it include the earth story?
Does it include the universe story?
What is the present vision?
What is the present mission?
Does it include all?
What is its intent?
Will this present story lead us all home?
Will this present vision lead us all home?
Will this present mission lead us all home?
Will it lead us all to healing?
Will it lead us all in celebrating?
Will it lead us all in greater understanding?
Will it lead to earth renaissance?
Will it lead us towards world peace?
Will it lead us towards earth community?
What vision has authority in these times?
What vision has legitimacy in these times?
What vision makes sense in these times?
What mission has authority in these times?
What mission has legitimacy in these times?
What mission makes sense in these times?
What will bring us home?
What will bring healing, health and well being?
What will connect personal, local, bioregional and global?
Can a common earth/ universe story unite us all?
What choices do we have?
What ways of the past are helpful?
What ways of the past are not helpful?
What must be our global priorities?
What must be our collective focus?
What are the gifts of all that are needed?
How can they all be honored?
What role does art, music, theatre, and culture play?
What is the common good?
How is the common good defined?
What is the role of the commons?
How important is common space, common land?
How and where do we interact with all?
What is the role of wilderness?
How important is the wild?
What is life?
What inspires?
What revitalizes?
What is revitalization?
What breathes spirit into life?
What brings back to life?
Do the seasons teach us anything?
Does the natural world teach us anything?
What do the wisdom traditions teach us?
What does our highest nature call us to?

What will be our legacy?
 How do we consider the 7th generation
 from today in all our deliberations?
 How is this time different from all the rest?
 What important decisions must we make?
 How do we ensure that life will continue on earth?
 What must change?
 How do we do this?
 What myths are helpful?
 What myths are not helpful?
 What ancient stories are helpful?
 What ancient stories are not helpful?
 What new stories are helpful?
 What new stories are not helpful?
 What new ways are helpful?
 What new ways are not helpful?
 What ways of living are helpful?
 What ways of living are not helpful?
 What heals?
 What does not heal?
 What harms?
 What does not harm?
 What celebrates?
 What does not celebrate?
 How can we create this healing way together?
 How much time do we have?
 How can we begin today?



**Future generations,
 if there is a livable world for them,
 will look back at the epochal transition
 we are making to a life-sustaining society.
 And they may well call this
 the time of the Great Turning.**

JOANNA MALEY

**We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history,
 a time when humanity must choose its future. ...
 To move forward we must recognize that in the midst
 of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms
 we are one human family and one Earth Community
 with a common destiny.**

Pax Christi USA



"Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith."

- The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1983



National Catholic Peace Movement
www.paxchristiusa.org

Our History

In 1945, a small group of people in France met regularly to pray for peace. What kept them coming together was their experience of an agonizing fact: French and German Catholics, who professed the same faith and celebrated the same Eucharist, had killed one another by the millions in the 20th century. That situation could hardly be the will of God. So they prayed for forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace.

After the war, Pax Christi centers were established in France and Germany; by the 1950s the movement had spread to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. Pax Christi began in the United States in 1972, at the initiative of a small group of prominent U.S. Catholics, mostly lay people.

Brothers and Sisters All

Begun in 1999, Brothers and Sisters All is a 20-year initiative to transform Pax Christi USA into an anti-racist, multicultural Catholic peace and justice movement and to elevate and celebrate the rich diverse membership of the Catholic Church. Pax Christi USA seeks to embrace an anti-racist identity and to do all its work from an anti-racist perspective, in the conviction that personal and systemic racism perpetuates violence in our communities and results in deep spiritual and social brokenness.

This transformation is accomplished through intentional relationships and full participation across cultural communities by:

- Organizational structures that foster mutual respect and dialogue and which create accountability to people of color
- Policies which affirm the dignity and utilize the talents of every person
- Practices which hold multiple and at times conflicting perspectives in creative tension
- Decision-making processes which depend on and incorporate the multi-cultural identity that is the Church, the Body of Christ.

General Membership Contribution

I believe that "peace is possible" and want to join Pax Christi USA:

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

(If you would like to join the "Sustainers' Circle," please fill out the previous panel.)

The regular membership fee for Pax Christi USA is \$35 a year, more if you are able or whatever you can afford. We rely on the generosity of our members. Please consider enclosing a membership contribution to Pax Christi USA for:

_____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ other

At this time I can only contribute _____.
 MC/Visa _____
 Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

- Check any of the following:
- I would like more information about joining or starting a local group in my area or school.
 - I would like more information about the Parish Sponsorship Program.
 - I would like information on making a will/bequest.
 - I would like to receive a publications catalog.
 - Please do not give my e-mail or phone number to local Pax Christi group leaders.



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 Pax Christi USA
 532 West Eighth Street
 Erie, PA 16502
 814-453-4955
 Fax: 814-452-4784
 info@paxchristiusa.org
 www.paxchristiusa.org

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Sustainers' Circle or Peace with Justice

More than ever, we need people who are willing and able to sustain the work for peace with justice over the long haul. Pax Christi USA's "Sustainers' Circle" allows you to make safe and convenient monthly donations directly through your credit card. By committing to becoming a Sustainer, you provide Pax Christi USA with important monthly support on which we rely, you help us to be more eco-friendly (less paperwork equals more trees), and you help to build the base from which to make our work even more prophetic, effective, and stronger.

Use the form below or go to our Web site to set up a monthly contribution by credit card.

Please select a monthly donation amount:

_____ \$10 _____ \$20
 _____ \$50 _____ \$100
 \$ _____ other (\$10 minimum)

This payment will repeat monthly on an ongoing basis. You may cancel at any time.

MC/Visa _____
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Statement of Purpose

Pax Christi USA strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation.

Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Pax Christi USA is a section of Pax Christi International, which has representation status at the United Nations in New York and Vienna, the UN Human Rights Commission and Sub-Commission in Geneva, UNESCO in Paris, and UNICEF in New York.



PAX CHRISTI USA, founded in 1972, works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

"Movements like yours are precious. They help draw people's attention to the violence which shatters the harmony between human beings which is at the heart of creation. They help to develop conscience, so that justice and the search for the common good can prevail in the relations between individuals and peoples. These are the foundations for lasting peace."

*- Pope John Paul II,
speaking to members of Pax Christi during
a delegation to the Vatican, May 1995*

Who We Are

Pax Christi USA is a national Catholic peace and justice movement reaching over one half-million U.S. Catholics. Our membership includes: 650 religious communities; 800 parishes; 130 bishops; 400 Pax Christi local and campus groups; 20 regions that coordinate activities in their geographic areas; and tens of thousands of individual members.

Local and Regional Groups

Pax Christi local groups offer opportunities to join with others in a community setting to deepen their understanding of the gospel call to peace and justice. Pax Christi USA's nearly 400 local chapters meet regularly in neighborhoods, parishes, religious congregations, high schools, and on college campuses to pray, study, and act for peace with justice on local, national, and global issues.

Our Priorities

- Spirituality of Nonviolence and Peacemaking
- Disarmament, Demilitarization, and Reconciliation with Justice
- Economic and Interracial Justice in the United States
- Human Rights and Global Restoration

The Work of Pax Christi USA

PCUSA uses a model of prayer, study, and action to work for justice and peace and promotes the importance of understanding the root causes of injustice and violence.

- PCUSA members work in many ways:
- implementing a conflict resolution program in a local high school
 - holding a prayer vigil outside a prison where an execution is taking place
 - preparing an action alert calling for an end to the use of torture
 - hosting a parish program on the "war on immigrants"
 - joining a coalition for affordable housing
 - creating an educational resource about environmental destruction
 - writing letters to elected officials about human rights abuses in Haiti or Colombia
 - teaching an anti-racism workshop



PAX CHRISTI USA focuses on economic & interracial justice, human rights & global restoration, the spirituality of nonviolence, and disarmament issues.

- writing Prayers of the Faithful that lift up the call to Christian nonviolence
- working in interfaith partnerships on peace and justice initiatives.

Peace Education Resources

PCUSA offers many resources for prayer, study, and action. Through resources like our newsmagazine, the *Catholic Peace Voice*, and our Web site, members can get a glimpse of the breadth and depth of Pax Christi. We also publish an e-mail digest of action alerts and information on domestic and international issues. We produce books, pamphlets, resource packets, prayer cards, and other materials for personal and group use.

To view current campaigns and initiatives in Pax Christi USA's priority areas, or to find out how you can take action, please visit our Web site at www.paxchristiusa.org.