

Creation Care Network
Nov 2022 notes

Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home

<https://www.sustainislandhome.org>

Guest speaker: Deb Baker

Creating Challenges:

- Between churches – number of people
- Within church – small groups compete against each other
- When you enact some of these pieces – you save money! And then can tithe it.

We are part of a community – part of a nation – part of a world

- US households contribute 25% of the greenhouse gases in the world.
- How are our actions impacting the world?
- There are people who are on a fixed income – but there are lots of people with extra – change from consuming to sharing.

Carbon Calculator for churches:

Climate Stewards USA

<https://climatestewardsusa.org>

<https://climatestewardsusa.org/carbon-calculators/>

Book recommendations:

- Katharine Hayhoe, SAVING US: A CLIMATE SCIENTIST'S CASE FOR HOPE & HEALING
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture by Ellen Davis
- All Creation Waits by Gayle Boss - <https://paracletepress.com/products/all-creation-waits>
- Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home - Our topic for Nov. 2022

Learn more about [Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home](#): A Call to Action for All Episcopalians, a great resource for your ministry.

Guest Speaker:

Deb Baker lives in N'dakinna, the unceded ancestral land of the Pennacook people, now called Concord, New Hampshire, where she's a member of St. Paul's Episcopal church and a Companion in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross. She works for Jesus in many ways: as volunteer coordinator for Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home in NH, as a volunteer with several climate and social justice groups, as a student of white privilege and antiracism trying to be a good ancestor to future generations, and in her day job at Concord Hospital.

Links for Nov 2022 meeting

NH Sustain Island Home Communication [tips & resources](#) and added the Hayhoe book.

Two per page NH Sustain Island Home [bulletin insert](#)

One page [bulletin insert](#)

Notes and resources from Deb:

[Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home](#): A Call to Action for All Episcopalians, a great resource for your ministry.

Folder of Sustaining Earth resources:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JkfaBNNBHS48U2-KB8XLekBwcO79MICs?usp=share_link

Sign up for the NH Sustaining Earth email! Get regular updated about ideas that you can implement in your local context!

email: deborahba@yahoo.com

Lisa Altieri, the scientist who leads the tracker effort, let me know this: "We are working on a new engagement series that will help members of the parishes work together on Sustain Island Home. We should have something ready for use by early next year and would be happy to let them know when it is launched if they reach out to us. They can also check here for updates: <https://www.diocal.org/resource/eco-justice/carbon-tracker/>

Resource I mentioned for churches to track their own carbon footprint:

<https://climatestewardsusa.org/>

Yes, there are 4 major points in the Resource Guide (**This work aligns with our faith; The science is clear about both the causes and solutions; The news can seem bad, but there is hope!; and This project can bring people together of all ages in your community**).

There is actually even more hope than when I started:

["Where is the Hope In Creation Care? With Jesus It's Everywhere"](#)

A few more communication points I've added along the way that might be helpful:

-- **environmental justice is closely related to racial and economic justice**

As Stephanie Spellers says in *The Church Cracked Open*, "We let go of one life in order to take up new life, the life of the beloved." That's what taking action to sustain creation for future generations and for all of God's human and nonhuman family is about.

-- **this is not a fad** -- we've been called, as God's people, to care for creation from the beginning of our relationship with God, the prophets called Israel to care for the land so that all could thrive, Jesus calls us to the Way of Love.

See *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture* by Ellen Davis.

-- **Sustaining Earth is just one piece of this work** -- once people learn about their own carbon footprint, their sense of efficacy grows -- encourage them to meet with each other or talk to think about what else your church can do together

Ideas might include: plant a community garden to share produce and reduce the lawn and its upkeep? Do some kind of recycling drive (Trex decking take plastic that many municipal recycling programs don't, for example)? Replace inefficient lighting in church building or parish hall? Get an energy audit for the church (often free from utilities), choose a church-wide read (one of our churches used the House of Bishops teaching on Climate change which has a youth version as well) and meet to decide how to take action? Start a creation prayer group for the less technologically inclined?

-- **connect your hopes for creation justice to a group's values and concerns**: you don't have to say global warming, climate change, etc. if you feel that will be divisive. You can talk about preserving God's creation for future generations, saving money, building resilience for severe weather, etc.

-- ask what people are concerned about and go from there -- if electric rates, talk about how local renewable energy can actually reduce costs and return control to communities; if no one offers concerns, health is a nearly universal concern in all demographics. Talk about how renewable energy makes the air we breathe safer for children, the elderly, people with asthma and COPD, etc.

Remember that this work is relational, not transactional, and takes time. Progress may not be apparent but it may still be happening, even if it doesn't result in tons of churches or household signing up for the tracker. Don't be discouraged!

If you don't find your church on the SustainIslandHome list, reach out to [Lisa](#).