

Warm Greetings to our friends in faith and partners for the environment! In this month's E-group newsletter, you will find news about...

*****PEQ WORKSHOPS COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU ...SAVE THE DATES!**

--Energy Savings Workshops November 9th, 10th, and 12th

*****ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

---Update on the special statewide sale on Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs
--- Pollutant-Chomping Bacterium Cleans Up Contaminated Sites

*****ADVOCACY**

--- Last week's vote on the McCain-Leiberman Clean Stewardship Act
--- An imminent threat to the Endangered Species Act

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming Tours and Workshops

PEQ Workshops: Partners for Environmental Quality has already scheduled for this autumn several workshops to help congregations conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save money on their energy bills. Everyone from all faith persuasions is welcome!! Here are the details...

***Protecting the Planet, Protecting your Pocketbook
Energy Stewardship Workshops***

Featuring presentations by PEQ staff to help participants understand what their energy bills *really* mean, and how to conserve energy at home and in their houses of worship. Plus, a special appearance by Paul Copleman of Community Energy about how to purchase wind-generated electricity in New Jersey.

When: Sunday, November 9th, 11:45-2:30 PM

Where: Christ Episcopal Church in New Brunswick (5 Paterson Street)

and/or

When: Monday, November 10th, 7:00-9:00 PM

Where: St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Teaneck (118 Chadwick Road)

Seasonal Lights: Energy Ethics and Stewardship

DRAFT

Co-sponsored by Temple B'nai Keshet, St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church, and St. John's Episcopal Church

Featuring presentations by PEQ President Fletcher Harper entitled "*Holy Night, Holy Light: A New Look at Christmas,*" and by PEQ Board Member Barbara Lerman-Golomb, entitled "*Let there be (Renewable) Light: A New Look at Hanukkah.*" Plus, additional interactive sessions led

by local entrepreneurs Robert Simpson, from Brother-Son Solar, and Meredith Nole from American Efficient Lighting

When: Wednesday, November 12th, 7:30-9:30 pm

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church in Montclair (55 Montclair Avenue)

Free organic fare and fair trade coffee will be available to all participants. **Please call Eric at (609) 394-1090, or email info@peqnj.org** if you have questions.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

LATEST PEQ UPDATE ON THE STATEWIDE SALE ON COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS & FIXTURES

As we publicized in our previous e-newsletter, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB) has joined a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the national *CHANGE A LIGHT, CHANGE THE WORLD* lighting campaign that offers residents savings on the purchase of select ENERGY STAR lighting products now through December 31. The program is being developed by the NJBPUB's Office of Clean Energy as part of a major campaign to educate the public on ways to save energy and money on their energy bill. The New Jersey Clean Energy Program and Governor McGreevey are supporting retailers in communities throughout the state to help New Jersey residents save energy and money and reduce the impact of recent electric utility rate increases. Residents will benefit from discounted pricing on select ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light bulbs and lighting fixtures.

There have been some glitches in the promotion, however. On several different occasions, PEQ has received reports from our members that they have not been able to find or purchase the CFL's at their local retailers. Further conversation and follow-up have made it apparent that several participating stores have already sold out their stocks of promotional lightbulbs (a good thing!). In some of those cases, they are simply awaiting their next shipment; in others, store managers have seemed uninterested in continuing the program beyond that original stock.

To any of you interested in taking advantage of the special prices, PEQ recommends that before getting in your car (or on your bicycle), you make some phone calls to "participating" retailers to first identify those who are actually carrying the reduced-price CFL's.

For a list of retailers who *may* be participating, visit the NJ Board of Public Utilities website at www.bpu.state.nj.us/specialEvents/changeLight.shtml

POLLUTANT-CHOMPING BACTERIUM CLEANS UP CONTAMINATED SITES

A pollutant-munching bacterium is earning plaudits in Fairfield, N.J., where the U.S. EPA has been using it to clean up a Superfund site contaminated with poison-laced sewage. The mysterious little bacterium, with the unwieldy name of *Dehalococcoides ethenogenes*, was discovered in 1997 by scientists at Cornell University who determined that it likes to gobble up dangerous industrial chemicals. "They're really weird organisms," said Stephen Zinder, chair of Cornell's microbiology department. The bugs seem to be much more effective at dealing with contamination than the traditional pump-and-treat method, which pumps water to the surface in hopes of then removing pollutants. The process of using bacteria to decontaminate sites, called

bioremediation, has also been successfully tested in California, Delaware, Texas, and other states. So far, scientists see no ill effects from introducing the bacteria into groundwater.

straight to the source: New York Times, Jonathan Miller, 19 Oct 2003

<http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=1629>

ADVOCACY

THE CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2003- SUPPORT CREATION!

The McCain-Leiberman Climate Stewardship Act was brought to a vote in the U.S. Senate on October 30, 2003. The Act was drafted with four primary goals in mind: 1) To set mandatory greenhouse gas pollution reductions, 2) To make the U.S. economy more energy efficient, 3) To use free-market incentives to lower costs, grow the economy, and promote innovation, and 4) To break the logjam of U.S. inaction in counteracting global climate change. In a surprisingly strong vote, 43 senators voted for the McCain-Leiberman Climate Stewardship Act (S. 139). Despite the fact that in the end it was a loss, the 43-to-55 vote was much closer than expected. It also achieved a key goal: sending a clear message that the days of denial about global warming are over and that support is growing in Congress for sensible, effective solutions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution nationwide. It also established for the first time ever where each Senator stands on the issue of this potentially devastating environmental threat.

Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), who introduced the bill, have promised to bring the Climate Stewardship Act back to Congress for a new vote, so prompt action is needed to keep the momentum going. Both New Jersey Senators, Corzine and Lautenberg, voted in favor of the Act; however, other legislators in our region, such as Senators Santorum and Specter of Pennsylvania, voted against the Act and need to hear from their constituents. To find out about how each Senator voted and to learn which friends and relatives you might contact and encourage to voice their feelings, visit www.undoit.org

PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES FROM UNLAWFUL EXPLOITATION

From the ASPCA website...

"Your help is urgently needed to prevent the taking and killing of endangered and threatened species in the US and foreign countries. The Endangered Species Act is in place to protect endangered and threatened species from exploitation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is now proposing to adopt regulations that do the exact opposite of what is intended by the Act. Essentially, the proposed changes aim to protect threatened and endangered species by allowing for the taking and trading of those same species by anyone who contributes to the conservation of the species as a whole. In a nutshell, this change would allow hunters, circuses, and zoos to take and/or kill endangered and threatened species, as long as they contribute (often by paying a fee) to the conservation of that species in the country where the animal was taken. It would allow US Fish and Wildlife to grant permits for the importation and exportation of endangered animals and animal parts for commercial purposes, as long as it "enhances the survival of the species" through activities such as contributing to conservation efforts, and creating, restoring, or improving habitat.

The proposed change in regulations will open the door to illegal poaching and trading of endangered and threatened species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no jurisdiction to enforce any of the alleged requirements for contribution to conservation within foreign countries. In fact, the U.S. has no way of even ensuring that any conservation efforts are being made whatsoever.

Please write to the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife **by November 10th** and urge them to withdraw the proposed change to the Endangered Species Act regulations!" For a sample letter, please visit

<https://secure2.convio.net/aspcasite/Advocacy?id=482&page=UserAction&JServSessionIdr003=5xeyqc5461.app17a>