



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

Volume 8, Number 3, Issue 72: March 2008

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Better to Zap One TV Than To Curse the Din

by Marc Fisher

Washington Post, January 5, 2005
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First, the power: I sauntered into my branch of Hollywood Video, stepped up to the wall of 12 giant TV screens simultaneously pumping out a Bruce Willis action flick, aimed my trusty new weapon and — presto — the screens went dark. We customers could proceed with our browsing without all that hopped-up banging, shooting and thundering assaulting our brains.

I've spent the past few weeks wandering around with a simple little plastic device tucked in my pocket. It has changed my relationship with our media-saturated society. It has turned me into devilish jerk and conquering hero. It has enabled me to fight back against faceless institutions, including airports, video stores and theme restaurants.

It cost me \$19. My new toy, called TV-B-Gone, is essentially a universal remote control that does one thing only: It turns off TVs. I love the heck out of it.

My kids and I have a new mission in life. We have a ready response to companies and institutions that try to stun the unwashed public into submission by drugging us with video Valium. In airport waiting areas, where all people want is a chance to read or sleep, there is finally a way to silence CNN. In queues at the dry cleaner or in the jurors' waiting room, you can finally stop the blaring video messages. TV-B-Gone fits neatly on a key chain. Tuck it in your palm, aim, press and you're back in control of your life.

The power went to my head. At Dryclean Depot, I zapped two screens that were blasting loud promotional videos. It was here that I first discovered the most curious thing about my vigilante video-blanking: Folks who had been dully staring up at the screen simply looked *(Continued on page 12)*



Tracy Ridge National Recreation Area in Allegheny National Forest, PA had not been subjected to oil and gas drilling yet. Photo courtesy of ADP/LightHawk



Sackett oil and gas development in the Elk County section of Allegheny National Forest, PA. Photo courtesy of ADP/LightHawk

National Forest in Peril

by Ryan Talbott, Allegheny Defense Project

Forest Plan Appeal Decision Expected: Your Opinion Needed

The Forest Service is planning to issue its decision on nearly 80 appeals to the revised forest plan for the Allegheny National Forest by this spring. The Allegheny Defense Project, joined by Heartwood, Tioga Valley Snowmobile

Club, and five individuals appealed the revised forest plan because the Forest Service failed to consider oil and gas drilling a significant issue during the revision process and institute monitoring and restoration plans. The revised forest plan also lacked necessary protections for species with viability concerns, virtually ignored low-impact recreation, and continues the agency's long-standing bias

for promoting the naturally rare black cherry over native forest diversity.

The Forest Service's failure to consider oil and gas drilling a significant issue, however, is the most pressing concern. Since the forest plan revision process began in 2003, oil and gas drilling has increased over 1,000 percent, from 202 wells in 2003 to nearly 2,000 in 2007.

This increase in drilling

is having substantial effects on all other aspects of the Allegheny National Forest, including increased sedimentation and erosion, permanent removal of forested habitat for wells, roads, pipelines and facilities, and the loss of remote recreation opportunities. Indeed, despite the fact that the Forest Service claimed oil and gas drilling was not a significant revision issue, it stated in

(Continued on page 14)

First Rainforest Offset Project Validated in Indonesia

NEW YORK, New York (Rainforest Alliance Press Release via enn.com, February 7, 2008) — In an effort to mitigate the effects of global warming, the Rainforest Alliance — which has begun to promote forest conservation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions — completed its first validation of a project proposal in Indonesia to the standards of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA).

The Rainforest Alliance served as an independent third-party auditor to

evaluate a project that will use carbon finance to conserve forestland in one of the last unprotected tracts of tropical forest on the island of Sumatra. This validation means the project meets the environmental and social requirements of the CCBA, an international standard-setter for land-based projects that aim to curb climate change.

"This is an ambitious project to conserve vital forest landscape in Indonesia," said Tensie Whelan, president of the Rainforest Alliance.

"Financial incentives for reducing carbon emissions have great potential to encourage forest conservation, but it is important that such projects meet international standards and receive validation from independent third parties to protect biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods."

The project that was validated is being organized by the local government in the province of Aceh, the UK-based conservation organization Fauna & Flora International and the Australia *(Continued on page 11)*



About Us

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From the Editor



Dear Reader,

I am so happy to introduce two wonderful new "Order of the Earth" friends from Michigan — Zachary Chludil and Arikia Millikan. They have been friends for a while and both are excited about working with us. You will read all about Zachary on the next page, but Arikia's work is behind-the-scenes. She is a senior at Michigan State University majoring in Science Journalism. She works on the daily college paper. Arikia designed Zach's page and is in the process of helping "OE" look a bit more professional.

Zachary has already gotten us eight new subscribers and his enthusiasm for our project boosts me enormously. I hope we find Zacharys in every major city.

When Arikia designed Zach's page, she sent an email telling me about his photo. "I took it a few years ago in his AMAZING nature park of a back yard. Did you know that he's been planting trees since he was a little boy, landscaping his little piece of earth he calls home? It's amazing, you should see it," she said. I hope I do!

I was preparing a major report on carbon offsets for this issue, but only put in one item on the front page about offsets saving forests. Many people think offsets are a sham. In our next issue, I'll discuss them at length so you can learn more about them.

Speaking of learning, the Kilowatt Ours page reveals my ignorance of electric meters. I, too, am learning as we go along here.

If you are currently using paper napkins, we invite you now to switch to Jeannette's replacement, cotton napkins through our fundraiser on page 10.

We have our first annual advertiser, Yeumei Shon of Cottonfield USA, on page 13. You cannot imagine how happy I am!! We sold her beautiful clothing for years.

I nearly forgot our new Web site: theorderoftheearth.com. Check it out!

Fondly, Iona

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WISH LIST.....

- One month's printing of 1,500 copies.....\$570
- One month's postage.....\$75
- InDesign publishing software.....\$375
- Two new cartridges for small color printer.....\$40
- Six new cartridges for large color printer.....\$120
- One-half tank gas to pick up papers.....\$12
- One month's phone and Internet.....\$60
- 50 recycled corrugated boxes for bulk mailing.....\$45
- New office chair for publisher.....\$150



Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Grassroots Coalition. Just write "OE" on the memo line and send to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks!! (Photo at left is Iona's chair. I cut off one arm and the back fell off.)

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Let us know what **YOU** are doing to help create or restore ecological balance in your life and in the world. Email us at ionaconner@pa.net

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"The Order of the Earth News" is a Monthly Publication

Our Goal: To create a hugely successful newspaper that will report the story of people around the world working to protect their land bases, strengthen local communities and achieve a 90% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030.

Our Mission: To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate and creative.

The Dream: Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish again.

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**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:
15TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**



Our New Publishing Partner

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Introducing Zachary Chludil Poet, Leader, Horticulturist

by Iona

Zach flew into the orbit of "The Order of the Earth" after reading about us on Al Gore's Web site, where they had a link to an article written December 31st in "The Altoona Mirror" by Jessica Vanderkolk.

Here's how our friendship started:

(January 7) Hello Jessica [and Iona],

I read your article about Iona Conner via the Climate Crisis Web site. I liked it; you did a nice job. I think that the newspaper can be a huge success, as there are so many people in need of the facts. Once people are armed with the correct information, I really believe we can turn this thing around.

In the past few months I have done a lot of research and have become extremely passionate about the global warming issue, and I just wanted to congratulate all who are involved with the upcoming newspaper operation. It could not come soon enough! America needs this!

As an emerging leader, I couldn't help but be inspired by what you are on the verge of, and as a writer myself, I wanted to offer my abilities should the paper be able to use them. I have done some spot writing for newspapers and am a published poet. If the newspaper has any need for creative endeavors, including poetry/lyrics or essays, please let me know. I would be honored to be a part of the revolution that you people have invested in.

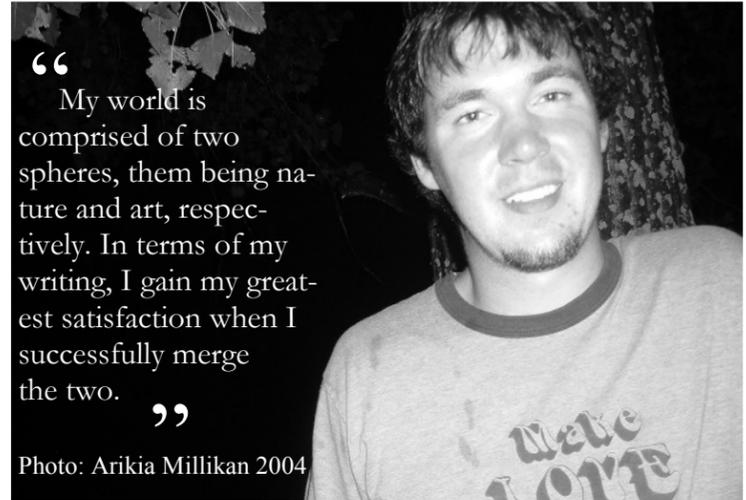
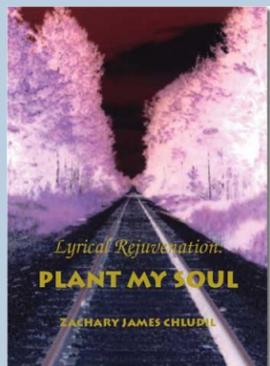
Again, thank you all for doing what you're doing, and if the newspaper is interested in sampling some of my work, just reply back and I would be glad to send you some of my best work on the subject.

Sincerely,
Zach Chludil

To read more poetry from Zach Chludil, order a copy of his book, "Plant My Soul: Lyrical Rejuvenation."

Please send a check for \$18 to
Iona Conner
HCR 83 Box 881
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255

All proceeds go to helping The Order of the Earth thrive in the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism and industry.



“ My world is comprised of two spheres, them being nature and art, respectively. In terms of my writing, I gain my greatest satisfaction when I successfully merge the two. ”

Photo: Arikia Millikan 2004

"Our Glass"

by Zach Chludil

Glacier-ice a' melt in Greenland's trap...
Science and politics navigate the map...
Tumultuous confusion abusing Mother's womb...
Sweet retreat of mercy is looking more like doom...
Fire is burning hot and fuel remains in stock!
Father time is laughing – no one reset the clock...

The time is running out now
Time is running out
Time is running
Time is now
Time-out?
Time
Me
I
We
Time
Time-out!
Time is now
Time is running
Time is running out!
Now the time is running out!

IPCC Report

Part III: Projected Climate Change and Its Impacts

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Annual Assessment Report was released November 17, 2007. "[This is] the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future," said Geoffrey Lean of "The Independent" on the report's release. Since ours is, above all, a global warming paper, we are presenting the report as a series. For better graphics, please go directly to www.ipcc.org.

Scenarios for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from 2000 to 2100 (in the absence of additional climate policies) and Projections of Surface Temperatures

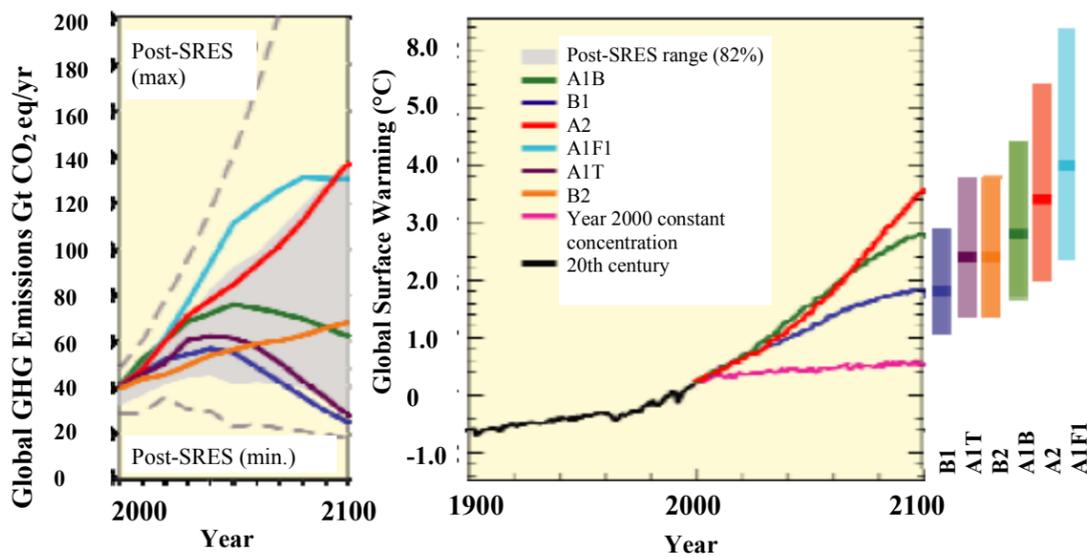


Figure SPM-5. Left Panel: Global GHG emissions (in CO₂-equivalents) in the absence of climate policies: six illustrative post-Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES) marker scenarios (colored lines) and the 80th percentile range of recent scenarios published since the SRES (gray shaded area). Dashed lines show the full range of post-SRES scenarios. The emissions cover CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, and F-gases. Right Panel: Solid lines are multi-model global averages of surface warming for scenarios A2, A1B and B1, shown as continuations of the 20th century simulations. These projections also take into account emissions of short-lived GHGs and aerosols. The pink line is not a scenario, but is for Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Models (AOGCM) simulations where atmospheric concentrations are held constant at year 2000 values. The bars at the right of the figure indicate the best estimate (solid line within each bar) and the *likely* range assessed for the six SRES marker scenarios at 2090-2099. All temperatures are relative to the period 1980-1999.

There is *high agreement and much evidence that with current climate change mitigation policies and related sustainable development practices, global GHG emissions will continue to grow over the next few decades.*

The IPCC Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES, 2000) projects an increase of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 25-90% (CO₂-eq or CO₂ equivalent) between 2000 and 2030 (Figure SPM.5), with fossil fuels maintaining their dominant position in the global energy mix to 2030 and beyond. More recent scenarios without additional emissions mitigation are comparable in range.^{8,9}

Continued GHG emissions at or above current rates would cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system during the 21st century that would *very likely* be larger than those observed during the 20th century (Table

SPM.1 (see page 16).

For the next two decades a warming of about 0.2°C [0.36°F] per decade is projected for a range of SRES emissions scenarios. Even if the concentrations of all greenhouse gases and aerosols had been kept constant at year 2000 levels, a further warming of about 0.1°C [0.18°F] per decade would be expected. Afterwards, temperature projections increasingly depend on specific emission scenarios.

FOOTNOTES:

8 For an explanation of SRES emission scenarios, see Box 'SRES scenarios' of this Synthesis Report. These scenarios do not include additional climate policy above current ones; more recent studies differ with respect to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol inclusion.

9 Emission pathways of mitigation scenarios are discussed in Section 5 of the report.

Because understanding of some important effects driving sea level rise is too limited, this report does not assess the likelihood, nor provide a best estimate or an upper bound for sea level rise. Table SPM.1 (page 16) shows model-based projections of global average sea level rise for 2090-2099.¹⁰ The projections do not include uncertainties in climate-carbon cycle feedbacks nor the full effects of changes in ice sheet flow, therefore the upper values of the ranges are not to be considered upper bounds for sea level rise. They include a contribution from increased Greenland and Antarctic ice flow at the rates observed for 1993-2003, but this could increase or decrease in the future.¹¹

There is now higher confidence than in the Third Annual Report (TAR) in projected patterns of warming and other regional-scale features, including changes in wind patterns, precipitation, and some aspects of extremes and sea ice.

Regional-scale changes include:

- Warming greatest over land and at most high northern latitudes and least over Southern Ocean and parts of the North Atlantic Ocean, continuing recent observed trends (Figure SPM.6, page 16) in contraction of snow cover area, increases in thaw depth over most permafrost regions, and decrease in sea ice extent; in some projections using SRES scenarios, Arctic late-summer sea ice disappears almost entirely by the latter part of the 21st century.
- *Very likely* increase in frequency of hot extremes, heat waves, and heavy precipitation;
- *Likely* increase in tropical cyclone intensity; less confidence in global decrease of tropical cyclone numbers;
- Pole-ward shift of extra-tropical storm tracks with consequent changes in wind, precipitation, and temperature patterns; and
- *Very likely* precipitation increases in high latitudes and *likely* decreases in most subtropical land regions, continuing observed recent trends. There is *high confidence* that by mid-century, annual river runoff and water availability are projected to increase at high latitudes (and in some tropical wet areas) and decrease in some dry regions in the mid-latitudes and tropics. There is also *high confidence* that many semi-arid areas (e.g. Mediterranean basin, western United States, southern Africa and northeast Brazil) will suffer a decrease in water resources due to climate change. (Continued on page 16)

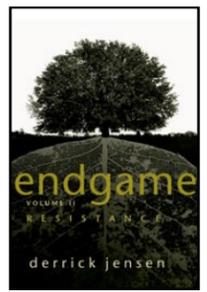
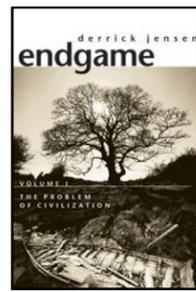


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Endgame by Derrick Jensen



Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book Endgame “the best work of nonfiction in 2006....Endgame is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes.”



As a longtime grassroots environmental activist, and as a creature living in the thrashing endgame of civilization, I am intimately acquainted with the landscape of loss, and have grown accustomed to carrying the daily weight of despair. I have walked clearcuts that wrap around mountains, drop into valleys, then climb ridges to fragment watershed after watershed, and I’ve sat silent near empty streams that two generations ago were “lashed into whiteness” by uncountable salmon coming home to spawn and die.

A few years ago I began to feel pretty apocalyptic. But I hesitated to use that word, in part because of those drawings I’ve seen of crazy penitents carrying “The End is Near” signs, and in part because of the power of the word itself. Apocalypse. I didn’t want to use it lightly.

But then a friend and fellow activist said, “What will it take for you to finally call it an apocalypse? The death of the salmon? Global warming? The ozone hole? The reduction of krill populations off Antarctica by 90 percent, the turning of the sea off San Diego into a dead zone, the same for the Gulf of Mexico? How about the end of the great coral reefs? The extirpation of two hundred species per day? Four hundred? Six hundred?

Give me a specific threshold, Derrick, a specific point at which you’ll finally use that word.”

Do you believe that our culture will undergo a voluntary transformation to a sane and sustainable way of living?

For the last several years I’ve taken to asking people this question, at talks and rallies, in libraries, on buses, in airplanes, at the grocery store, the hardware store. Everywhere. The answers range from emphatic *nos* to laughter.

No one answers in the affirmative.

One fellow at one talk did raise his hand, and when everyone looked at him, he dropped his hand, then said, sheepishly, “Oh, voluntary? No, of course not.”

My next question: how will this understanding — that this culture will not voluntarily stop destroying the natural world, eliminating indigenous cultures, exploiting the poor, and killing those who resist — shift our strategy and tactics? The answer? Nobody knows, because we never talk about it: we’re too busy pretending the culture will undergo a magical transformation.

This book is about that shift in strategy, and in tactics.

I just got home from talking to a new friend, another longtime activist. She told me of a campaign she participated in a few years ago to try to stop the government and transnational timber corporations from spraying Agent Orange, a potent defoliant and teratogen, in the forests of Oregon.

Whenever activists learned a hillside was going to be sprayed, they assembled there, hoping their presence would stop the poisoning. But each time, like clockwork, helicopters appeared, and each time, like clockwork, helicopters dumped loads of Agent Orange onto the hillside and onto protesting activists.

The campaign did not succeed.

“But,” she said to me, “I’ll tell you what did. A bunch of Vietnam vets lived in those hills, and they sent messages to the Bureau of Land Management and to Weyerhaeuser, Boise Cascade, and the other timber companies saying, ‘We know the names of your helicopter pilots, and we know their addresses.’”

I waited for her to finish.

“You know what happened next?” she asked.

“I think I do,” I responded.

“Exactly,” she said. “The spraying stopped.”

Reprinted with permission from the author.

Civilization & Resistance

Workshop: March 7-9

Derrick Jensen and

Ed Schreiber

Rowe Center, Massachusetts

“What is most important to me is to live in a world that is not being murdered.”

The workshop will address two themes: The Problem of Civilization and Resistance. Derrick will offer a series of provocative premises, including “Civilization is killing the planet” and “Love does not imply pacifism.”

The theme of resistance will catapult the discussion into a passionate call for action.

“What I really want is for people to think for themselves, feel for themselves, ask the Earth where they live, ‘What must we do?’ and to act on the answers that emerge.” (Derrick)

derrickjensen.org
www.rowecenter.org

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Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us, Part III: Your Electric Meter

[Ed.: This program was developed by Jeff Barrie and his sister, Jennifer Barrie, in Nashville, Tennessee. It will be a series as I go through the lessons myself. The DVD is wonderful. It won "Best Environmental Film" at the 2007 Southern Appalachia International Film Festival.]

Overview

(all information and work sheets available at www.KilowattOurs.org)

This activity teaches students to read their electric meters, to understand how electricity is measured, and to determine the cost of measured electricity. Students monitor their electric meters at home to begin to develop an awareness of the amount of electricity consumed.

Objectives

1. To learn to read an electric meter;
2. To monitor an electric meter at home for a seven-day period;
3. To increase awareness of energy consumption; and
4. To learn to read an electric bill and understand the cost of measured electricity.

Time

Preparation: 1 hour (including viewing of 38-minute version of *Kilowatt Ours*)
Activity: 1 hour

Materials

Kilowatt Ours DVD
Pre-viewing Activity 2 Student Pages (pages 9-11)
Electric bills
Calculator
Access to electric meters

Preparation

- Have students complete Pre-viewing Activity 1 if they have not already done so.
- Show *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America* to your students.
- Ask students to locate their electric meters at home and to bring an electric bill from home. If they are unable to bring a bill, you

may bring examples of bills from your residence, with your personal information blacked out.

- Check on access to the school meters for students who may be unable to access their electric meters at home.

Procedure

1. Read through the activity with your students.
2. Have students complete the Practice Reading Your Electric Meter sheet. Make sure students understand the chart and the calculations.
3. Remind your students to read their meters every day at the same time and record the readings in the chart. They should also calculate the kWh used and cost for each day. On the second day, check in with them to answer their questions and address any obstacles.
4. After seven days, the students total the kWh used and cost for one week, and then one month, of electricity consumption. They will compare their calculations with their actual monthly bill.
5. Lead a discussion using the follow-up questions. Students may also write their responses.
6. Students may also complete the activity using their natural gas meters or the meters at school. Note that natural gas meters only have four dials!

Follow-up Discussion Questions

1. Did you notice any difference in electricity use on particular days?
2. How did your calculations compare with your electric bill? Try to explain any differences.
3. What did you find interesting about monitoring your electric meter? Did you make any other observations during monitoring?

4. What did you learn about energy consumption?
5. What do you think you can do now?

This activity was adapted from the *NEED Project* and *Project Learning Tree*.

(right) Jennifer Barrie doing a Kilowatt Ours program. Photo supplied by Jennifer. jen@kilowattours.org



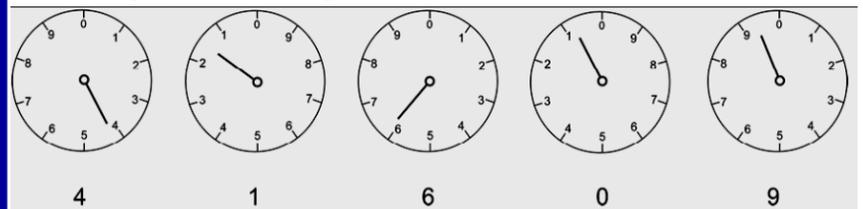
Iona's Results

I was so confused that I had to read my meter for three weeks instead of one. I forgot that 0 = 10 so I should have written "1s" instead of "0s" and I didn't notice that the middle two meters ran backwards. This is really embarrassing for such a long-time activist! Twice my beginning numbers were greater than my second day's reading. It wasn't until the third go-around that I notice a digital meter underneath the dials, so I could have done this so much easier had I noticed it the first day. I finally emailed Jennifer yesterday asking if our meter could be broken.

Here are the results for the second week, when I thought I had it right: We used 585 Kilowatts from February 5th to 12th, or 2,340 per month. It was very cold that week with an average morning temperature of 29°. 2,340 Kilowatts at \$.09 per Kilowatt, comes to \$210.60.

Our home is all electric and we even have a semi-passive solar living room window facing south which enables us to turn the house heat off on sunny days. If we are working at home in our upstairs and basement offices, we use space heaters when necessary. Since I haven't really studied our energy use before, I feel that now we at least have a baseline to work with. And I have a lot more to learn. I hope you do better than I did!

An electric meter consists of five round dials which are numbered 0 to 9. Read the dials from left to right. If the dial points directly to a number, record that number. If it lies between two numbers, always record the smaller number. If the pointer is between 9 and 0, record 9, because 0 represents 10. If the pointer is between 0 and 1, record 0, because 0 represents 0. For example, the reading from the dials below is: 41609.





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Wilson College Awakened to a Growing Climate Crisis

by Kimberly Maske-Mertz

On January 29th, environmental speaker Lance Simmens treated Wilson College and the Chambersburg community to a live presentation in Thompson Alumni Chapel on the subject of global warming.

The very moving and thought-provoking presentation, attended by a full audience of students, faculty, and various Chambersburg city council members, is part of a nationwide initiative spearheaded by former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Al Gore's "The Climate Project."

Wilson College President Lorna Edmundson and Chambersburg Councilman Bill McLaughlin introduced Simmens, who also acts as a special assistant to Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell on environmental policy.

Simmens focused on irrefutable scientific evidence supporting global warming as fact rather than theory, including unsettling statistics and shocking images of how the Earth is hurtling into a global climate crisis.

With the highest recorded species extinction rate and a rising global population estimated to reach 9.1 billion by the year 2050, Simmens says that the time to act is now.

"It is not a political issue," Simmens said. "It's a

moral issue because it is morally indefensible for any generation to consider leaving this Earth in worse shape than they found it."

The rate of climate change is accelerating at an alarming pace, faster than scientists had estimated just 10 years ago. The past 15 years have seen ten of the hottest years on record, with 2006 topping the list. In addition, arctic ice is melting at an exponential rate. Since the collapse of the Larsen B Ice Shelf in 2002, arctic ice has continued to diminish and temperatures have been on the rise.

Scientists estimate that, if this high rate of ice melt continues, the world could possibly see its oceans rise by 20 feet. This would result in the flooding of coastal areas around the globe, causing a mass-displacement of people in a matter of years. Also of concern are more frequent catastrophic storms, species migration and extinction, and the introduction of invasive plant species and infectious microbes.

Even more disturbing is that the United States, which claims only 4 percent of the world population, is responsible for 30 percent of the greenhouse gases attributed to global warming. The United States is currently the only nation in the world that has not

ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which was set in place by the United Nations in 1992 to significantly reduce the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

But Simmens' message is one of hope. Everyday citizens can decrease the amount of CO₂ emissions by taking simple steps to lessen the need for fossil fuels, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), purchasing hybrid or electric cars, using renewable or solar energy in their homes, and reducing the number of non-recyclable and non-renewable materials they use.

"It's not a question of can we," Simmens said. "But will we?"

The Climate Project was formed in June 2006 as a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to increasing public awareness regarding global warming and its impending consequences. For more information, visit <http://www.theclimateproject.org>. Kimberly Maske-Mertz is a stay-at-home mother and Editor-in-Chief of the Wilson College "Billboard," currently studying English/Mass Communications. She lives in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. This article first appeared in the Wilson College "Billboard."

Focus the Nation Event at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

The photos below were taken by Iona on January 31 — the day of the largest, nationwide "teach-in" in history with over 1,750 colleges, universities and high schools participating to learn more about global warming and to push legislators to take action before it's too late.



Quin Biros (sophomore from Newtown, PA), Kalyn Campbell (sophomore from Vermont) and Jensen Gelfond (senior from North Carolina) live in the Center for Sustainable Living (the Treehouse). They were reading "The Order of the Earth News" as this photo was snapped.



Zachary Frankel (sophomore from Philadelphia) stands by the display of local, organic food in the cafeteria. The cheeses and apple butter were from Otterbein Acres (a local dairy farm) in Newburg, PA. Obviously the students enjoyed the samples because they were mostly gone by lunchtime.



This poster is near the food line in the Dickinson cafeteria. It reads: "Dickinson College has its own vegetable farm where students help grow all-natural produce for the College Dining Hall. Vegetables harvested at the farm travel just 6 miles to campus."



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To Mexico With My Church: Cathedrals to Corals

by Pyong Roh

Mexico is a very interesting country. Before we left for Mexico, I studied a little bit about Mexico but an old saying is right: "Seeing is believing." In the airplane I continued reading 2012 by Daniel Pinchbeck.

Mexico is a big country, nine times larger than our Korean peninsula (America is much larger and is fifty times larger than the Korean peninsula). The population of Mexico is 120 million and 20 million of them live in Mexico City. Seventy percent of the population are mixed blooded, 14 percent natives, 10 percent Spanish and 6 percent others. According to statistics, about 96 percent are Catholic. The Spanish came to Mexico in 1519 and they conquered the Aztec's kingdom and destroyed most of their pyramids and temples.

We visited Guadalupe Cathedral in the northern part of the city. The Spanish started to build the cathedral in 1521 and finished it in 1531. It is a huge and famous cathedral and the late Pope Paul visited this place four times. Many people come here for Masses. Even on Monday it was hustle and bustle like a market place. It was clear and I could see Mexico City from the hill. Mexico City is located in a valley and smog stays in the city area. But alas, I saw smog rings along the mountain ranges. The government plants many trees to reduce air pollution but it does not work, I think because there are so many cars.

It is said that since the cathedral was built many natives became Catholic. Maybe the Spanish used religion as a political tool to control the people. I think many native Indios died to build this huge cathedral. Unfortunately the buildings are sinking because of soft foundations and earthquakes.

The next day we moved to Tlaxcala to visit San Miguel Cathedral. Tlaxcala is about 62 miles southeast of Mexico City. There are many mountains in between but most of them are bare. There are small farms and not many plants in the fields, maybe be-

cause of the dry season. We passed villages where the houses were small and shabby. Farmers seemed to be poor. I noticed black spots in the fields. The farmers burned grasses and black ashes are left. Tlaxcala is where Cortes, the Spanish conqueror, came after he and his troops landed at Vera Cruz. The Tlaxcala king and his soldiers tried to defend their kingdom but their weapons were only spears and arrows and the invaders were armed with rifles and canons. Cortes had only 508 soldiers and eight horses but their weapons were much superior to their opponents'. Human beings are cruel and greedy and they try to control the poor and the weak.

San Miguel Cathedral is located on a hill and is very grand. There are many vendors in front of the cathedral selling local foods and Catholic church souvenirs. I could see the villages from the hill. People are very friendly and there are many small shops for tourists.

We visited Ocotan Cathedral. It is a beautiful church built by the Spanish. There is a well of miracle water. Many visitors try to drink the water because they believe it is good for their health. The well is located at the foot of a hill. I tried to get down to the well for exercise. My legs worked hard for me. There were only small farms and the houses are in poor shape. I passed by a butcher shop where they hung meat in ambient air. I wondered whether it was safe or not. I visited a vegetable store and paid 50 cents for a handful of bananas. Fruits and vegetables were very cheap and delicious because they were produced locally.

On the third day, we went to Main Cathedral in the center of Mexico City. There is a huge plaza in front of the cathedral. Security is very tight The building is also sinking because of its soft foundation. Originally the capital

of the Aztec kingdom was located in an island of a lake. It was a kind of moat to protect the capital. After the Spanish came to this area they buried the lakes and built Mexico City. The name of Mexico came from Mexica, a name of a tribe of Indians who lived in Arizona. The Spanish built a cathedral on pyramids and temples. Because the cathedrals are sinking, the government tries to stop them from sinking. Workers were digging and

There are many trees and plants in laguna grande. I wonder if it is evolution, or adaptation, or a miracle of God how they live in salty water.

found the lost pyramids. The entrance to the pyramids was covered by heavy glass.

We flew from Mexico City to Cancun in the Yucatan peninsula; it is famous for its beaches. It is like a rectangle and inside the rectangle is a *laguna grande*. We took a speed boat to see the jungle. Three people were riding the boat including the driver. He drove so fast and the boat was hitting the peaks of the waves. Young Suk, my wife, was crying and screaming she was so scared. So was I.

There are many trees and plants in *laguna grande*. I wonder if it is evolution, or adaptation, or a miracle of God how they live in salty water.

I dove into the ocean and saw corals in the bottom of the sea and fishes passing by without fear. What a wonderland! We could not dive down to the bottom of the sea and we could not touch the corals. We used small pipes to breathe. The sea was not so deep and I could see that the corals were grayish white. I do not know whether they were bleached by warm water.

On the last day, we went to Chichen Itza which is northwest of Cancun. I was so excited to see the Mayan civilization. The pyramid has 90 steps each side of four. And the slope is 45 degrees. On top of the pyramid there are four steps, and there is the last top. All together there are 365 steps. In other words, there are

365 days a year. Their calendar had 18 months and each month had 20 days. There is a ball court where they played ball games. The walls are synchronized. When we clapped hands, the sound came back. There are a thousand columns but the roofs are gone. Archeologists found this ruins in a jungle. This civilization collapsed but we do not know why.

The Spaniards came for Gold. Still clad in armor in spite of the scorching tropical sun, they struggled through swamps and jungles and climbed mountains in pursuit of the metal that would make them rich. For Gold they did battle with the Indians who outnumbered them by 100 to 1. And for Gold they slaughtered each other.

To the Indians, the Spaniards were madmen, to be regarded not only with hatred but with loathing. In Panama in 1514, the Indians captured several adventurers attached to the command of Pedro Arias de Avila. Arias' lust for Gold and his roughness with the Indians were monstrous even to his fellow Spaniards; they called him "Pedraias the Cruel." The Indians poured molten gold down the captives' throats, crying as they did so: "Eat! Eat Gold, Christians! Take your fill of Gold!"

It has been said that man cannot worship both God and the Golden calf. The Spanish did. They were not hypocrites: They were simply religious fanatics who hated paganism as much as they loved Gold. They converted Indians to Christianity.



Pyong Roh is a nature-loving cosmopolitan man and a citizen of the Universe who tries to obey the law of nature.



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International Impeachment Movement: war-is-illegal.org



Canada and Asylum for U.S. War Resisters

(The Idaho Observer January 21, 2008) — On Thursday December 6, the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration adopted a motion that is a step forward for U.S. war resisters seeking asylum in Canada.

In a vote of 7 to 4, committee members passed a motion recommending that the government immediately implement a program to allow war resisters and their families to stay in Canada. It also calls for an immediate halt to deportation proceedings in these cases.

The measure is supported by a majority of Canadians and would be a major slap in the Bush administration face from our northern neighbor.

www.resisters.ca

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Against a background of escalating ecological crises, and the fact that large parts of the world's population are being exposed to extreme poverty, inhuman working conditions and increasing social tensions, the annual global military expenditure has risen to more than 1,000 billion dollars. The military-industrial complex of just a few G8 countries is responsible for the overwhelming part of this spending, causing incalculable social and ecological consequences.

Unequal distribution of global resources, increasingly controlled by large multinational companies, global debt policy and unfair international trading practices ultimately could not be maintained without military security. In many countries the military is used to repress critical opposition.

The terror attacks of September 11, 2001 are increasingly used to justify systematic surveillance and the dismantling of constitutional rights. Even European countries have helped to establish Guantanamo-like secret prisons, where torture in all probability takes place.

Iraq was attacked based on falsified evidence causing the death of hundreds of thousands of people, widespread destruction, destabilization and contamination with cancer-causing depleted uranium munitions. Now plans to attack Iran and the possibility of a new World War have been made public, meeting resistance even from moderate elements within the military due to the unforeseeable consequences.

Faced with the choice between a war, that according to some western leaders, will last for many years or a possible peaceful transformation we support the following demands:

1. Impeachment proceedings against U.S. President Bush and U.S. Vice President Cheney before the 2008 election, a demand raised in solidarity with large parts of the U.S. public and some members of the U.S. Congress. Furthermore, prosecution by the International Court of Justice of George W. Bush, Richard B. Cheney and other officials from various countries for waging wars of aggression contrary to international law and committing crimes against humanity.

2. International investigation of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. They are used as the central justification for the "War on Terror," but well-documented evidence shows that the official explanation of 9/11 cannot be correct. International personalities in science, politics, and culture, including high-ranking military veterans, have called for a new investigation.

3. Immediate military withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, and no attack against Iran. International prohibition of war as a means of conflict resolution. Military intervention and export of weapons should be criminalized. In a civilized society torture must be prohibited in any form.

4. Conversion of military industries to civilian purposes and the development of ecological and sustainable energy resources. According to the UN environmental agency, a fraction of the annual global defense expenditure could ensure that all humans have access to clean water and a basic supply of food and healthcare.

This statement is based on a commitment to non-violence and tolerance of all ethnic groups and religions.

Two devastating World Wars and historical catastrophes like the Nazi Holocaust must always remind us of the worst consequences of nationalism, racism and incitement to war.

Sign this statement on the Web and pass it on. It is up to us.

[Ed.: I signed this and was thrilled to see an international movement building to oust the men who are ruining our country.]

Impeachment Movement in the U.S.

Representative Dennis Kucinich introduced HRES 333 IH way back on April 24, 2007 to "Impeach Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors." Now Representative Robert Wexler (D-FL) is calling for hearings stating, "The charges are too serious to ignore. There is credible evidence that the Vice President abused the power of his office, and not only brought us into an unnecessary war but violated the civil liberties and privacy of American citizens. It is the constitutional duty of Congress to hold impeachment hearings. No one should be immune from accountability and the rule of law. It is time to defend the Constitution and our rights as a co-equal branch of government." Wexler is gathering signatures in support of impeachment hearings on his Web site: www.wexlerwantshearings.com.

Fossil Fools Day

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Protest on April 1 Fossil Fools Day



On April 1, 2008 young people from around the world are rising up to show the world that we refuse to fool around with climate change and our future. Led by the Energy Action Coalition, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, and Rising Tide, on April 1 we will take collective action to turn the tide away from fossil fuel dependence and towards a clean and just energy revolution. On this historic day of action we will tear down the dirty energy that stands in our way, while building the better world we need

We Are Fed Up

We have had enough of fossil fuel tomfoolery — empty promises and lackluster leadership from our governments and dirty energy companies. We have had enough of coal companies that destroy communities, poison our air, and spew global warming pollution. We are sick of oil and car companies keeping us dangerously addicted to oil. We know that tar sands development in Canada must be stopped. And we will kick every politician out of office who refuses to show bold, political leadership in fighting climate change. Join us in making April 1 a day the fossil fuel industry never forgets! Sign-up for an action in your community today.

We Are Hopeful

Climate change is our generation's biggest challenge, but also our biggest opportunity. We can make sure that as we move away from dangerous fossil fuels we are building not only a cleaner, but also a more just future. We will help ensure that the clean energy revolution leaves no one behind and creates hundreds of thousands of new, green jobs. Join us in building a more just future. Plan an action to spur green job creation in your community today.

We Are Powerful

Together we can build a more just and sustainable future. We are calling on communities across Canada and the U.S. to show the fossil fuel industry and bad politicians that we mean business by organizing a Fossil Fools Day action today. Ideas include, but are by no means limited to: rallies at gas stations or representatives' offices, Critical Mass bike rides, office occupations, Billionaire's for Tar Sands/Coal demonstrations, Spank the Bank visits, high-powered projections of solutions on the side of dirty energy factories, Board of Trustees meeting take-overs, hold a clean energy camp at a dirty energy site, do solar installations, make spoof videos and websites, offer alternative, clean energy bus rides, do some coal mining of your own at a coal company's headquarters...

This April 1st join with people around the world to end the fossil fuel age and stand up for a new energy future. Get more information by visiting the website now:

<http://fossilfools08.org>

See you in the streets!

The Energy Action Team:
Arthur, Kassie, Jessy, Brianna, Aleli,
Ragani and Whit

Energy Action Coalition is a youth-led coalition of more than 40 organizations working together to fight for a clean, just and renewable energy future. Our coalition partners are: Americans for Informed Democracy, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Black Mesa Water Coalition, California Student Sustainability Coalition, CALPIRG, Campus Progress, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Clean Air Cool Planet, Climate Crisis Coalition, ConnPIRG, CoPIRG, Earth Day Network, Energy Justice Network, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, Global Exchange, Greenpeace Student

Network, Indigenous Environmental Network, Kids Against Pollution, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Project Democracy, MassPIRG, National Association of Environmental Law Societies, National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program, NJPIRG, Rainforest Action Network, Restoring Eden, Sierra Student Coalition, Sierra Youth Coalition, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Students United for a Responsible Global Environment, Sustainable Endowments Institute, WashPIRG, WisPIRG, Young People For [For what? Ed.: Got no reply] and Youth Environmental Network.

No Frills & Fancy is a new, cooperatively owned and run business that takes scrap fabrics and transforms them into usable products. One of these is cloth napkins. They are 11" x 11" lightweight, no-iron, cotton fabric and cost \$.50 each plus shipping. By using cloth napkins instead of paper, **you help save trees.**

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View my other products at: www.nofrillsfancy.com

Thank You!

Jeannette Bartelt, Frederick, Maryland



Natural, White, Purple, Black, Gray, Green or Brown

As a fundraiser for "The Order of the Earth," you may order napkins directly through Iona.



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Your Time Is Up, Mr. President—The National Guard Is Coming Home

by Karen Dolan and Ben Manski

MONTPELIER, Vermont (with permission from altnet.org, February 5, 2008) — Guess what, Mr. President? Your authority to keep state National Guard troops in Iraq has expired. So says a new bill introduced this week to the Vermont Legislature by Representative Michael Fisher and Senator Peter Shumlin. It is supported by 30 of their colleagues.

"It is clear that the mission that Congress authorized no longer exists," said Fisher. "Unless Congress grants a new authorization, the Vermont Guard should revert back to state control."

The Vermont bill states:

The Authorization for the Use of Military Force of October 16th, 2002, having expired, the General Assembly declares that all members of the Vermont National Guard should be promptly and expeditiously withdrawn from Iraq, subject only to the conditions of time and manner specifically required to assure their safety and well-being during removal operations The General Assembly calls on the Governor of Vermont to take prompt steps as the Commander-in-Chief of the Vermont National Guard to effectuate these purposes.

The Guard are the mainstay of America's national defense, and as with other American institutions, the Guard's duties are distributed be-

tween the states and the federal government. Unless called into national service, each unit and each individual member of the Guard remains in the service of their respective states.

Five years ago, George Bush called the Guard into national service pursuant to the 2002 Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) against Iraq. The AUMF, passed by Congress in its rush to war, established a limited mission: First, the removal of Saddam Hussein from power; Second, enforcement of preceding United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the elimination of alleged Iraqi WMDs and ballistic missiles. The Vermont bill recognizes that those two mission objectives are complete and that the national service of the Vermont Guard is over; the bill recalls the Guard to state control.

And Vermont is not alone. State legislators in **Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island** plan to sponsor similar legislation. And legislators in several other states, including **Maryland, Maine and Wisconsin**, have openly declared that they are examining the issue and considering following suit.

This latest chapter in *Democracy v. Empire* illustrates one of the most significant and perhaps most underreported aspects of the tragedy which is the occupation of Iraq: the wisdom of the American people. For a public

that has all but given up hope for congressional action to end the war, this new state-based legal approach takes advantage of a surge of another kind

In the run-up to the ill-fated U.S. invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, nearly 200 municipalities passed symbolic resolutions stating all of the reasons that the United States should not invade: the war would be too costly; it was the wrong priority for federal funds that could be better spent in our own crumbling communities; there was no evidence of an imminent threat from Iraq; there was insufficient evidence of WMDs; U.N. weapons inspectors needed time to finish doing their job; hope lay with multilateralism, not unilateralism; and above all, the potential was great for devastating and unnecessary loss of life on all sides.

Unfortunately, the wisdom from Main Street U.S.A. proved vastly better than the "intelligence" propagated by 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In these last five years of occupation, we have seen estimates of the war cost rise to between \$500 billion and \$3.5 trillion, depending on the source. Four thousand U.S. soldiers and over half a million innocent Iraqi civilians — men, women and children — have lost their lives; hundreds of thousands of others have been seriously wounded. Iraq no longer exists as an independent or intact nation.

In the face of the horrific war toll, world and domestic public opinion have turned sharply against both the foolish presidency and the cowardly Congress. Over 300 cities, towns, counties and states have expressed opposition to continuing the war. Fully half of the U.S. population either affirmatively voted in popular referenda for withdrawal from Iraq, or are represented by elected city councils, town boards or state legislatures that voted for withdrawal. The wisdom of the American people continues unabated.

Now, with the Vermont legislation, the public wisdom may become a reality. Those same legislators who passed anti-war resolutions can now cast votes recalling the Guard from Iraq. Vermont has, once again, led the way. And many other states have been quick to follow.

Mr. President, your time is up. Your authority is over. The people have said their piece. Now they are beginning to bring the women and men of the National Guard home.

Karen Dolan is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., and a contributor to "Foreign Policy In Focus." Ben Manski is a Wisconsin attorney and the executive director of the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution.



Offsets in Indonesia

(Continued from page 1)

-based ecosystem services company Carbon Conservation Ltd.

Project organizers estimate they will be able to reduce deforestation on 1.85 million acres of land by 85 percent over 30 years and thereby avoid the emission of more than 3.3 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. This will be accomplished largely by transforming logging concessions into conservation areas and commu-

nity forestry zones where limited harvesting is allowed.

Local residents will benefit by receiving financial incentives to protect their resources and develop alternative livelihoods such as sustainable small-scale forestry operations and agroforests using income from carbon sales. In addition, the project will support increased forest monitoring, provide funding to civil society organizations to monitor project activities, and support the restoration and reforestation of mangroves, fruit tree gardens,

coffee plantations and woodlots

Indonesia has the highest deforestation rates in the world, losing some 4.6 million acres of forest annually, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The province of Aceh is home to a wealth of biodiversity, including the Sumatran elephant, tiger, rhinoceros and orangutan; more than 300 species of birds; and dozens of species of reptiles and amphibians

Contact Gretchen Ruethling at Rainforest Alliance, 646-452-1939.

Iona's Corner

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How On Earth Did I Become a Radical Environmentalist Grandmother?

Continuation of a book by Iona, Part 3



My Father

I am my father's daughter. So is my sister.

Dad was a quiet genius with a sense of humor who regaled us with puns our whole life. He was a gentleman. He was known for his intelligence and integrity wherever he went right up to the end. Dad was raised primarily by my Quaker grandmother, but somewhere along the line he turned into a major, behind-the-scenes player for the military. Among other things, he was a lawyer for the Armed Services Committee and worked energetically for the nuclear navy and submarines. He was an expert in and a strong supporter of nuclear power and even crafted the law of the land for peaceful uses of atomic energy back in 1954.

The one trait of his which I am most pleased to share was attributed to him at his retirement party on Capitol Hill. "George never took a free lunch." Now, if you look at the world of politics, no matter which side you are on, you must hold in high regard someone for whom that was true after many, many years of government service. My version of his obituary started off describing him as a man who lived for his country.

Even though our father left our mother when we were four and five and there was a great deal of pain growing up when my parents went to court and we had to keep secrets from one home to the other, I always felt that he loved us both. I seemed to know at that tender age that the divorce was about their relationship and not ours. Every one of our many, many visits to Dad and his new wife started with a huge bear hug. Though he was a man of few words, his hugs and glowing happiness to see us showed his love. He did everything he could for us through the years.

Dad's father was the libel lawyer for *The New York Times* and his grandfather was once acting publisher for *The Times* and president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

I think that if I had been a boy, I would have had an early start in either lawyering or newspapering. So be it; I'm starting now.

The Order of the Earth Column: Putting Earth's Needs Ahead of Our Own Napkins, Hankies and Rags

by Iona

Now that we're living in a place where trees are seen as dollar signs, my commitment to protecting trees in any and all forms has sky-rocketed.

One way we can begin such a climate-saving activity (since trees absorb carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas) is to stop using paper products. "STOP," I said. Stop buying them. Today!

During the past 20 years I've acquired by various methods a superb collection of cloth napkins, hankies and rags. Cotton is by far the best thing to use since it absorbs whatever it is you're dealing with (greasy hands, snot or spills). I have kept napkins and hankies for years and supplemented my supply from yard sales and flea markets when old ones got too shabby, although I'm not opposed to "shabby." Shabby is great if we're trying to save resources. This is a good time to share a shabby motto with you:

**Use it up,
wear it out,
make it do
or do without!**

Back to saving trees, on page 10 you'll see an ad for a new business, No Frills Fancy. Our friend, Jeannette, is starting a fabric-scrappy recycling business. She is a terrific stitcher who helped us years ago as we were developing the organic cotton, non-sweatshop, worker-owned cooperative clothing business. We are starting a napkin fundraiser to help wean people from paper napkins; see her ad.

While we were in the clothing phase of our non-profit work, we also met Yeumei Shon who owns and runs Cottonfield USA in Massachusetts. We got beautiful organic cotton clothing from her. I was going to say earlier that for our rags, we use John's old t-shirts and even my worn out undies. Where does our nice cotton underwear come from? Yeumei's business (see her ad on page 13). Cottonfield's other clothes are very stylish and well-made.

I haven't bought a single paper napkin, paper towel or box of tissues in about 20 years. Imagine the money we've saved—and, more important, the trees! It's important to remember that since we're trying to cut down on our electricity use, we must not iron napkins or hankies. Just toss them in the wash and hang them up to dry — then use.

Please join me in starting a collection of your own cloth napkins, hankies and rags.

Can I sell you some rags? (joke)



Better to Zap One TV

(Continued from page 1)

down again when it went blank. No anger, no questions. Just, Okay, that's over, now on with life's live show.

I walked through the *Post* newsroom, zapping 14 TV screens that provide a video news backdrop to our work. Not a soul noticed.

At the food court during the auto show at the Washington Convention Center, four guys were watching CNN Headline News when my kids and I sat down with our sandwiches. We zapped the TVs, and the guys immediately turned their heads from the screen to each other and commenced a conversation. A victory for social discourse!

On the other hand, when I dared to zap a couple of screens at the ESPN Zone — yes, I know, this was an irresponsible risk of life and limb — I did hear a couple of miffed 'heys.' But it had to be done — all in the interest of social science, of course.

But for that gratuitous bit of obnoxious behavior, my zappings have been undertaken for the good of mankind, as quiet revenge against the media machine and those who would steal away a small piece of our humanity by putting us into couch-potato mode in public places.

The TV-B-Gone was invented by an engineer from San Francisco who grew up addicted to Mary Tyler Moore reruns. Mitch Altman, now 47, had dozens of TVs in his house. He'd take them apart to figure out the electronics. But as you'd expect in a tale of extremes, he grew so sick of TV that he turned against it, and TV-B-Gone was born.

His tool has taken off. Yes, this social leveling device eventually will result in violence. A sports-widowed wife will zap the wrong Monday Night game at the wrong moment. A wiseacre will end the entertainment at a sports bar, triggering the end of his own existence. But used judiciously, TV-B-Gone is the most stirring form of citizen empowerment since universal suffrage.

Last stop: The waiting room at Children's Hospital. Nobody was watching the blaring TV; its incessant yammering had forced waiting parents to the far corners of the room. I tried to point my vigilante device without being noticed. Suddenly, the cacophony ceased. The children grew quieter, the parents relaxed. Mission accomplished.

But I had been caught. A mom slowly turned toward me. She made the connection between the blissful silence and the odd gadget in my hand. Uh-oh, I thought, I have stolen her distraction, her video solace. I'm in for it. But no: She pointed at my cherished weapon for the enforcement of civilized life and smiled at me in grateful, silent relief.

Hail the TV-B-Gone!

(Just be careful where you use it.)



Letters to the Editor

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Dear Iona,

What a wonderful beginning for 2008! We just returned from a week on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, a very remote area. Just getting there was a real adventure! We had to fly into San Jose, transfer to a small plane (luggage limit 25 lbs!). We were met by a jeep for a two-hour drive up into the rainforest. I lost count of the times we forded streams and rivers (never make it in the rainy season!)

At the end of the track (literally) was the magical "Luna Lodge" — peaceful, simple luxury — wonderful food (healthy, fresh, organic) and coffee to die for. Our bungalow was on a steep forested mountainside overlooking the Pacific.

We were living amidst all kinds of exotic creatures — birds, monkeys, frogs, butterflies, etc! Sounds and sights we didn't know existed, and will never forget.

But it is SO true about getting old not being for sissies! This was a time of discovering new limits — just can't do what I used to be able to!

Happily the porch to our hut put us right in the middle of it all, the hiking and kayaking were just body-testing extras. Lou with his new "bionic" hip did great, but I am dealing with stiffness and balance issues that can be daunting — yuk!

Our week seemed almost timeless, until Friday, our last full day, which turned out to be quite extraordinary. It seems that Costa Rica's president, Oscar Arias had been invited to visit the Osa. Despite his advocacy for the area, he'd never spent even a night in its rainforest. Friday was the day he arrived as a guest of the Luna Lodge!

We only pray that he will continue his advocacy for Costa Rica's protection of this magnificently biodiverse area. It is truly among the Earth's greatest treasures!

Peace & Blessings,
Lou & Barb Rimbach
Salisbury, Maryland

[Read Barb's full story next month.]

Dear Iona,

Well, I laughed! I finally found out where Shade Gap is. Gee, you could have saved the postage and delivered the newspapers to our board meeting.

Then I laughed again. I arrived to stay at a cabin at Canoe Creek for the meeting the next morning. I had time to read your newspaper more carefully. I think you are going to laugh, too!! I am going to have to dig out a copy of a picture of *this* grandmother at about the same age, and send it to you. It is totally uncanny. Don't know whether it is the dress, hairstyle, or environmental genes, but there is no one who knew me then, that I could show your little girl picture to, that wouldn't say it was a picture of ME!!!

Your newspapers went to: the environmental department at Winnie Palmer Nature Center at St. Vincent College, Western Audubon Society at Beechwood, a school in northwest Pennsylvania, the Conservation District office in Pottsville, the PROPS office, and the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit.

Ruth Roperti, Beaver Falls, PA
Pennsylvania Association of
Environmental Educators

Dear Editor:

With respect to the comment by Penn State professor Dr. Albert Luloff in *The Times Observer*: "Stopping that harvesting wasn't just an environmental disgrace; it had a huge, huge economic impact," please allow me to address the issue taken that reduced logging is an environmental disgrace. This letter addresses Luloff's comments on the acts of environmentalists. It's a shame that he has no understanding of the ecological stages of trees and their associates. He would have a different opinion if he did. Beware of so-called forest experts who do not understand tree biology.

A forest is a highly ordered arrangement of living organisms living in, on and around the ecological stages of trees in such a fashion that assures high quality survival for all. Some of the reasons logging is being reduced in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is the concern for forest health.

Large, fallen trees in various stages of decay contribute much-needed diversity to terrestrial and aquatic habitats in Pennsylvania's forests. When most biological activity in soil is limited by low moisture availability in summer, the fallen tree-soil interface offers a relatively cool, moist habitat for animals and a substrate for microbial and root activity.

Intensified utilization and management can deprive future forests of large, fallen trees. The impact of this loss on habitat diversity and on long-term forest productivity must be determined because managers need sound information on which to base resource management decisions. Dying and dead wood provides one of the two or three greatest resources for animal species in a natural forest. If fallen timber and slightly decayed trees are removed the whole system is gravely impoverished of perhaps more than a fifth of its fauna. Evidence that soil organic reserves, particularly wood, play important roles in maintaining forest site quality emphasizes the need to properly manage woody materials. Thus, the viewpoint that woody residue represents only "waste" or "a fire hazard" must be reassessed.

Forest users and managers must recognize the benefits, equivalent to long-term fertilization, that woody and other organic reserves contribute to ecosystems such as forests. The more they subsidize logging in the ANF, the more reduced the value of private timber will be. Economic-based forest management really has failed out of the ignorance of tree biology. Maybe Luloff should buy some land and log it, if that is what he thinks makes a forest healthy.

For clearly defined terms relating to tree biology please visit our non-profit site: www.treedictionary.com. Ignorance of tree biology has been and still is a major problem for trees and their associates worldwide. When managing land for the public, such as ANF does, an understanding of tree biology must be present in the decision-making process. More issues regarding the management of Federal Public Land must and shall be ad-

ressed, other than economics. In reality, subsidizing logging in National Forests is not an economically popular idea at most. Luloff also claims that "abrupt decline in the timber harvest in the Allegheny National Forest during the 1990s due to lawsuits filed by environmentalists against logging had a crippling effect on the region, much like the sharp decline of the steel industry had on Pittsburgh during the 1970s and 1980s."

Reducing subsidies in ANF will increase the value of wood for the private land owner trying to make a buck in these hard times. Common sense is anything but common.

Storms, fires, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions keep reminding us that we are not the boss.

It really makes me very angry when adults with no understanding of tree biology blast people like Ryan and his work. I could just blow up.

Sincerely, John A. Keslick, Jr.
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
Consulting Forester and
Tree Expert
<http://home.ccil.org/~treeman>



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Grassroots Power

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The Dangers of Collaboration

by Erica Rosenberg

(*Christian Science Monitor*, January 29, 2008) — There's nothing wrong with a group of people historically at odds sitting down to find common ground. Or is there?

For decades, America's public lands have been a battleground: Timber, wildlife, recreation, wilderness — which interests and uses should dominate? But now, "collaboration" is all the rage. In collaboration, diverse stakeholders — environmentalists, developers, off-roaders, timber companies, county officials — hash out an agreement on how to manage their local public lands and then submit it to Congress for approval.

A few deals already have been enacted, and another half-dozen are in the works. Collaboration has been touted as the solution to "gridlock" on our national forests. Timber companies and their allies gripe that the normal process — extensive analysis, citizen involvement, and the right to challenge agency decisions — has ground all "management activity" (read: logging) to a halt. Western counties surrounded by public land argue that they need room to expand. Others believe lands worthy of protection are still threatened. The new paradigm means everyone sits down with their adversaries.

But these collaborations are troublesome, particularly for environmentalists, who risk undermining their mission as well as the very laws that are the basis of their power, effectiveness, and legitimacy.

For example, a bill poised for introduction in Congress would turn into law an agreement reached by one collaborative group on how to manage Montana's 3.3-million-acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The stakeholders had one thing in common: They hated the management plan proposed by the Forest Service. So they came up with their own plan specifying which areas can be logged, which can be opened to off-roaders, and which should be recommended to Congress for wilderness designation.

Sounds reasonable enough. So what's wrong? To start, as owners of the public lands, all Americans have a stake in their management and they have not designated these representa-

tives. Even the most inclusive collaboration can go bad: Outliers who pose a threat to consensus are either not invited or made to feel unwelcome. And, ultimately, decisions are being made behind closed doors. But Congress loves a done deal. With a local sponsor, Congress is inclined to rubber-stamp these initiatives, overlooking that they are an end run around the suite of laws that safeguard public lands and keep land-management decisions an open process.

The Beaverhead bill, for example, triples the acreage where logging can take place from what it was in the Forest Service's plan. It requires an environmental analysis only for individual logging projects rather than the plan as a whole, thereby waiving the bedrock U.S. environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act. It also allows logging in roadless areas — a radical departure from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule that environmentalists championed during the Clinton era. Other deals have sold off vast acreage of public lands in exchange for wilderness designations.

After years of being tarred as obstructionist ideologues, some environmental groups now have a seat at the negotiating table. Enjoying their newfound popularity, these self-appointed decision-makers become heavily invested in reaching an accord, regardless of the science, the law, or the long-term effect on the land.

For decades, environmentalists fought to get a more level playing field and establish transparency and accountability in public-lands policy; they continue to fight the Bush administration's relentless efforts to dismantle these policies. How ironic it would be, then, if in their eagerness to embrace the new paradigm, they craft and push through Congress deals that undercut the very laws that got them to the table in the first place.

Erica Rosenberg directs the Program on Public Policy at Arizona State University's law school and served as counsel to the House Resources Committee from 1999 to 2004.

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As owners of the public lands, all Americans have a stake in their management.

Forest in Peril

(Continued from page 1) the revised plan:

"as a result [of oil and gas drilling], those seeking a more remote and less developed recreation experience could be displaced to other State or National Forests where remote, semi-primitive settings and experiences are more readily available."

Most of the 80 appeals were filed by oil and gas companies seeking to limit any Forest Service regulation of drilling activity. Since over 93% of the mineral rights underlying the Allegheny are privately owned, oil and gas companies claim the Forest Service cannot regulate their drilling activities. Federal regulations, however, clearly give the Forest Service authority to regulate how oil and gas companies reasonably access the forest for drilling.

Paralleling the forest plan appeal decision is the Forest Service's proposal to regulate stone pit use and expansion in the Allegheny. For decades, the Forest Service has provided free access to stone material for road construction associated with oil and gas development. The dramatic increase in drilling, though, has forced the Forest Service to rethink its policy on stone pit use for private oil and gas drilling on the national forest.

The rights to the oil and gas do not extend to stones and gravel for road and well-site construction. While it is a positive development that the Forest Service is now regulating the use of stone pits by oil and gas companies, it is unfortunate the agency is only looking at the environmental impacts of the stone pit mining instead of the broader impacts of what the stones will be used for (i.e., future oil and gas road construction and well-site developments).

Why is the Forest Service doing this? If the Forest Service is going to analyze the mining of stones on the Allegheny for road construction associated with oil and gas development, it makes no sense to ignore the cumulative effects associated with the use of those stones (i.e., the oil and gas development itself). Allegheny Defense Project will continue to pressure the Forest Service to exercise its full authority to regulate oil and gas activities on the Allegheny and to institute a comprehensive monitoring and restoration program. Pennsylvania's only national forest deserves no less.

What Can YOU Do?

Tell the Forest Service to analyze the cumulative effects of stone pit mining, including oil and gas road and well-site construction activities. The Forest Service can and must regulate oil and gas drilling on Pennsylvania's *only* national forest, the Allegheny National Forest. Contact:

Leanne Marten, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847
Warren, PA 16365

comments-eastern-allegheny@fs.fed.us

Visit the Allegheny Defense Project's website at:

<http://www.alleghenydefense.org/>

Grassroots Power

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Ecological Internet Surges with Two Decisive Victories

("The Order of the Earth" works on issues like these with Glen Barry.)

(EARTH, February 10, 2008) — Ecological Internet's Earth Action Network reports two stunning victories in campaigns to promote global ecological sustainability. Colombia's Constitutional Court has declared their Forestry Bill unenforceable because it treats forests only as wood, and indigenous and black peoples that have protected forests for decades were not consulted. And French President Sarkozy has announced gold mining activity by a Canadian company in French Guyana's rainforests has been permanently cancelled.

These decisive victories come as Ecological Internet (EI) has recently reported important initial success in helping to freeze oil palm development in Woodlark, Papua New Guinea; ending rainforest timber use for park benches in NYC; and keeping ancient timbers *out of* Ocean City, New Jersey's boardwalks and *in* rainforest canopies. Efforts continue to finalize and expand these recent initial strategic victories. Ecological Internet's ecological, science-based environmental advocacy continues to prove itself time and time again.

For years EI has highlighted impacts of ill-conceived biofuel development. EI led successful efforts to highlight the tremendous carbon released to "protect" the climate by oil palm production in Indonesia's peat-

lands, making it an international issue. We were amongst the first to work on global biofuels' impact upon ecosystems, food and water. This week science caught up with EI's ecological intuition, as a definitive report shows biofuel production releases huge amounts of carbon as it almost always results in clearing of natural ecosystems.

In each case EI's large international protest campaigns supported active, well organized local opposition. Their efforts had become stymied by local power elites, and international protest came at just the right target and time to shame them internationally, strengthen local demands, and delay the inevitable start of ecological destruction to allow time to pursue final victory. "Assuming success raising funds, EI expects to continue leading and contributing to saving the world's rainforests and climate," says EI's President Dr. Barry.

"The world needs to stop looking for easy answers to failing global ecosystems; and commence radical, even revolutionary, means to protect our atmosphere, land, water and oceans. The Earth and humanity's very survival — being — depends upon protecting and restoring intact ecosystems, ending the burning of fossil fuels, reducing human population and consumption, and other sufficient actions to avert global ecological collapse," Barry stated.

Contact: Dr. Glen Barry at
glenbarry@ecologicalinternet.org
or 920-776-1075.



Court Upholds Habitat Protection for Mexican Spotted Owl

PHOENIX, Arizona (Center for Biological Diversity Press Release, February 6, 2008) — A federal court has upheld protection of 8.6 million acres of critical habitat spread across **Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado** for the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the critical habitat for the owl in 2004. The designation was quickly challenged by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. The Center for Biological Diversity intervened in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The Mexican Spotted Owl will continue to get the habitat protection it needs to survive and recover," said Noah Greenwald, conservation biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "To save endangered species, we have to protect the places they call home ..."

The court rejected all the Cattle Growers' arguments, including the fact that the economic impact wasn't considered.

Whistleblowers Staging Comeback

by Tom Devine and Adam Miles
(MinuteMan.org, January 16, 2008) — Congress is about to get serious about attacking government corruption sustained by secrecy and enforced by fear. Before Christmas, the Senate unanimously matched House approval of legislation reviving the moribund Whistleblower Protection Act. The House and Senate versions need to be speedily reconciled and enacted. This would give federal employees genuine legal rights to be honest public servants. Currently, they often face the daunting choice of acting conscientiously, and thus risking their career and livelihood, or toeing the bureaucratic line and turning a blind eye to waste, fraud and abuse.

The public will be the real winner when the reconciled bill becomes law. This is why the reform is nicknamed the "Taxpayer Protection Act."

Whistleblowers use freedom of speech to challenge abuses of power that betray the public trust. They change the course of history by refusing to sacrifice their own principles, unwilling to go along with corrupt practices. By exercising their freedom to warn, they prevent avoidable disasters before all that is left to do is Damage Control.

Tom Devine is Legal Director and Adam Miles is Legislative Representative for the Government Accountability Project, the nation's leading whistleblower protection and advocacy organization, www.whistleblower.org.



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IPCC Continued

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(Continued from page 4) **Notes**

a) Temperatures are assessed best estimates and likely uncertainty ranges from a hierarchy of models of varying complexity as well as observational constraints.

b) Year 2000 constant composition is derived from Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Models (AOGCMs) only.

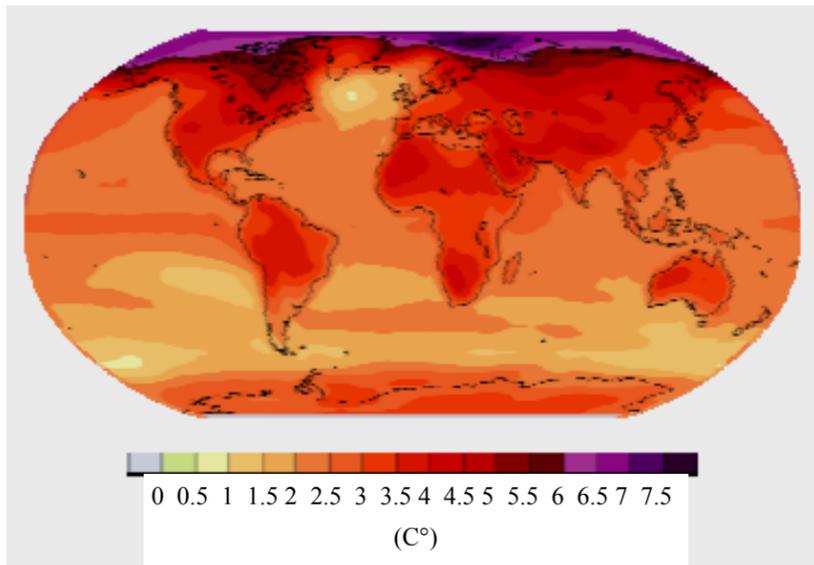
c) All scenarios to the right are post-Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES) marker scenarios. Approximate carbon dioxide equivalent concentrations corresponding to the computed radiative forcing due to anthropogenic GHGs and aerosols in 2100 (see p. 823 of the Third Annual Report) for the SRES B1, A1T, B2, A1B, A2 and A1FI illustrative marker scenarios are about 600, 700, 800, 850, 1250 and 1550 ppm, respectively.

d) Temperature changes are expressed as the difference from the period 1980-1999. To express the change relative to the period 1850-1899 add 0.5 °C.

The range of projections (Table SPM.1) is broadly consistent with the Third Annual Report (TAR), but uncertainties and upper ranges for temperature are larger mainly because the broader range of available models suggests stronger climate-carbon cycle feedbacks. Warming reduces terrestrial and ocean uptake of atmospheric CO₂, increasing the fraction of anthropogenic emissions remaining in the atmosphere. The strength of this feedback effect varies markedly among models.

Table SPM.1. Projected global averaged surface warming and sea level rise at the end of the 21st century.

Case	Temperature Change (°C at 2090-2099 relative to 1980-1999) ^{a, d}		Sea Level Rise (m at 2090-2099 relative to 1980-1999)
	Best Estimate	Likely Range	Model-Based Range Excluding Future Rapid Dynamical Changes in Ice Flow
Constant year 2000 concentrations ^b	0.6	0.3 – 0.9	Not available
B1 scenario ^c	1.8	1.1 – 2.9	0.18 – 0.38
A1T scenario	2.4	1.4 – 3.8	0.20 – 0.45
B2 scenario	2.4	1.4 – 3.8	0.20 – 0.43
A1B scenario	2.8	1.7 – 4.4	0.21 – 0.48
A2 scenario	3.4	2.0 – 5.4	0.23 – 0.51
A1FI scenario	4.0	2.4 – 6.4	0.26 – 0.59



Geographical Pattern of Surface Warming

Figure SPM. 6. Projected surface temperature changes for the late 21st century (2090-2099). The map shows the multi-Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Models average projection for the A1B SRES scenario (a rise of 1.7-4.4 °C.). All temperatures are relative to the period 1980-1999.

FOOTNOTES (Continued from page 4):

10 TAR projections were made for 2100, whereas the projections for this report are for 2090-2099. The TAR would have had similar ranges to those in Table SPM.1 if it had treated uncertainties in the same way.

11 For discussion of the longer term see page 3 of the report.

The Order of the Earth: News, Views and Musings
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**I sleep, Wind — now —
Knowing it is March
I scent the algae in the ponds
The songs of frogs come
As they bob their heads above water
after three months
I understand the effluvia of spring, and
I cannot kill.**

by Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada
from his book of poetry, *Earththings*