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Earth Care e-News

bringing Hoosiers of faith together to help curb global climate change

Bloomington, Indiana, September, 2011

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Coming Together to Care for Creation

A Workshop for All Bloomington Congregations

Do you wish that your congregation had a creation care team? Or that your creation care team had more members or a clearer vision? Could you do much more if you knew that congregations across the city are all in this work together?

We are going to make that happen. On Sunday, September 25th, teams of three to eight clergy and lay leaders from congregations across Bloomington will come together to be inspired, share experience, gain practical tools, and chart our way forward. We will meet from 3 to 5:30 PM at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 N. State Rd. 46 near the corner of the Bypass and E. Third St.

The hour is late but our work together provides great hope. Please let us know who will be coming from your congregation or be in touch with questions by emailing

Rev. Lyle McKee at lmckee@stlconline.org or Madi Hirschland at EarthCareIndiana@gmail.com. We would be happy to help you assemble a team – please just let us know that you'd like this support. Once we hear from you, we will send you a newsletter notice, flier and insert to help you publicize this workshop within your community. But above all, we need to simply gather a team by speaking to our clergy and / or congregants who share our concern.

This workshop is sponsored by Earth Care Bloomington, Monroe County Religious Leaders, and Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light.

Earth Care's Next Meeting

Interested in getting more involved or learning more about what's going on?

Members of Earth Care congregations are invited to our September steering committee meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 7 pm, at First United Church, at 2420 E. Third.

In addition to hearing what has been happening regarding various of our activities, The agenda includes

- Planning a special Earth Care/Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light meeting scheduled for St. Mark's United Methodist Church from 3:00-5:30 on Sunday, Sept. 25.
- Considering how to promote and support ongoing Task of the Month activities.
- Deciding how we can help the city move into more solar power, especially by including some solar power options in the Elm Heights historic designation process.
- Hearing possible updates on the Simply Living Fair next weekend
- Other items for the good of the cause.

All are welcome.

Bloomington is Going Solar

After May's **Solar Forum**, Bloomington has been busy. Earlier we reported on a large 30 panel array on Elinor Ostrom's garage. We know of at least two additional home pv panel installations completed in August, in direct response to the Solar Forum, with others on the way.



Wouldn't be great to see similar systems in every neighborhood in Bloomington?

SIREN folks continue to be busy giving free pre-assessments to people who signed up for them.

Which will be Bloomington's first solar congregation? Its first solar neighborhood? The time is now. If you can bring together members of 15 or more households, SIREN will replicate the workshop for your neighbors or colleagues or congregation.

If you'd like to be on the new SIREN Q & A listserv for people looking into solar, you're interested in organizing a solar workshop for your workmates or neighbors, or you'd like to attend such a workshop, please contact webmaster@sirensolar.org. If you'd like a solar presentation at your congregation, please contact info@earthcareindiana.org or call 339-7202. Join the solar leaders as we tip our town towards the sun.

Task of the Month News for September

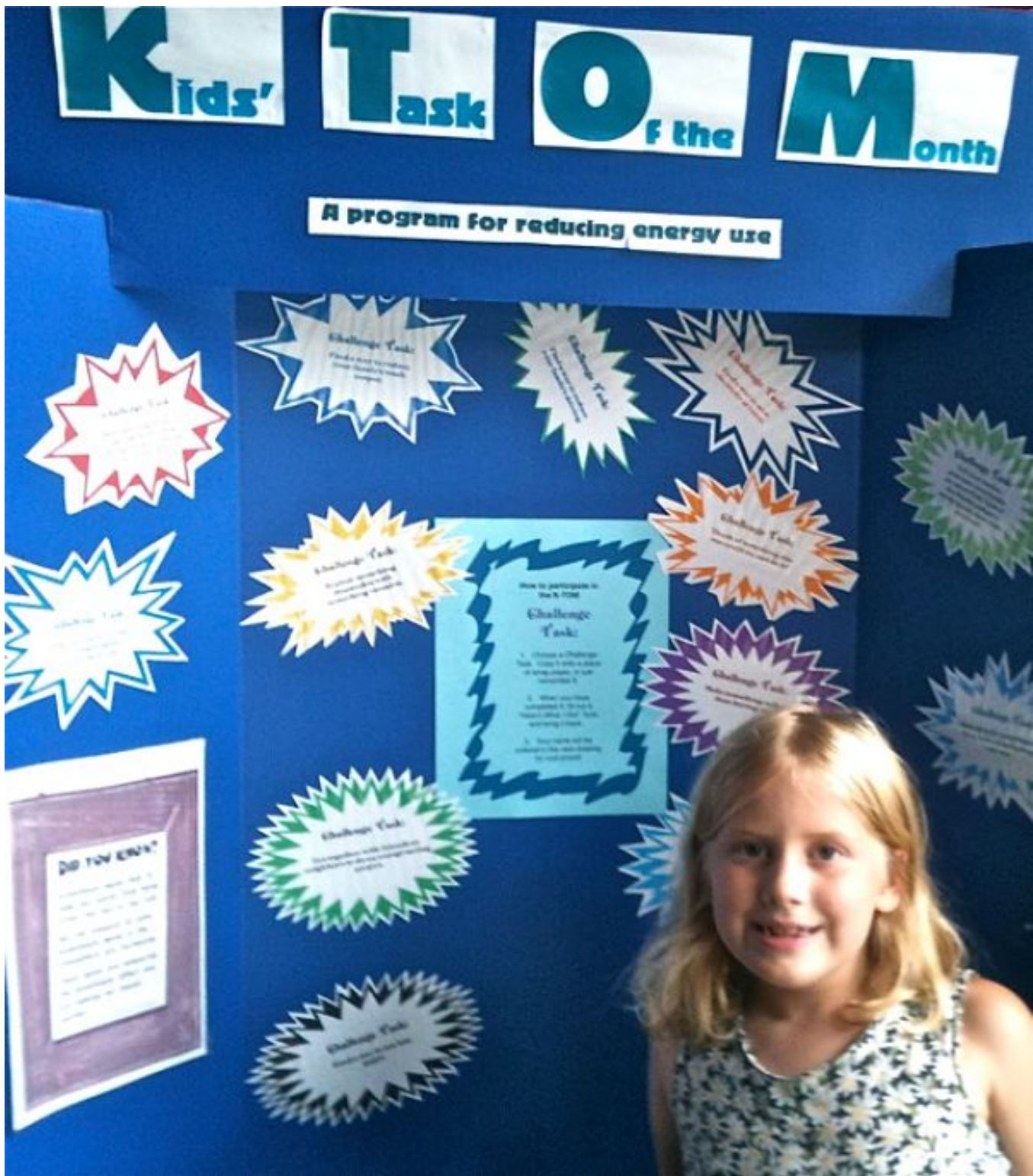


In addition to the money you save when you seal your home's air leaks, there are other benefits. A properly-sealed and ventilated home can improve your comfort, reduce drafts and moisture problems, improve indoor air quality and fire safety, and help prevent damage caused by frozen water pipes.

Last month's Home Energy reminder provided advice on how to stop air leaks around windows and doors. This month we're focusing on larger air leaks in places like chimneys, attics, light fixtures, plumbing utilities, furnace flues, and electrical outlets. Checking your home's insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste. You should take action if you have an older home, because only 20% of homes built before 1980 are well insulated according to energysaves.gov.

Walk around the exterior and look closely at doors, windows, and places where pipes and wires enter your house. Caulking isn't appropriate for large gaps. A product like *Great Stuff for Windows and Doors* expands to fill cracks and gaps more than ¼" wide. It comes in a spray can selling for just over \$11 at Lowe's, for example.

If you decide to upgrade your insulation, a federal tax credit is available through 2011 covering 10% of materials costs up to \$500. The credit applies to insulation added to a primary residence but does not cover installation and labor. The IRS website has the form you fill out. Check out the September Home Energy fact at [Earth Care's website](#). If you need help, contact your congregation's green team to organize a work party at several members' houses! Earth Care's trained leaders can be available to help your group get the job done. Contact TaskoftheMonth@gmail.com for more information.



For all those who would like to find ways to engage children and families in household energy conservation, there's good news! A ***Kids' Task of the Month Program*** has been created and is available to any interested congregation.

To learn more, visit our website at earthcareindiana.org/node/138.

Challenge kids to learn more about their own use of energy and come up with creative ways to reduce it. Be sure to send your stories of how you use this program and results achieved to TaskoftheMonth@gmail.com.

WALBICUS To Worship this Fall



We've picked the weekends of September 16-18 and 23-25 for our annual fall Walk, Bike, Car pool, or Bus to services event. Put an announcement in your newsletters, bulletins or email announcements encouraging your members to give it a try.

Do you have stories or pictures to share of how your group is addressing issues of climate change? Are you having a special program or event that others in the community ought to know about? **Send your stories to [Earth Care eNews](#).**

Online Resources

SOLUTIONS

Here is an interesting read that proposes a different way to make the Climate Change case, one that might be more effective with some of our friends and colleagues.

According to their web site [Solutions](#) is a nonprofit print and online publication devoted to showcasing bold and innovative ideas for solving the world's integrated ecological, social, and economic problems. They write, "Our mission is to provide a forum for developing and discussing seriously creative ideas to solve society's most pressing problems in an integrated way."

Earth Care folks might be especially interested in this month's feature article [Finding Cultural Values That Can Transform the Climate Change Debate](#), in which the author explores how to encourage individuals to take more substantive actions for the *common good*.

Join in the Discussion

Menu for the Future

Discussion Groups Sponsored by Earth Care

"Food is our common ground, a universal experience" ~ James Beard



Menu for the Future is a six-session discussion group in which participants will explore food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems, gain insight into agriculture and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being and consider ways to create and support sustainable food systems.

Earth Care is hosting two “Menu for the Future” discussion groups this fall:

- Sundays, October 2 through November 6 from 4 – 5:30 pm at First United Church (2420 East Third Street). For more information or to register, contact Janice Lilly at janicelilly@alumni.iu.edu or 812-339-4419.
- Thursdays, October 6 – November 10 from 6:30 – 8 pm at Rachel’s Café (300 East Third Street). For more information or to register, contact Ria Collee at mcollee@indiana.edu or 812-336-2512

The cost for the book is \$21. Some loaner books are available, if you would like one, please indicate that when you register. Register by Tuesday, September 20. For more information on Earth Care visit earthcareindiana.org.

Congregational Events

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

This September, First United will join with other churches throughout the world in celebrating a relatively new period of the liturgical calendar. The Season of Creation is meant to help us all reflect in worshipful ways on the Creation and the role we play within it. The hope is that Christians everywhere will emerge strengthened and renewed in their desire to care for, rather than harm, Creation. There are four Sundays of this Season - Forest Sunday, Land Sunday, Wilderness Sunday, and River Sunday.

There are several excellent resources about the Season of Creation available online:

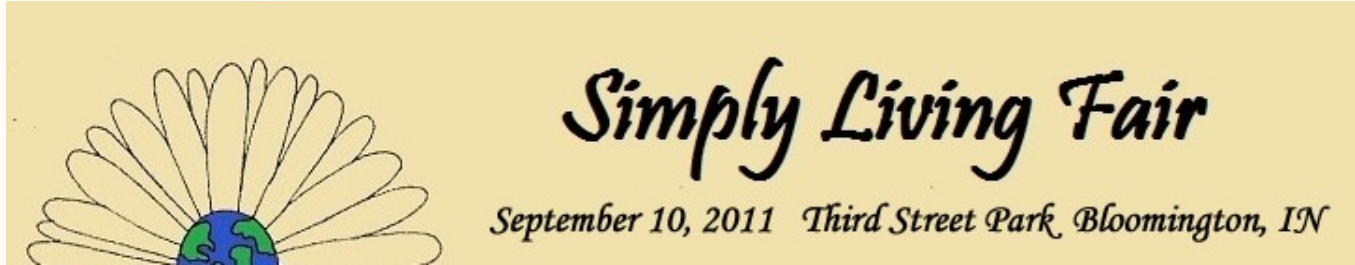
- [A brief video about the Season of Creation](#)
- [Why a Season of Creation?](#)

Beginning on Sunday, September 11, we will be building a Celebration of Creation on our communion table in the sanctuary. Worshipers will be invited to bring items from home that represent the glory of Creation. Maybe you'll have a photo of a beautiful place you've been or a piece of art depicting creation. Maybe you'd like to offer a printed poem written by you or someone else. Maybe you have a rock, a stick, a small fountain, a container of sand. Begin thinking now about what you

might bring to add to our table. These items will remain on the table for three Sundays - September 11 through the 25 - and then you may take them home again.

Community Events

Simply Living Fair



Bloomington's annual Simply Living Fair this Saturday, September 10th from 12:00 to 5:30 in Third Street Park. Enjoy a rousing concert from 12:00 to 1:00 with the Bloomington Peace Choir, Soul Circle, and the International Dance Ensemble of IU. Food Works for Middle Way House will have tasty lunches and snacks available all afternoon and over twenty organizations will be on hand with information on everything from solar panels to green cleaning to organic gardening. There will be nine green living workshops (including three for kids and families) ranging in topic from seed saving to green investing to worm composting to trashion. All events on Saturday are FREE. The fair is organized by the Center for Sustainable Living in partnership with Bloomingfoods and with sponsorship from Bloomington Peace Partners, Gengee LLC, Monroe County Government, Branches Magazine, L.B. Stant, Worm's Way, Green Sweep Cleaning Company, Cartridge World, Worldwide Automotive, Ben Brabson, and MPI Solar.

The Center for Sustainable Living will also be hosting two green living tours on Sunday, September 11th. Tickets are \$15 (available at Bloomingfoods or by e-mailing us at [csloffice "at" gmail.com](mailto:csloffice@gmail.com)) which include round-trip transportation from Bloomingfoods East. From 10:00 to 12:00, see what's developing at Renaissance Farm, as expert permaculturists Keith Johnson and Peter Bane celebrate their sixth season transforming a 2/3 acre suburban plot into a lush, sustainable homestead. Even if you've visited before, you'll find something new and fascinating in Keith's guided tour. From 1:30 to 3:30, discover how the Bessler and Kirk/Urrutia families have lowered their carbon footprint by reducing their electrical use and incorporating different kinds of solar technology to their homes (solar electricity, solar furnace, and solar hot water). The Besslers won the 2010 Energy Showdown by lowering their electrical bills by 46% between 2009 and 2010!

Full details are available at www.simplylivingfair.org.

A Special Way to Support the Work of Earth Care

Are you ready for winter?

Contact Master Carpenters of Bloomington for help assessing your wall and attic insulation needs. Remember, before adding attic insulation take steps to ensure that all attic-to-home air leaks have been sealed!

MCBTN donates 10% of proceeds from energy efficiency work to Earth Care's Task of the Month program. Call 325-0902 or email MCBTN@hotmail.com

Earth Care e-News Editors: Allan Edmonds (First Presbyterian) and Ria Collee (Friends Meeting)

Check out our website at www.earthcareindiana.org to learn more about Earth Care.

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