

Earth Care Clues

Solving the riddle of the abuse of God's creation through personal and community action
Offered by the New Community Project

Earth Care Clues

Have a car-free day (U.S. households take an average of 60 car trips a week, producing a pound of CO₂ per mile driven)

—provided by the New Community Project

Earth Care Clues

Turn off the TV (number of 30-second television ads seen by a U.S. child per year: 20,000; amount spent by advertisers on under-12 year olds per year: \$15 billion - *A.C. Nielsen, Co.*)

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Earth Care Clues

Eat less meat (globally, cattle production creates as much global warming gas as transportation - *FAO*)

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Earth Care Clues

Buy organic foods (on average, organic foods have 35% less global warming impact than non-organic)

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Earth Care Clues

Buy local foods (the average food item travels 1500 miles to our table; 1 pound of food traveling by air requires on average 2 pounds of jet fuel)

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Earth Care Clues

Ride a bicycle I (25% of U.S. household trips are under a mile in length; 75% of the time we take the car; the first several miles of driving are the most polluting)

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Ride a bicycle II (a bicycle gets the equivalent of 950 miles per gallon—great for the planet—and burns about 50 calories per mile—great for your “heavenly body”)

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Earth Care Clues

Poverty is a main cause of environmental damage, as poor people often have little choice but to use the wood, minerals or land around them to make a living. One of the surest paths out of poverty is education—support NCP's Give a Girl a Chance program. \$120 keeps a girl in school for a year in Sudan.

—provided by the New Community Project

Earth Care Clues

Wealth is a main cause of environmental damage, as consumers consume because they can—and because they believe this is a path to happiness. Seek justice by supporting programs to help the poor, simplifying your lifestyle, and refocusing on the real meaning of life. Re-read the story of Bigger Barns in Luke 12; check out NCP's *Follow the Money* brochure for what to do next.

—provided by the New Community Project

Earth Care Clues

Conserve water by using less electricity (2 gallons per kilowatt), eating less meat (up to 1000 gallons per pound), drinking less soda (8 units of water needed for each unit of soft drink), buying less gasoline (16 gallons of water for each gallon of gas)

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Earth Care Clues

Hang 'em out to dry (clothes driers can use up to 10% of household energy, emitting up to a ton of CO₂ per year – *U.S. Dept. of Energy*)

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Earth Care Clues

Be a good neighbor. With 4.5% of the world's people, the U.S. emits 25% of the world's greenhouse gases. One consequence: over 200 million tons less annual grain harvest in Africa by 2100. Want to help? 1) Use less fossil fuel 2) Support NCP reforestation efforts in Sudan.

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Earth Care Clues

Read a book (Possibilities: *The Way We Eat* by Peter Singer; *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*, Union of Concerned Scientists; *Consumed*, Benjamin Barber; *State of the World 2004*, World Watch—see reviews at the NCP website)

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Turn down the heat I – Heating water can use 20% of household energy and produce 2 tons of CO₂, so turn down the thermostat on the water heater)

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Turn down the heat II – Every degree you turn down the heat in the winter and raise the thermostat in the AC season reduces energy consumption by 3-5%)

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Turn down the heat III – 95% of the energy for washing clothes is for heating water—wash in cold water

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Earth Care Clues

Less I – 60,000 container ships arrive at US ports per year; one of those ships traveling one mile creates as much pollution as a car driving around the world—and they're bringing that stuff to a mall near you – *World Watch*

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Less II – The U.S. consumes nearly a billion more gallons of fuel per year for car travel due to its citizens weighing 25 pounds more per person than 1960—it takes more energy to haul us around – *The Engineering Economist*

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Less III – Cut your trash footprint by 80 times (from 3.4 acres to .04 acres) by refusing, pre-sorting (turning down products with over-packaging or that can't be recycled), re-using, recycling, buying in bulk, and home canning. (Average per person trash production of one ton creates about 2.1 tons of CO₂ – *The Nature Conservancy*)

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Less IV – The average U.S. consumer requires 27 tractor trailer loads of materials from the earth every year—over 95% of this becomes waste prior to reaching the consumer (*Environmental Science*, Miller)

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Earth Care Clues

Less V – The average per person paper consumption in the U.S. is 760 pounds per year, with every pound of paper requiring 3.5 pounds of wood and creating 3 pounds of CO₂. Use less, recycle, buy recycled.

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Earth Care Clues

Less VI – The footprint of the typical U.S. consumer is 23.7 acres (that's how much of the earth we need to provide for our consumption and soak up our carbon); our fair share of the earth would be 4.5 acres (*Your Ecological Footprint*, Wackernagel) Take the footprint assessment at www.newcommunityproject.org

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Earth Care Clues

Take five minutes to re-read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5-7). It's amazingly relevant for today's world, and may just save our souls—and the planet.

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Earth Care Clues

Lighten up – Every standard light bulb replaced by a compact florescent bulb can save 500 pounds of CO₂ during the lifetime of the bulb, and up to \$35 in electricity costs

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Earth Care Clues

The Amazon Rainforest is being destroyed at over 5,000 square miles per year.

Principle causes: cattle production, farming, poverty, oil drilling. NCP's *If a Tree Falls...* helps preserve these forests; Learning Tours visit the Amazon annually.

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Earth Care Clues

Polar Bears are in danger of extinction due to the impact of global warming on Arctic ice fields—every mile you don't drive or kilowatt you don't burn or burger you don't eat helps prevent their demise. Visit the Arctic on an NCP Learning Tour.

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Earth Care Clues

Pick up an aluminum can (not recycling an aluminum can is like filling it half full of gasoline and pouring it out); work for curbside recycling in your community if it's not already available.

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Earth Care Clues

Don't buy bottled water (40 million water bottles are thrown away every day in the United States; manufacturing water bottles in the U.S. requires 1.5 million barrels of oil per year)

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Earth Care Clues

Over 1 billion people on the world already don't have clean water—this will double in the coming century due to climate change, and especially the melting of mountaintop glaciers, which provide dry-season water for 40% of the world's people. Urge your government to provide aid to these people; do your part to reduce fossil fuel emissions; give your share of the \$9 billion the U.S. spends on bottled water to NCP's reforestation campaign, since forests hold groundwater and ensure rainfall.

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