



FAITH & FACTS Sustainability

Economic and Environmental Justice

What does the Bible say?

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? **(Ezekiel 34:18)**



Thus says the Lord, “Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your soul.” **(Jeremiah 6:16)**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **(Matthew 6:21)**

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**

What does The United Methodist Church say?

Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world. (Social Principles, ¶160)

We support measures which will lead to a more careful and efficient use of the resources of the natural world. We urge United Methodists to analyze their consumption patterns and to seek and live a simple and less resource-dependent life. (2008 Book of Resolutions, “Environmental Stewardship”)

Fundamental to our call as faithful witnesses is the meeting of human needs within the capacity of ecosystems. This ensures the security of creation and a just relationship between all people. Sustainable development, therefore, looks toward a healthy future in three vital areas: the social community, the economy, and the environment. (2008 Book of Resolutions, “Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future”)

We are called to eliminate overconsumption as a lifestyle, thus using lower levels of finite natural resources. We are called to seek a new lifestyle rooted in justice and peace. (2008 Book of Resolutions, “Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future”)



What do the facts say?

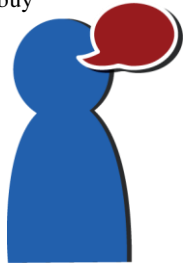
- Less than 5% of the world's population lives in the United States, and yet U.S. residents consume 24% of the world's energy, 27% of the world's aluminum, 21% of the world's beef, and own 35% of the world's motor vehicles.
- If everyone in the world lived according to the U.S. standard of living, we would need FOUR planets worth of resources.
- The average U.S. resident consumes over 200 pounds of materials daily (products can require 30 times their weight in raw materials, shipping, and packaging) and throws away 1,460 pounds of trash each year.
- The world's population is projected to increase from 6 to 9 billion in the next 50 years.
- By 2025, half of the world's population — 3.5 billion people — will live in areas facing water shortages.
- The world's forests are disappearing at the rate of 37 million acres per year.
- Every 20 minutes a distinct species of plant or animal becomes extinct.



What do you say?

Take action for justice ...

- **Reduce:** Buy less stuff. Did you know over half of the plastic we buy and throw away each year is simply packaging!
- **Reuse:** Pack a “no-waste” lunch, using reusable containers instead of disposables. Or have your youth group host a “disposable-free” coffee hour at church.
- **Recycle:** Paper, glass, aluminum, even plastics ... if you can't use it again recycle it. The energy you save from recycling just one aluminum can could power a TV for 3 hours.
- **Refuse:** Do you really need the plastic bag they are putting your purchase in? Just put it in your backpack (or bring a cloth sack with you when you go shopping).



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