

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

April 2010



The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.



## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2010

Forty years after the first Earth Day the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it is also presents the greatest opportunity--an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

Earth Day 2010 can be a turning point to advance climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs. Earth Day 2010 is a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy. Join the more than one billion people in 190 countries that are taking action for Earth Day.

*We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.*

Earth Charter Preamble

## A BILLION ACTS OF GREEN -- EVERY ACTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Our planet needs help, and your actions matter. This website gives you the opportunity to take action by sharing your "Act of Green!" Each "Act of Green" represents an individual's commitment to make a difference for the sake of the human family, and the earth community. Share with others by

logging in your commitment, get ideas from others, and help set in motion the foundation of a billion acts of green on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day! This is fun, and easy to do! [www.billionactsofgreen.com](http://www.billionactsofgreen.com)



## PLAY A GAME, AND EXPERIENCE A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Starbucks and Global Green USA collaborated on the Planet Green Game to educate the public about climate change through engaging and informative game play while encouraging individuals to become part of the solution in their own lives. The game also assists individuals through simple tools and links advocating action by elected officials, and business and community leaders. [www.planetgreengame.com](http://www.planetgreengame.com)

**PRAY + LEARN + ASSESS + ACT + ADVOCATE**

## TAKE THE PLEDGE



All across our country, Catholics are taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor and joining the Catholic Climate Covenant. The St. Francis Pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, organizations and institutions to live our faith by protecting God's Creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. To join the Covenant, you commit to act on each of the five elements of the St. Francis Pledge.

**PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.

**LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.

**ASSESS** how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations--contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.

**ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.

**ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable. (For more information on the St. Francis Pledge, and other Catholic efforts related to caring for the earth go to [www.catholicclimatecoveant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecoveant.org))

## EARTH CHARTER FOR CHILDREN

“Little Earth Charter” is reaching out to children around the world. Visit the website, and see for yourself how the creators of this program outline the importance of the Earth Charter and make the concepts accessible to children without oversimplifying the key elements.

[www.littleearthcharter.org](http://www.littleearthcharter.org)

### SAVE THE DATE

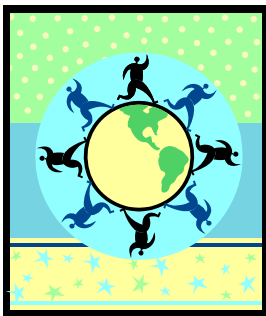
Peace and Justice Day – June 28, 2010

9:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Motherhouse Large Community Room

*God saw all Creation and said, ‘It is Good!’*

*Genesis 1:31*



Our life and commitment to the principles of the Earth Charter call us to use our gifts and energy to serve the whole earth community of which we are a part. This day will offer sisters and associates an opportunity to pause and reflect together on this sacred commitment. Through brief presentations, reflection time, sharing and ritual, we hope to deepen our awareness of the Creator Spirit present in all creation and calling us to become one holy, healthy community of beings.

Facilitators: Marlene DeNardo,  
Aileen Donovan, OP

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee