

ENVIRONMENT NETWORK E-NEWS

Monthly Prayer

But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In God's hand is the life of every living thing and all humankind. Job 12:7-10 ESV

Eco Tip of the Month

Reduce! There is a reason the 3 R's are in the order of **reduce, reuse, recycle**. Reducing consumption and use has the most impact on caring for the planet. Ask yourself before buying new, do I need this? For a snapshot of how raw materials and products move around the world, look up the video **The Story of Stuff**.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of E-News or have an event to share please contact us at:
endionspei@gmail.com



Environment Network logo and banner courtesy of
Lorraine Trites Quinn

Upcoming Events

- **June 4 6:30-8:30pm Dolphin Man: Film Screening and Discussion Event-** Central Library, Halifax
- **June 5 6-8pm Sea Level Rise and Halifax: A Panel Discussion Event** - Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water St, Halifax
- **June 5 9:30-11pm Film Screening: Oceans Week RobieScope/ A Plastic Ocean.** Good Robot Brewing Company, Robie Street, Halifax.
- **June 6 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM - A Green New Deal Town Hall :** Ummah Mosque and Community Centre (2510 St. Matthias Street)
- **June 9 McNabs Island Beach Cleanup** - Halifax, McNabs Island. 9:30am departure. Tickets at Eventbrite
- **June 15 3pm YGS Open Sing Celebration for the Wabanaki Water Walk!** All Nations Church, 2535 Robie St., Halifax
- **June 15 5:30pm Support Ecology Action Centre Broken Social Scene-** Garrison's Brewery
- **September 14 10am-3pm Eco-Justice Fair-Hosted by Dio Environment Network and Kairos Halifax**

Environment Network at Synod 2019



It was a hit at Synod!
 We had an overwhelming number of requests for T-shirts with the new logo for the diocesan Environment Network. We are still working out the details (cost and environmentally friendly material etc.). But you can place an order for one (or more) now. When cost is determined, we will confirm that order with you. To place your order, Email the project manager, Carole Aylard (caylard@accesscable.net) Please include size, e.g men's large and number of T-shirts.

Photo credit: Paul Sherwood, Diocesan Times



Photo Credits: Paul Sherwood of the Diocesan Times (photos 2,3,7 & 8)

The t-shirt with the new EN logo was a hit! See above for more information and how to get yours. We were delighted to be joined by Extinction Rebellion and Joanne Light from the Council of Canadians. Extinction Rebellion shared ‘misfortune cookies’ where a fact on the climate crisis was exchanged for a homemade cookie. See page 10 for more information on their work.



Joanne Light, local author, poet, climate activist brought her children's book, *Suzie, an Orphan Orangutang*, highlighting the devastating effect of deforestation on the orangutang population for palm oil in Borneo and Sumatra.

Contact us if you'd like a copy! Only \$10 each! endionspei@gmail.com



Reusable Shopping Bags at Synod!

At a winter meeting of the network I offered to make lightweight shopping bags for the members of Synod from re-purposed materials. It was a lofty goal when I was told there were to be 400 members at Synod. As semi-retired staff at the Flag Shop, I have access to flag fabric but availability of scraps is dependent on custom sewn orders that come into the shop. For example, the bags made with diagonal seams are a result of trimming down rectangles into pennant shapes for a large signal flag order for the navy. Some even had pencil marks on them from our layouts. The qty was also impacted by the slower time to construct them on a home machine as opposed to the much faster dual needle industrial machines at the shop. Hence time and availability resulted in a qty of 72 bags, roughly 18" x 18". And let's be honest, life gets in the way of our lofty goals.

As for the fabric, the Flag Shop Nova Scotia (115 Main St., Dartmouth) custom sews flags on 200 denier nylon and strives to use the fabric as efficiently as possible. Sizeable pieces are saved and used for smaller orders. However, there will always be scraps that cannot be used and have to be re-purposed. In the past, the shop has sent bags of scraps to schools for art projects or diverted it from the landfill for projects such as the bags distributed at Synod 2019. The flag nylon is ideal for a bag that can be folded very small, stuffed into a purse, or pocket and available when needed. By necessity flag nylon needs to be strong so these bags will last well for the end user. The solid ivory bags were made from a 210 denier high tenacity nylon and this is the fabric the shop uses for printing. If the flag being printed is not as wide as the fabric, the excess has to be trimmed off before the flags can be hemmed. These narrow strips were perfect for seaming into bags or for the handles. There is also the possibility of re-purposing used fabric. For example, if a 15' x 30' or 20' x 40' Canada flag comes in for a new panel because of wind damage, can we wash the fabric and assess if some of it is still usable for bags? Perhaps some of the bags at the Eco-Justice Fair will be made from a flag panel that flew at the waterfront or Superstore.

Carole Aylard

Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour

The Environment Network would like to extend a huge thank you to Carole for the time and love sewn into every stitch of these bags.

Feeding The World

The population of the world is growing which places increasing demand on our agricultural system to produce enough food. Current projections estimate population growth to a staggering nine billion people by 2050. All these people will need adequate amounts of healthy, culturally appropriate foods to live happy and healthy lives. The idea of feeding this many people can seem like an unrealistic ideal since we're already struggling to feed the current population of the world. According to the report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018", one in nine people in the world are undernourished.

Shrinking arable land, conflict, and economic crises reduce the ability for people to grow or buy enough food to feed their families. This problem is heightened by climate change and the unpredictable weather patterns that it produces. Storms, droughts, floods, and soil erosion all lead to crop loss and devastating famines across the globe. As the population of the world is growing, our ability to produce food is diminishing.

The agriculture sector is at the top of the charts for greenhouse gas emissions: methane from cattle, air pollution from processing plants and transportation, and nitrous oxide from fertilizers. Similarly, the industry is a top user of clean water and producer of water contamination. Run-off from fields kills fish, disrupts ecosystems, and makes many water sources unfit to drink.

Mainstream agriculture also leads to reductions in forests and natural biodiversity as more land is converted to crops or pastureland. So, as climate change worsens agriculture, agriculture also worsens climate change. This is a dangerous cycle of interaction as we are desperately trying to increase crop yield and prevent worldwide hunger.

How can agriculture evolve to feed nine billion?

That's a difficult question to answer—it will need an array of strategies that complement one another in the battle to feed the world. We, as a global society, need to adapt our international, national, and local agricultural activities to promote sustainable food production. Organic farming practices can reduce the need for water and chemical fertilizers by the use of cover crops, mulch, and natural compost. Additionally, rotating crops and growing synergistic mixed crops can improve soil quality and promote biodiversity of animals and plants in the area.

“A Five-Step Plan to Feed the World” is an inspiring article from the National Geographic, written by Jonathan Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota. It is summarized as follows:

- 1) Stop agricultural expansion and deforestation.
- 2) Improve crop yield with improved farming practices and technologies.
- 3) Use individualized fertilizers and efficient irrigation systems to reduce resource waste.
- 4) Reduce the number of crops used to feed livestock and produce biofuels.
- 5) Reduce food waste by improving storage and transportation, and eating what you buy.

Although the prospect of feeding nine billion people is daunting, I believe it is possible with personal and global changes to our current agricultural system.

By Adele Corkum



Eco-Justice Fair

September 14, 2019

10am-3pm

Hosted by the Diocese

OF NS & PEI in Partnership with

KAIROS Halifax



September 14
2019

All Saints Cathedral Hall
1330 Cathedral Lane
Halifax, NS

For Further Details or to
Be Involved Contact

ecodionspei@gmail.com

The Eco-Justice Fair is an opportunity for environmentalists from across the Diocese to congregate and network. We invite the community into the space of the Church while creating space to inform on environmental issues and foster relationships.

There will be booths, speakers, various activities and, of course, opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals with regard to caring for God's creation through the guiding principals of the Fifth Mark of Mission.

Green New Deal Town Hall

Dear interested Halifax folks,

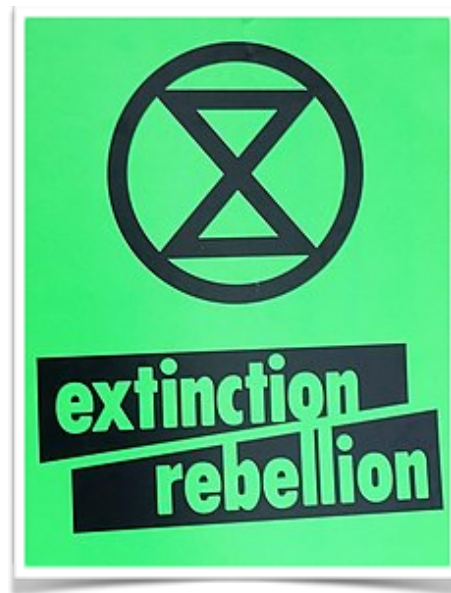
My name is Lily and I am one of the core organizers of Our Time, and we have been working to pull together a town hall in Halifax on June 6th from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Ummah Mosque and Community Centre (2510 St. Matthias Street). The venue is fully wheelchair accessible, please let us know if you have any accessibility needs we should be made aware of. We would like to invite you to join us craft what a Green New Deal should look like for Canada and for Mi'kma'ki.

This town hall is the chance to discuss with other Haligonians what should be included in a Green New Deal and what should not, and bring your unique perspectives to help craft our vision for the future. A future with a safe and livable climate, jobs, justice for all. Our Time organizers will be MC'ing the evening, as well as facilitating the table discussions. There will be speakers from the labour movement, migrant justice movement, the LGBTQ+ community, the arts community, and academia to start off the night.

You can register for the town hall (for FREE!) here <https://act.greennewdealcanada.ca/town-halls/halifax-ns/> and check us out on facebook https://www.facebook.com/events/917572121919807/?notif_t=plan_user_associated¬if_id=1559134898223409



Extinction Rebellion Nova Scotia



Extinction Rebellion is an international movement of concerned citizens dedicated to having all governments accept and declare that we are now at a point of global climate crisis and that we must now make the changes needed to ensure our very survival. We are active in communities throughout Nova Scotia and are preparing for campaigns of non-violent direct action beginning in mid April. We aim to wake our communities to the reality of climate crisis and create a groundswell of support for immediate positive climate actions.

For further information on our aims and to get involved check out Extinction Rebellion NS on Facebook or google Rebellion Earth.

