



A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

A CURRICULUM OF
HOPE FOR A
PEACEFUL WORLD

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Dear Readers,

Each edition of our Curriculum of Hope Newsletter has a section devoted to Caring for Our Planet. In this edition, we focus on information and resources for teaching and caring for our planet. As we are witnessing the changes in our weather, sea levels, food production, fires, floods, and so much more, we are alarmed. Each of us can and should be an advocate for change. If a young girl from Sweden can be an activist and do her part for our planet, then we surely can too.

The issue of climate change is huge. It will take every individual, every community, every company, and every country worldwide to stop the destruction of our planet. Time is of the essence. Think back to 2005, when Al Gore was warning about the damage to our planet. The crisis has only grown since then and can only be described as urgent.

The United Nations has an organization called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Since 1988 they have been studying climate change and greenhouse gases and advising nations. They observe, suggest ways to mitigate damage, and manage change to our air, land, and oceans. There are 195 member countries. They have scientists working in all member countries that report that the crisis is widespread, rapid, and intensifying.

As we hope and wait for nations, companies, and communities to do what they can and should do for our world, what can each of us do in the mean time?

We need to heat and cool our homes. Looking at alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and electric vehicles is a start. I just purchased a part electric and part hybrid vehicle. Of course, I am torn because I know that the battery was produced in a manner that is not good for the environment, and I worry about the day it becomes necessary to dispose of it. It does, however, put less carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Countries are urging manufacturers to work on this problem.

I live surrounded by large old trees. We are considering taking them down before a hurricane does. We will be replacing them right away with new trees. Trees help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Eating less red meat is not only good for the environment, it is good for our overall health. Cattle produce methane that negatively effects our atmosphere. I always look at a political candidate's voting record on environmental issues. I may be only one vote but I always vote.

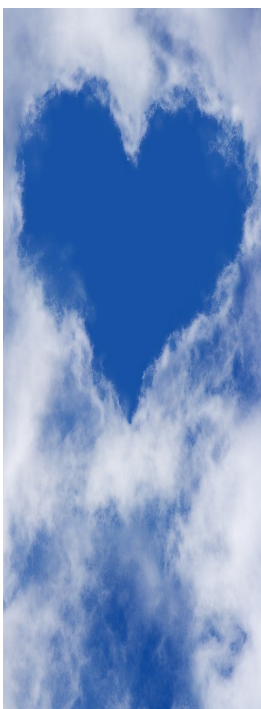
We have only one Earth and only now to do something about caring for it. I hope you will find the resources in this edition helpful as you support and promote caring for our planet.

Pat O'Connell Buckley
Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee



“Every
fraction
of a degree
of warming
matters.”

--Stephen
Cornelius
*chief adviser on
climate change
and WWF lead for
the UN's IPCC*



CLIMATE ACTION EDITION

As Pat said, the news is alarming and sometimes terrifying. Flooding, drought, tornadoes, extreme heat, rising temperatures, melting ice and warming oceans— climate change is escalating and affecting all parts of Earth. A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of the United Nations responsible for increasing knowledge on human-induced climate change, emphasizes that “human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of the planet’s climate.” The report explains how achieving net-zero emissions worldwide by mid-century and then moving to reduce concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere would likely “significantly reduce climate impacts and weather volatility.” The report stresses that “unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over the next two decades, then the goals of limiting average temperature increases this century to 1.5 degrees C or even 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels will be beyond reach, leading to warming scenarios that could have catastrophic impacts for all ecosystems and societies. “

www.greenbiz.com/article/every-fraction-warming-matters-top-scientists-warn-irreversible-climate-impacts

The purpose of this edition is to help you as educators, as parents, as grandparents, and as peacemakers to pass on understanding, hope, and the tools needed to play a part in impacting climate change. We’re repeating/updating some of our previous articles, mixing it up with new information.

It is late, but there are things each of us can do...now.



“Do your little bit of good where you are;
it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

When **talking to children** it’s important to make sure the information is age-appropriate, that you use positive, empowering language and that you don’t just make it a one time conversation. Children have no background knowledge when it comes to climate change and they can be very literal. Children under the age of 8 should focus on a love of nature and the beauty around them. Talk about what they can do, giving them a foundation to later understand climate change. Around the age of nine or 10, children are able to understand more abstract concepts.

Here are some effective ways that parents and educators can teach children about climate change:

- ◆ Introduce children to youth activists. Kids tend to learn better and model behavior when they see other kids their age engaging in certain activities. People like Greta Thunberg or youth organizations that are making a real difference can inspire them to learn from their efforts or give them an interest in the subject.
- ◆ Try looking for examples within your community such as environmental youth groups or clubs, where students can take part in activities or attend a workshop.
- ◆ Show videos about climate change. Search on YouTube to find age-appropriate videos on climate change awareness and eco-friendly activities.
- ◆ Lead by example and practice eco-friendly habits at home and at school, like recycling, reusing and reducing. Use water bottles, not bottles of water.
- ◆ Teach children the right facts. Climate change awareness is a controversial issue and there’s plenty of “fake news” and false studies that claim to have facts about climate change.

For more information, suggestions and ideas visit:

<https://inhabitat.com/how-to-teach-children-about-climate-change/>

www.studyinternational.com/news/teaching-young-students-climate-change/



Things You Can Do Now to Reduce Climate Change



Change your light bulbs to CFL or LED. Both use at least 75% less energy than regular bulbs and last much longer. If 20 million light bulbs were changed to CFLs, it would save more than \$118 million in energy costs. It would also prevent releasing greenhouse gases (that change the earth's temperature) equal to that of more than 150,000 cars each year.

Use less water. Most people use between 80 and 100 gallons of water a day. To save water take showers instead of baths. A four-minute shower uses 20-40 gallons of water. A bath uses more than double that amount of water. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. You'll save up to 200 gallons a month. Make sure your toilet works. Almost all high water bills are due to a leaky or running toilet. Think about installing a water-saving toilet. It can save up to \$110 in costs and 13,000 gallons of water each year.



Keep your home at the right temperature. More than half of all the energy we use in our homes comes from heating and cooling. You can save 10-15% on your energy bill if you set your thermostat to 68F in winter and 78F in summer. This will also help one home make 2,000 pounds less carbon dioxide each year. This gas is made when we burn fossil fuels, like natural gas, coal, and crude oil. Carbon dioxide is one of the main gases that change our earth's temperature.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Use reusable products instead of things you throw away. Make sure to recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass, and aluminum cans. According to Recycling Revolution, recycling one can saves enough energy to power a television set for three hours. Or, put another way, that one, small act of recycling saves the equivalent of half a gallon of gasoline in expended energy.



Leave your car at home and walk and bike more. This will lower the amount of greenhouse gases we release each year. Walking and biking also helps keep you healthy. Working from home, joining a carpool, and taking public transportation saves money. The American Automobile Association (AAA) found that a 40-mile round trip commute costs an average of \$22.08 per day, \$463.68 per month and \$5,564.16 per year.

Buy food that's grown local or close to home. Most fruits and vegetables travel about 1,500 miles from the farm to your supermarket. When you buy produce from local farmers, you support your local economy and lower air pollution from transportation. In addition, having one meatless meal each week helps your heart, wallet, and the earth. Livestock, like cows, create greenhouse gases and use up a lot of water and land. By eating more vegetables, you lower the demand for livestock and save at least \$237 each year on meat-related costs.



Plant a tree. Planting a tree is good for the air and the earth. It also saves you money on cooling costs by making shade for your home. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that putting just three shade trees in the right place can save homes about \$100-250 in energy costs each year. Trees also absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful gases.

Teaching About Climate Change



A Student's Guide to Global Climate Change— This site from the archives of the **Environmental Protection Organization** offers information for middle school students as well as lesson plans for educators.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [A Student's Guide to Global Climate Change](#) | [US EPA](#)

NASA's Climate Kids includes information collected about the environment by NASA satellites.

The site is probably best for middle schoolers. [Big Questions](#) | [NASA Climate Kids](#)

The **Zinn Education Project** has launched a campaign to “**Teach Climate Justice.**” You can find free classroom-tested lessons for elementary through high school, workshops for educators, and a sample school board climate justice resolution. Many of the lessons come from *A People's Curriculum for the Earth: Teaching Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis*, a teaching guide published by Rethinking Schools.

www.zinnedproject.org/campaigns/teach-climate-justice

Alliance for Climate Education has an online multimedia resource for teenagers, with a mix of animation, music, video, and interactivity. **Climate Our Future** teaches the latest climate science and inspires young people to take action. <https://ourclimateourfuture.org/>

The **National Science Foundation and NBC Learn** have partnered to create Changing Planet, a series of 13 videos and associated lesson plans about our planet's changing climate. These materials are especially useful for high school or college Earth Science classes.

https://www.windows2universe.org/?page=/earth/changing_planet/changing_planet.html&lang=en

Elementary teachers—This is the site you are looking for to help your students understand what's going on and why it matters. [15 Meaningful and Hands-On Climate Change Activities For Kids \(weareteachers.com\)](#)

Movies That Teach Kids About Climate Change *Check them out to see if any are right for your family or students—available on streaming services. Read more about them at www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/movies-that-teach-kids-about-climate-change.*

Ages 5—7

[Police Patrol](#)

2013

[A Beautiful Planet](#)

2016

[Arctic Tale](#)

2017

[A Fish Tale](#)

2001

[Ice Age: The Meltdown](#)

2016

Ages 8—9

[Adventure Planet](#)

2014

[Chasing Coral](#)

2017

Ages 10—12

[Before the Flood](#)

2017

[David Attenborough: A](#)

[Life on Our Planet](#)

2020

[I Am Greta](#)

2020

[Time to Choose](#)

2016

Ages 13+

[An Inconvenient Sequel:](#)

[Truth to Power](#)

2017

[Cool It](#)

2010

[An Inconvenient Truth](#)

2006

[Chasing Ice](#)

2013

[This Changes Everything](#)

2015

Thank you to Jackie Abbott!

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE/PICTURE BOOKS FOR ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN

Amanda Gorman, Author and Loren Long, Illustrator, Change Sings, A Children's Anthem, Elementary and Middle, 2021

The text and illustrations combine to give a clear message of hope to the younger generation. Amanda Gorman, thrilled us all with her poem delivered at the 2020 inauguration, and now she addresses her message of hope to the young. By joining together children know that they can do anything. Recommend highly.

Carole Lindstrom, author and Michaela Goade illustrator, We Are Water Protectors, Caldecott Medal 2021

A Native legend of the importance of water that is brought to life as a frantic call to action for youth to conserve and preserve our water resources. Illustrations can tell the story in this beautiful book. Recommend for Upper Elementary and Middle. A sensitive read aloud and discussion following the reading.

Miranda Paul, author and Elizabeth Zunon, illustrator, One Plastic Bag, 2016

A young Gambian girl learns about the usefulness of plastic bags and later realizes the danger of piles of discarded bags to goats and other animals who eat them. By clearing up the discarded bags she discovers that the bags can be recycled into something useful. Students can learn that things can be used in a different way and their solutions can positively effect the environment. Grades four and five.

Bethany Stahl, Save the Ocean, 2019

One of a series starting with "Save..." The sea turtle and a young mermaid swim in the ocean to discover different kinds of sea animals. The turtle mistakes plastic bags for "jellies" and becomes sick. Their concern is such that they start a campaign to clean up the ocean. A bit unrealistic, but the message about plastic bags in the ocean is real. Some interesting facts in the back of this picture book. K-three.

Deborah Diesen, author and Dan Hanna, illustrator, The Pout Fish Cleans Up the Ocean, 2019

Some fish of many sizes and shapes notice an ocean filled with trash. They figure out how to fix it, and by working together they notably clean up the mess they themselves have made. They decide to change their habits and keep the ocean clean. Reads well as a read aloud. Preschool through grade one.

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR TEACHERS

Dan Hooke, writer and researcher, Climate Emergency Atlas, 2020

A reference book for teachers, this atlas examines four aspects of climate change. The final aspect deals with action strategies, including planet friendly eating and harnessing solar power. Filled with graphs and charts and photos. Scientists authenticate the information. Teachers or high school students.

Seymour Simon, Climate Action, 2021

Written by the dean of science books for children, this paperback is filled with information and suggestions for young people to take action to change the pace of climate change. Photos of children fill the pages with their personal experiences including actions that they have taken. Recommended for teachers as a tool to help understand the changes occurring. Includes a glossary and a list of additional books on the subject.

Disclaimer—In searching for books about Climate Change we found many newly published books, and they were not all of good quality. These books we have listed met our standard. There must be others that belong on our list and we invite you to submit your favorites. Send them to jabbott814@aol.com and we will add them to our list.

Planet Protectors/Peacemakers at Work

Matt Panopio

In 2019 Matt Panopio made it possible for the ride-sharing service Lyft to become carbon neutral. Now he is manager on Amazon's energy and operations team, charged with helping meet the company's goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040. In 2020, Amazon became the world's largest corporate investor in renewable energy.

[Amazon.com, Inc. - Matt Panopio - 2019](#)
[| EDF Climate Corps](#)

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”
— Robert Swan

Etosha Cave

Dr. Etosha Cave is a Co-Founder and Chief Science Officer of Opus 12, a startup recycling CO2 into higher value products for Earth, and someday for Mars. Opus 12 uses metal catalysts and renewable electricity to convert CO2 into one of 16 new molecules, which include a precursor to plastic and diesel fuel. Opus 12 is now a team of 14 people and the company has received various grants from NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation for their work.

<https://gef.stanford.edu/people/etosha-cave>

[Carbon Transformation | Twelve](#)

Alexandra Criscuolo

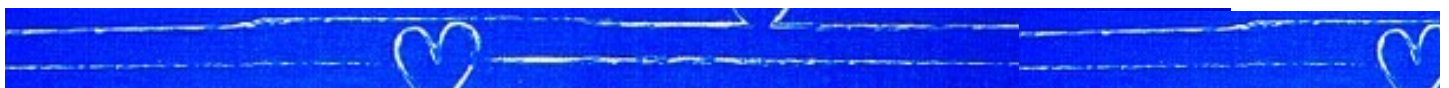
After her EDF Climate Corps Fellowship where she created Kickstarter's Environmental Resource Center to empower early-stage entrepreneurs to reduce their environmental impact, Alexandra Criscuolo is now the first full-time sustainability manager at New York Road Runners (NYRR). She developed and implemented a sustainability strategy for the world's largest marathon, the TCS New York City Marathon, 50+ annual races, and multiple facilities .

[Alexandra "Aly" Criscuolo of NY Road Runners and NYC Marathon, 1st Full-Time Sustainability Exec at North American](#)

Youth vs. Apocalypse

Youth vs. Apocalypse is a group of young climate justice activists working together to lift the voices of youth, in particular youth of color and working class youth. Their collective action aims to fight for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, and just world. YVA started as a group of Oakland, CA youth, supported by adults in their community, using direct action and lobbying to fight a proposed coal terminal in their city. They then expanded their focus to other climate justice issues. Youth vs. Apocalypse builds their base of youth activists through school presentations (now online) in frontline communities, peer-to-peer social media campaigns, and an annual fellowship serving more than 60 frontline youth leaders. These programs present in relatable terms the science and history of our ecological crisis and why it matters, while also teaching youth skills to effectively make their voices heard. They use Hip Hop in their organizing, from collaborative original songs and music videos designed to elevate campaign messages, to online creative writing and activism workshops led by young people. Students can sign up to join a campaign to work with other groups and activists in the community. In addition to the campaigns, YVA also hosts a HipHop team, Tik Tok and social media teams, creative writing workshops, and an activist support group. A Climate Justice Curriculum Toolkit for educators can be found at their site.

www.youthvsapocalypse.org





New Year's Purge

Microplastic Beads

Check your shower gel or body scrub to see if the ingredients include tiny plastic beads for exfoliation. Local water treatment facilities cannot properly filter out these microplastics, leaving them to be flushed directly into our water supply, and they end up in the ocean, causing a myriad of problems. Look for natural alternatives such as whole oats, salt, and Jojoba beads. Learn more at www.elle.com/uk/beauty/skin/articles/a31140/7-alternatives-to-microbead-exfoliants/

Aluminum Foil

The debate over whether or not aluminum foil is a health risk continues. When foil comes into contact with acidic, fatty, basic, or salty foods it may cause aluminum ions to be released into the food. Read more at: www.foodnetwork.com/healthyeats/2017/02/myth-or-fact-cooking-with-aluminum-foil-is-dangerous .

Harmful Detergents

Many common detergents contain pollutants in the form of tensides, stabilizers, sequestrants, optical whiteners, chemical bleaches, and preservatives that cannot be completely filtered out by water treatment facilities. They enter and accumulate in open waters and the soil where they poison plants and animals and can threaten our groundwater. Check out this list of environmentally friendly detergents at www.treehugger.com/best-eco-friendly-laundry-detergents-5115628

Bottled Water

Are you still buying bottled water? Tap water costs less than a penny per gallon and is unquestionably drinkable almost everywhere in the US. Tap water is tested regularly, and those tests prove that tap water often contains more minerals and fewer contaminants than bottled water. So invest in a good water bottle and drink what's on tap. reviews.chicagotribune.com/reviews/best-water-bottles

Toilet Paper

Most regular toilet paper on the market is made from new timber, but you can buy toilet paper made from recycled fibers. Recycled toilet paper might be more sustainable or eco-friendly compared to regular and bamboo toilet paper in some ways, but it depends on how recycled paper material is collected, processed, etc. vs the sourcing process for virgin trees and bamboo plants. Who knew? Google it!

Coffee Pods

Every cup sends an aluminum capsule to the dump and coffee pods are up to four times more expensive than fair trade brands. Switch to reusable coffee pods – these allow you to use the coffee of your choice and produce no additional waste. **There are many different kinds so** before you invest, check out some videos. www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB8ljRFmS8M

Unwanted Advertising

Do you get catalogs and other advertisements that you never even open and read? Contact the distributor directly to remove your name from mailing lists. Explicitly request that your name and address not be sold to other marketers. **Eco-Cycle** lists a number of resources for removing yourself from direct mailing lists, as well as reducing mailings from charities and groups you do support. www.ecocycle.org/junkmail Eco-Cycle is one of the oldest and largest non-profit recyclers and Zero Waste organizations in the U.S..

January

17 Martin Luther King Day

For ideas and activities for students focusing on Martin Luther King Day of Service go to ysa.org, There are resources available in many languages.

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and develop and participate in educational programs to help prevent future genocides— www.ushmm.org

March

March is Music In Our Schools Month

[Music In Our Schools Month® \(MIOSM®\) - NAFME](http://www.learningfromlyrics.org)
www.learningfromlyrics.org

There is a really good activity calendar for the month of March here: [Indiana Music In Our Schools Month Activity Calendar - Google Slides](#)

2 Read Across America Day

[Read Across America](#), created by the National Education Association (NEA), began in 1997. It is recognized annually on March 2, which is also the birthday of Dr. Seuss. See also: [29 Unique Read Across America Activities for All Ages \(parentingnest.com\)](#)

8 International Women's Day

Celebrating women's achievements and promoting equality—this site has great resources for high schoolers. www.internationalwomensday.com

22 World Water Day

Started in 1993, World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water. [World Water Day | World Water Day 2022](#)

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Awareness Month

May

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/asianpacificislanderheritage.htm>

5 Cinco de Mayo Cinco de Mayo is the annual celebration held on May 5, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/04/10/the-best-sites-for-teaching-learning-about-cinco-de-mayo/>

February

February is Black History Month

Here are a few resources.

www.blackpast.org/

www.inmotionaame.org

www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/film-kits

1 Chinese New Year: Year of the Tiger

Activities for PK—grade 5 children can be found here at [Chinese New Year Activity Ideas | Scholastic](#)

21 Presidents' Day

A day to honor the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Some creative ideas can be found at https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson223.shtml

April

7 World Health Day

World Health Day remembers the 1948 founding of the World Health Organization. The theme this year is “Building a fairer, healthier world.”

www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/

22 Earth Day

<https://www.earthday.org/>

22-26 National Environmental Education Week

Watch this site for 2022 updates. [https://www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-week](http://www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-week)

29 Arbor Day

America's first Arbor Day took place toward the start of the 1870s — right around the time Congress established Yellowstone National Park.

<https://www.arborday.org/>

<https://nationaltoday.com/arbor-day/>

www.stateforesters.org/

28 Yom HaShoah Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/yom-ha-shoah-holocaust-memorial-day>

Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter Subscription Information

Dear Readers,

It is that time of year when we ask each one of you for your continued support. We greatly appreciate those of you who are subscribers and patrons. Your dedication to our peace efforts and generosity toward our monetary needs are vital to our continued work on several projects. Our digital subscriptions have saved on paper and postage, helping us be more environmentally and fiscally responsible. The **PDF version is in color and has live links, making it more convenient to use. We urge you to make the switch by sending your email address to Linda Shea, Subscription Manager, hshea@snet.net.**

This Newsletter is sent to over 1,400 individuals and organizations in 22 countries and it is often distributed onward to others. The creation and mailing process are done by dedicated volunteers. Copying is accomplished willingly by our State Executive Secretary. The cost of paper, toner and labels for mailed copies is borne by Connecticut State Organization, DKG, which also contributes 25% of the proceeds from its annual fund raiser. All other expenses are covered by subscriptions and contributions. We are blessed with 25 patrons whose generosity has helped to sustain us throughout the years. Now, in our 36th year of continuous publication, our distribution continues to increase.

If you are aware of schools or individuals who would benefit from our publication, please let us know.

Current email subscribers will continue to receive the newsletter until you request to be removed.

Any questions or comments, contact Jeanne at Jemora@aol.com or 1-860-228-9293. In advance, we thank you.

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The Last Word

A Thirsty Crow

A Crow, half-dead with thirst, came upon a Pot, which once had water in it. But when the Crow put its beak into the mouth of the Pot to look for water, he found that only very little water was left in it and he could not reach far enough down to get it. He tried, and he tried, but at last, had to give up in distress. Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Pot. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into the Pot. Then he did it again several times. And at last, he saw the water rising, and after casting in a few more pebbles, he was able to quench his thirst and save his life. **Moral of the story:** Little by little does the trick.

“The next five years may be the most important in the next ten thousand for our planet.
There are plenty of reasons for hope, yet every day, doors of opportunity close.
We know what to do. Now is the time to act.”
—Dr. Sylvia Earle

If you would like to receive a color PDF version by email, please contact **Linda Shea**, Subscription Manager hshea@snet.net

Curriculum of Hope is a Standing Committee of Connecticut State Organization, DKG.
Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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