Sharing the Air and Water
Why I should care about Climate Change

Our big Earth is really rather small. We are all interconnected, and how we treat our limited environment is as important as how we love one another.

GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Global Warming – the rise of Earth’s temperature due to accumulated greenhouse gases (GHGs) absorbing reflected heat – drives Climate Change. It’s hard to see because the cause and effect are relatively slow to our eyes. Although the average temperature is increasing, Climate Change can look different in various places, even making some regions colder.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?
Climate Change can disrupt weather systems, generating floods, droughts and other extreme, violent weather (Typhoon Haiyan, Hurricane Sandy). Property loss, migration, destroyed ecosystems and economies, extinction, disease and famine are among Climate Change’s end products. What am I willing to change for the sake of my brothers and sisters today and in future generations?

WHAT CAN I DO?
The best long-term solution on climate change is to reduce GHGs like carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is created by burning carbon fuels to generate our electrical power, transportation and the products we purchase. Explore how to decrease your carbon footprint. Look at the Pledge Checklist on page 2 for ways to take action.

Threatened by Climate Change
Rising temperatures change climate conditions and harm delicate ecosystems. Threatened species around the world include:

India – Tigers are losing their habitat because of Climate Change
Australia – Frog species are being reduced due to dried up waterholes
Africa – Elephants are strained due to less rain and longer dry periods
China – Giant Pandas their bamboo diet is threatened
America – North Atlantic Whales warming waters mean less plankton to feed on
Canada – Polar Bears less habitat due to melting Arctic Sea ice

- Adapted from http://wwf.panda.org/

Reduce ➔ Reuse ➔
Recycle ➔ Refuse ➔

Consumers can help to make positive global environmental changes with their purchasing power. We must all consider our part in the impact and cost on our planet.

Reduce
When considering a purchase, ask yourself if you really need the item.

Refuse
Items that are marketed for single use. Ask, can it be recycled? Will it just end up in a massive landfill?

Reuse
Consider donations to charitable organizations, rather than hauling it to the dump. Begin a compost pile and include green yard waste and food items. Additional items for composting include dryer lint, hair and ash.

Recycle
Estimates reveal that everyone can reduce their household trash percentages by 75-80% if they will only become aware of what they are discarding.

Life Cycle of a Plastic Bottle
Oil rig ➔ oil well ➔ pipeline ➔ refinery ➔
nurdles ➔ cargo ship ➔ port ➔ tanker ➔
bottling plant ➔ 18 wheeler ➔ big box store consumer ➔ either: landfill for 700 years or recycle bin.

CSJ Justice Office
Nature is My Neighbor

Who is my neighbor?

www.csjorange.org
(714) 633-8121 ext. 7716
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SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE
In 2014, I pledge to take action and protect the Earth by:

- Reducing toxic waste and use recyclable/bio-degradable materials
- Consuming less water
- Reducing paper usage
- Reducing power consumption
- Using my tote bags when shopping
- Using compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Driving less and using public transportation
- Planting one tree this year
- Ending my use of Styrofoam - it cannot be recycled
- Installing water-saving shower heads
- Turning the tap off when brushing my teeth
- Switching to more efficient appliances
- Collecting rainwater for use in my garden
- Ending the purchasing of disposable items like plates, cups, utensils, napkins
- Using e-mails and e-cards instead of paper
- Receiving and paying my bills online
- Ordering washable/reusable produce bags - http://www.washableproducebags.com
- Removing my name from mailing lists www.dmachoice.org
- Opting out of paper catalog mailings https://www.catalogchoice.org/
- Removing myself from phonebook distributions https://www.yellowpagesoptout.com/
- Finding out what can be recycled http://earth911.com/
- Helping to save natural resources http://www.nrdc.org/action/
- Finding and lowering my carbon footprint http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm
- Sharing and teaching others about my experience of being gentler to the Earth

What are some countries doing?

- **Bhutan** plans to become the world’s first country to turn its agriculture completely organic. It will ban the sale of pesticides and fertilizers, relying instead on the healthy ecosystem of its farms and on farm waste. “We are Buddhists and we believe in living in harmony with Nature. Animals have the right to live, and we like to see plants happy and insects happy.”
  - Pema Gyamtsho, Minister of Agriculture, Bhutan
- **Brazil** is aiming to reduce its emissions to 1994 levels and cut deforestation by 80 percent from historic highs by 2020.
  - Adapted from NPR
- **The European Union** has pledged to reduce emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.
  - Adapted from NPR

To Honor the Earth

Come closer.
Rest in our strength.
Become aware of the smaller notes that we play—the flutter of leaves, the shining glints of color, the sunshiny softness of spring.
All are connected with the birds, the insects, the elements. A large tree is a place of beauty, a family, a home, a country to explore. A refuge to many, it stands proud, giving out to all, reaching up the sky and deep into the earth, enduring. The tall tree stands as a symbol of a particular perfection of God. Let it stand, and you will come closer to God.

- D. Maclean, *To Honor the Earth*