



Hello Members of Mennonite Creation Care Network—

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Here at MCCN, we've already made our New Year's Resolutions. One of them is to faithfully put out an E-Newsletter once a month instead of at distant, random intervals.

Did you see our 100 Shades of Green ads in *The Mennonite*, the *Mennonite Weekly Review* or the *Canadian Mennonite*? Our other goal is to find and link 100 congregations that:

1. Have identified a creation care advocate
2. Have reviewed [MCCN's Green Congregation Score Sheet](#) together
3. Are actively engaged in the care of creation, whatever that may mean in your context.
4. Have shared a report of their activities with MCCN for the [Green Congregations Directory](#).

We now have 16 congregations with creation care advocates. Visit our [congregations page](#) and scroll down to find out if your congregation is one of them. If your congregation is not on the list and you are willing to serve as the liaison to MCCN, please let us know.

New Posts on Our Web Site

Forest Preservation as Ministry

Mennonite Church Manitoba is facing a decision right now regarding 90 acres of woodland at Camp Assiniboia, Headingley, MB. A task force recommends that Mennonite Church Manitoba "commit to the long-term protection and careful environmental management of the Camp Assiniboia Forest." This decision is complicated by development pressures in the area that add to the commercial value of the property. [Click here](#) to read the task force report or the environmental survey it was based on. Mennonite Church Manitoba invites dialog from its constituency.

Solar Water Purification on the Way to Developing World

Chemviron, a company headed by Mark Steiner, Wooster, OH, just invented what may be the world's first solar-powered water purification system. Employees who had done volunteer work in the developing world were spurred by the suffering they knew was caused by a lack of clean drinking water. "Mark is doing this out of his faith and service commitment," a fellow Mennonite from Wooster remarks. [Read more](#)

Voluntary Gas Tax Shades Goshen Streets

A group in Goshen gathers three times a year to disperse funds they have raised by taxing themselves on every gallon of gas they buy. Prices at the pump, they say, do not really reflect the true foreign policy or environmental costs of using gasoline. [Read about](#) their latest project to provide shade trees for poor neighborhoods.

People Feature

The eight members of the MCCN Creation Care Council gather twice a year; once in person and once electronically. At each meeting, we take time to get to know each other a little bit better. We'll give you this opportunity too. Our Creation Care Council page provides short bios on each of us. We'll also feature one person in each of our upcoming newsletters.

[Dave Hockman-Wert](#) is a CCC member from Corvallis, OR, who once pointed out to us that in Genesis, God speaks to the fish before humans ever get a divine word. Find out why fish figure in Dave's life.

Resources

This month's resources all relate to global climate change due to the upcoming Climate Change discussions in Copenhagen, December 7 - 18.

A faith-based look at climate change: MCCN member Greg Bowman, a journalist with Rodale, Bally, PA, recommends *A Climate of Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions*, by Andrew Farley and Katherine Hayhoe. Check [MCCN's resource page](#) for a brief review.

Coal Connections Noreen Gingerich wrote in to recommend [ilovemountains.org](#), a site about the consequences of coal mining and mountaintop removal. One nifty feature on this site is a place where you can type in your zip code and see if coal powers your electricity. If it does (likely) you can find out what mines that coal comes from and what communities are impacted.

Hope from all over the globe: On October 24, 2009, author Bill McKibben and the nonprofit, 350.org sponsored an international day of climate change action, inviting people from all over the world to create an action around the

number 350—the safe threshold of ppm CO2 required for a healthy planet. Visit 350.org to view thousands of pictures from 182 countries. To see actions involving Mennonites, search under "Goshen, IN."

Who takes the temperature of the planet? If you've never visited the web site of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), sorted out their working groups or read their summary reports, now's a good time.

Green Congregations Puzzle

Which congregation is engaged in each of the following ways of caring for creation? Find the answers on our web site. Like to get fun surprises in the mail? The first person to send us all the correct answers will receive a prize.

1. Began a community garden this year and shared it with nearby apartment dwellers.
2. Is hosting a prayer service on the eve of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.
3. Switched to tankless water heaters following an energy audit.
4. Made rain barrels together.
5. Sponsored a creation art show, to inspire members to interact with the natural world.
6. Has heated and cooled with a ground source heat pump since 1991.
7. Has a number of members involved in a Voluntary Gas Tax Group.
8. Learns sustainable living from members over 80 who have been through the Depression.
9. Turned an asphalt parking lot into islands of urban biodiversity.
10. Their church property includes a 63-acre wetland with trails open to the public.

Green Puzzle Clues: Best places to look

- Under the "read news stories" link on our congregations page.
- Also the 100 Shades of Green Directory. Note the layout button on the left side of the Green Directory that gives you multiple pages of information for the same church.- Maybe even the resource page.

Please send us questions for our next puzzle!

What is the most interesting, creative or significant thing your congregation or anyone in it has done in the last two years to care for creation?

Mennonite Creation Care Network

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