



The Green Sheet – 10/4/2008

Promoting a Just and Sustainable World – Resources for Education, Reflection, and Action

“We are convinced anew that education is our response to the cries of Creation, the concrete expression of our solidarity with all.”

- From the Directional Statement of the School Sisters of Notre Dame 22nd General Chapter

IN THE NEWS...



President Bush Signs Great Lakes Compact into Law (10/3) - The Great Lakes Governors today applauded President George W. Bush for signing a joint resolution of Congress providing consent to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The pact "will provide sustainable use and responsible management of waters from the Great Lakes Basin and will preserve the Great Lakes for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations," said James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The deal was negotiated by the governors and ratified by legislatures in eight states - New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Congress recently gave its approval. The Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec adopted similar policies. The United Nations estimates that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will lack ready access to clean, fresh water...[Click here for the rest of the story](#)

Pontiff Urges Tourists To Think Green - Tourists should protect the environment and the local cultures they visit, says Benedict XVI. The Holy Father said tourism that treats the environment and other people responsibly is "a reason for hope in a world in which the distance between those who have everything and those who suffer hunger, scarcity and drought is accentuated." The Pope called for forming an "ethics of responsibility" that considers the well-being of future generation. "To learn to respect the environment also teaches respect for others and for oneself." [Read article](#)

Privatize Milwaukee's Water? In a new twist on the term "liquid asset," Milwaukee City Comptroller W. Martin "Wally" Morics called (10/1) for the city to consider privatizing its Water Works in a deal that could reap more than \$500 million. That revenue, a one-time payment for a 75- to 99-year lease, would be set aside as an endowment that could generate some \$30 million a year to keep city operations running, Morics said. But privatization of municipal water utilities has been controversial elsewhere. Barrett and Common Council leaders say they're willing to seriously consider the idea, but cautious about whether it could lead to water rate increases and foreign control of a vital city service. Read [article here](#) and [editorial here](#).



Health Insurance Companies Supporting CSAs and Farmers Markets

"Our food travels an average of 1,500 miles from farm to plate and much of our food is highly processed. To support consumers in eating more fresh, locally produced whole foods, health insurance companies are getting into the business of food. Physicians Plus, the Madison-based health insurance company, was the first in the country to offer families a [cash rebate of \\$200](#) to go towards their [CSA](#) farm subscription. Now four insurance companies and HMOs in the Madison [Wisconsin] area offer some kind of cash incentive for their members to sign up for a fresh box of weekly or bi-weekly produce. [Click here for the rest of the article.](#)

RESOURCES/ACTION IDEAS...



Celebrate Fair Trade Month - In Milwaukee join in a Fair Trade wine and chocolate tasting on 10/8 at Perpendicular Wine Bar, 5000 W. Vliet, at 7pm featuring a speaker from Divine Chocolate Company. Celebration of Sustainable Art and Crafts from Wisconsin and numerous developing countries 10/24-10/25 at the [Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store](#) at 5401 West Vliet. CRS has developed new handbook that provides an overview of the principles and history of Fair Trade as well as tools for making Fair Trade commitments. The new in-depth Fair Trade handbook is easy-to-use, inspiring and practical. To order this and other free educational resources, [click here](#).



Online Climate Time Machine - NASA has launched a website that provides a dramatic visualization of temperature change, sea level rise, co2 emissions, and ice melt from the beginning of the industrial revolution to the present. We find the temperature change map particularly mind melting. [Check it out here!](#)

Wisconsin Farm Fresh Market Atlas - Regional food guides which include farms, farmers' markets, restaurants, stores and other businesses that sell local food and use sustainable production and business practices. [Check it out here!](#)



Oct Solidarity Prayer for Environmental Justice/Eradication of Poverty - Environmental degradation and poverty are inextricably intertwined, resulting in a vicious cycle in which poverty causes environmental stress and, in turn, perpetuates more poverty, spreading it around the globe. [Join SSNDs in reflection and prayer for human dignity, environmental justice, and an end to poverty.](#)

Standing for MDGs/Against Poverty Oct 17-19

- S. Roxanne Schares (Shalom) & S. Ann Scholz (UN)

In September 2000, heads of government of 189 countries signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration and committed the nations of the world to an agenda for action designed to establish a world free from want, a world free from fear, a world where all people are free to live in dignity. Despite progress made, 50,000 people die everyday as a result of extreme poverty; the gap between rich and poor people is increasing and nearly half the world's population continues to live in poverty, 70% are women. We know we have the power to change this.

Last year SSNDs and their colleagues, students, and friends joined more the 43 million people world wide who stood up to publicly demonstrate their support for the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#). This year we are asking you to once more [Stand Up and Take Action](#). Tell the leaders of your community and the world that you support efforts to eradicate poverty and accomplish of the MDGs. Add your voice to those who pledge to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world who seek justice.



All the information you need [is posted here](#). You will find suggestions about how your unit, your community, your parish, or your school can add their voices to the millions who will Stand Up and Take Action October 17-19, 2008. Additional resources are available in English, German, Portuguese and Spanish at [Stand Up](#).

The Global Food Crisis - The current global food crisis is impacting billions of people around the world as the cost of almost all agricultural products has increased by forty percent in the last year and eighty-three percent over the last three years. The populations most impacted by the crisis have been children and the urban poor. A variety of factors have led to the food crisis, including both circumstantial causes (such as bad weather, a rise in energy prices, and stockpiling) and structural causes (such as higher demand due to the growing middle class in China, India and elsewhere, agricultural supports in the United States, the European Union (EU), and Japan, the use of food crops for biofuels, and under-investment in agriculture in many poor countries). [More information and resources for action can be found here.](#)



Yes, It's Election Time – What kind of news, resource, and reflection bulletin would we be if we didn't include something about the upcoming election? A terrific site for information, resources and reflection on the election is [Hill Connections Vote 2008 web page](#). Check it out! "Linking Contemplation and Social Justice, Faith with Action."

CAMPAIGN UPDATE...



70 individuals and 7 groups have taken the pledge and joined the Green Habit Campaign to promote sustainable living. Are you ready to join the Green Habit Campaign? **Take the Pledge!** Submit your pledge and your green habits to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Green Team at justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org or via the GJP Office. *Fun holiday ideas/activities to educate and inspire action are in development and will be on there way soon!*

The Green Sheet is an e-publication of the School Sisters of Notre Dame – Milwaukee Province **Office of Global Justice & Peace** and **SUNSEED Eco-Education Center**. If you have any comments on this edition of **The Green Sheet**, or suggestions for future editions, please contact S. Suzanne Moynihan at smoynihan@ssnd-milw.org or Tim Dewane at justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org

Have a great weekend!



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