



October 2011
Volume 5, Issue 10

Care for God's Creation

News from the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project

Modesto approves historic solar project

By John Holland, Modesto Bee, September 16, 2011. SunPower Corp. of San Jose recently gained approval for a solar electricity plant north of Modesto. The Modesto Irrigation District has agreed to buy the energy output, which will meet 2 percent of its demand... Several business and civic leaders spoke in support of the project, which will be the county's biggest solar installation by far.

"We think that it is ethically and morally the right thing to do, and we are happy to endorse it," said Elvira Ramirez, executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Stockton.

The project will help the MID meet a state mandate to get at least 33 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2020. It has moved close to the target thanks mainly to wind turbines. Read more: <http://www.modbee.com/2011/09/15/1862533/county-panel-oks-155-acre-solar.html>

Save the Dates

- **Month of October:** Take the "St. Francis of Assisi Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor." Discover useful resources at: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
- **Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30:** Environmental Justice will be celebrated in many parishes in the Stockton Diocese. To find out more, go to: www.ccstockton.org and click the Environmental Justice logo.
- **Saturday, November 19, San Joaquin Agricultural Center, Stockton:** "Faith, Food, and Agriculture," sponsored by Catholic Charities, Stockton Diocese and National Catholic Rural Life Conference. To register, go to: www.ccstockton.org
- **Tuesday, November 15th, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, San Francisco:** California interfaith Power & Light hosts the 5th Annual Energy Oscars. Past finalists have been the Stockton Diocese and Church of the Presentation, Stockton. To attend, go to: www.interfaithpower.org

Nature was a mirror of the soul for St. Francis of Assisi—a mirror for himself and a mirror for God. All this mirroring effected a complete change of consciousness, a shift in how he saw reality... Our Franciscan tradition has always seen creation as "the first Bible," which had a 14.5-billion-year lead on the written Bible.

- Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

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Roundup of climate news

Ways Climate Change Is Already Harming You

The consequences of climate change sometimes appear far off. But warming and changing weather patterns are already driving changes in public health. The Atlantic Monthly details seven ways climate change affects you and your well-being – heat waves, asthma, allergies, spread of infectious diseases, and more.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/life/archive/2011/09/health-and-climate-change-7-ways-you-are-being-harmed/245607/>

Alaska Natives First to Feel the Heat

Climate change may be a gradual thing, but for the Yup'ik people of Alaska, who still depend on hunting, gathering and fishing for much of their subsistence... warmer temperatures and thinner ice in recent years have altered ways of life passed down from generation to generation.

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/alaska-natives-climate-change-110926.html>

Moving Planet Rallies Held Around the World

More than 2,000 "Moving Planet" clean-energy demonstrations took place around the world - in all 50 U.S. states and in 175 countries.

www.moving-planet.org

Public Health and Climate Change

The Public Health Institute's Center for Public Health and Climate Change will convene two forums at which the public can help inform a public health strategy for California to deal with the effects of climate change. To participate, contact Robin Salsburg by October 6th at rsalsburg@stanfordalumni.org and indicate if you will attend the Oakland or Fresno meeting and if you have any dietary requirements.

- **Oakland, Tuesday, Oct. 11** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
California Endowment, 1111 Broadway, 7th Floor, Oakland 94607
- **Fresno, Thursday, Oct. 13** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
California Endowment, 2440 Tulare, Suite 200, Fresno 93721

About the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project...

Since 2005, the Environmental Justice Project has worked "to educate and motivate Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation, and to engage local parishes in activities aimed at dealing with environmental problems, particularly as they affect the poor." The Project brings a unique Catholic voice to the public policy debate in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.

Useful websites:

Catholic Charities, Stockton Diocese: www.ccstockton.org

National Catholic Rural Life Conference: www.ncrlc.com

CatholicClimateCovenant
Catholicclimatecovenant.org
