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# Care for God's Creation

*News from the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project*

## Stockton: Center of clean technology?

**January 24, 2012, Central Valley Business Journal:** Quietly, without many of its citizens perhaps noticing, the Central Valley city of Stockton is becoming a hub for clean technology, says Jared Blumenfeld, regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

He was in January 24th to help promote the EPA's involvement in funding a clean energy upgrade to a locomotive at Central California Traction Company, a 107-year-old short line railroad based in Stockton.

From his position, Mr. Blumenfeld sees Stockton becoming a center for clean and green industries, pointing to a new biodiesel plant at the Port of Stockton as well as Electric Vehicles International, which moved its headquarter to the Central Valley city from Mexico several years ago.

<http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=20253>

## Resources for parishes

**Wednesday, February 8,** the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Loyola University will offer "Catholics and the Climate: Fostering Mission-Based Sustainability. This one-hour free webinar begins at 8 pm (CST).

<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/online-events>

**February 10-12 is National Preach-In on Climate Change:** Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) invites clergy of all religions, lay leaders, and green team members to participate. For details and free download, go to:

<http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/get-involved/campaigns/sign-up-all-preach-in/>

**Lent 4.5-Christian Simplicity** is a seven-week faith formation program, designed to inspire and inform parishes on how to use the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to protect God's creation, bring forth a just society, and nurture a fulfilling spiritual life.

[www.earthandspiritcenter.org](http://www.earthandspiritcenter.org)

**How do I talk about climate change?** EnergyNow's eight minute video features a Catholic pastor in Kansas who couldn't convince his parish climate change was real, but succeeded in adopting efficiency measures that cut church energy use by 10 percent.

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/01/19/changing-the-conversation-to-conservation/>

*Is it not enough for you  
to feed on the good  
pasture, but must you  
tread down with your feet  
the rest of your pasture?  
When you drink of clear  
water, must you foul the  
rest with your feet?*

- **Ezekiel 34:18**

### **In this issue:**

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- Resources for parishes
- EPA's new air quality app
- EJ Project's new bilingual outreach coordinator



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## EPA offers free apps to check air quality

**CNN Health, January 30, 2012:** If you wanted to know the air quality Monday morning in Tulsa, Oklahoma (good), Baton Rouge, Louisiana (moderate), or Modesto, California (unhealthy for sensitive groups), a new smart phone app from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could have helped.

The EPA's free AIRNow app for Apple or Android phones allows users to enter a Zip Code and receive the pollutant and ozone levels for more than 400 cities across the country. You can also choose to check your current location.

The app gives levels for ozone and particle pollution such as automotive exhaust and an overall assessment of "good," "moderate," "unhealthy for sensitive groups," "unhealthy," "very unhealthy" and "hazardous" ...

If you want alerts sent by e-mail, you can subscribe to EPA's [www.enviroflash.info](http://www.enviroflash.info) The site allows you to specify where you live and what level of air quality you want to hear about.

[http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/30/epa-offers-free-apps/?hpt=hp\\_bn10](http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/30/epa-offers-free-apps/?hpt=hp_bn10)

## EJ Project welcomes bilingual outreach coordinator

Catholic Charities welcomes Jeremy Terhune to the Environmental Justice Project as its new bilingual outreach coordinator. Jeremy's experience includes establishing the San Joaquin Valley office of Defenders of Wildlife, organizing Friends of the Lower Calaveras River, and co-founding PUENTES, a human services and development organization giving people in Stockton the chance to grow food for their families and community. Jeremy also served for three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama.

"With his background in community organizing, his Spanish language skills, energy and imagination, the Environmental Justice Project is truly blest to have Jeremy Terhune join our team," said Betsy Reifsnider, director of the Environmental Justice Project.

### *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.

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Websites to Care for  
Creation:

**Catholic Charities, Stockton  
Diocese:** [www.ccstockton.org](http://www.ccstockton.org)

**National Catholic Rural Life  
Conference:** [www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com)

**Catholic Climate Covenant:**  
[www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

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