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# Care for God's Creation

*News from the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project*

## California confronts climate change

**By Erika Eichelberger, Mother Jones Magazine, August 4, 2012.**

North Carolina is dealing with sea level rise by banning science. California is doing something else: actually making plans.

The Golden State has made itself a leader on climate change in recent years, with initiatives to slash greenhouse gas emissions and amp up renewable energy. It has now released a hefty report on global warming's impacts on the state and how it plans to adapt to a hot new West.

The report, by the California Energy Commission and Natural Resources Agency, combines the work of dozens of research teams and will lay the foundation for a climate change adaptation strategy for the state.

California is projected to warm by up to 8 degrees by 2100, according to the report, which means more dehydration, more heart attacks, and more infectious diseases floating about. The study says cooling centers in cities will be key, and the public health department is pushing to create green urban areas, install "cool" roofs and pavement that reflect sunlight, and increase the capacity of health centers. Read more at: <http://m.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2012/08/california-climate-change-adaptation-plan>

Download the report: [www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/third\\_assessment/](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/third_assessment/)

## Put a human face on climate change

Join Catholic colleges and universities, high schools, youth groups, parishes, and other Catholic organizations to host a screening of the Academy Award-nominated film "Sun Come Up" in early October. This documentary depicts some of the world's first climate refugees, inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is providing a step-by-step packet to help spur discussion before and after the film, and offering action steps that colleges, parishioners, youth groups, and others can take to respond to the unfolding climate crisis from a faith perspective. The Coalition encourages groups to show the film during early October, preferably on or before the Feast of St. Francis, October 4. Learn more at: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

*Christ wears 'two shoes' in the world: Scripture and nature. Both are necessary to understand the Lord, and at no stage can creation be seen as a separation of things from God.*

**- John Scotus Eriugena**

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- California plans for climate change
- Host "Sun Come Up" screening
- Green Vets = green jobs
- Welcome to new EJ staff



## Green Vets create green jobs

**By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times, August 27, 2012.**

Wearing T-shirts bearing the slogan "Stitch or Die," a group of homeless veterans turned on sewing machines on a recent weekday and set to work, deep within a Carson, California manufacturing plant.

They were members of Green Vets Los Angeles, a nonprofit program designed to help them earn a living and overcome the physical injuries and lingering anxieties of battlefield service by putting together a hot new product in local markets: reusable cloth shopping bags made out of scrap material.

The program is the brainchild of Jim Cragg, president and chief executive of Special Operations Technologies Inc. Among clean water advocates, Cragg is regarded as a leader in grassroots campaigns to ban single-use plastic bags from Los Angeles to Sacramento.

"Our motivation is to clean local waterways and his is to create jobs for homeless vets and sell a product, which lends a patriotic aura to the cause," said Sarah Sikich, coastal resources director for the environmental advocacy group Heal the Bay. "In meetings before city councils and the state Legislature, I've seen ears perk up when Jim gets up and talks about how plastic pollution is not an exclusively environmental issue." Read more at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-green-vets-20120827,0,4550635.story>

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## Environmental Justice welcomes new staff

The Environmental Justice Project welcomes our new bilingual program manager, Jose Marin. Jose has more than fifteen years of service working in television and radio in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. In addition to his duties at Catholic Charities, he manages the "Tune In, Tune Up" program for Valley Clean Air Now. Jose is a parishioner at St. Mary's in Stockton and volunteers for several community committees throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Jose and his wife Eva have a daughter, Baby Mariah and another baby on the way.

You may reach Jose at: [jmarin@ccstockton.org](mailto:jmarin@ccstockton.org) or on his cell phone: [209-898-9201](tel:209-898-9201).

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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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### *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.