

Water, My Teacher

Like this rainbow, my life has turned upside down.

The "rain-bow" catches the water.

The water says,

I am life-giving, humble and precious,

Cleansing and pure.

Yet, I am in danger.

Please, save me, recycle me;

Use me sparingly.

The water teaches me.

It says,

Challenge the polluters,

Challenge the over users

Pray the rain dance

Help make me safe so that

The children will live

The earth will produce

And the sea creatures will survive.

Rainbow, keep turning my life upside down

So that

I can catch the water's beauty and

Dance with her movement into

NEW LIFE!!

Clara Streng, OSF

2010 PRACTICAL VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

As peacemakers, our vision for the environment in 2010 is to move towards:

- Involving All Educational Systems
- Stimulating Green Agricultural Practices
- Creating Incentives to Reduce Air Pollution
- Recognizing Human Rights of Clean Water
- Networking for More Environmental Effectiveness
- Increasing Global Collaboration in Economics, Environment, Conflict Resolution
- Initiating Government Incentives to Encourage Energy Reduction and Quality Control
- Finding Alternative Energy Sources that are Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable

Strategic Actions toward Implementing the Vision

As we return to our communities, we can initiate environmental **discussions, actions and advocacy** towards implementing our vision. Our brainstorm of possible actions includes the following:

- Education through internet
 - use “Peace by Peace” to network on environmental issues and continue collective energy (e.g., coolcities.org)
 - join internet groups that further green causes
 - find and support the “Cool Cities” program found on the Sierra Club website and at www.coolcities.org
- Become good stewards of environment:
 - commit in subtle but definitive ways to integrate environmental peace issues and practices in our lifestyle, work and other communities
 - use efficient cars (e.g., hybrid cars)
 - recycle, reuse, downsizing
 - conserve water and energy
 - join environmental groups
 - support farmer’s markets
 - educate and build “green”
 - use reusable grocery bags, cups, silverware, napkins
 - Start local community garden
 - become volunteers (within corporations we work with as well as other organizations)
- Advocacy:
 - present symposiums and programs to organizations, churches, schools
 - becoming more involved with local/state national government
 - write letters to editors
 - petition by voice, letter, etc. for a green environment (mass transportation, energy efficient buildings and tax breaks)
 - encourage the establishment and enlarging of recycling facilities
 - provide spots to local media and movie theatres (available from Bioneers or EcoSpots)
 - bring greater of bottled water scams and compare to lack of basic clean water available globally
 - challenge corporations to develop sustainable environmental practices and have transparency and monitoring practices
 - encourage media participation on educating on green issues
 - develop economic incentives for industry to reduce pollution and for governments to raise and enforce standards
 - increase participation on green lobbying

Environment Organizations and Resources

- Websites:
 - www.osfdbq.org for Order of St. Francis water program:
 - www.sierraclub.org and www.coolcities.org for info on Cool Cities program
 - www.pachamama.org for info on “Awakening the Dreamer” symposium
 - www.powertochoose.org for information about power providers
 - www.firethegrid.org – July 17th to pray for one hour – offer your energy to mother earth (if you are singer, sing to the earth; storyteller tell a story – for one hour to restore mother earth)
 - www.bioneers.org for free radio programs
 - www.wiserearth.org
 - www.greenbiz.org
 - www.greenfestivals.org
 - www.kilowattours.org for DVD “Kilowatt Ours” (as powerful as “An Inconvenient Truth”)
- Green non-toxic markers from Rose Art (at Target) or Boone
- For our education: “Going Global with the UN” video Series I and II – contact Noeli Biggs at recmodelun@dcccd.edu or 972.761.6742. Additional details available at <http://www.richlandcollege.edu/modelun/model.htm>
- Books: ***Blessed Unrest*** by Paul Hawkins (1 million organizations internationally involved in environment and social injustice) and ***Unbowed*** by Wangari **Maathai** (Kenya Nobel Peace prize winner for initiating the Greenbelt Movement)

Workshop Backup

<p>Women attending this workshop came from the following backgrounds and for the following reasons:</p>	<p>Brainstorm of environmental accomplishments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental planning in schools • Genetics • Protecting resources • Nuclear waste • Devastation of war • Sierra Club and it's Cool Cities program • Cancer prevention and environment • Connection to environment • Environment and spiritual presence • Collaborative efforts • Using environment in peace making • Sustainability is not sustainable growth • Ability to breathe in relation to one's health • Affinity to nature • Holistic and self sustaining process • Learn and take home to Africa • Spread message of loving the earth • Gardener - peace of mind • Children and grandchildren enjoy environment • Teach and pass on • Stewards of the earth • Consuming habits • Remind people to live simply • Importance to Dallas • Live simply so others may simply live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green buildings • Recycling • Nature Conservancy saving lands • Student protests in school dining halls against Styrofoam • Alternatives to fossil fuels (e.g., cars that run on air) • Large birds like the eagles returning • Tree ordinances • Alternative medicines • Organic farming • Recycling of gray water • Healthy diets • Cities with cleaner air • Biodegradable products • Paul Hawkins announcing a worldwide movement of one million organizations dealing with environment and social injustice • Corporations changing • Fight against water privatization • Religious and spiritual inclusion of environment concerns • Live simply movement • Al Gore award • Sweden healthy economy and environment (increasing its economy as it lowers its dependency on fossil fuels) • Cuba recent turn-around to healthy eating, etc. • National Center for complementary alternative medicine, a part of National Institute of Health

<h2 style="text-align: center;">2010 Practical Vision for Peacemakers Role in Environment</h2>							
Increasing Global Collaboration <small>in Economics, Environment, Conflict Resolution</small>	Networking for More Environmental Effectiveness	Involving All Educational Systems	Recognizing Human Rights of Clean Water	Initiating Government Incentives <small>to Encourage Energy Reduction and Quality Control</small>	Finding Alternative Energy Sources that are <small>Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable</small>	Stimulating Green Agricultural Practices	Creating Incentives to Reduce Air Pollution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US passage of fair trade law • US sign and implement Kyoto accord • Diplomacy replaces war • Strict controls on all US industries as to their carbon production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A good communal discussion of overpopulation •Network actively going forward, accomplishing our group goals, pooling our resources (e.g., webinars, teleseminars) •Greater awareness for the connection between peace and the environment •Lessen noise pollution = less cell phone public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hire specialists to teach green issues, reduce consumption, consumerism, recycling and reusing resources •Middle and high schools have required classes in environment •Reduce consumption •Moral change on consumerism and consumption (GNP lowered recycling raised) •Education of green issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developers required to use gray water •Awareness of water ownership •National and local water ministries •Re-education of water use such as bottled water (civic, corporate/ personal efforts to save and reuse water wisely) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •More green tax breaks •Incentives for clean water and air programs •Accountability for polluters to reduce pollution (corporation and individuals) •Using best city plans to decrease air pollution as role models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iraq war \$ diverted to solar/ other energy research - shared with Iraq and others •Effective use of mass transit •Find sustainable alternative energy sources •Businesses require thermostats set at 68 (winter) and 76 (summer) •Avoid bad choices of alternative fuels (corn ethanol, nuclear energy) •Reduce b 50% use of fossil fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Organic farming •Reduce over production •Encourage use of locally grown products •Pass US farm bill reducing over production by corporate farms and increase small farm support •25% more people decide to eat locally grown organic food •Total transition to organic foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Find models already working and adapt locally •Cost benefits to create awareness of benefits economically •Make coalitions with groups already doing this

Brainstorm of Roadblocks and Challenges to Our Vision

- seven deadly sins
- growth economic model
- governmental bureaucracy
- consumer ignorance
- resistance to change
- corporate greed
- fear of loss of livelihood (leave no child inside)
- egocentricity
- disconnection from nature
- poverty
- overpopulation
- lack of spirituality
- apathy-not affected personally
- difficulty to change habits
- resistance of older adults to listen to youth
- not listening: generations, other cultures
- violence and wars
- multi national corporations not accountable
- lack spirituality

Peacemakers in Environment Strategic Actions for Women's Peace Conference			
Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be involved with local/state national government • Establish and enlarge recycling facilities • Present symposiums/programs to organizations, churches, schools • Provide spots to local media and movie theatres. Available from Bioneers or EcoSpots • Individual actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conserve water and energy b. Join environmental groups c. Support farmer's markets d. Educate friends and neighbors e. Use efficient cars f. Write letters to editors g. Educate and build "green" h. Use reusable grocery bags, cups, silverware, napkins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Peace by Peace" to network on environmental issues and continue collective energy (e.g., coolcities.org) • To commit in subtle but definitive ways to integrate environmental peace issues and practices in our lifestyle, work and other communities (relationships) • Volunteers in corporations and individually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join internet groups that further green causes • Bring greater of bottled water scams and compare to lack of basic clean water available globally • Start local community garden • Personally reducing what and energy use • Challenge corporations to develop sustainable environmental practices and have transparency and monitoring practices • Encourage media participation on educating on green issues • Develop economic incentives for industry to reduce pollution and for governments to raise and enforce standards • Increase participation on green lobbying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to our communities to start discussion, action, advocacy on environmental issues • Education through internet using "Peace to Peace" for networking • Become good stewards of environment: hybrid cars, recycling, and downsizing. • Advocacy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. encourage serious concern re our environment b. Petition by voice, letter, etc. for a green environment (mass transportation, energy efficient buildings and tax breaks)