

Religion and Ecology News Articles

Dear Forum Colleagues,

Greetings! Below you will find the latest religion and ecology news articles from a number of news sources. For your convenience, I have included short introductions to each story and provide URLs for the full story. I have grouped articles together that pertain to a common topic, but a number of articles belong within multiple sections.

Within this email, you will find news related to the following topics:

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For recent news articles, visit: <http://fore.yale.edu/news/>

For the archive of past news articles, visit: <http://fore.yale.edu/publications/massmedia>

Take care,
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1. The Work of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale

F&ES Faculty Receives Award in Iran Recognizing Work in Religion and Ecology

By Timothy Brown

Yale School Forestry & Environmental Studies

June 27, 2016

<http://environment.yale.edu/news/article/iran-award-religion-and-ecology/>

American media often portrays Iran, a nation of roughly 78 million, as a dangerous threat not only to the region, but also to the United States and other western countries. But according to Mary Evelyn Tucker, a senior lecturer and research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES) and the Yale Divinity School (YDS) many Iranians are more concerned about their deteriorating environment than terrorism. And with the lifting of sanctions, Iran is reaching out to join the international community, she observes. In late April, Tucker and her husband John Grim, also a senior lecturer and research scholar at F&ES, travelled to Tehran for the “Second International Seminar on Religion, Culture, and Environment: Promoting Intercultural Dialogue for Sustainable Development”. The two-day conference – the third that Tucker and Grim have attended at the invitation of the Iranian government – featured discussions by international scholars, environmentalists, religious leaders, and public officials on the roles of religion and culture to help achieve sustainable development goals. Tucker, who co-directs the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale with Grim, was also presented with a special award from the Iranian President, Hassan Rouhani, recognizing her “efforts and achievements in preserving the essence of life and the global environment.”

The Unfolding Story of the Universe: A Conversation with Mary Evelyn Tucker and Julianne Warren

By Sam Mowe

Garrison Institute

July 20, 2016

<https://www.garrisoninstitute.org/blog/unfolding-story-universe/>

In their *Journey of the Universe* project—which includes a film, book, and website—philosopher Brian Thomas Swimme and historian of religions Mary Evelyn Tucker attempt to tell the biggest story ever told: the history of the universe. Through a compelling blend of scientific facts and humanistic inquiry, they move from exploring the formation of the galaxies, stars, planets, and evolution of life on Earth to reflecting on the role of humanity during our current moment of social and ecological challenges. One person whose work has been deeply influenced by the Journey of the Universe project is writer and ecological thinker Julianne Warren. In her different projects exploring the Anthropocene, Warren has used Journey of the Universe as a touchstone while she asks questions about hope and human responsibility. I recently spoke with Tucker and Warren by phone to discuss some of the big ideas explored in Journey of the Universe, such as the transformative power of story, the relationship between science and the humanities, and how we can create meaning in the space between knowledge and mystery.

FORE visits Voices for Earth Justice

Voices for Earth Justice Newsletter

July 2016

<http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9eb850d03ad7bc11a3bb09576&id=8529215ea9&e=ac77c0dfea>

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, co-directors of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University, visited Hope House in June as their first stop on an environmental tour of Detroit. They were in Detroit to lead a two day workshop at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and Conference Center in Detroit, and show their film "Journey of the Universe" at Mercy Center in Farmington. See more photos from their visit: <https://www.voices4earth.org/FORE-visits-VEJ>

2. Indigenous Traditions and Ecology

Dakota Access Pipeline Standoff: Mni Wiconi, Water is Life

By Valerie Taliman

Indian Country Today Media Network

August 15, 2016

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/08/15/dakota-access-pipeline-standoff-mni-wiconi-water-life-165470>

The controversial Dakota Access Pipeline project is back in the news. Over the weekend, tribal activists faced off against lines of police in Hunkpapa Territory near Cannon Ball as construction crews prepared to break ground for the new pipeline, while Standing Rock Sioux governmental officials resolved to broaden their legal battle to stop the project. On July 26, 2016 the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was stunned to learn that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had given its approval for the pipeline to run within a half-mile of the reservation without proper consultation or consent. Also, the new 1,172 mile Dakota Access Pipeline will cross Lake Oahe (formed by Oahe Dam on the Missouri) and the Missouri River as well, and disturb burial grounds and sacred sites on the tribe's ancestral Treaty lands, according to SRST officials.

John Ahni Schertow shines a spotlight on indigenous resistance

By Stephyn Quirke

Street Roots News

July 30, 2016

<http://news.streetroots.org/2016/07/30/john-ahni-schertow-shines-spotlight-indigenous-resistance>

Indigenous peoples' struggles go unseen by much of the world. IC Magazine's editor is working to change that. On June 30, Carol Linnitt of the online news magazine DeSmog Canada reported that a controversial crude oil pipeline had just been defeated in British Columbia, writing "Enbridge Northern Gateway: 'First Nations Save Us Again.'"

Canada plans to lean on Indigenous knowledge to combat climate change

By Delaney Windigo

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network National News

July 14, 2016

<http://aptn.ca/news/2016/07/14/canada-plans-to-lean-on-indigenous-knowledge-to-combat-climate-change/>

NIAGARA FALLS – For far too long governments ignored the warnings from elders. Elders who could see shift in climate. Ice beneath their feet thinner, more forest fires and temperatures rising. The elders saw it but no one was listening according to Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna who addressed chiefs at the Assembly of First Nations' 37th annual general assembly in Niagara Falls Wednesday.

Global Indigenous youth taking the planet in their hands

By Lucy Cormack

Sydney Morning Herald

June 25, 2016

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/impact-journalism-day-global-indigenous-youth-taking-the-planet-it-its-hands-20160513-goulb3.html>

Amelia Telford remembers the moment huge slabs of her country were swallowed by the sea. It was 2009 and a severe storm had battered Kingscliff, her home on the east coast of Australia. Several metres of beach and dune disappeared, while cranes were needed to shift whole buildings back to save them from the water's edge. The Kingscliff coastline was "barely recognisable".

Amazon megadam denied licence over environmental, indigenous concerns

By Megan Darby

Climate Home

August 4, 2016

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2016/08/04/amazon-megadam-denied-licence-over-environmental-indigenous-concerns/>

The 8GW Sao Luiz do Tapajos hydropower project is expected to get the thumbs down from Brazilian regulators, in move cautiously welcomed by activists. That was the outcome of a meeting of the top government lawyer and agencies for the environment and indigenous people this week, newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo reported.

Defending lands, indigenous group fights dams in Brazil's Amazon

DW

July 13, 2016

<http://www.dw.com/en/defending-lands-indigenous-group-fights-dams-in-brazils-amazon/a-19398301>

Indigenous leader Geraldo Kixi Munduruku has problems sleeping at night. At 58, he feels again the fear he knew in 1989, when he had heard about the construction of a hydropower dam on the Tapajós River in the Brazilian state of Para for the first time. Nearly 25 years later, the days of calm for the Munduruku community living on the Tapajós, surrounded by the Amazon forest, are gone. The Brazilian government plans to begin building the hydropower facility São Luiz do Tapajós in 2016.

Illegal gold mining causing mercury contamination in indigenous groups

By Carolina Torres

Mongabay

July 7, 2016

<https://news.mongabay.com/2016/07/illegal-gold-mining-causing-mercury-contamination-in-indigenous-groups/>

Research finds high, unsafe levels of mercury contamination in Brazil's Yanomami and Ye'kuana peoples, almost certainly due to illegal gold mining on indigenous lands in the Amazon. Conflict between gold miners and indigenous people in Brazil is common, with 134 Indians killed in 2015 in mining-related disputes. Mercury contamination of Amazon rivers is a less visible, but no less serious threat to the lives of Brazilian Indians.

Rising temperatures drying up history, one lake at a time

By Daksha Rangan

The Weather Network

July 20, 2016

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/us/news/articles/climate-and-environment/rising-temperatures-drying-up-history-one-lake-at-a-time/70321>

For urban dwellers and suburbanites, the changing pace of global weather patterns might only be cause for concern when minor anomalies take place -- a snowless winter, dry spring, or cooler summer, for example. But for rural residents -- namely, some of the world's indigenous communities -- earth's rising temperatures have a stark impact. This is the case for locals in the Andes of Bolivia, who once thrived off the country's second-largest lake.

Violent 2015 sees three environmental activists killed each week

By Anastasia Moloney

Reuters

June 19, 2016

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-landrights-violence-idUSKCN0Z601U>

BOGOTA (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Three environmental activists were killed per week last year, murdered defending land rights and the environment from mining, dam projects and logging, a campaign group said on Monday. In 16 countries surveyed in a report by Global

Witness, 185 activists were killed, making 2015 the deadliest year for environment and land campaigners since 2002. "The environment is emerging as a new battleground for human rights," the report said.

3. Pope Francis, Climate Change, and the Environment

One year after the Papal encyclical Laudato Si was released, there is growing interest in its message that brings together eco-justice issues for people and the planet.

One year later, how a Pope's message on climate has resonated

By Cristina Maza

Christian Science Monitor

June 24, 2016

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2016/0624/One-year-later-how-a-Pope-s-message-on-climate-has-resonated>

For Catholics around the world, climate change is a heightened priority – and many are taking action in the wake of efforts by Pope Francis to focus on environmental stewardship.

It's a story that runs counter to popular perception, which holds that religious people do not believe in climate change – or believe that it falls outside the realm of human control.

Laudato Si': Putting faith on the frontline of the climate justice fight

By Jennifer Butler and Aaron Mair

National Catholic Reporter

June 16, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/laudato-si-putting-faith-frontline-climate-justice-fight>

Last year, Pope Francis challenged the Catholic church and the world to be more proactive in combatting climate change and preserving the environment in a historic document titled "*Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home." As we mark the one-year anniversary of this momentous spiritual document, the need for action couldn't be more urgent.

Prayer for a planet: Pope Francis and the politics of climate change

By Bill Blaikie

iPolitics

August 4, 2016

<http://ipolitics.ca/2016/08/04/prayer-for-a-planet-pope-francis-and-the-politics-of-climate-change/>

Last week, about 2 million young people — including nearly 4,000 Canadians — gathered in Poland to hear Pope Francis speak at Catholic World Youth Day. Even if, like me, you're neither young nor Catholic, this was still an event with interesting ramifications for Canada and our politics. World Youth Day happens every few years; this was the first edition since the Pope released his encyclical *Laudato Si* in 2015, which focused on environmental and ecological issues.

Youth Urge Pope to Push Harder for Divestment

By Ruth McCambridge

Nonprofit Quarterly

August 1, 2016

<https://nonprofitquarterly.org/2016/08/01/youth-urge-pope-push-harder-divestment/>

On World Youth Day, celebrated this year in Krakow, Poland, an open letter signed by over 120 youth groups was delivered to Pope Francis, asking that he urge Catholic organizations of all kinds to divest from fossil fuels while continuing his own efforts to divest the Vatican.

Here's A Look At How Catholic Churches Are Taking Pope Francis' Climate Encyclical To Heart

By Sydney Pereira

Think Progress

July 11, 2016

<https://thinkprogress.org/heres-a-look-at-how-catholic-churches-are-taking-pope-francis-climate-encyclical-to-heart-fafd2d1b0ca5#.25ugu0sjy>

It's been over a year since Pope Francis released his climate encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which recognized the dangers of human-caused climate change and the moral imperative to address it. Since then, Catholic leaders have been adapting their churches to speak out and take action on climate change. The Catholic Church has a history of recognizing environmental problems, but the encyclical last year has sparked more efforts to make changes.

Church to faithful: Take Pope's encyclical seriously

By William B. Depasupil

Manila Times

July 6, 2016

<http://www.manilatimes.net/church-to-faithful-take-popes-encyclical-seriously/272127/>

The leader of the Catholic Church in the Philippines, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Antonio Tagle, has called on the faithful to take an encyclical of Pope Francis on the environment "seriously," especially the call to "integral ecological conversion." "Let us take the bold step of reviewing and changing our lifestyles, our patterns of consumption, of spending," said Tagle, president of Caritas Internationalis, adding that the Earth would only be a beautiful home if everybody takes responsibility for it.

Baltimore archbishop: Addressing climate change is a 'moral imperative'

By William E. Lori

The Baltimore Sun

June 26, 2016

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-encyclical-anniversary-20160625-story.html>

One year ago this spring, Pope Francis released his landmark encyclical letter on ecology, *Laudato Si*, which called upon all of us to serve as diligent stewards of creation. Pope Francis delivered this message with great urgency — and with good reason. Climate change is already having severe impacts around the world that prevent some people, especially the poor and vulnerable, from enjoying the goods of creation, which God intends for everyone. If we fail to take action, we ignore our moral obligation to protect human life, prevent suffering, care for the poor and leave behind a safe world for future generations.

Living Green

By Kathryn McKenzie

Santa Cruz Sentinel

July 28, 2016

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/environment-and-nature/20160728/living-green>

Monterey Bishop Richard J. Garcia in June wrote a letter to priests and deacons within the Diocese of Monterey, calling on the 34 churches within the diocese to live the words set down by Pope Francis, above, whose 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*, urges humankind to act now to save the earth.

Top 10 messages of 'Laudato Si'

By Father James Martin, SJ

Catholic San Francisco

August 9, 2016

<http://www.catholic-sf.org/ns.php?newsid=22&id=64520>

Jesuit Father James Martin, editor-at-large for *America* magazine, distilled the nearly 200 pages of “*Laudato Si*” into 10 key messages in a four-minute video produced last summer, offering Catholics a visual digest of the document. View it at sfarch.org/green.

'Laudato Si' and the liturgical work ahead

By James Hug

National Catholic Reporter

July 19, 2016

<http://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/laudato-si-and-liturgical-work-ahead>

The first anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical "*Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home," was celebrated globally with an international week of prayer, education, reflection and action. It was far from the usual treatment for a papal social encyclical. It is a tribute to Francis' activist spirit and broad appeal -- and to the fact that ordinary people around the planet are painfully aware of the urgency of the issues he raises so accessibly, so forcefully, so well.

Atlanta diocese and Catholic scientists in Georgia develop Laudato Si' Action Plan, addressing "the civil rights issue of our time"

The Global Catholic Climate Movement

Press Release

April 2016

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/atlanta-diocese-and-catholic-scientists-in-georgia-develop-laudato-si-action-plan-addressing-the-civil-rights-issue-of-our-time/>

ATHENS—As birds chirped in Rosella's Garden at the Catholic Center of the University of Georgia April 5, scientists, students and members of the interfaith community gathered to celebrate a formal response to a special letter. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory and recently retired UGA environmental scientist Susan Varlamoff led the celebration of the official Action Plan for the Archdiocese of Atlanta on Pope Francis' encyclical "*Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home."

Vatican Gardens' gruesome past grows into green haven

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

July 30, 2016

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/marshy-manicured-vatican-gardens-gruesome-past-grows-green-haven>

Vatican City -- Today's lush and immaculately manicured Vatican Gardens were once just a sprawl of mosquito-infested swamps, clay hillsides and hardy grape vines. The wild, unpopulated landscape on the fringes of early Rome slowly shifted as it changed to accommodate historical events over the course of 2,000 years: the martyrdom and burial of St. Peter; the blossoming of Christianity; the growth of papal power; and the eventual establishment of the world's smallest sovereign nation.

4. Climate Resolution of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

AME Church Adopts Climate Resolution: Call for Urgent Action on Climate Change Passed at 50th General Conference

Blessed Tomorrow

July 13, 2016

<http://blessedtomorrow.org/ame-resolution-press-release>

PHILADELPHIA — The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME Church), the oldest independent Protestant denomination founded by Black people in the world, passed an historic climate resolution at their 50th General Conference today committing to support climate policies that will protect families, create healthy and safe communities, and build a clean energy future. This is the first resolution wholly dedicated to addressing climate change in the AME Church's 200 years of existence.

AME Church: Climate change disproportionately hurts blacks

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

July 14, 2016

<http://religionnews.com/2016/07/14/ame-church-climate-change-disproportionately-hurts-blacks/>

African Methodist Episcopal Church members have joined the call of other religious leaders for action on climate change, citing its disproportionate effect on the health of black people. "We can move away from the dirty fuels that make us sick and shift toward safe, clean energy like wind and solar that help make every breath our neighbors and families take a healthy one," reads a resolution passed on Wednesday (July 13), at the end of the church's quadrennial General Conference in Philadelphia.

'World can't afford to silence us': black church leaders address climate change

By Oliver Milman

The Guardian

July 24, 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/24/african-methodist-episcopal-church-climate-change-letter>

African American religious leaders have added their weight to calls for action on climate change, with one of the largest and oldest black churches in the US warning that black people are disproportionately harmed by global warming and fossil fuel pollution. The African Methodist Episcopal church has passed its first resolution in its 200-year history devoted to climate change, calling for a swift transition to renewable energy.

5. Christianity and Ecology

Charity Sr. Paula Gonzalez, 'the solar nun,' dies at age 83

By Sharon Abercrombie

National Catholic Reporter

August 9, 2016

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/charity-sr-paula-gonzalez-solar-nun-remembered-environmentalists-force-nature>

Environmentalists are mourning the death of Charity Sr. Paula Gonzalez, a Cincinnati nun who spent the last 45 years of her life advocating for renewable energy. Gonzalez, 83, died July 31 at the Charity Sisters' Ohio motherhouse. Born on Oct. 25 1932, in Albuquerque, N.M., Gonzalez entered the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati in 1954. She later earned a Ph.D. in cellular physiology from the Catholic University of America and taught biology at Mount St. Joseph University, in Cincinnati, from 1965-1980 before becoming involved full time in environmental ministry.

Louisiana flooding displaces 20,000, Baton Rouge churches call for volunteers

By Catholic News Service

National Catholic Reporter

August 16, 2016

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/louisiana-flooding-displaces-20000-baton-rouge-churches-call-volunteers>

As Louisiana's governor announced the federal government had declared a major disaster for the state Saturday, Catholic churches in the Baton Rouge diocese called for volunteers to help those displaced by extreme flooding and asked flood victims what assistance they needed.

When Protest Becomes Sacrament: Grady Sisters Heed a Higher Call

By Nicholas Kusnetz

Inside Climate News

August 10, 2016

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09082016/new-york-fracking-ban-we-are-seneca-lake-protests-crestwood-natural-gas-plowshares-into-swords-nuclear>

These Catholic social justice advocates are exemplars of the force behind We Are Seneca Lake, one of the nation's longest-running campaigns of civil disobedience. On a warm May morning, two dozen people wearing blue shirts formed a neat line in front of the gates of a natural gas compressor station in central New York. The facility lay hidden somewhere in the trees behind them, and just beyond was Seneca Lake, a 38-mile azure gash through deep green hills that provides drinking water to 100,000 people.

Sisters of Earth convention brings together women committed to caring for the planet

By Mandy Erickson

Global Sisters Report

July 12, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/environment/sisters-earth-convention-brings-together-women-committed-caring-planet-40951>

Colonization has not ended, said speakers at the July 7-10 Sisters of Earth convention: Governments and industries are still taking land from indigenous people, largely destroying

ecosystems for profit. For example, while Spain no longer controls South America, "the way of thinking and feeling about the land did not change," said Medical Mission Sr. Birgit Weiler, who teaches at the Jesuit Antonio Ruiz de Montoya University in Lima, Peru, and works with the Awajún and Wampí tribes of the Amazon, who are fighting oil extraction on their lands.

Sisters' school stands out in Guatemalan dump town

By J. Malcolm Garcia

Global Sisters Report

June 20, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry/sisters-school-stands-out-guatemalan-dump-town-40431>

The sisters who teach at the Francisco Coll School know all too well the difficulties their students confront daily. The students live in a barrio near a massive garbage dump not far from the school and less than a half-hour drive from the posh tourist attractions of downtown. The children suffer from malnutrition, they suffer at the hands of drug-addicted parents and gangs, they suffer from toxic pollutants released into the air from the dump.

Closed mines haunt two towns in Honduras as threats against activists mount

By J. Malcolm Garcia

Global Sisters Report

August 8, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/environment/closed-mines-haunt-two-towns-honduras-threats-against-activists-mount-41521>

The mines no longer operate. The large trucks that carried heavy equipment no longer rumble down dirt roads fogging the air with dust. The workers no longer trudge along those same roads inhaling the dust weighted by the humidity of dawn. Community opposition succeeded in shutting down mines in Nueva Esperanza in northern Honduras and El Tránsito far to the south near the border of Nicaragua. But to many people in these two small towns the closings serve only as a pyrrhic victory.

Recycling center in Brooklyn creates community while serving those in need

By Gail DeGeorge

Global Sisters Report

July 25, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/environment/recycling-center-brooklyn-creates-community-while-serving-those-need-41096>

Her gloved hands deep in buckets of fruit pieces, vegetable peels and other food dreck, Sr. Ana Martinez de Luco flashes a smile as she mixes what will become Sure We Can's own brand of compost. [...] As the only nonprofit redemption center in New York City, Sure We Can is an economic lifeline for more than 400 canners. They can cash in what they've gathered — in small

amounts or bulk — for the state-mandated 5 cents per piece, or they can earn a bit more by counting and sorting, which helps Sure We Can reduce its costs.

Marian devotees in Vietnam urged to take responsibility for environment

By Joachim Pham

National Catholic Reporter

August 16, 2016

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/marian-devotees-vietnam-urged-take-responsibility-environment>

Catholics in the central Vietnamese diocese of Vinh who attended feast of the Assumption celebrations Aug. 15 were urged to help victims of marine pollution and to work to protect the environment. Some 50,000 Catholics gathered in Xa Doai Cathedral and its square in Nghi Loc, Nghe An province for feast day celebrations. Among them were more than 1,500 parishioners who marched 5 kilometers from Nhan Hoa deanery to the cathedral, carrying banners reading "Close down Formosa," and "protecting the environment is protecting our life."

6. Buddhism and Ecology

Tibetan monk who went beyond religion

By Balan Moses

Malay Mail Online

July 19, 2016

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/tibetan-monk-who-went-beyond-religion>

KUALA LUMPUR, July 19 — A Tibetan Buddhist leader in exile is changing the face of the ancient religion with a power-packed agenda that aims to improve the lives, and environment, of the people he constantly prays for. Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang, who established the Drikung Kagyu seat in exile in Dehra Dun, India, after fleeing his native Tibet in 1975, has put his hand to the plow in an effort to fast-forward Buddhism to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Buddhist monks buy 600lbs of lobster to release them back into the ocean

By Rachael Pells

Independent

July 10, 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/buddhist-monks-buy-600lbs-of-lobster-to-release-them-back-into-the-ocean-a7129696.html>

More than 600 pounds (272kg) of lobsters have been spared the pot thanks to a liberation project arranged by a group of Buddhist monks in Canada. The monks, from the Great Enlightenment

Buddhist Institute Society, bought the lobsters from various sources around Prince Edward Island in Eastern Canada, before taking them out to [sea](#).

7. Religion and Ecology in India

World Culture Festival: Sri Sri event destroyed Yamuna's floodplain, biodiversity lost forever, expert panel to NGT

By Kaunain Sheriff M

The Indian Express

August 17, 2016

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/art-of-living-sri-sri-ravi-shankar-yamuna-world-culture-festival-ngt-2979660/>

A committee of experts, appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to assess the damage caused to the Yamuna floodplain in Delhi where the World Culture Festival of The Art of Living was held last March, has found that the “entire floodplain area used for the main event site” has been “completely destroyed” causing “invisible loss of biodiversity” that “may never be able to return”.

What It Takes to Clean the Ganges

By George Black

The New Yorker

July 25, 2016

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/07/25/what-it-takes-to-clean-the-ganges>

More than a billion gallons of raw sewage and industrial effluent enter the river every day. The Hindu-nationalist government's restoration initiative plays directly into India's charged religious and caste politics. The Ganges River begins in the Himalayas, roughly three hundred miles north of Delhi and five miles south of India's border with Tibet, where it emerges from an ice cave called Gaumukh (the Cow's Mouth) and is known as the Bhagirathi. Eleven miles downstream, gray-blue with glacial silt, it reaches the small temple town of Gangotri. Pilgrims cluster on the rocky riverbank. Some swallow mouthfuls of the icy water, which they call *amrit*—nectar. Women in bright saris wade out into the water, filling small plastic flasks to take home. Indians living abroad can buy a bottle of it on Amazon or on eBay for \$9.99.

Sisters change lives for waste pickers of central India

By Saji Thomas

Global Sisters Report

June 27, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/ministry/sisters-change-lives-waste-pickers-central-india-40576>

Sarika Dhamke was only 10 when the onus of looking after her seven-member family fell on her shoulders. Her mother, the family's only breadwinner, had fallen ill, and Dhamke, being the eldest of three girls and two boys, had to take up the challenge. The only apparent option for the illiterate, untrained girl was to join hordes of slum children who scavenged in the streets and landfills of Indore, a central Indian city of 1.5 million.

8. Religion, Ethics, and Ecology

A World at War: We're under attack from climate change—and our only hope is to mobilize like we did in WWII.

By Bill McKibben

New Republic

August 15, 2016

<https://newrepublic.com/article/135684/declare-war-climate-change-mobilize-wwii>

In the North this summer, a devastating offensive is underway. Enemy forces have seized huge swaths of territory; with each passing week, another 22,000 square miles of Arctic ice disappears. Experts dispatched to the battlefield in July saw little cause for hope, especially since this siege is one of the oldest fronts in the war. “In 30 years, the area has shrunk approximately by half,” said a scientist who examined the onslaught. “There doesn’t seem anything able to stop this.” In the Pacific this spring, the enemy staged a daring breakout across thousands of miles of ocean, waging a full-scale assault on the region’s coral reefs. In a matter of months, long stretches of formations like the Great Barrier Reef—dating back past the start of human civilization and visible from space—were reduced to white bone-yards.

Religious scholars recommend ways to combat climate change

By Menan Khater

Daily News Egypt

June 28, 2016

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2016/06/28/religious-scholars-recommend-ways-combat-climate-change/>

Contemporary environmental malpractices are religiously prohibited, say the scholars. In the 41st round of the Cairo Climate Talks, religious scholars from different backgrounds tried to connect the dots between Islam, Christianity, and taking care of the environment in Egypt, in light of global climate change movements.

Be kind to the environment for a greener Eid al Fitr

By Mohamed Abdel Raouf

Albawaba Business

July 5, 2016

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/be-kind-environment-greener-eid-al-fitr-859558>

Eid Al-Fitr is an important religious holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, and is celebrated by Muslims all over the world. On this festive occasion, people usually buy new clothes, cook traditional food, greet and visit their families and neighbors, offer gifts and money to their younger relatives, go on picnics to public parks and beaches, arrange big parties and huge feasts, and so on.

Biblical animal prophecy reveals ecology is all about peace

By Donna Schaper

National Catholic Reporter

July 11, 2016

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/biblical-animal-prophecy-reveals-ecology-all-about-peace>

The prophet Isaiah spoke about the promise of universal peace in this way: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.”

9. Newsletters

Forum on Religion and Ecology Newsletter

<http://fore.yale.edu/publications/newsletters/>

Carbon Rangers/Ecozoic Times Newsletter

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=5dd06f3cbb86536df56de4a9d&id=571b51c977>

Creation Justice Ministries Newsletter

<http://www.creationjustice.org/capsules.html>

Eco-Congregation Scotland Newsletter

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=a37b4ff760ffcc7fd1c3611b4&id=57e0b5c50a>

EcoPeace Middle East Newsletter

<http://www.foeme.org/peace.php>

Garrison Institute’s Climate, Mind and Behavior Newsletter

<https://www.garrisoninstitute.org/insights-tools/resources/>

Green Church Newsletter

<http://green-church.org/newsletters>

GreenFaith Newsletter

<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/greenfaith/viewOnlineEmail.jsp?emailId=54cbdf1e828f780747d288b2eedc68ee5m032054354c>

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES)/EcoIslam Newsletter

<http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9e7db8d664e580892adb797bf&id=45f1a8da85>

Minding Animals Bulletin

<https://mindinganimals.com/bulletins/>

Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute Newsletter

<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=887c3de8b0&id=e86d980456>

Voices for Earth Justice Newsletter

<http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9eb850d03ad7bc11a3bb09576&id=e8a11c035d>

Wake Forest University School of Divinity - Field & Table Newsletter

<http://us10.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=3127f74a14019a66fd2af07fe&id=823baecd88>
