

GWAT 2/20/08 Meeting Notes

We had a great meeting last Tuesday! Nearly 20 attendees from Assumption, All Saints, St. Joseph's Home for Children, St. Frances Cabrini, St. Joan of Arc, Franciscan religious communities, St. Joe's W. St. Paul, Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Gerard's, Transfiguration, the Lutheran Coalition, C3, and our speaker from Fresh Energy. Thank you all for attending - if you weren't there, come to the next one in March!

Most of our time was spent with J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy. J. filled us in on the Green Solutions Act - a bill that is being heard in both senate and house committees this week. The bills are **HF3195 (Kate Knuth) and SF2818 (Ellen Anderson) – Green Solutions Act** - establishing principles of a cap and trade program for greenhouse gas emissions; establishing a climate trust fund, and specifying its goals and uses; requiring studies. The GSA would begin the development of a cap and trade system to limit and reduce greenhouse gases in Minnesota. It also encourages a regional system in the Midwest, utilizing the Midwest Greenhouse Gas Accord that MN currently is part of. It would place a cost on emitting greenhouses, therefore creating market incentives to reduce them. The costs would create a trust fund that could be used to develop green energy sources, and/or be returned to consumers. This Act would be a big step in the direction of implementing the Next Generation Energy Act and Renewable Energy Standard passed last year.

UPDATES given at the meeting:

- Clarence Chaplin, who has been with GWAT from the start, is working with the Green Institute Metro CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Teams). He is available to help congregations establish Creation Care Teams and to help existing teams with their efforts. He can be reached at 651/695-0982 or chapoutdoors@msn.com
- GWAT members are also available to come speak at your parish to any size group on Global Warming and GWAT, and to help encourage Creation Care Team formation and work. Deacon Glenn Skuta and Fr. Pat Foley have been asked to speak at over half a dozen parishes already, and other team members are also available. Let Deacon Glenn know if you are interested (651/470-7572).
- All are encouraged to attend the Alliance for Sustainability workshop on 3/8/08. See Word attachment for more info.

- **GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE for community-based waste reduction, toxicity reduction, and recycling projects!** Non-environmental groups are the focus of the program. Past recipients include neighborhood organizations, schools/youth organizations, faith communities, immigrant organizations, arts groups, senior citizen organizations, and many others in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Community POWER (Partners on Waste Education and Reduction) is a project of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board that supports **innovative, community-based approaches to waste reduction**. For six years, Community POWER has educated and actively engaged over a half million residents of the six-county metro area in waste reduction by partnering with non-environmental organizations and schools. \$228,000 is available, supporting projects up to \$12,000 each.

Letters of Interest for this funding are due by March 17, 2008.

The Letter of Interest "Guidelines" and "Attachments" are included as PDF attachments to this email. You can also download the guidelines and read about current and past grantee projects and the history of this program at <http://www.greenguardian.com/grants>.

- Reminder to check out the enhanced GWAT webpage on the OSJ website at <http://www.osjspm.org/globalwarming.aspx> and <http://www.osjspm.org/issueactionteams.aspx#Global%20Warming%20Action%20Team> . One attendee complimented the improvements to the site as being both great content and well-organized. Thanks! To help parishes get things going, the webpage Toolkit includes a link to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops stewardship of creation St. Francis Parish model and the "Covenant with Creation" by GWAT member Fr. Pat Foley. We also have a direct link to the MN Energy Challenge.
- All are also encouraged to do advocacy at the very local level with mayors of cities your parish serves. Encourage your mayors/city councils to join over 30 MN mayors and hundreds of mayors nationwide and sign on to the US Mayors' Climate Change Agreement - see <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/ClimateChange.asp> .
- C3 notified us of a Presbyterian approach to carbon neutrality at: <http://www.prcweb.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events&fuse=GA2006>
- See also <http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/>
- St. Joan of Arc's DVD "Stewards of the Earth" has been incorporated into Just Faith - way to go! The DVD will soon be directly available from OSJ.
- You can get help tracking legislative bills of interest and be notified automatically by e-mail of MN Legislative bill activity by setting up a MyBills account at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/leg/billslogin.asp> .

The next GWAT meeting will be in March - date and location TBD.

Thanks!

Deacon Glenn Skuta