

## **Outline notes for Global Warming Presentation for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Older:**

### **Science of Global Warming**

- unique about earth – an atmosphere
- explain CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas – good and bad
- a certain level of CO<sub>2</sub> acts as a blanket keeping Earth warm
- too much CO<sub>2</sub> acts as layers of too many blankets, warming the Earth too much
- level of CO<sub>2</sub> now higher than it has been in over ½ million years, still rising
- causing melting of polar ice caps and glaciers, sea level rise, intense storms
- polar bears dying – loss of ice/hunting grounds
- MN weather could become like Kansas or Illinois, lose northern forests, species
- where does CO<sub>2</sub> come from (mainly power plants burning coal and transportation)
- since industrial revolution, humans driving up CO<sub>2</sub> levels
- we are a cause, we can be the solution

### **Moral issue of caring for God's Creation**

- God said creation is “good” (Book of Genesis)
- Psalm 24 – the world is the Earth and its fullness; many Psalms invoke Creation
- called to be stewards of the Earth
- St. Francis centuries ago
- Catholic Social Teaching key element – stewardship of Creation
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops statement of 2001
- Pax Christi parish event last October 2006 – 900 people
- Global Warming Action Team – about 100 people working on this now
- call to personal action as well as government and industrial action
- [Archbishop Flynn](#) spoke at legislature at end of January 2007

### **What can we do?**

- Ideas? – it is about saving energy – REDUCE energy use – how?
- Take the MN Energy Challenge – get ideas and act on them.

### **Demo website if possible**

- hand out and go over top of worksheet – do with parents/family – all play a part!
- demo website [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org)