

A short check-in revealed everyone is doing well and feeling grateful.

Penny presented on Energy: Methane Digesters, p. 26, **Drawdown**. Listed as #30 in ranking and results.

All over the world waste is being produced. "Without thoughtful management, organic wastes can emit fugitive methane gases as they decompose. Molecules of methane that make their way into the atmosphere create a warming effect up to 34 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 100-year time horizon." One management technique is to use anaerobic digesters which harness the power of microbes to transform waste to produce two main products, biogas, an energy source, and solids called digestate, a nutrient-rich fertilizer.

Using organic waster as an energy resource has a long history. There was a digester in Junction City which processed waste from Portland. Their adoption is increasing in the U. S. particularly as attention to methane emission grows. "When produced at industrial scale, biogas can displace dirty fossil fuels for heating and electricity generation. It can be used in vehicles that would otherwise rely on natural gas....Digestate supplants fossil fuel-based fertilizers while improving soil health. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, methane digesters reduce landfill volumes and water-polluting effluent, and eradicate odors and pathogens." It would appear prudent for every community across the country to have its own personal methane digester and the potential for benefits in 3rd world communities is great. Rouanna added that OMSI is built on property that used to be a feedlot; the museum has a digester running off of the methane from the feedlot and an exhibit of how it works.

Review of Our Earth Home: Living in Harmony

Kat is working on re-taping portions of the program which she felt could be improved. It will then go up on our website where we can refer to it as needed. Thank you to all participants!! We had perhaps 40 people attending the Zoom meeting, so perhaps 30 who weren't us. Our average hits after the meeting went from ~250 to ~ 500, so people were looking at our site. The metrics seem encouraging! Ron felt the youth gave a strong message. Merrily gave thanks to Sue for believing we could do it and encouraging us all along the way. Sue said she felt glad that we had gained the experience. Sue is planning to send thank you's to Kat, Suzanne, Bob, the youth, and Mary; she will use cards made from our poster, if possible.

Report on Wild and Scenic River Campaign by David Stone

Senator Wyden's focus has been diverted currently by Covid-19. Autumn tours to visit the proposed site will be on hold until a non-specified time. David will report on the QMS project at a future meeting.

Merrily mentioned an idea for EarthKeepers to pursue in the future.

[Horton Road Organics](#) is attempting to have a way to order local produce online, pay for it remotely, and then pick it up and one of the weekly outdoor sites in town. [Good Food Easy](#) has always let you order what you want and pick up at delivery points. We talked about creating and advertising a list of local farms with online ordering capability. Then we discussed a second list of restaurants in town that are serving locally sourced foods.

Ron reported on Bank Funding of Fossil Fuel Co.

There has been a dramatic decrease in use of oil. Due to quarantine order Ron doesn't feel urgency to back on the street. He will report again next month.

Merrily reported on our Idling Is Exhausting campaign.

Since schools aren't in session, pursuing our campaign through principals and school newsletters is off. However, we can write Letters to Editors. Merrily will send one to Reg.-Guard and Eugene Weekly. Sue offered to send a letter to small community newspapers.

Rouanna and Merrily reported on the movie **The Human Element**, made available for churches to see by OIPL, in honor of 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Movie was made by James Blalock, environmental photographer, creator of Chasing Ice. Idea: medieval ages thought that earth is composed of 4 elements: wind, water, fire, and soil. Blalock catalogued changes in earth's weather in all four elements: hurricanes, floods, forest fires, and erosion. He points out that people are the human element which is making all the others go out of whack. Merrily recommended purchasing the movie to show once we can be together again. Penny will find and purchase a copy for us.

Rouanna reported on a Frontline Video, "Plastic Wars", and proposed a future EK project.

Rouanna sent an email from OSU Prof. Skip Rochefort to CorvallisPlasticsRecycling to us on April 17th, in case you want to find it in your email. In it he outlined the good points in the Frontline Report, including exposing the plastics industry for putting the burden of managing the single-use plastic waste issue on the consumer and Not on the Plastics industry. The shift toward alternative technologies means that oil is going to need another place to be used, and plastics are that answer.....but the industry is NOT building up its recycling infrastructure in any way!

Prof. Rochefort then talks about what the Frontline video didn't do; it didn't suggest answers or a path forward. He has quite a bit to say on the subject. Merrily plans to put this item on the agenda for next month. **Rouanna, would you please resend this email to all of the EKs so that they can read and be ready to discuss it at our next meeting! Thanks!**

Brainstorm what our next goals will be:

- \*advertising local farms
- \*plastics--recycling
- \*how EKs can effect the election--Voting Your Values
- \*senior safety certificate

Please ask your pastors to send in a newsletter or remind parishioners to VOTE. Perhaps put it up on the reader board.

Merrily agreed to organize a telephone tree to call our absent members to find out if we can help them connect with our Zoom meetings. Volunteers to phone are Merrily, Allan, and Sue (?).

Keith reported on a webinar he is attending with Bob Doppelt of the Transformational Resilience Group.

Though a bit opaque, Keith says it is about providing adaptation tools to manage crises. There are a series of webinars to complete the program. Keith will give a report at our next meeting. Rouanna mentioned that FUMC put on a similar program at their church led by Jenny Gordon, a local psychologist and Jungian analyst, with Patty Hine of 350/Eug. If we are interested we could contact one of them, the class was 10 weeks long. Material was drawn from GoodGriefNetwork.org. Maybe they could make an online class?

Sue C. reported Timber Unity is a far right group well supported by the timber industry. They are a bit scary. They showed up at the legislature in Salem with guns, honking their horns. If you call 911 there is a recording, no one there to help you. Sue would like to have it on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting, 6/10/20.

Next Month's Meeting: June 10, 2020, 1-3 PM

Moderator: Merrily

Minutes Taker: Ron

*Drawdown or Wilding:* Keith