

EARTH ETHICS NEWS

EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

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Legislative Session 2020

Here's what Earth Action will be tracking in the 2020 Legislative Session.

SB 200. Senate Environment and Natural Resources Chairman Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, filed the measure (SB 200) for the 2020 legislative session. It would ban hydraulic fracturing -- commonly known as fracking -- and matrix acidization, which uses many of the same chemicals but dissolves rocks with acid instead of fracturing them with pressurized liquid.

SB 182. SB 182 would strike language in Florida statute that forbids municipalities from governing items such as plastic shopping bags and foam containers. "By removing this language, we give home rule back to cities and counties allowing them to decide what best fits their needs. Coastal or lakefront communities may wish to ban these containers to reduce pollution that negatively effects other sectors of their economies such as tourism," said Stewart. In a 2010 study, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection cited the Ocean Conservancy's findings that determined auxiliary containers such as shopping bags were the most frequently found item during coastal cleanup worldwide, accounting for 8.1% of all items found. See press release here <http://www.flsenate.gov/Media/PressReleases/Show/3156>

HB 97. HB 97 is "an act relating to state renewable energy goals; creating s. 377.821, F.S.; requiring that all electricity used in the state be generated by renewable energy by a specified date"

HR 1941 (Federal)

HR 1941: Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act. This bill prohibits the Department of the Interior from offering any tract for oil and gas leasing or preleasing in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf planning area (North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and the Straits of Florida) or

the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf planning area (Washington/Oregon, Northern California, Central California, and Southern California).

HR 205 (Federal).

HR 205: Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019

This bill permanently extends the moratorium on oil and gas leasing, preleasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico.

Federal solar tax credit

The federal solar tax credit, also known as the investment tax credit (ITC), is one of the best financial incentives for solar in the United States. It allows you to deduct 30 percent of the cost of a solar energy system from your federal taxes, and there's no cap on its value.

While the solar investment tax credit is currently available to homeowners at its full 30 percent value, it won't be around forever. This solar incentive will be phased out starting in 2020, with the exception of commercial solar installations.

2017 – 2019: The tax credit remains at 30 percent of the cost of the system.

2020: Owners of new residential and commercial solar can deduct 26 percent of the cost of the system from their taxes.

2021: Owners of new residential and commercial solar can deduct 22 percent of the cost of the system from their taxes.

2022 onwards: Owners of new commercial solar energy systems can deduct 10 percent of the cost of the system from their taxes. There is no federal credit for residential solar energy systems. Source: energysage.com

There is a current collective push to have the existing 30% extended beyond 2019. There have been at least two extension since its inception as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

"TO BE WHOLE. TO BE COMPLETE. WILDNESS REMINDS US WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN, WHAT WE ARE CONNECTED TO RATHER THAN WHAT WE ARE SEPARATE FROM." - TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS, NATURALIST AND "CITIZEN WRITER

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Saturday's Membership Party

By Olivia Atkins

Saturday October 12th was the annual Ever'mans Membership party. We were cordially invited as being part of their educational program that is offered to members. An outreach booth was setup with other teachers, where we could talk to the public about our organizations. Even the rain didn't hold down the celebration, as the three-hour event had live entertainment, drawings, and free vegan food for members. We look forward to next year's celebration and hope to see you there!

Fighting Climate Change, one tree planting at a time.

By Olivia Atkins

““WE NEVER LOOK
 DEEPLY INTO THE
 QUALITY OF A TREE;
 WE NEVER REALLY
 TOUCH IT, FEEL ITS
 SOLIDITY, ITS ROUGH
 BARK, AND HEAR THE
 SOUND THAT IS PART
 OF THE TREE. NOT THE
 SOUND OF WIND
 THROUGH THE LEAVES,
 NOT THE BREEZE OF A
 MORNING THAT
 FLUTTERS THE
 LEAVES, BUT ITS OWN
 SOUND, THE SOUND
 OF THE TRUNK AND
 THE SILENT SOUND OF
 THE ROOTS.”

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI



Earth Ethics is currently in the works of a new project involving tree planting. With permission from the City of Pensacola, we have been granted access to plant trees at one of the many neighborhood parks. Fairchild Park was chosen for the tree planting event due to the lack of tree coverage. Earth Ethics wanted the community to be involved with the tree planting and to also learn importance of trees as well. We have reached out to an Escambia County Middle School as partner. This will enable the students to plant trees and to learn about the many benefits that the trees provide to our environment.

This is the beginning of many of tree plantings.

Here are some of the benefits of trees:

Trees provide carbon sinks in which they can store excess carbon emitted from various carbon producing entities such as cars, factories, and planes.

They contribute to the water cycle by carrying out the processes of transpiration and evaporation which can help cool off a surrounding area by providing a shady, humid environment.

Provide an increase in biodiversity, allowing more animals to dwell in these areas as well. This can help benefit human culture to see more biodiversity in urbanized areas.

Trees can contribute to the storm-water management in cities by absorbing excess water and have been scientifically proven to reduce floods.

Not only do they help absorb excess water, but also filtrate the pollutants and produce clean drinking water.

Noise pollution in cities can cause insomnia and create patterns of sleep disturbance. Trees are found to help attenuate noise pollution, while attracting more natural sounds like leaves crunching and bird singing.

Certain species of trees are resistant from air pollution such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and various other toxins, allowing the trees to absorb a greater amount of these compounds.

Trees can also help provide an aesthetic appeal to drab areas creating a positive benefit for overall wellness in a community.



“I’M LIKE A TREE. MY
 LEAVES MIGHT CHANGE
 COLOR, BUT MY ROOTS
 ARE THE SAME. “

ROSE NAMAJUNAS

Benefit Sources:

Paraskevi Manolaki, Ecosystem services in a peri-urban protected area in Cyprus: a rapid appraisal, (Gale Academy, 2017)

National Environmental Health Association, Study Shows Benefits of Urban Trees, (Gale Academy, 2000)

Frontiers Research Foundation, Plant Community Composition and Biodiversity Patterns in Urban Parks of Portland, Oregon, (Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, 2019)

National Environmental Health Association, Study Shows Benefits of Urban Trees, (Gale Academy, 2000)

Ellis Raskin, Urban forests as weapons against climate change: lessons from California’s Global Warming Solutions Act, (Gale Academy, 2015)

Jennifer Salmond, Health and climate related ecosystem services provided by street trees in the urban environment, (Gale Academy, 2016)

Jill Edmondson, Organic carbon hidden in urban ecosystems, (Gale Academy, 2012)

Jennifer Salmond, Health and climate related ecosystem services provided by street trees in the urban environment, (Gale Academy, 2016)

The Making of a New Home

By Olivia Atkins

Living in a small town has some good qualities, but for a growing mind like mine, I needed more room and opportunities. Right after high school I moved to Pensacola, Florida to pursue a Biology degree at the University of West Florida. I emerged myself into a new world, where possibilities began to flow. I adapted quickly to my new surroundings even though I was used to living in my shell back home. The changes people saw in my character seemed to have happened over night. The city of Pensacola and its community had opened me to a new way of life.

It started with my first job application to the Pensacola MESS Hall. The Pensacola MESS Hall is a STEM museum with interactive exhibits for people of all ages. Here I was able to engage with

the public through teaching scientific concepts. It was enlightening to see how the public responded towards science programs that we held monthly and even community programs for adults at night. Not only were the kids interested, but the parents who forgot their basic high school science were eager to learn more about the world around them. The eagerness to learn for a community is a well sought out quality and Pensacola fits the check.

My second encounter was working at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. I started as an intern and made my way to staff. Each animal case that came in was different, what remained the same was the genuine concern for each animal case. Even the toughest guy that came in would be overwhelmed with emotion in hopes his rescued

animal would make it. The Sanctuary is also given a lot of support through donation drives put on throughout the year and their social events like BirdJam. The compassion that the community has for their wildlife is shown and registers with a diverse group of people.

Working with Earth Ethics lastly, is showing me the drive that the community has when it comes to protecting their environment. I can listen to people and their concerns in ways that I haven't thought about. It is refreshing to see the older generation and younger generation in Pensacola, respond and act together.

Thank you, Pensacola, for your warm and inviting community that is forever expanding. I hope to one day make this place my home and offer the same invite to non-locals and show them the many qualities of our community.

"LIFE ISN'T ABOUT FINDING YOURSELF. LIFE IS ABOUT CREATING YOURSELF. "

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 11, 2019 - Earth Ethics Environmental Education Series - Join us as we celebrate Veteran's Day with Guest Speaker William "Bill" Sloan who will share the vision and actions of Veterans of Peace. Visit earthethics.us for more details.

Monday, December 9, 2019 - Earth Ethics Environmental Education Series - Join us as we celebrate the power of the people—specifically we will be hosting a greet and meet with a few of our local environmentally focused organizations. Visit earthethics.us for more details.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL - Stay tuned for details!

Saturday, January 18, 2019 - Women's March of Pensacola - Join us as we march for the rights of women everywhere. The march will be followed by a series of speakers, artist, vendors, musicians, and more at Seville Square. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pensacolawomensmarch/> for more details.

Earth Ethics Environmental Education Series is the second Monday of every month beginning at 6 pm at Ever'man Education Center. Stay up to date on activities by visiting <http://earthethics.us/community-events/>.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Little Citizens for Climate has reached out to Earth Ethics to partner together in finding a local ambassador, who is passionate about climate change.

Who is Little Citizens for Climate? Little Citizens for Climate is an organization that is based in France whose main purpose is getting the young generation together to raise awareness about climate change. The organization hosts international ambassador programs, which allow the teens to be advocates for climate change at a localized scale and internationally through videos. Ambassadors have a chance to form their own projects, with the help of Earth Ethics and Little Citizens of Climate in order to make their own community aware of the environmental issues. Reach out to earthethicsaction@gmail.com if you're interested in learning more or becoming a Climate Change Ambassador.

Ambassador Qualifications:

- ◇ Must be between the ages of 14-17 years
- ◇ From the area of Pensacola
- ◇ Flexible with their schedule of school, extracurricular activities, etc..
- ◇ A passion for climate change environmental issues
- ◇ Public speaking about concerns for the environment
- ◇ Having the ability to host fundraisers for their project
- ◇ Critical thinking and problem solving
- ◇ Working with teachers in order to bring awareness to classrooms

WHO WE ARE

The **MISSION** of Earth Ethics is to educate the public and increase awareness about environmental and social issues at local, regional, and global levels in an effort to engage, empower, and encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions.

The **VISION** of Earth Ethics is to be a leader in identifying and resolving environmental and social issues while creating a positive, sustainable, and healthy way of thought and life.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING ENGAGED?

Contact us at one of the many ways listed below.

BOARD MEMBERS

Gina Cooke
Laura Jolley
Marsha King
Elizabeth MacWhinnie
Christine Thompson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Gutierrez

STAFF

Olivia Atkins

*As always, we will continue our fight to create a world that is just and equal
for humans and non-humans alike while protecting our Earth.*

Earth Ethics, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization created to engage, empower, & encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions with regards to environmental & social issues.
All monetary donations are welcomed.

To donate please visit: <http://earthethics.us/donations/>

Earth Action, the legislative and educational arm of Earth Ethics, is a 501 (c) (4) organization.



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“ Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.”

First People Proverb