Growing Your Efforts: Advanced Green Teams

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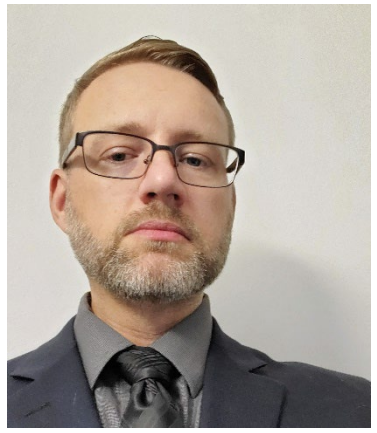

Princess Harris,
Dan Huntsha,
& Dantwan Nicholson

September 14, 2019

Join the conversation!

#GreenTeamSummit

#RootedAndGrowing

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Give TO FAITH IN PLACE

Text 44321 to
GreenTeam19

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Passports

GET YOUR STAMPED PASSPORT BY VISITING THE EXHIBIT TABLES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FABULOUS PRIZES

YOU NEED MORE THAN 50% STAMPS TO BE ELIGIBLE
AND YOU MUST ATTEND THE PLENARY TO WIN

The Workshop

- *Why are we here? – Our inspiration*
- *Knock, Knock … (Who's here)*
- *Where do we start? – It's your workshop!*
  - *The Parking Lot*
- *Our Green Team Model*
- *GT Challenges and Solutions*
- *Advanced Activities*
- *Our Programs & Projects*

MISSION

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

MISSION

Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to protect our common land, water, and air.

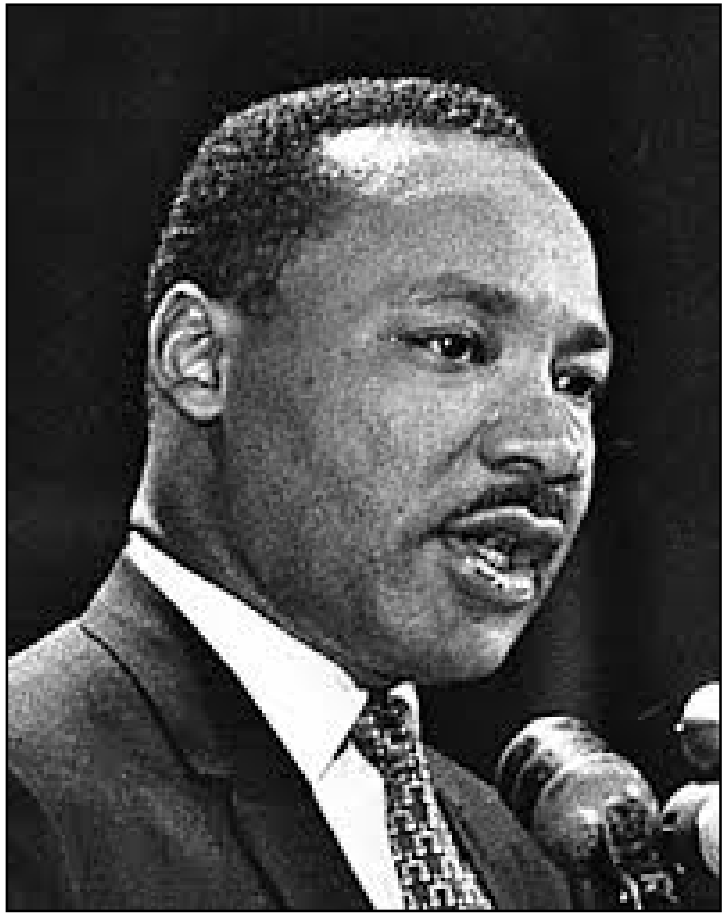
Interfaith Power & Light

Faith in Place is the proud Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light

Changes made by The People!

- *1775 - 1783 – American Revolution*
- *1848 - Present – Women's Rights / #Me Too*
- *1930's – The Labor Movement*
- *1965-1973 – Anti-War*
- *1960? - Present – LGBTQ Rights*
- *1960 – 2015 - Marriage Equality (2013 Illinois)*
- *2000's – Present – Black Lives Matter*

- 1955 - 1968 – The Civil Rights Movement



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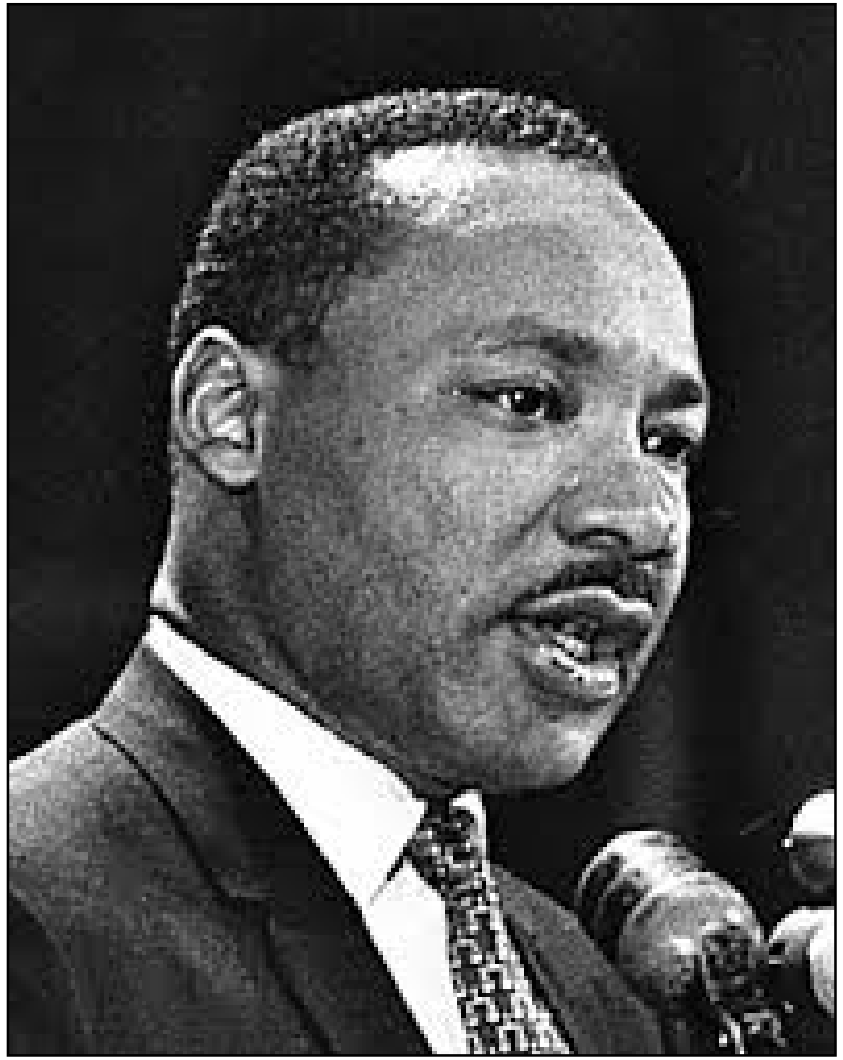


Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
Only love can do that.

{Martin Luther King Jr.}

PASSION + PURPOSE

Be the Change you want to see!

Those who were inspired spread the word which lead to a movement !

Be the Change you want to see!

Your Team !? →

Knock, Knock, who's here?

- *Quick Introductions around the room*
  - *Name*
  - *Geographic location*
  - *House of worship*
  - *One success and one challenge from your Green Team*

Knock, Knock, who's here?

- *What brought you here today?*
- *What do you want to leave with today?*

Green Team Challenges

- *Sustainability of members/energy*
- *Cost*
- *Vision*
- *Recruitment*
- *Staying relevant/exciting*
- *Communication*
- *Being seen as more than "just a committee"*

Green Team Challenges

- *What would you add to this list?*
- *What's been successful?*
- *What hasn't?*

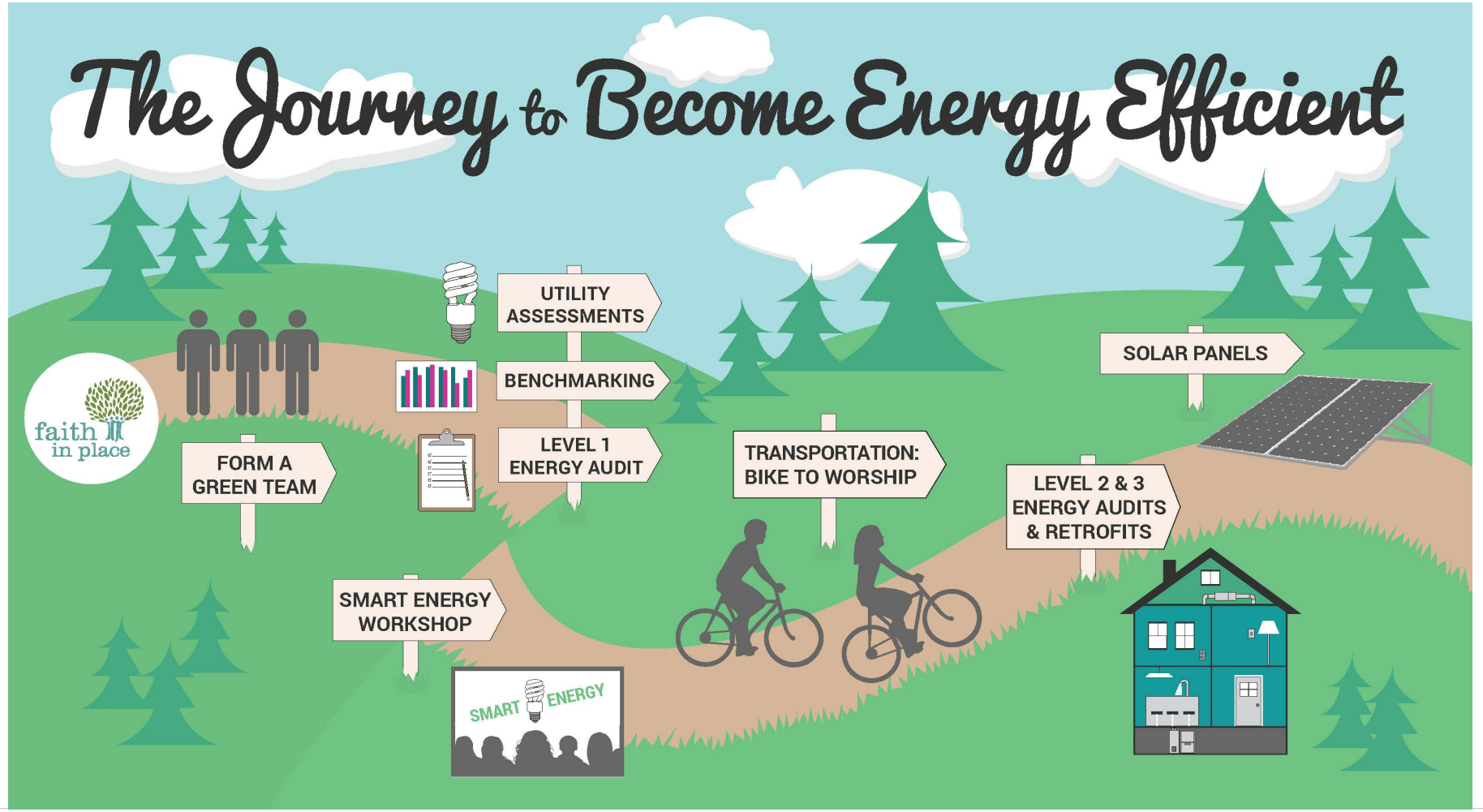
Our Model

Educate	*faith partners on the ways to bring the message of environmental consciousness to their communities*
Connect	*faith communities to one another and to important resources such as funding and green experts*
Advocate	*with local and statewide environmental partners for accountability*

Our Organizing Model

Green Team ⟷ **Green Team Coach**

Make it Easier – The Path



Green Teams are Diverse!

First Presbyterian Church, Champaign

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Episcopal Church, Waukegan

Covenant United Church of Christ, South Holland

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn

- 127 current active Green Teams (up from last year - 110, 93!)
- Coach will mentor and connect your Green Team to programs and opportunities for Earth care in your area.
- Coaches will reach out twice a month and may attend your meetings and events.

Our Organizing Model

Green Team ⟷ **Green Team Coach**

Green Team Model

Connect to Faith

Greening is an act of love, faithfulness, and praise.

Find Allies

Do not try to do this alone. There are people around you who care deeply about the issues. Support one another as you do this important work.

Celebrate!

Don't forget to have fun! Let people rejoice together in the good work that your faith community is doing.

It's About Justice

In order for it to have relevance to people's lives, it needs a human face.

Don't Scold

Because we are people of faith, our job is to fix ourselves, not fix other people. No one is blameless, so there is no need for finger-pointing.

Be Tenacious

Faith communities can move at a glacial pace. Be patient, stick with it, and ask for help when you need it.

Green Team Growth

Connect to your faith:

- *Green is how we live out our love for God/Higher Power, neighbor, and self*
- *Green needs to have a human face: the burden of climate change weighs most heavily on the poor.*
- *Everyone is downstream (or downwind) of someone*
- *Our consumption is a modern-day idol*
- *Environmental justice = social justice*

Green Team Projects

Celebrate, educate, challenge, and love:

- *Connect to congregation's current passions*
- *Find "quick wins" for your community and celebrate your accomplishments publicly*
  - *Builds momentum and a sense of pride*
- *Begin to educate and challenge yourselves to bigger things*
- *Keep your goals in mind, but don't rush*
- *Work with love, patience, and a teacher's spirit*
- *Keep space for loving disagreement*

Green Team Members?

Diverse, motivated, and influential members:

- *Lay and ordained*
- *Youth*
- *Members from: (or at least project consultants)*
  - *Facilities/maintenance*
  - *Finance*
  - *Worship*
  - *Education*
  - *Social action—Green should infiltrate every area in your ministry*
- **Relaunch/refocus with congregational interest survey*

Green Team Work

Share the work:

- *Successful Green Teams share the workload*
- *Rotate Co-Chairs*
- *Find ways to get others in the community involved*
  - *Partner with other community orgs and support work already being done in your community*
- *Divide up program responsibility: energy, food, water, advocacy*
- *Divide up team functions: communication, lead meetings, large events, services, ect*

Green Teams have Meetings

Meet regularly:

- Successful Green Teams meet once every 4-6 weeks
- During meetings:
  - Discuss accomplishments and challenges
  - Outline goals
  - Create subcommittees
  - Assess progress
  - Brainstorm future activities

Advanced Activities:

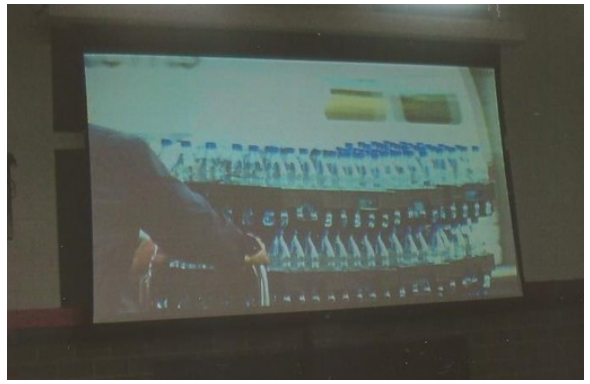
- *Publish monthly eco-tips in your newsletters/bulletins*
  - *"ADV" - Personal reflection – How I'm effected*
    - *Problem (people focused)– Solution – Joy – Healthy Results - Even Better*
- *Invite an environmental justice speaker to guest preach*
- *Do a climate/environmental justice book study*
- *Preach a "green" sermon during Season of Creation (Sept-Oct) or Earth Day (April 22)*
- *In a rut? - Visioning session with cong survey– refocus – relaunch, ect*

Advanced Activities:

- *Show an environmental film <u>series</u>*
  - *ADV – Discussion, actions, what's next*
- *Apply for an energy mini-grant*
- *Have a FIP free energy audit*
  - *With follow-up: education workshops, retrofit, explore renewables*
- *Host a summit*
  - *+ADV – work with partner orgs*
- *Form Team of Local Houses of Worship – support, larger projects, and celebrate! (IGP, IGN, and…)*

Activities:

Green Movies at Covenant UCC



Native Plants / Kickapoo Woods / Creation Sunday / CSA

Our Program Areas

Energy & Climate Change

Sustainable Food & Land Use

Water Preservation

Advocacy

Engaging the Youth

We empower youth to become environmental leaders in their communities through our Eco-Ambassador Summer Youth Program.

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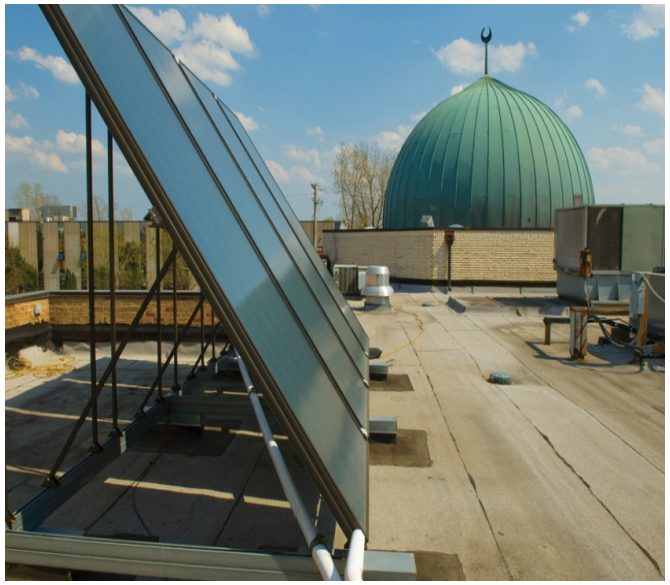


- Energy Audits & Retrofits
- Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Smart Energy Workshop
- Solar Panels
- Waste

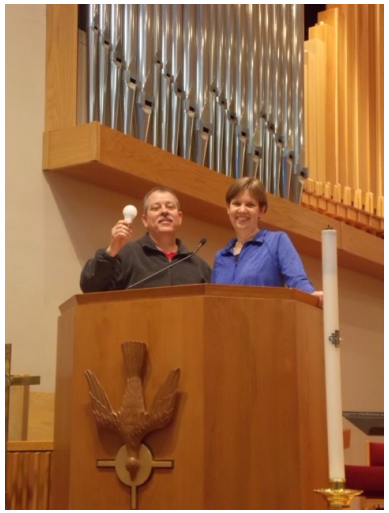
Smart Energy Mini Grant!

Energy Education

- Up to $2500.00 to help run programs
- Part of funds can pay volunteers
- Funds released in stages
- Apply how you like

Smart Energy Mini Grant!

- **Centenary UMC in Effingham**
  - 205 educated
  - 2 smart energy programs, 1 EFIP, 3 weekend worship services
  - $2500 awarded to help recycling program



- **Normal First UMC**
  - 400 educated
  - 1 EFIP, 2 smart energy workshops, “mission moment”, weekend worship service, youth event
  - $2500 awarded to help upgrade lighting in fellowship hall

https://www.faithinplace.org/our-programs/smart-energy-education

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Nonprofit Green Lending Program

Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

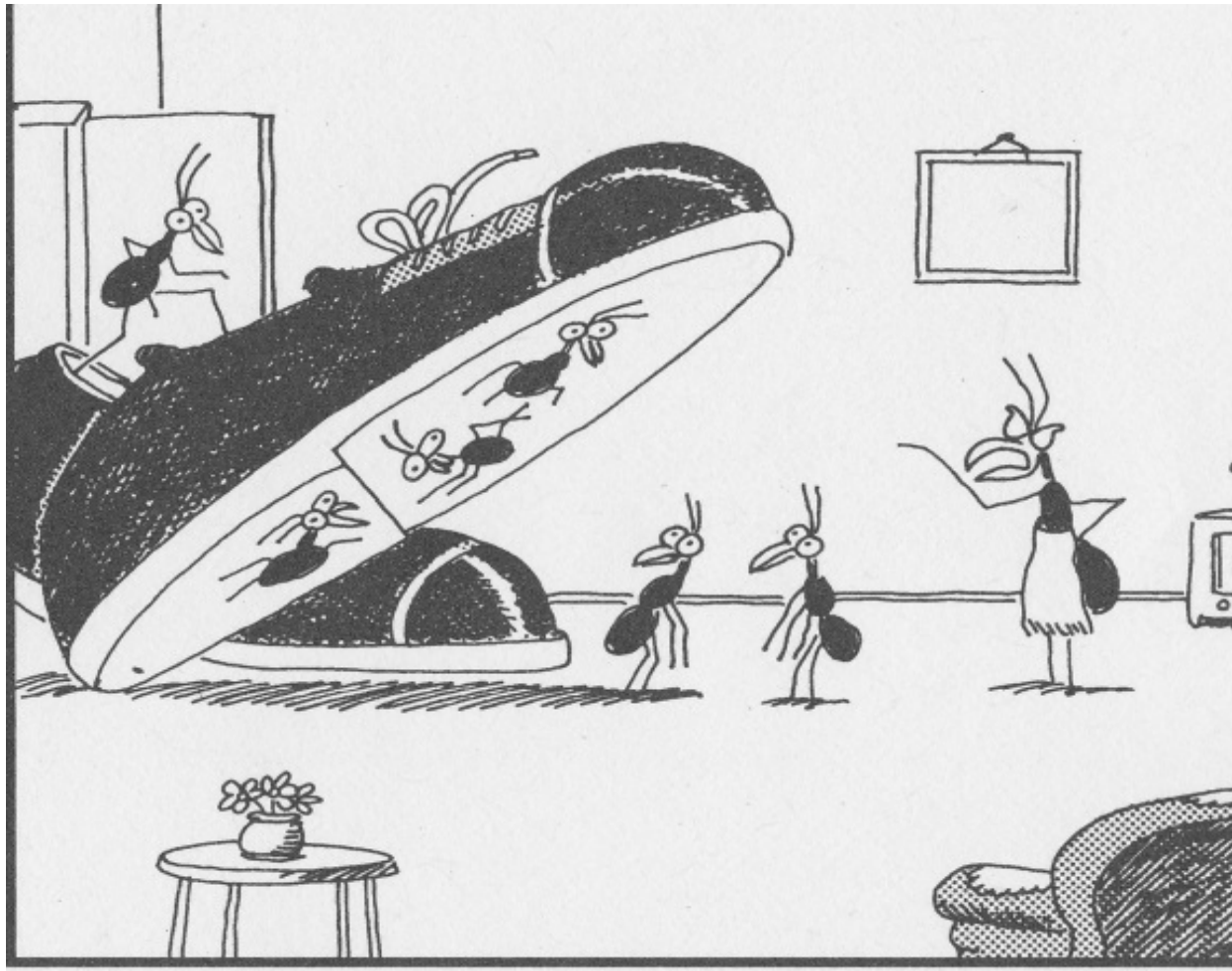
Everence®

Energy Projects that Qualify!

- Roof with insulation
- Lighting*
- Motion Sensors
- HVAC
- WiFi controlled systems
- Air sealing
- Water Heaters*
- Solar!

What's my pollution impact?

- My footprint?!
- Community?
- Carbon calculator
- coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator



"Ernie! Look what you're doing—take those shoes off this instant!"

The Biggest Sources of Greenhouse Gases

***Energy - Coal & Gas Plants**

***Land Transportation**

Industrial Agriculture

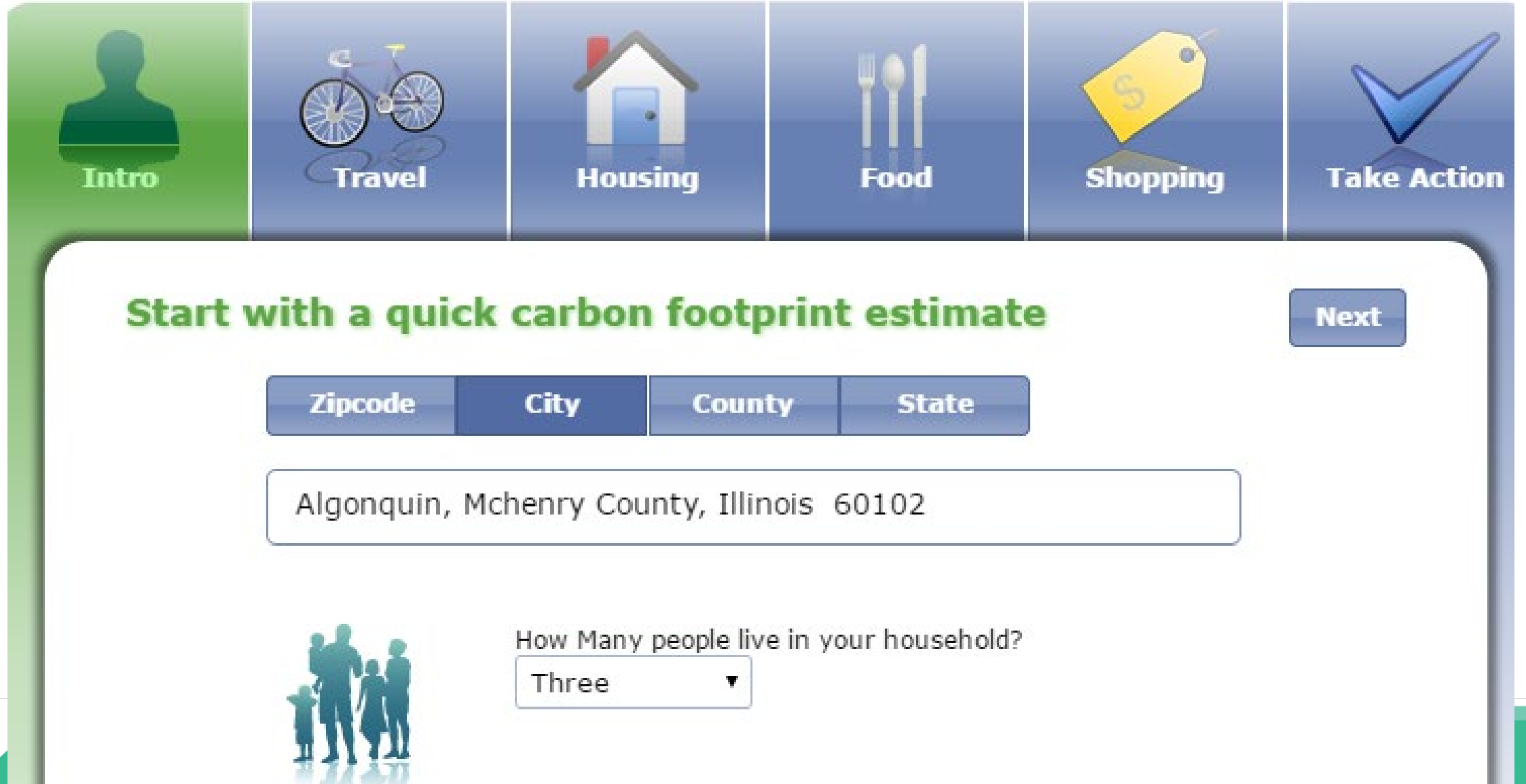
Oil production

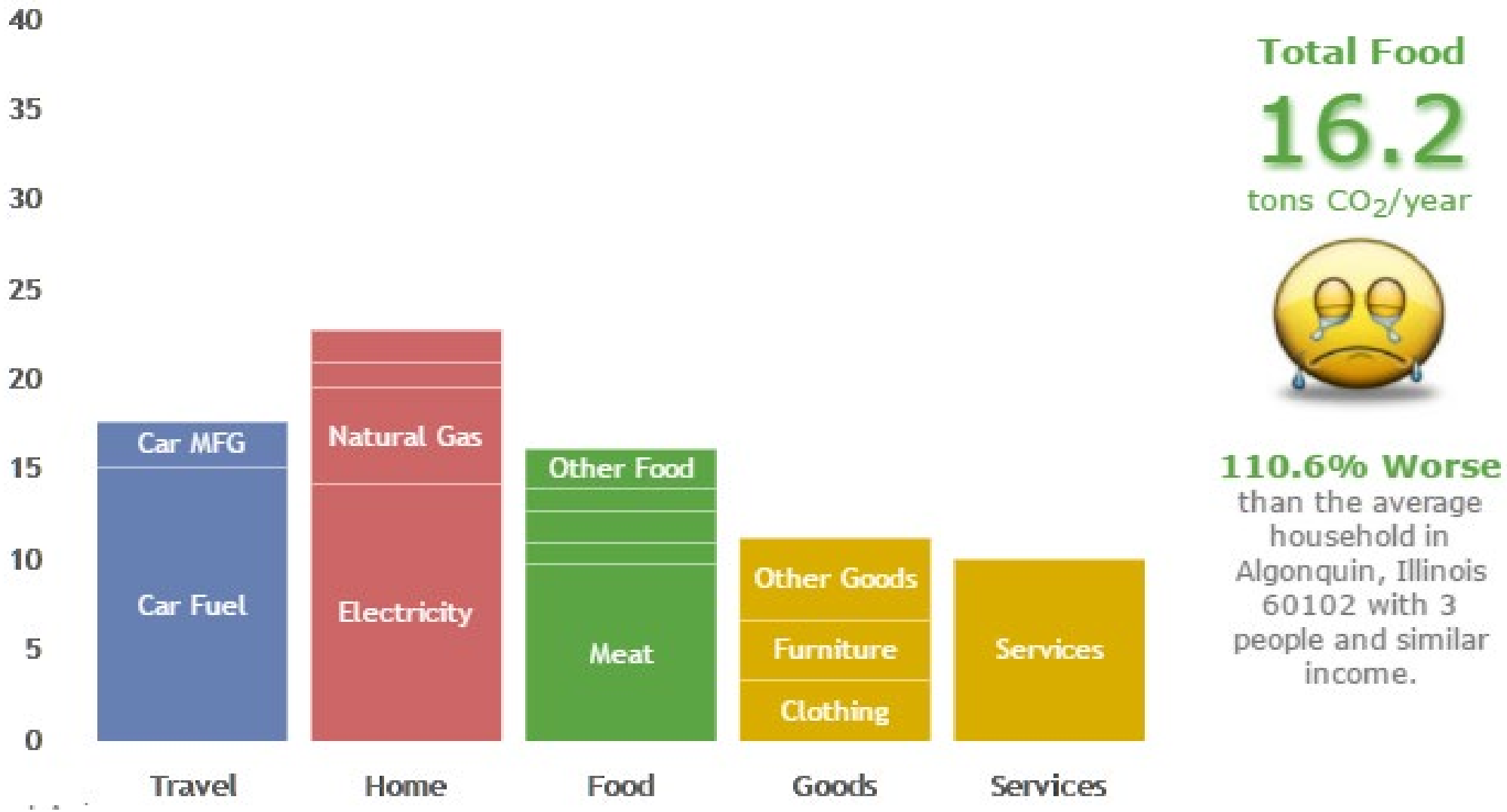
Forest Burning

Fertilizer

Landfills

coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator





coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator

FREE Energy-Saving Products!

FREE products may include: ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs, hot water pipe insulation, smart power strips

FREE Energy-Saving Products!

FREE products may include: Faucet aerators, Programmable thermostats, WaterSense® certified showerheads, and discounts on smart thermostats

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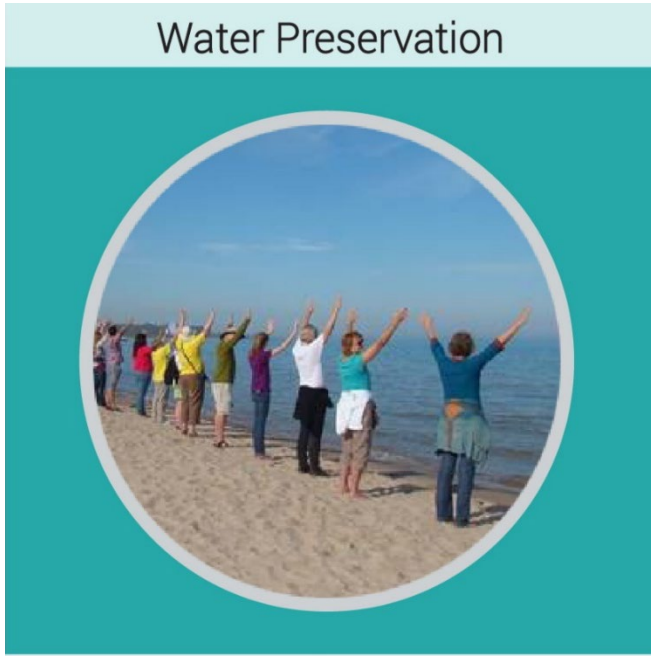
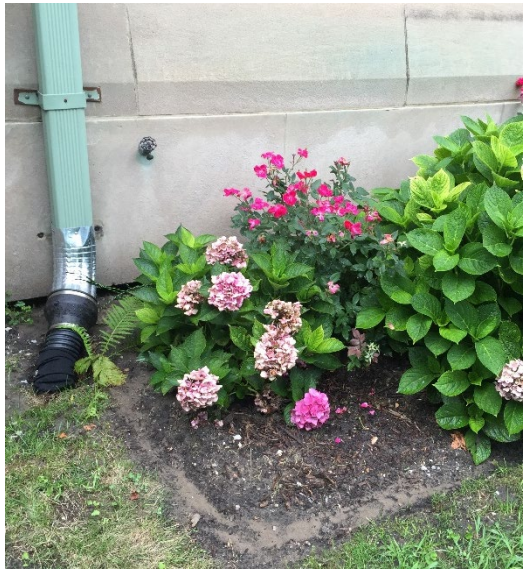
Sustainable Food & Land Use

- Congregation-Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Habitat Restoration
- *Just Eating* curriculum
- Migration & Me
- Native Plant & Vegetable Gardens
- Winter Farmers Markets

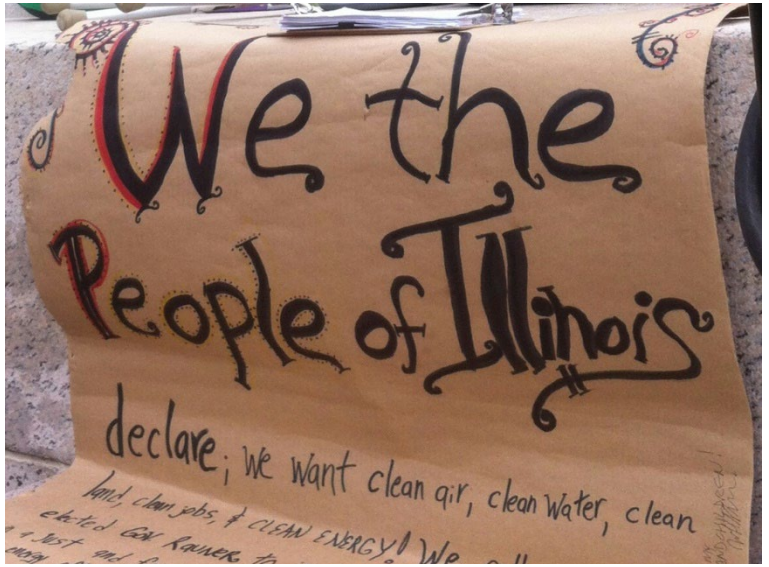




- Interfaith Water Curriculum
- *Rain Barrels*
- *Rain Gardens*

Advocacy

- Advocacy Day
- Faithful Citizen Workshops



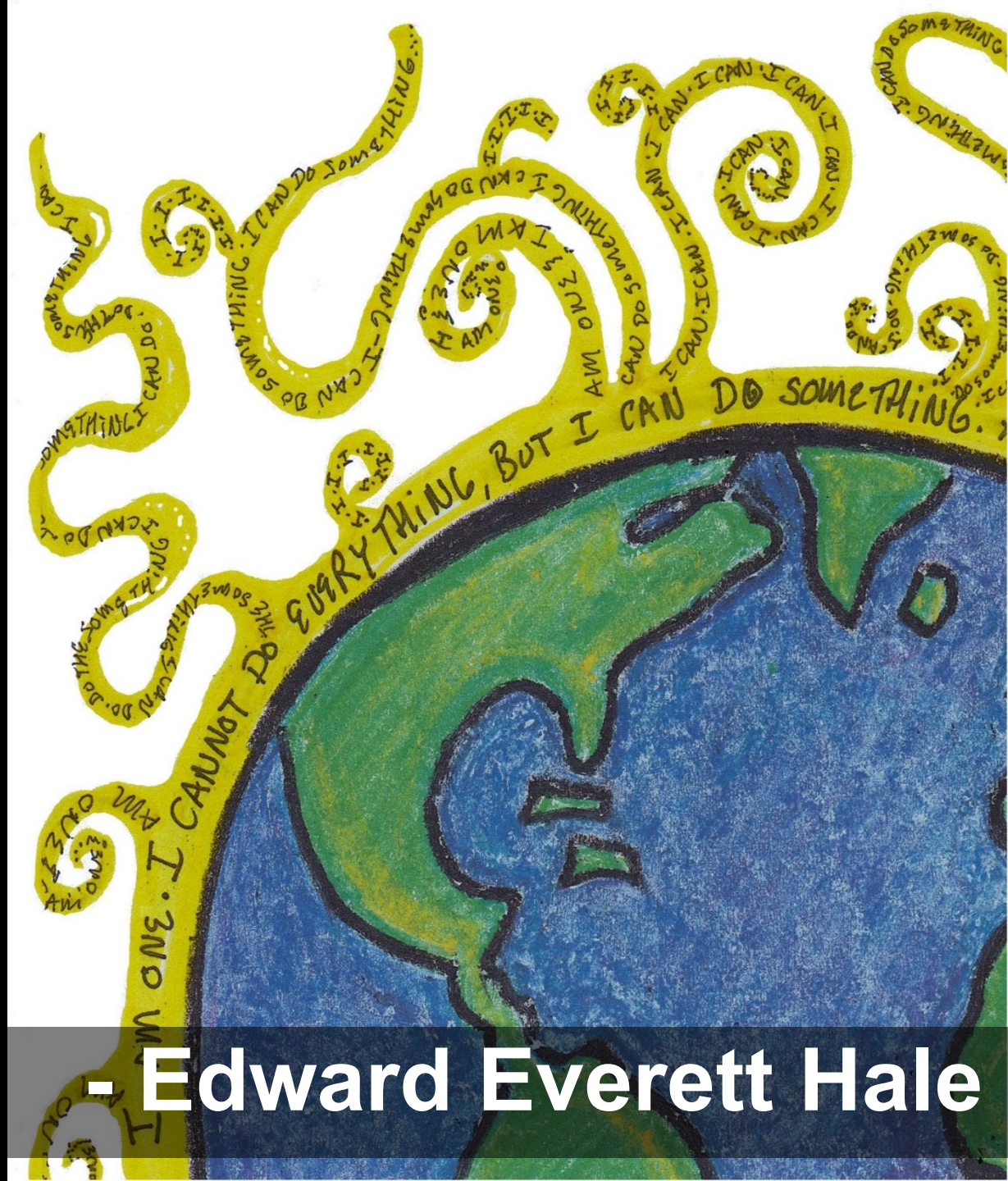
The Buddha's Middle Path

I am only one,
but I am one.

I cannot do everything,
but I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything,

I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.



- Edward Everett Hale

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Stay Connected!

Princess Harris
Dan Huntsha
Dantawn Nicholson

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www.faithinplace.org

Save the Date

For Fall Advocacy Day October 29

N&W Year End Celebration – Nov 13

Lake County YEC – Nov 18

Chicago YEC – Dec 10

Central IL – Dec 13

Southern IL - TBD

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Learn More At

https://www.faithinplace.org/events/fall-advocacy-day-2019

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Passports

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