



## **AGENDA**

**9am** Registration & Snacks

**9:15am** Welcome, Eco-Sustainability Task Force

**9:30am** Keynote: Rev. Brian Sauder, president and director of Faith in Place.

**10:30am** “It Works for Us”

- Rev. Marty Scott of Euclid Avenue UMC
- Anna Halverson of North Central College
- Karl Kettelkamp, farmer and member at Kaneville UMC
- Bill Eyring, member at United Church of Rogers Park

**11:45am** Earth Keepers Projects and Community Organizing

**12:30pm** Earth Day 2020 Climate Action Strategies

**1pm** Adjournment with Prayer

# From the Bishop: Environmental racism exists in our own backyard



A friend of mine from the World Council of Churches recently went on a Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice to Fiji. Usually, these pilgrimages are to places where there is great conflict and extreme distress so I initially wondered what need would there be for such a pilgrimage to paradise. But the people of Fiji, especially the indigenous people of Fiji, are suffering due to the rising waters that climate change has wrought on this island paradise. They wonder what life will be like for them in a few decades. Will they become climate migrants?

As I listened to my friend, I was reminded that environmental racism impacts many poor, vulnerable, and/or indigenous communities around the world. One of Northern Illinois Annual Conference's strategic goals is to eliminate racism and to live into the reality that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching. One area of racism that exists in our world, nation, and communities is that of environmental racism.

With Earth Day coming up, I would encourage churches to think about the ways racism impacts the environment. First, let's look at the definition of environmental racism. Our Book of Resolutions (2016, pp. 55-61) says in part: In the United States, the extraction, production, storage, treatment, and disposal processes of hazardous materials and wastes are too often zoned within close proximity to where people of color live...(and who) are usually the least able—politically and economically—to affect the political institutions that make the decisions that allow this to happen. People of color also disproportionately suffer from the lack of public health protections in the current economy...(p. 55, BOR).

Environmental racism is in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the ground that contains toxins upon which some communities built schools and public housing. But it may not be in your neighborhood! There is an unequal distribution of climate change's impact across the world and in communities that experience the effects from disposal of hazardous wastes. The U.N. has called it a "climate apartheid." In essence, wealthier nations, communities or corporations contribute the most waste and provide the least support for its disposal, often not even "seeing" or knowing about such problems. Where is environmental racism affecting your community or near you?



One example in the Northern Illinois Conference area where environmental racism has made an impact is the rural community of Wedron in LaSalle County. Underground petroleum storage tanks from a gas station that closed after a fire leaked fuel into and contaminated the water table of this small community. Residents rely on private wells for drinking water since there is no municipal water service.

An urban example is Altgeld Gardens, long described as the “toxic doughnut” on Chicago’s Southside. Public housing was built on a landfill in the 1940s for African American veterans returning from the war. More than half of the residents live below the poverty level. The community is surrounded by landfills, factories, and sewage treatment plants. For more than 40 years it has suffered from the pollution of air, water and ground, due to such contaminants as mercury, ammonia gas, lead, DDT, PCBs, heavy metals and xylene. The residents of Altgeld Gardens suffer disproportionately from major health problems, especially asthma, brain tumors and lead poisoning in children, leading to a cascade of other problems like absenteeism and behavior problems. The community has some of the city’s highest rates for cancer, including lung, prostate, and bladder cancers.

Massive federal budget cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency over the last few years and its deregulation of about 100 policies have failed to protect or restore communities like Wedron and Altgeld Gardens.

I have a poster in my office that says: “What if ecology was part of theology?” I believe that ecology is part of theology, and I wrote a book with my niece about it titled “A Hopeful Earth.” Throughout the scriptures, we read that when we are faithful to God, the earth responds with abundance and fruitfulness, but when we aren’t faithful, the earth suffers (Psalm 107, for instance).

When we fail to protect and restore communities that have been the target of environmental racism, we are not being faithful to God. What does faithfulness look like in terms of caring for the earth? It means doing the things that we as individuals can do (recycling, less consumption, eating less meat, etc.) but ultimately we must impact national policies.

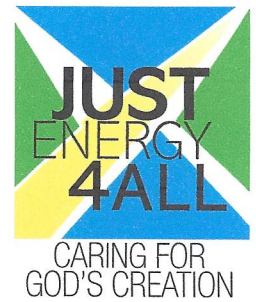
Frankly, as we approach elections—local and national—people suffering from environmental racism need us to vote for those candidates who will make a difference in the most vulnerable communities.

You know it’s bad when paradise is groaning (cf. Romans 8:22). Even if environmental racism isn’t impacting you or your neighborhood, love your neighbor and do right by them! Bring back paradise!


~Bishop Sally Dyck

# Climate Justice

## CAMPAIGN: JUST ENERGY FOR ALL

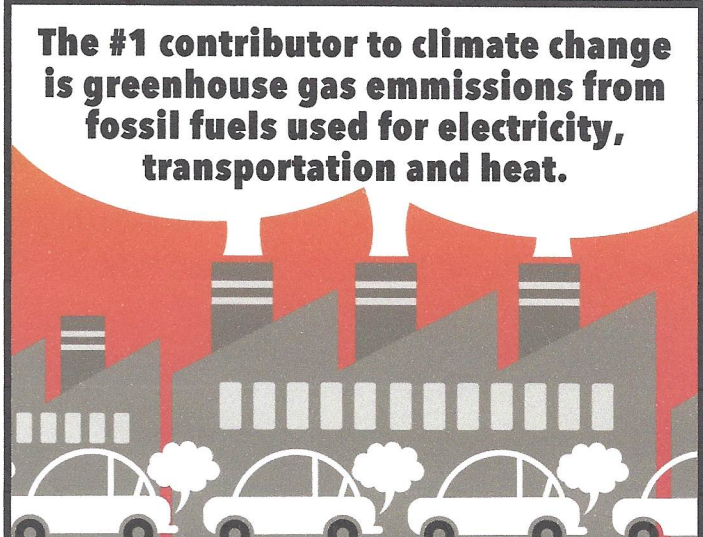


Be stewards of God's creation: Work with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition.



**A major contributor to air pollution is the **BURNING** of fossil fuels.**

**The #1 contributor to climate change is greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels used for electricity, transportation and heat.**



\* U.S. Stats


**500,000**  
**school days missed**

**SCHOOL**



**annually by U.S. children are due to ozone pollution from fossil fuels.**

**100%**



**100 cities in the United States and 100+ companies have already committed to move to 100 percent renewable energy.**



**TAKE ACTION:**  
[unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Ground your actions in Bible study, worship and prayer. Use the *Climate Justice: A Call to Faith, Hope and Love in Action* mission study to deepen your understanding of how caring for God's creation is fundamental to our faith.
- Find out the energy sources used for electricity and transportation in your home, church, municipality, city and state. How much comes from fossil fuels? What are the health and environmental impacts? How does this impact women, children, youth and marginalized members in your communities?
- Find out about local and state efforts to move to clean, renewable energy, starting with city hall, utilities and bus companies for example. Create a climate justice team within your unit, district and conference. Use your unique United Methodist Women voice to protect God's earth and people and push for clean, renewable energy that is just and fair.
- Join United Methodist Women's national efforts to move companies and the country to energy that is just.
  - Urge Chevron to #CutMethane waste ([www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/chevron](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/chevron))
  - Join or organize a meeting with your local Ford dealership to urge them to support Clean Car Standards ([www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ford](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ford))
- Stay Connected
  - Receive updates from UMW ([www.bit.ly/UMWgreengroup](http://www.bit.ly/UMWgreengroup))
  - Connect with our Be Just. Be Green Jurisdictional Guides: ([www.bit.ly/UMWgreenguides](http://www.bit.ly/UMWgreenguides))
  - Contact us to resource you and celebrate your work!  
[climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org)
  - Connect with us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bejustbegreen](http://www.facebook.com/bejustbegreen)

**LEARN MORE TO MOBILIZE:** [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice)

### Sources:

Clean Air Task Force, *Gasping for Breath*, [catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CATF\\_Pub\\_GaspingForBreath.pdf](http://catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CATF_Pub_GaspingForBreath.pdf), and *Fumes Across the Fence-Line*, [catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CATF\\_Pub\\_FumesAcrossTheFenceLine.pdf](http://catf.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CATF_Pub_FumesAcrossTheFenceLine.pdf).  
Environmental Protection Agency, "Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions," <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>.

RE100, [there100.org](http://there100.org).

The Sierra Club, "100% Commitments in Cities, Counties and States," <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/commitments>.

Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Hidden Costs of Fossil Fuels," <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-and-other-fossil-fuels/hidden-cost-of-fossils#.XDzyRFxKiUk>.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# EarthKeepers

Global Ministries EarthKeepers train United Methodists in the United States to start and grow environmental projects.

EarthKeepers trainings equip participants to develop projects that address environmental concerns in their churches and communities.

## Is EarthKeepers right for you? Do you...

- Recognize the urgency of the environmental crisis;
- Feel a deep sense of God's call to take bold action;
- Need to strengthen your organizing skills and deepen your theological resources;
- Want to join a broader community of United Methodists who are engaged in environmental ministries;
- Have some previous experience with environmental issues and/or ministry?



## Commitment

Participants must complete five hours of homework in the month prior to training. They should plan to commit 10 hours/month to their projects for at least six months following the training. Participants may join or help form a regional or online cohort group following the program.

## Benefits

Following training, EarthKeepers will receive access to an online networking and resource platform and can apply for small grants to support their projects.

## Cost and Logistics

Training, food and lodging expenses during the training are paid for by Global Ministries.

Participants must pay their own travel expenses to and from the training as well as hotel incidental and parking (if used) expenses during the training. Local participants may commute to the training during the day and sleep at home at night.



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# CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TO SIGN JOINT DECLARATION TO CARE FOR CREATION

sponsored by

— Ecumenism Metro Chicago —

Chicagoland Christians United for the Care of Creation

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

### 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

hosted by

**McCormick Theological Seminary**

5460 S. University, Chicago

&

**The Lutheran School of Theology**

1100 East 55th St. Chicago

9:00 - 11:00 AM	Ecumenical Student Forum — How Caring for Creation is Fundamental to Christianity
12 NOON - 1:00 PM	Prayer Service — Bishop/Judicatory Signing Ceremony
1:00 PM	Youth/Young Adult Tree Planting Ceremony with Bishops/Judicatories
1:30 PM	Press Conference
2:15 PM	Reception

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#### Ecumenism Metro Chicago

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The American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

The Armenian (Orthodox) Church  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

The Christian Church IL/WI  
(Disciples of Christ)

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago and Gary Districts

The Church of God in Christ  
First Jurisdiction Illinois

The Church of the Brethren  
Illinois and Wisconsin District

The Episcopal Church, USA  
Diocese of Chicago

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Metropolitan Chicago Synod

The Greek Orthodox Church  
Metropolis of Chicago

The Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the Midwest

The Polish Catholic Church  
Western Diocese

The Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Presbytery of Chicago

The Roman Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Chicago

The Salvation Army  
Chicago Metropolitan Division

The Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA  
and Canada  
Metropolitanate of Midwestern America

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church  
Diocese of Chicago

The Syriac Orthodox Church  
Archdiocese of the Eastern USA

The Ukrainian Catholic Church  
St. Nicholas Eparchy

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Western Eparchy

The United Church of Christ  
Illinois Conference

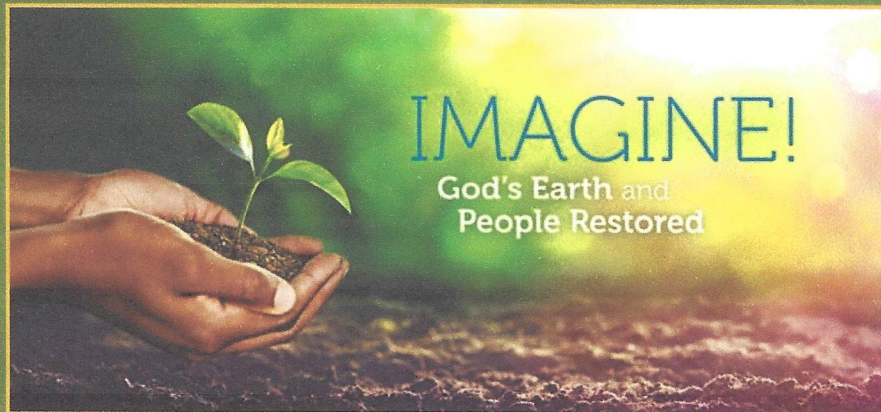
The United Methodist Church,  
Northern Illinois Conference

Greater Chicago Broadcast  
Ministries

The Initiative:  
An Ecumenical Community



FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE



*2020 National Gathering & Congressional Lobby Day  
Friday, April 24 - Monday, April 27, 2020  
Washington, D.C.*

***AdvocacyDays.org***  
***#EAD2020***

 /advocacydays

 @advocacydays

 /AdvocacyDays



# *Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing*

Meeting hosted by Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), Jemez, New Mexico, Dec. 1996

## **Activists meet on Globalization**

On December 6-8, 1996, forty people of color and European-American representatives met in Jemez, New Mexico, for the "Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade." The Jemez meeting was hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice with the intention of hammering out common understandings between participants from different cultures, politics and organizations. The following "**Jemez Principles**" for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants.

### **#1 Be Inclusive**

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It's about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

### **#2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing**

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

### **#3 Let People Speak for Themselves**

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

### **#4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality**

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other's work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

### **#5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves**

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing "just relationships" will be a process that won't happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

### **#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation**

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

# THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW—LITURGY

## Call to Worship

**Reader:** Just as Jesus appeared before his disciples in his resurrected form still bearing the scars of the crucifixion—this world is wounded, deeply, yet at the same time, there is resurrection and transformation. We are called to care for creation in its beauty and in its wounded-ness. The resurrection of Jesus offers hope of new life, for all of creation, and for generations to come. God of creation, fill us with this hope, for in our brokenness we can do nothing apart from you, but only through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Responsive Reading (Taken from the Psalms)

**Reader:** Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

**All:** Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Grant us courage to act as your hands and feet.

**Reader:** God covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

**All:** We ask forgiveness as more of your world is wounded, as people suffer, as species die.

**Reader:** You made people rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**All:** Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Prayer

Lord, the wounds of the world are too deep for us to heal. We lift up the sick in body and mind as well as the withered in soul and spirit. We lift up the victims of greed and injustice as well as the prisoners of grief and heartache. We ask for your care and mercy upon all of us. Instill compassion within us for those suffering from injustice. Make us generous with the resources you have entrusted to us. Let your work of rescue be done in us and through us all.<sup>1</sup>

## Reader:

The words “something is not right” echo within our souls:  
The cry of Creation  
The voice of God.

Recognition that “these are not ordinary times”  
may be the path toward our resurrection.

So we bathe in courage, grasp for community,  
Leave the shelter of business-as-usual,  
And stare into the face of this unknown future.  
We leave our little boxes and cast off our blinders,  
And the bright light of Creation’s pain nearly blinds us  
And grief nearly chokes us.

But not quite.

Because when there’s enough of us stumbling around,  
trying to make a way,  
Sooner or later we’ll begin to connect,  
And the power of that connection explodes in hope  
And a different way can be made  
And life can flourish in new and extraordinary ways.

Do you believe? Do you dare?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *The Oxford Book of Prayer*

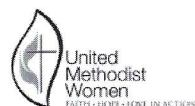
<sup>2</sup> Adapted from *Not Ordinary Times*, Allyson Sawtell ©2019



[www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)



As United Methodists we are called to participate in God’s healing of creation through acts of personal, social, and civic righteousness. Proclaiming and modeling a new lifestyle rooted in stewardship and justice we work toward the day when all God’s children respect and share in the goodness of creation. (#1033 Caring for Creation, Book of Resolutions). Responding to our Biblical call and reflecting the particular concern Christ showed for the most vulnerable, United Methodists around the world are seeking justice for God’s people and God’s planet. For additional resources and to learn more about our church’s creation care ministries, visit [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org) or contact John Hill at [jhill@umcjustice.org](mailto:jhill@umcjustice.org)



United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. UMW’s climate justice priority is to advance just energy for all. For more information, visit [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice) or contact Elizabeth C. H. Lee at [elee@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:elee@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

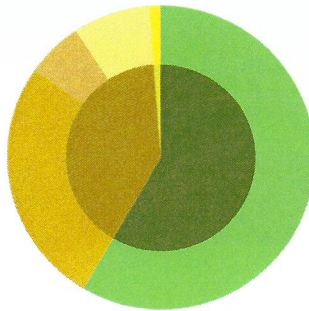


# Moderate Ex-Carbon 200 Fund (allocations 1/15/2019)

Invest with a balanced mix of 60% stocks & 40% fixed income.

## Divesting from the Top 100 Coal and Top 100 Oil & Gas Companies

<b>Fixed Income</b>	<b>40.08 %</b>
● Intermediate Bond	26.08
● Short Bond	5.95
● International Bond	8.05
<b>Cash</b>	<b>1.19 %</b>
● Cash	1.19



<b>Global Equity</b>	<b>58.73 %</b>
● Global Equity	58.73
🇺🇸 US Large/Mid-Cap	63 %
🇺🇸 US Small-Cap	6 %
🌍 Int'l Developed Mkts	26 %
🌍 Int'l Emerging Mkts	5 %

This fund invests similarly to the Foundation's most popular fund, the Moderate Fund, yet it divests from **The Carbon Underground 200™ (CU200)**. The **CU200** is the global standard for researching and ranking the fossil fuel reserves of publicly-owned companies. The fund is well-diversified, targeting 60% in stocks by tracking four underlying benchmarks (according to the percentages above under Global Equity) and the same mix of fixed income.

As with all funds offered by the Foundation, the Moderate Ex-Carbon 200 Fund carefully screens out objectionable companies and screens in companies that rate more highly than their peers in the areas of Environmental, Social, and Governance, always optimizing asset allocation and performance.

To align your church's, organization's, or donor-advised fund's investments with the outcomes of the divestment movement, invest in this fund. See the back of this brief for more information on the **CU200** from Fossil Free Indexes LLC.

Visit [umfnic.org/investment-overview](http://umfnic.org/investment-overview) to learn more.

For more information, please contact Rev. Chris Walters, UMF President:

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# Earth Day 2020 theme: Climate Action

Every year the Earth Day Network, as organizers of the original Earth Day, selects an environmental priority to engage the global public.

The enormous challenges – but also the vast opportunities – of acting on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary year. At the end of 2020, nations will be expected to increase their national commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, so the time is now for citizens to call for greater global ambition to tackle our climate crisis.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Unless every country in the world steps up – and steps up with urgency and ambition – we are consigning current and future generations to a dangerous future.

Earth Day 2020 will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future.

[The first Earth Day in 1970](#) mobilized millions of Americans for the protection of the planet. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the street, college campuses, and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement.

Earth Day is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event and it led to passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States, including the Clean Air, Clear Water and Endangered Species Acts. Many countries soon adopted similar laws, and in 2016, United Nations chose Earth Day as the day to sign the Paris climate agreement into force.

“Despite that amazing success and decades of environmental progress, we find ourselves facing an even more dire, almost existential, set of global environmental challenges, from loss of biodiversity to climate change to plastic pollution, that call for action at all levels of government,” said Denis