

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

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The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS MEMBERS OF JOLT

What or who is JOLT? JOLT is a coalition of faith-based organizations who promote economic justice through **investments, education**

and **action**. It is comprised of **Justice Organizers, Leadership, and Treasurers** from fourteen Women



Religious communities. What we are able to do by being a member of this organization makes a difference locally as well as globally.

We share the following information that we received at our May meeting. It highlights the effort we jointly make through addressing social issues, investments, proxy voting, and shareholder action. It is certainly a cause of celebration that our membership with JOLT is another opportunity to make a difference.

THE DETERMINED FIND A NEW STRATEGY

Socially Responsible Investors have begun to use a new strategy to put pressure on corporations. The strategy is very useful when a resolution fails to get the votes to re-file, when the permitted wording of resolutions is inadequate, or when dialogue fails.

THE NEW TACTIC

The lead investor will show up at an Annual Meeting and introduce a resolution right there. There is no seeking to have the resolution on a proxy; there is no attempt to solicit votes.

This forces the Board to discuss and make a recommendation to stockholders on the spot. This also gets media coverage that the issue would not otherwise have.

GLOBAL WARMING — IS THERE HOPE WITH THIS CONGRESS?

It is questionable that the actions from Congress will give us much hope. So far the EPA has survived attacks, although Congress can control it by controlling its funding. There is even a bill in Congress to repeal efforts to expand the use of more energy-efficient light bulbs that was in a bill signed by George W. Bush.

BUT THERE IS HOPE!

The opportunities are showing up in diverse situations and places. Natural gas is cheap and clean compared to other sources of energy and it is abundant in the US. Twenty six states are requiring energy efficiency affecting 65% of electrical demand. People want more efficient cars. The Administration is requiring more efficiency in government buildings. Investors are challenging corporations to be good citizens and corporations are realizing they can save money at the same time.



Examples:

- There is a new steel mill that is recapturing so much of its own heat that it is saving one million/year.
- Google has invested \$350 million in wind farms and solar projects that are in the process of being built or soon to be built.
- McDonald's accepted the recommendations of Environmental Defense Fund's joint waste reduction task force, doing away with foam-plastic sandwich boxes, eliminating 150,000 tons of packaging waste over ten years.
- Fed Ex developed a cleaner, more efficient delivery truck. The resulting hybrid electric trucks cut smog-causing emissions by 65%, reduce soot by 96% and get 50% better mileage.

COCO COLA—OLD SINS DO CATCH UP

Recently the state legislature of Kerala in India passed legislation allowing individuals negatively affected by Coca-Cola's bottling operations in Plachimada, India, to seek compensation from the company. In 2004 ICCR (Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility) members began asking for reports on water from Coca Cola, and has done so every year since. Since 2004 this bottling plant in India has been closed.



Because of immense pressure on Coca Cola over the situation in India, the company has

made major changes in policy, operational practices and in community relations.

Sample of Coke's active water action in India and 25 other countries:

- harvesting rain water;
- teaching and supplying drip irrigation to farmers;
- replanting trees to hold soil; and
- Coke has been developing a global map of water resources by watershed which it is sharing with the World Resource Institute along with its methods and metrics. They are becoming a world leader in water conservation and risk analysis.

OTHER SIGNS OF HOPE

Walmart Stores recently released its "2011 Global Responsibility Report." According to the report, the chain has made steady year-to-year improvement towards its goals of creating zero waste, using 100% renewable energy and selling products that sustain people and the environment.

In its Corporate Citizenship report released last month, the Walt Disney Co. states it kept 60% or 181,838 tons, of the trash produced at its theme parks and resorts from the landfill last year.

Pepsi Co. has developed what it says is the world's first PET plastic bottle made entirely from plant based, fully renewable resources. (Production will be piloted in 2012)



Let the beauty you love be what you do.
There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

Rumi

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee