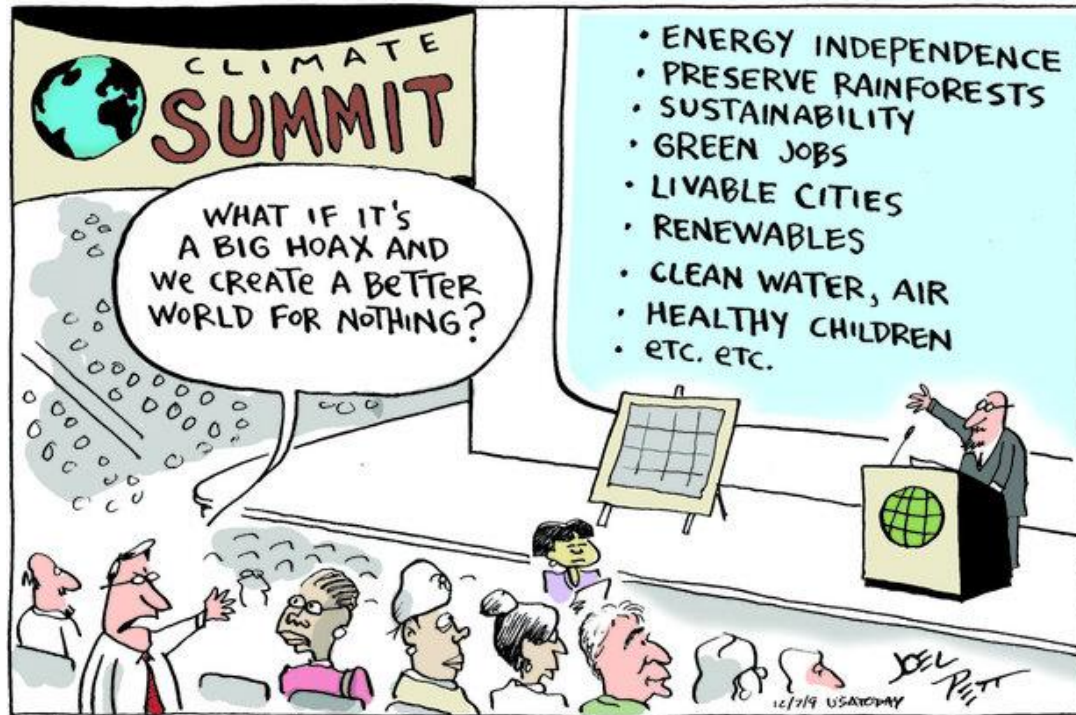


Becoming an Eco-Congregation

Canon Trevor Sargent: Eco-Congregation Ireland



If we are to **make the future possible** for the next generation to live in **our Parish** let us bear in mind that **individual actions** are USEFUL, but not the whole story. **Government actions** are USEFUL, but not the whole story. A 3rd essential way is **actions undertaken by the parish & community with vital local knowledge & skills**. Government action is no substitute. **Communities** make this 3rd way effective, enjoyable and transformative.



Coastal Communities are feeling the effects of extreme weather events in a warming world



Philip Alston, UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said the impacts of global heating are likely to undermine not only basic rights to life, water, food and housing for millions of people, but also democracy and the rule of law. (The Guardian, Tuesday 25th June 2019)



Eco Parishes are helping society to make a vital transition to live well



Eco-Congregations are asked to check each of these categories, with a view to making progress in each one.

Spiritual – keeping the flame of eco-awareness alive in prayer

Practical – brings ecological needs to how buildings & land are used

Community – working in partnership with like minded people

Global – supporting the work of overseas group, Trócaire, Fairtrade,

There are many parishes recognized as Eco-Congregations and also as Transitions Towns in Ireland, U.K. and elsewhere .

- Totnes
- Lewes
- Bristol
- Malvern Hills
- Stroud
- Brixton
- Gussing, Austria – cut energy imports by 90% using local wood as fuel Spearheaded by local Mayor Peter Vadasz. The town has installed a district heating scheme relying on local wood chip boilers and solar power. The town generates a 40% surplus of energy which it sells on.

7 useful elements of an Eco-Congregation

1. Healthy group – where meetings are both enjoyable and practical.
2. Vision – imagine the future we want for our local community.
3. Community Involvement – relate beyond friends and natural allies.
4. Network and Partnerships – encourage groups to collaborate.
5. Practical Projects - take on defined initiatives, complete & move on.
6. Part of Movement – share ideas, news with other Eco-Congregations
7. Reflect & Celebrate – publicise each project in hand & re- evaluate.

‘Keep it in the Ground’ – let us try to see a reduction in available energy as an opportunity.

CREATING A FAVORABLE POLICY FRAMEWORK THAT ENABLES **A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR RENEWABLES** – INCLUDING STOPPING INEFFICIENT FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES AND ESTABLISHING CARBON PRICING MECHANISMS – IS KEY TO CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

IT'S TIME TO KICK THE GLOBAL FOSSIL FUEL HABIT

If fossil fuel subsidy money were to be spent on renewables instead, it would:

- 
REDUCE THE COST
of switching
- 
create
CLEAN JOBS
- 
PAVE THE WAY
for future generations



Try to record an 'early win' to boost support!



All Faith Communities are at One on Ecology

Eco-Congregation

an environmental toolkit for churches



Pope Francis in 2015 called us all to action!



John 20 v.15 - tells of Jesus as a gardener to Mary



By caring for creation, we speak without words



Inspired by friends - Sr Catherine Brennan R.I.P.



September and October have special eco-focus

“I have decided to set up the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' which will be celebrated on the 1st of September.”

– Pope Francis

Let's pray:
www.SeasonOfCreation.info



Season of
Creation

Living better today to ensure life is possible in the future.

Register with ecocongregationireland.com. Get ideas from transition communities online.

Transition Together

