

Hawaii Interfaith Power and Light
Global Warming and Energy Film Series

Discussion Summary of the film *Renewal*

shown Thursday February 19, 2009 at Church of the Crossroads

1. Why Are Environmental Issues Also Moral/Religious Ones?

- religious scripture and teachings emphasize the sacredness of Creation
- we must speak out against the arrogance inherent in irresponsible use of the Earth's resources
- we must recognize and celebrate that the Earth is God's Creation
- *Adam* and *Adama* mean “man” and “Earth” respectively, in Hebrew; man was created from the dust of the earth, so we are spiritually *earthlings* and not just human beings
- environmental injustice is just as important an issue as social injustice
- a relationship of love and care for Creation are as central to our faith as love and care for each other

2. How Do Faith Traditions Provide an Important Perspective on Environmental Issues?

- environmental “wrongs” are moral and spiritual wrongs
- as stewards of Creation, we have a responsibility to put our faith in action
- a religious perspective born of love and care can help us get beyond the polarizing debate about environmental issues
- to encourage people to take action, change behavior, and advocate for change, it must be motivated by our core values
- environmental issues are NOT just environmental; they are issues of values, priorities, and justice
- the change that is needed is fundamental; this requires a change of *heart* and *mind*
- love of God, Earth, and Creation are at the core of this change in heart, mind, and action

3. How Do We Respond as People of Faith to Global Warming?

- *green* our churches
- *green* our elected officials
- teach young people in our churches and schools
- focus on education and our educators to make this issue and our response a priority
- educating consumers to make responsible choices

Comments from Henry Curtis, Executive Director for [Life of the Land Hawaii](#)

- simple actions, done as a community are most effective and bring us together for mutual support and inspiration
- recognize that we are part of the environment, so what we do to it we do to ourselves and all our actions should promote social as well as environmental justice
- reject the *religion of technology* that we can invent our way out of this crisis and not have to make fundamental changes in our relationship to the environment and our behavior and choices