

Dear Friends,

I just watched a Creation Justice Webinar about the “Economy of Sustainability” (which I will post on our Website and Facebook page when loaded onto YouTube). It brings it home that we cannot save the planet and ourselves just by better recycling or planting more trees. It needs a fundamental change in ‘the way we do business’ which currently is about making money and growing the economy.

To get to net-carbon neutral, it means we, as the world, we have to cut emissions by 7.5% every year until 2050. Net-carbon neutral means that we still are polluting the planet, but we also planted more trees and found other ways to capture carbon (but not other industrial and air pollutants). This will save the planet from the worst of the effects of our global climate (no longer just change) crisis or disaster, apocalypse, emergency (take your pick).

So, back to the economy, our laws and societal practices and idolatry are set up to make some people very rich and give the poor enough to remain alive, but not healthy. Our laws and societal practices prioritize profits over everything and anything else: health of people, community, eco-systems, and the whole planet. Our country and economics prioritize individual freedom with not enough investment in public health, transportation, and education.

Plastic bags, for example, are hoisted on the consumer and making it their problem to dispose of them properly without any real systematic investment to reduce or recycle by the corporations who make them or give them away. It is the individual's or local community's problem.

I watched Seaspiracy (on Netflix) with the Pizza and Social Justice group and it told us that 46% of the oceans' plastic comes from commercialized fishing which just dumps its nets and lines when they wear out. With over 7 million commercial fishing boats in the world, plastic straws are the focus of our society. Yes, we should ban plastic straws, but ignoring the waste of commercial fishing is also an American thing to do. Focus in the person, rather than system or the businesses.

All is not lost, but we need to hold corporations and the law makers that support them accountable as well.

Peace,
Pastor Enno