

Florida DEP Launches Algal Bloom Dashboard

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched a new interactive algal bloom dashboard: Floridadep.gov/algalbloom. This dashboard is a visual enhancement to its existing sampling database. This data has been publicly available on DEP's website, but previously did not allow the public to easily see where algal blooms were occurring in Florida.

The algal bloom dashboard features real-time updates of sample locations for up to 90 days and all available details related to those samples, such as photos and toxin information. Users can search by specific address, ZIP code, city, or place. The tool includes quick links to other resources such as public health information. Also, the public can report suspected algal blooms directly through the dashboard.

[from: *The Mayfield Minute*, June 2, 2019]

Green America Introduces New Campaign

Named "Toxic Textiles," the campaign believes clothing companies like Carter's (America's #1 baby clothes manufacturer) should be held accountable for their noxious practices. Three demands of the campaign are: 1) tell consumers what chemicals Carter's uses; 2) phase out the most dangerous chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives; 3) publicly report on its timeline and progress.

Giant clothing companies may try to keep their hands clean by using contractors half-way around the world to do things that would NEVER be legal in the U.S. The factories, located in low-wage countries where environmental regulations and safety rules are mostly lacking, routinely use chemicals not fit for human health and spew their waste directly into local rivers and streams.

Some of these chemicals are so hazardous, they're banned in the countries where the clothes are sold. And the chemicals that don't end up in the rivers or poison workers worldwide may still end up in your clothing, and in Carter's baby clothing.

[by Aliza Gravitz, from *Green America.org*, June 1, 2019]



Florida UU Activists Witness for Immigrant Youth in Homestead

On April 15, 2019, four River of Grass UU Congregation activists drove to the Immigrant Teen Detention Center in Homestead to witness for justice. They were joined by two members of the Buckman Bridge UU Church in Jacksonville.

Protestors have been there every day since the beginning of the year standing across the street from the main entrance. The protestors use the name "**Witness: Tornillo, Target Witness: Homestead**" referring to the Tornillo detention center on the border in Texas that was successfully shut down by protestors. Those who've been taking part in the vigil for months pledge to be there until all the children are freed to live with their families or sponsors.

The prison houses at least 1,700 youth aged 13 to 18 years old who were detained at the border and labeled "unaccompanied minors." Approximately 900 more are coming soon. At age 18 the youth are put in shackles and transported to an adult detention prison.

The prison, a former Job Corp training facility, is owned by a for profit company, Caliburn. The US government pays Caliburn \$1.3 million a day, or about \$750 per child per day. These unaccompanied children are supposedly being processed to be united with family members living in the U.S. or with sponsors while their appeals for asylum are being heard. Since Caliburn makes a huge profit from holding these teenagers, no one seems to be in a rush to reunite them. Many are kept at Homestead for nine months or more.

The American Friends Service Committee has been working to [End Child Detention](#) everywhere for years. Homestead is the current Florida location. UUA's Side with Love has joined with the UUSC to bring attention to the Homestead Children Detention Center situation. You can follow "Witness: Tornillo, Target Witness: Homestead" on their [Facebook](#) page.

[by Steve Jens-Rochow,

from UU Justice Florida Newsletter, June 2019]

Women's Suffrage Celebrates 100 Years

June 4 marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment by the two-thirds Congressional majority – an action that sent the amendment granting women the right to vote to the states for ratification.

While the 19th Amendment was momentous, the reality was that it did not grant the franchise to all women in the United States. In practice, it ensured the franchise for primarily white, middle and upper class women. Women of color largely did not enjoy the right to vote. Native Americans were not even granted citizenship until 1924. And discriminatory Jim Crow laws, coupled with a resurgent and violent Ku Klux Klan, had a firm grip on the Southern states. African-American women in the Deep South could no more exercise their right to vote in 1920 than could African-American men.

So, as we celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment's passage, let's challenge oversimplified and exclusionary historical narratives. Let's honor the women of color who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. And in doing so, recommit ourselves to a women's movement that stands up for the rights of *all women*.

[from: Southern Poverty Law Center, June 1, 2019]

Fracking Ban Progress in Washington State

Food & Water Watch was the first national group to call for a ban on fracking, and they have helped win bans in New York, Maryland, and hundreds of communities across the country. On May 8, Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed into law a permanent ban on fracking and came out in opposition to two major fracked gas infrastructure projects in that state. This is a win for the citizens of Washington and a step forward in the movement to ban fracking everywhere!

[from: *Food and Water Watch Messages*, May 29, 2019]

FYI: Although this spring a bipartisan group of lawmakers in Florida proposed legislation to ban fracking in Florida, it did not pass. The proposal cleared two Senate committees but was not taken up by two other panels. The House version (HB 7029) to ban the oil- and gas-drilling technique also did not make it through all of its assigned committees.

[From: Pensacola News Journal April 26, 2019]

Climate Change Retreat at The Mountain in Highlands, North Carolina

UU Ministry for Earth and UUA Green Sanctuary Program join forces to present a "Climate Justice: Extending Our Reach" retreat at the [Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands](#), North Carolina, August 4 - 9. The conference presents information about factors that have shaped the human impacts on climate change. These climate changes are directly related to injustices, resulting from the intersection of race, class, and environment. Workshops will include Climate Change in Relation to Justice, Action and Hope; Unitarian Universalists Unite to Create Climate Justice; Climate Change: Science and Impacts; and many others. For more information, go to: <https://www.uumfe.org/2019/05/09/meet-me-at-the-mountain-aug-4-9-2019/>

Wendy's Needs to Step Up On Another Issue

It's a growing public health crisis: The overuse of medically important antibiotics — both in people, and also on livestock on factory farms. This practice promotes the rise of deadly antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" that are leading to difficult or impossible to treat infections that kill over 160,000 people in the United States every year — and millions worldwide.



McDonald's has committed to reducing the use of antibiotics in its beef supplies, and as the third largest burger

chain in the U.S., it's time for Wendy's to follow McDonald's lead. Tell the CEO of Wendy's to do its part in the fight to preserve effective antibiotics and commit to serving only beef raised without the routine use of antibiotics.

Yes, eating less meat is the best way to protect our planet and our health. But we can also demand that meat be produced with more sustainable practices. Less meat, better meat, healthier future.

Please send your message telling Wendy's CEO to take action to protect our antibiotics. Go to:

https://act.nrdc.org/letter/wendys-antibiotics-190522?source=EMOWENPET&tkd=%7B%7Buser.id%7D%7D&utm_source=alert&utm_medium=act&utm_campaign=email&t=9&tkd=294042&akid=5143%2E294042%2EBFNRr5

[from: NRDC action alert, June 13, 2019]