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[\(Rights, Rights, and Mo...\) Next >](#)**Environmentalism as Religion** by **Joe Escobar** - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:53 AM**This forum thread is for Environmentalism as Religion posts and replies.**

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The Organic Free Range Tofu Church of "insert deity of choice here"** by **Barry Sommer** - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:15 PM

I find interesting the concept of a "secular religion" as you normally don't see those two terms in the same sentence. Many would disagree with religion being anything other than spiritual, and if you could ask our founders they would agree wholeheartedly. Ask Brigham Young however and he would probably complain that his religion was being discriminated against due to that nasty polygamy thing among Mormons that the government outlawed.

As to the green movement being a religion, Professor Rubin makes a very compelling case. One could even make the connection between the zealotry of Greenies to a cult. Cults have charismatic leaders like Jim Jones, Marshall Applewhite, Bagwan Rashneesh and David Koresh to stimulate the masses to a singular movement, the Greenies have the recycle bin, the reuse/recycle arrow circle and the "organic" label to bow to. Whether the Greenies are right or wrong makes them no nevermind, it is to feel good that they make amends to Mother Earth in the form of plastic tubs.

Thinking back to the Spanish Inquisition and the Salem Witch trials, there was consensus as to the methods used to extract a confession, a collective belief in the system, as it were and since all were on the same page there was also the

shame/dishonor factor in play. You were ostracized and shamed by your co-villagers, you were the last one picked for dodgeball. Today if you dare try to use a plastic bag at the store you are seen as a modern day Rasputin. If you eat un-organic you may be viewed as a troglodyte and one who probably still uses paper towels instead of washable Alpaca chamois. Laws, restrictions and sanctions on what is seen as a personal choice rarely works as presented.

The commercial I had never seen, but I felt dirty after watching it. Not only is it an insult to Cheap Trick, the commercial is a textbook example of propaganda like we have seen in class, a picture of shamed compliance based in threats and the "law". If the Greenies could control how we live, I believe the commercial is as close to the reality as they would like, and that scares me. I would have to be coerced, I would not go voluntarily.

Like the Jews in the ghettos of Poland, when the time came to board the trains it was too late to fight back. With the Green revolution the people can easily be manipulated with images like those in the commercial, and once we go that route it will be impossible to turn back.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Devoted lifestyle

by Matt Blackshear - Monday, May 27, 2013, 10:17 PM

This was an interesting article, I never looked at environmentalism as a religion. I always looked at it as a lifestyle. James murray in an article titled *Environmentalism is not a Religion* states, " If you can convince people to see environmentalism as a religion, then you move green issues from the field of science and data into the field of theology and belief." I know there is some faith in environmentalism such as in global warming, such as how Rubin's article says. However isn't most of environmentalism based off of science and fact? There is no real worship of a higher power in environmentalism. I personally think it is more of a lifestyle.

These rights we have will be dealt with by legislation. Just look at the plastic bag law we now have. I remember Mr. Escobar saying in class pretty soon it will be law to brush our teeth everyday. A ridiculous law just like the ones in the video. This goes along the lines of progressives back in history. They set laws and regulations cause they know what is best for us. Its looking at the world in a pessimistic way, people wont choose to be good therefore they need to be forced to do good.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Gavin Bennett - Monday, May 27, 2013, 11:16 PM

I would agree with this article that environmentalism is becoming somewhat like a religion. The article did a good job at pointing out the dogma that environmentalists wholeheartedly follow. One such example was about the bullet point about global

warming and nuclear power. Another comparison to that would be how environmentalists are touting electric and hybrid cars as greener transportation yet they do not (choose not to?) acknowledge that coal provides a lot of the United States' power, there are a lot of resources that are used in building a new car compared to buying a used car, and as of right now there isn't a definite way to dispose or recycle hybrid and electric vehicle batteries. A quick Google search though suggests that automakers and others are working on that issue. As far as these environmental issues go, it's hard to contain them. It seems like the United States government can pass as many regulations and laws as it wants, but it's hard to say if it will do any good when China, India, and other developing countries are polluting without abandon because. For the problem of global warming and pollution to be managed, it will take a global effort with lots of regulations with adequate enforcement. Good luck with enforcing strict environmental policies to every country.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Resolution is relative when it comes to recycling

by Ruby Kalamas - Monday, May 27, 2013, 11:35 PM

Okay, I do plan on actually engaging Escobar's question, but first let me destroy Mr. Rubin's article.

Recycling paper to save trees, for example, makes no sense since the effect will be to reduce the number of trees planted in the long run

This makes no sense! I'd like to know where the logic behind this quote is. I work for a restoration company, and we don't plant trees purely for logging companies. In fact, we don't plant any trees for logging companies. Fancy that.

While people have worshipped many things, we may be the first to build shrines to garbage.

Seriously? This guy certainly seems to take offense to recycling bins. I myself have never been bothered by an extra bin next to the trash can. I think his bias is VERY clear at this point.

I probably would not write this article if I did not have tenure.

The use of scare tactics is appalling. This guy makes environmentalists seem like a roving gang looking for trouble and he's just an innocent litterer who didn't do anything wrong except question it. Sorry, but the guy spent the entire article talking sh*t, so he's the pot calling the kettle black in my opinion.

At the end of his article, I almost wondered if he were just being REALLY sarcastic,

because of how unbelievable the tone of his argument was. For a tenured professor, it was pretty juvenile and had poor analysis. I'm not surprised it ended up in a newspaper, because it certainly wouldn't make it into ANY peer reviewed journal, anywhere. He doesn't even attempt to substantiate his claims!

Moving on to Escobar's question...

I think that the subject of environmentalism, I don't think it will ever be truly "solved", because we are all different, so we all have different views on the subject. Although I like to recycle, I may not take it to the extent of my neighbor, nor does my father take it to the extent that I do. There will never be a consensus on recycling or any type of environmentalism, just as there will never be a consensus on ethics or morality.

Society's way of dealing with this is to create laws to guide the majority in the direction that the majority chooses. This is of course only if in a Democracy where the majority ACTUALLY makes the laws. That concept is a whole other conversation...

That being said, that still leaves the minority groups, in this case the 'non-recyclers' like Mr. Rubin, or the other minority, the Escobars (I assume) who don't like being *forced* to omit plastic bags from their shopping habits.

So, in my opinion, I think that a combination of education (mostly), legislation, and VERY LITTLE prosecution (I'm talking dumping toxic waste) should be used for an attainable "success". But again, success is all relative.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Resolution is relative when it comes to recycling

by Barry Sommer - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 8:44 AM

If I may, your take on Rubins statement that recycling of paper reduces the number of trees planted but you don't understand the logic behind it is disappointing. Critical analysis says that his statement is true; if we recycle enough paper to lessen the need to cut new trees, the net result is more trees growing under a lessened demand for its fiber, thus a reduction in the need to plant enough to satisfy the demand.

Here is an organization that takes trash from the ocean and turns it into something beautiful. This is recycling/repurposing of the finest kind.
<http://www.washedashore.org/>

In response to Rubins claim that he would have not written the article if hed not had tenure you reply "This guy makes environmentalists seem like a roving gang looking for trouble..." and I would say that from my experience, environmentalists do take their quest very seriously, and have been known to take up pitchforks and torches in search of those defiling their earth. While it

appears they have our best interest at hand, their tactics (fear and despair if we do nothing) relegate the truths about nature to second class status, making emotion the over-riding dogma to force change.

I think we all agree that stewardship of spaceship earth is a responsibility of all inhabitants, and doing basic housekeeping is something we all want to do.

Think Teddy Roosevelt and his passion for the protection of our natural world.

As president he lashed over legislation that created and maintained hundreds of millions of acres of American landscape, protecting it from the rapacious industrialists who would strip it bare for its financial worth.

"After he became President in 1901, Roosevelt used his authority to protect wildlife and public lands by creating the U.S. Forest Service and establishing 51 Federal Bird Reservations, 4 National Game Preserves, 150 National Forests, 5 National Parks, and enabling the 1906 American Antiquities Act which he used to proclaim 18 National Monuments. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt protected approximately 230,000,000 acres of public land"

(<http://www.nps.gov/thro/historyculture/theodore-roosevelt-and-conservation.htm>)



TR and friend in Yosemite after making it a national park.

Recycling/reusing/repurposing is something people have been doing naturally for millenium. Government mandates, instead of encouragement to do the right thing may make things a bit better, but it doesn't convince people that doing

what is right is right.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Enviromentalism...Is it or isn't it a religion ?



by Nichole Sherman - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 1:02 AM

After reading the article and watching the commerical I began to think of enviromentalism in a different way. Before I had thought about it as just another group of people living their life a certain way, and although this is true I now realize that in truth it is more like a religion then other groups. Enviromentalism, holds many of the same qualities as a religion. There is symbolism, (receycle bins) faith, (global warming will go away) there is also food taboos where you cannot eat something not locally growned or on certain days. I would not call enviromentalism a religion because it does not worship a higher power but I do believe that they are alike. I cannot say even with what I know of rights whether this matter can ever be settled peacefully. I do believe that there will be a few riots, or strikes but I have hope that many Americans have gone into being able to think independent and with today's technology will be able to research and decide whether they think enviromentalism is a religion or not.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Environmentalism



by Drew Peters - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 7:07 AM

After reading the article I strongly agree that this new environmentalism "religion" is becoming more popular throughout the youth of the world today. But I feel its more of a state of awareness than being forced to be green by the state or government. Schools and other establishments have mad an effort to cut down on waist by providing multiple trash bins for different trash and recycling. I do not feel that it is the job of our government to be regulating how we dispose of our trash but create education programs help bring this green matter to our attention. These issues can be accomplished voluntarily by creating more awareness programs that push people towards being green that mindlessly throwing trash away.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Environmentalism



by Barry Sommer - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 6:21 PM

Drew, the government has both hands in the "green" movement and has for

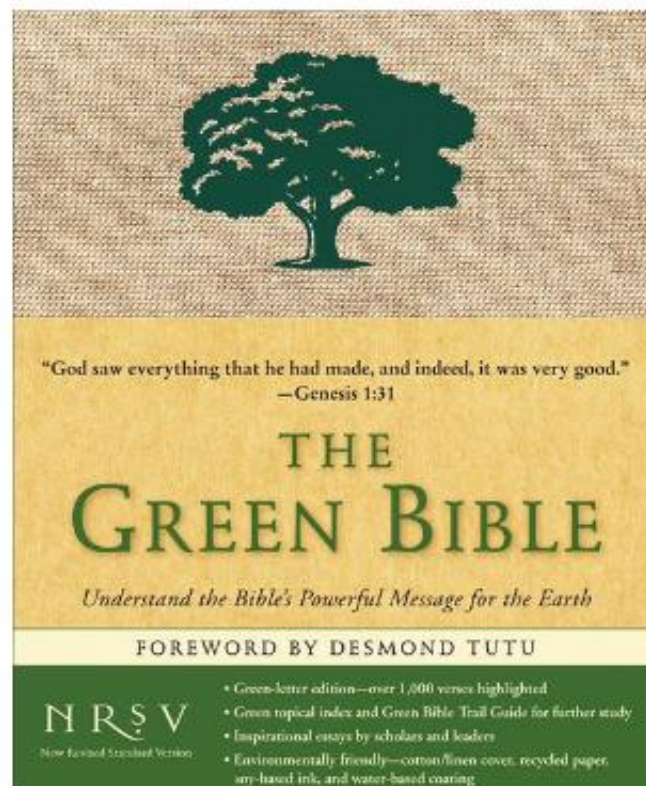
years now. A main reason for our society to have shifted from our past "wasteful" practices to this new "green" spirituality is government programs, mandates and laws. Increased fuel mileage standards are mandates from the feds. Air pollution levels are set and enforced by the feds. Clean water is monitored and regulated by the feds. Certain building codes like LEED standards are required to be met by federal guidelines. Waste collection, storage and discharge are all regulated by the feds. New development, whether business or residential must comply with federal guidelines regarding siting, utilities, waste treatment, energy use and materials used in construction. The feds control how we do these things, would you agree that for the most part they are standards that protect you and I from danger, injury and possible death?

As a boy I remember taking the trash out back and burning it in a small incinerator that was purpose-built to burn trash. We knew not to burn plastics and followed the city guidelines as to when to burn. That practice was outlawed in the 60s as the population had grown so much that to have hundreds of thousands of these fires burning at the same time was not healthy. We had little trash of the processed paper kind (milk cartons, juice boxes and other laminate paper) and relied mostly on glass packaging. I loved the sound of the bottles tinkling against each other as I carried the wire basket to the kitchen...

Most of us had compost piles back then so food scraps were recycled. There was no government interference, we just did this because it was the right thing to do. A lot of this behavior, as I was growing up came from surviving the depression, as my parents had to do. Making do with what you had and not wasting anything seemed natural and the right way to act so I do not see recycling as a chore. Also there is the fact that many city folk had come from the country, where recycling and reusing was part and parcel of how you lived. They brought these skills with them, and integrated them into city life. My Dad raised chickens in the 1920s, he had to pluck the feathers as part of his upbringing. Try to find a kid today who would even consider taking a dead chicken and pulling its feathers out in order to be able to eat.

We are green today because the government wants us to be green, but not because it is the best for the planet. They want the money from the green industry. As Joe says, follow the money and you will find the root of the issue. Al Gore owns the largest carbon cap and trade company in the world and makes millions and millions of dollars on the "greening" of America. No wonder our dear leaders want a piece of that.

Lastly, the greenies are officially a religion, explained by Desmond Tutu.



"A new edition of the Bible sets out to show that seeds of environmentalism were sown in the Garden of Eden. Just as "red letter" Bibles highlight the words of Jesus in red ink, "The Green Bible," in stores this week, uses green ink to spotlight more than 1,000 passages extolling the goodness of creation and God's charge to care for it." New Bible has a 'green' theme. The Ithaca Journal.com. 1st November 2008

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Re: Environmentalism P S

by Nichole Sherman - Thursday, May 30, 2013, 10:09 PM

I like the fact that you point out that although enviromentalism is like a religion that it is more about the states making us more aware of what we are putting into our ecosystem. We are running out of rescources and by using recycling we are able to postpone using all of them up. You are very correct when you stated that it shouldn't be up to the goverment to regulate how we throw away our trash.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Mandatory vs. voluntary "green actions" P S



by Ashley Bacon - Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 12:18 PM

After seeing that commerical I laughed because it is honestly so true to what our society is becoming. I know that back in the 50s they weren't as green because of things that were going on around them. It was post WW2 and there were other problems with communisim and the draft, but their main goal and lifestyle was to be that typical American family trying to make a nice household to raise a family in. They may have not been thinking green at that time but as time went on and things kept on changing and the world became more aware of the people and the environment they lived in. I believe that in the 60s yes things changed in a way that people wanted blacks to have the same rights as everyone else and that all should be treated equally and have their rights protected. I think in thinking in this somewhat new kind of way that it made others think about what was around them. Nature was around them and people weren't really thinking about that until yes some cultural changes happened. Hippies as people call them I believe really thought about all of this stuff more than anything because of different things they were doing and politics changed in a direction of change for the better whether it be education or highways. The issue is that we are suffering from climate problems from long-term damages made by humans. I think that nowadays people are more aware of these things because of the left hippies and there are still more and more of these people today. They are made fun of a lot that is true but you don't have to be a hippie to be green. I believe that it shouldn't be madatory to be green in forcing people to now use paper instead of plastic. To be honest it is a big pain in the butt. I am a very green person and try my best to help the environment in other ways and feel others feel the same way. I believe most people try to do what they can to help and contribute in their own ways. I just sure hope things don't get even more out of hand and end up like that commercial...

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Instilling Rather Than Restricting

by William Jones - Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 3:54 PM

This article was very interesting. I had previously never heard of anyone drawing a parallel between environmentalism and religion. I found Professor Rubin's arguments to be very convincing. Environmentalism is without a doubt a proselytizing religion. The notion that those who do not subscribe to environmentalism are evil sinners is also very accurate. Similar to some religions, non-believers may be treated aggressively and disrespectfully for their views not coinciding with those of the other. Of course, not all environmentalists or religious people meet these non-believers in this type of fashion. There was a couple points made, however, that I didn't quite understand.

I didn't quite see the logic behind identifying recycling bins as sacred structures. I guess recycling bins and these assorted trashcans are where one would "practice" environmentalism. They could also represent the desired change of

environmentalists, but I think it's kind of a stretch. I feel that religious people feel a sense of connectedness with their god. There is a deep spiritual connection between the believer and the one they worship. Environmentalists, on the other hand, I feel don't necessarily need to share a spiritual connection with nature. Although I see many of the connections drawn between religion and environmentalism, I feel the latter is missing that key factor. Many people may be environmentalists for other reasons including political or economic drives. They do not need to feel or even care about nature. Then again, many would probably say those who recycle and follow other environmentalist practices for these "selfish" reasons are not truly environmentalists.

I believe these issues can be resolved peacefully and most definitely should not be done coercively or punitively. I feel that anything that is solved by force is truly not solved. If you cannot convince the non-believer to recycle, the harm to our planet will continue. If you force the non-believer to recycle through legislation and persecution, they may begin to recycle and the problem will appear to be resolved, but is it really? The non-believer doesn't agree with his actions or want to do them. He still holds his beliefs, but is being forced to do the opposite. I feel that people should understand how precious our environment is and appreciate it before being forced to do the actions that help it. They should genuinely want to help. This can be done through education. Steps must be taken to reach the ultimate goal.

This idea makes me think of A Clockwork Orange. In the book, the anti-hero, Alex, is incarcerated for his violent ways and is then conditioned to become violently sick every time he hears or witnesses any acts of violence. His moral compass has not been altered, but rather he cannot physically commit these crimes any longer. His desire to commit them is still present and his mental state and beliefs are intact, but he can't carry out these actions. It raises questions of free will and whether legislation solves problems or not. It makes me think of the person being forced to carry out environmentalists' ideals. Shouldn't the goal be to instill the desire to help rather than force beliefs and actions upon others while simultaneously restricting their own wishes and beliefs?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Instilling Rather Than Restricting

by Barry Sommer - Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 7:05 PM

Excellent post, William. I like critical thinking, something rare in today's world (and with many students). I would like to address your statement "*Environmentalists, on the other hand, I feel don't necessarily need to share a spiritual connection with nature*" While it is true that some environmentalists, or whatever they choose to call themselves see no connection with the earth beyond dollars or fame/power (think Al Gore) but for those that take it seriously enough it is a religion. The believers in Gaia are a faithful bunch, and their foundational belief has been, on some levels backed by real science. Wikipedia says this about Gaia Theory "The Gaia hypothesis, also known as Gaia

theory or Gaia principle, proposes that organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings on Earth to form a self-regulating, complex system that contributes to maintaining the conditions for life on the planet"

James Lovelock came up with the idea in the 70s, and today many find this idea worthy of genuflection.

There is pantheism, pagan and neopaganism, animism, Wiccan, Druidism, Goddess worship, Shamanism...the list is almost endless. One can worship at the altar of everything from the dirt itself to a flying spaghetti monster, but those who see everything man does as hurtful and damaging to mother nature are the ones wreaking the most havoc against our mother.

Radical neo-theological beliefs centered on the planet seem, at the moment to not be completely peaceful or tolerant. I understand, but do not agree. My spiritual connection with the earth does not allow me to deliberately damage or hurt the earth itself or those on it. I am not sure about those who pray to the altar of the great blue plastic bin god.

Don't think religion and "green" is a religious movement? Take a look at this...



NATIONAL PREACH-IN ON GLOBAL WARMING FEBRUARY 10-12

Register for Preach-In on Global Warming

Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) is inviting faith leaders from across the country to share reflections on global warming the weekend of **February 10-12, 2012**. As the event progresses, we will be offering a variety of resources free of charge to those who register, including:

- Denomination-specific liturgical and thematic notes to help in the reflections, devotionals, Bible studies, and youth activities
- Ready-to-go sample sermons on global warming
- Global warming fact sheet and bulletin insert
- Valentine's Day postcards for policy makers
- Free film: 30-minute DVD, *Preaching for the Planet*, normally \$15, \$5

Give a sermon or host a discussion

In addition to sermons and reflections, congregations can choose to screen a film and host a discussion about putting faith into action. Resources will be available to those who register.



Send valentines to policy makers

Leading up to the event, participating congregations will receive Valentine's cards to send to their representatives, encouraging political leaders to *love* their neighbors and support policies that protect climate and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

*If you have any questions, please feel free to call your **state Interfaith Power & Light** office at 415-561-4891, or write to andree@theregenerationproject.org.*

Visit our website to register today! There is no obligation and the program is free.

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I leave you with this...



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Re: Environmentalism as Religion P S

by Megan Russell - Thursday, May 30, 2013, 12:09 PM

Being someone who is extremely passionate about environmental science and the green movement, I was slightly offended by this forum thread. My senior year of high school I busted my ass to grant Rex Putnam High School a Green Certificate, I revamped the so called "not useful" recycling system and saved my school a lot of money and gained recognition from the community. The use of multiple trash cans to separate the garbage, recycling, and compost are something I can't believe anyone would be upset or offended by. When I was in the process of making my school green one of the biggest reasons students didn't recycle was the lack of trash cans. By placing those cans around campus, someone was thinking about your convenience and helping you make smart decisions for the well-being of our future and this planet.

I have lived on two different coasts of this country, this is my first year in Eugene and I can say that this is the most "green" orientated city I have ever been to. While the video was extreme, I have seen people act that way in this city. I am a firm believer in the first amendment, but freedom of religion also means freedom from it. I don't believe in telling someone how to lead their life, but everyday I hear and see religious beliefs along with environmental beliefs. I used to live in Rhode Island, a state where most of the cities do not pick up recycling. They don't even offer the option to recycle so many people just throw away things that can be reused to make new materials. So yes, environmentalism is widespread and sometimes over-the-top, but this is not the case in much of the country.

I believe that this movement, much like any movement in history, could turn non-peaceful. By banning plastic bags in Eugene we are enforcing our beliefs on the

people of this town. Although it is something that I believe needed to happen, it doesn't mean I get any less annoyed at the register when I have to carry all of my items out to my car. I can see this becoming a widespread movement, however this is something that has scientific evidence to help our environment. Teaching students creationism instead of evolution is depriving students of factual knowledge and instilling in their beliefs that anything you "have faith in" is something worth learning and paying attention to. That is a misuse of religious power, providing three trash cans for you so you can properly dispose of your garbage is not.

Also, the argument about recycling paper is invalid. Yes it could stop the planting of future trees, but if we reuse paper we won't need to cut trees down. There are plenty of environmental organizations that plant trees almost everyday, I could probably find someone doing it in our area this weekend.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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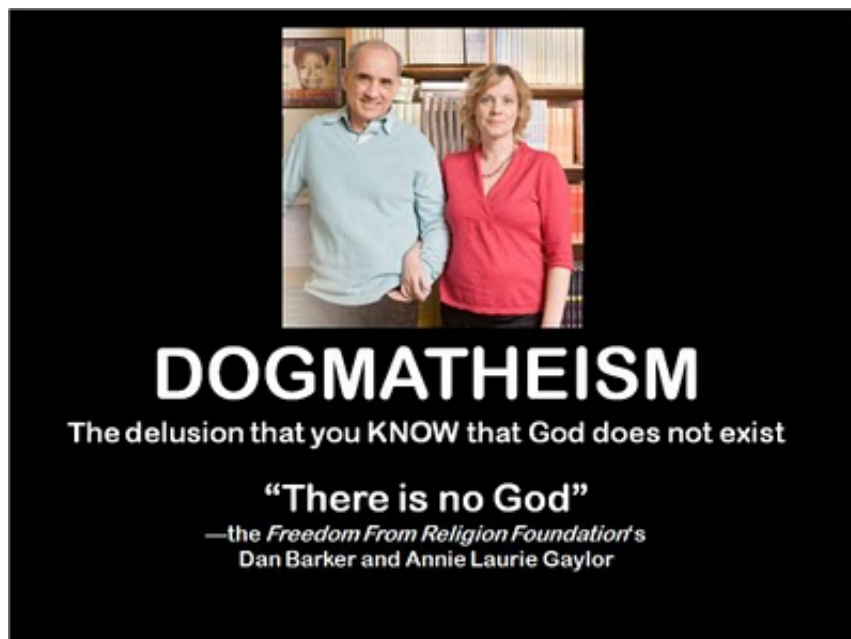


Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Barry Sommer - Friday, May 31, 2013, 6:25 PM

" I am a firm believer in the first amendment, but freedom of religion also means freedom from it"

Megan, freedom from religion only means you are free to practice NO religion, not that you are immune from hearing about other religions. It means you are free to accept or reject any and all religions, but not the right to not be exposed to other religions.



This is what the constitution really says...

"Congress shall make no law
respecting an establishment
of religion, or prohibiting the
free exercise thereof..."
- FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE
UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Where does it say you have the right not to be exposed to religious messages?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion



by Drew Peters - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 6:49 PM

I agree with you that with having separate trash bins should not offend people, but make more aware about preserving our planet for the future. With having separate bins for compost, garbage, and recycling it could convert some people to get into the pattern of sorting their trash with out the need of government enforcement. Although I just had my first annoying experience today with the new law baning plastic bags while I had to carry all my groceries out of the store. But I agree that plastic should be baned because its not biodegradable and is harmful to the environment.

I personally have never been to the east coast but I was shocked when you said they don't offer the option to recycle in the cities. I was born and raised in Oregon and have been surrounded by the "green" movement and after so many years I have relived that I find my self sorting my trash with a second thought. I don't feel it is right to force the "green" belief but if every city in America gave the option to recycle it would at least provide the option to recycle.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Tricky Situation



by William Jones - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 7:42 PM

I agree with you about how most people just need to be provided the resources to recycle. I feel the majority of people are very willing to recycle and carry out other environmentally friendly habits and actions if they were only provided the resources to make them convenient. I don't know anyone who would be offended by these resources and refuse to do something as simple as recycling, but I am sure they exist.

You are also definitely right about the point of forcing one's beliefs on another. I touched upon this in my previous post. I think doing this is counter-productive because it doesn't get to the root of the problem. People should recycle because they believe in its benefits and the goal that it is working towards. If people are forced to carry out these actions, animosity is developed between them and those instituting the changes as well those who support the changes. It definitely makes me think about the creationism-evolution controversy. The problem with these types of issues is it comes down to the belief in universal truths. There is no middle ground and people don't fall on a spectrum. It is a black and white issue where people think one this is correct and the other is completely false. I do think, however, that it is important to teach people about the benefits of recycling and the dangers of ignoring such problems. I think doing this would provide a foundation for people to build upon make the necessary steps to help the environment. The other side to this is I wouldn't want the education to be necessary which creates another tricky situation. I wouldn't want the education to be invasive or forceful, but then again would people attend the education sessions or seek out educational materials on environmentalism if it wasn't mandatory?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Save the Environment!

by Veronica Wilkens - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 7:48 AM

I don't think these issues can ever truly be resolved. The only solution I see is if it is forced upon us (either in one direction or the other), for so long that after a generation or two we begin to forget that it was ever really any other way.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 8:09 PM

I remember when I first heard of Global Warming. It was back in spring of 2006 when my eight grade teacher Mr. Smith showed us *AN IN CONVINIENT TRUTH*, later that year I started seeing a whole bunch of commercials about global warming..... And here we are 7 years later and environmentalism is being compared to religion. REALLY?!

First of all, the points that Mr. Paul H. Rubin states in his article *While people have worshipped many things, we may be the first to build shrines to garbage...* **there I say, are well put together.** That being said everything stated in his article have a cause and effect that can be proven by science while religion can only be stipulated by those that believe in it. I am just going to discuss the first three points that Rubin states are similar to religion.

He says "There are food taboos. Instead of eating fish on Friday, or avoiding pork, Greens now eat organic foods and many are moving towards eating only locally grown foods." First of all this is not something that is just happening in recent years. If you think back, people have been eating organic foods grown in their local market for centuries. The only reason people have been eating mass produced food, is because of the industrial revolution that made food cheaper and affordable to all. With reports and articles by scientist and activist that say that the chemicals put in our food today, the only logical affect that this would have in our communities is people starting to care what they put in their buddies and what better way to see what you're eating if you see it being grown in your community.

He goes on saying that "There is no prayer, but there are self-sacrificing rituals that are not particularly useful, such as recycling. Recycling paper to save trees, for example, makes no sense since the effect will be to reduce the number of trees planted in the long run." It makes perfect since to recycle. He has a point that recycling would reduce the amount of trees being planted, but a tree if I'm not mistaking takes years to grow. If we reduce the amount of trees we cut down, than we can have does trees that are being saved to produce oxygen for the environment and eliminate tractors from wasting gas and harming the natural environment of animals.

Finally, he's first statement about "Earth Day" being celebrated by those who are environmentalist, is the only thing close to being religious with no scientific purpose. "Earth Day" to me would be the equivalence of "Ash Wednesday." The purpose of these two days is to remind us why we do, what we do. With the only exception that "Earth Day" is something that is happening in recent years, that shows awareness to the world as of why we should find alternatives to cleaner and more efficient ways of producing and wasting energy, without the side effects of chemical waste that would harm the environment in the long run as chemical waste takes years to go away. (This is based on half life's of elements)(I'm a Chem. Major)

First time I saw a Global Warming Commercial.(It was hard to fine!!!)

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/11992630/ns/us_news-environment/t/global-warming-ad-makes-stark-point/#.Uaqu0CsiSp

Inconvient Truth

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqVyRa1iuMc&feature=fvwp&NR=1>

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Hank Green  

by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 9:04 PM

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dC_2WXyORGA

JUST SEEMS RELEVANT TO THIS FORUM

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cardboard or Catholic?

by Joshua Reay - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10:11 PM

When I first read through the article I kind of chuckled. Comparing temples of worship to recycling bins. Sacrificing rituals that include putting plastic bottles into machines that in return give you money. It all seemed a little distant to me until I started to deeply think about it. They tend to be very similar.

I went to a private Catholic high school so I know that there is much more to religion than what is listed in the article, but I know that if someone who were deeply involved with and environmentally friendly lifestyle they would say the same exact thing about that. So if you do think about it, they are more similar than you might think.

I do not believe that these types of issues will ever be truly resolved. If they were to even be addressed I don't see them being violent. This does not seem to be an issue that screams "violence."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cardboard or Catholic?

by Nichole Sherman - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 11:54 PM

I agree I do not believe these issues will ever be resolved especially as our earth continues to deteriorate. I also agree that I do not believe there will be violence even though many opinions do scream violence. These subjects are similar but different. We need to remember they are both lifestyles and a personal choice.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Environmentalism as Religion.. i dont know where i stand

by Karlee Andrew - Saturday, June 1, 2013, 11:28 PM

I understand why some may think environmentalism is like religion. After all, like religion, environmentalism is driven by values, and it has directions for how to maintain those values in the world. Like religion, environmentalism has a culture that includes practices; for example, bringing reusable bags to the store. Also follows, "reduce, reuse, recycle". Also dietary rules: local, seasonal, organic greens. It even has its own holiday—Earth Day. And like religion, environmentalism has followers. Most are buying organic products, using energy-efficient lights or recycling. On the other hand there are differences. Environmentalism deals with nature not the supernatural like all other religions. Environmentalism is described to be only a rational response to the changes in our environment and people are only acting accordingly to

avoid future harm to us and our world.

After watching the video it kinda reminded me of how i feel at lane. I am not against recycling, but i also dont partake in it either (except at school). At lane i am forced to recycle because every garbage is divided into four or more sections that have a picture above it, telling you what is okay for YOU to throw away in it. Props to those who like and are for recycling, but I don't like being forced to recycle! Thats why i said i feel like the people in that video being watched by the police and controlled . I feel controlled at lane! Like they are trying to force me into enviornmentalism without a choice.

Heres a cartoon i found interesting.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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