

An Energy Vision from the Heart of Kentucky's "Holy Land"

As an increasing number of pipelines carrying natural gas liquids are proposed to connect hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") operations in the northeast with chemical processing plants in the south, we, members of three religious communities in the "Kentucky Holy Land"—the **Dominican Sisters of Peace**, the **Loretto Community**, and the **Sisters of Charity of Nazareth**—have joined countless other citizens in opposing the construction of such pipelines in our state.

We stand with all those who oppose the widespread risks to natural ecosystems and human well-being caused by the rush to achieve national "energy independence" through the creation of vast infrastructures for the extraction, refinement, and combustion of more fossil fuels. We urge instead the development of national policies and infrastructures that will facilitate a swift and steady transition to renewable energy sources.

Because of our love for God and for God's creation, Earth and all its species, we here offer a set of beliefs, rejections, and commitments. We invite you to join us.

WE BELIEVE that Earth does not belong to us, but that we belong to Earth, our home planet that is alive with the creative energy of God. God's desire that all creation may have fullness of life means that we are called to co-create by cooperating with all life systems. We believe that we are now also called to face the potential catastrophe of global climate change and, in solidarity with many others, to help solve this problem. We believe that cooperation and ingenuity can make renewable energy resources efficient and affordable within this decade.

WE REJECT the assumption that access to the resources needed by all Earth's people can be limited to the ownership and profit-taking of a few. We reject corporation tactics that threaten, exploit, and coerce landowners and residents and that risk public health and safety. We reject an economic system that promotes wasteful consumption of energy and other natural resources. We reject the extraction of energy sources by plundering Earth, endangering and destroying forests, wildlife, flora, the health of all species and polluting land, air, and water. We reject the belief that climate change is not caused by human activity, and we equally reject the assumption that humanity is incapable of making the changes needed to reverse the trends leading to climate change.

WE COMMIT ourselves to care for God's creation, upholding both the ideal of the common good now and the well-being of future generations. We will learn, teach, and model alternative ways of viewing energy sourcing and conservation that reduce risks to water, land, air, climate, and human safety. We commit ourselves to use our spiritual and social resources and our public credibility in all possible ways to promote the transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy resources. We commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with those land-owners and residents who resist the abuses of corporate power and greed. We will advocate for adequate government regulation of all energy sources. We will examine the options of divestment and shareholder actions for our investments in fossil fuel industries and for increasing our investments in renewable energy sources.



Dominican
Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Loretto
community

Sisters of
CHARITY OF
NAZARETH

These faith communities and organizations are committed to the Energy Vision Statement:

Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates

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Loretto Community – Sisters and Co-members

Pearl McGivney, SL, President

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Associates

Susan Gatz, SCN, President

Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH

Sr. Jacquelyn Doepker, Community Minister

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Leadership Team

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Ursulines of Youngstown

Sr. Norma Raupple, Leadership Team

Ursulines of Cincinnati

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Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH

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Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY

Leadership Team

Grail Movement Climate Action Circle

Marian Ronan, PhD, Coordinator

International Thomas Merton Society

Dr. Paul M Pearson, Resident Secretary

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

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Franciscan Action Network

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Unitarian Universalists Community of Frankfort, KY

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Winifred Doherty, NGO Representative to the UN, Good Shepherd Sisters

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The Carmelite NGO

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Loretto Earth Network

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Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office of the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

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Bob Ernst, Executive Director

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Carolyn Jaramillo, Committee Member

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**Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. –
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New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future
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Loose Leaf Hollow Retreat Center
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Mennonite Creation Care Network
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Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
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Carol De Angelo, SC, on behalf of ROAR

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