

People of Faith are Standing Up to Oil

How *you* can make a difference for the health and safety of our community



All faith traditions teach the Golden Rule: treat others as we would like to be treated. Christians know it as Jesus' second great commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. In the Jewish tradition, similar text shows up in the book of Leviticus and in a mitzvah commentary by the scholar Maimonides. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and many other world religions share similar beliefs.

The "Green Rule" flows from these same religious values. We care for the shared land and water of our community in the same way we want our own gardens tended and protected. Environmental stewardship is an integral part of all faiths because we cherish the gifts from our Creator and because we want to leave a better world for all the world's children.

In our own neighborhoods, people of faith work together to make things better and pull together in good times and bad. Local religious leaders call for a government that works for "we the people" and the health of the natural world God has given us.

Standing up to Oil

Religious leaders around the state are opposed to oil-by-rail projects and fossil fuel terminals that are built on unstable land in populated areas. The ongoing threat of oil spills, the frustration of traffic tie-ups, the expense to local businesses, and most of all, the terrible risk of oil train derailments and explosions mean that these projects are not good stewardship of our communities, land, and water. We know we can do better.

The Risks are Real

Devastating oil train explosions occur with terrible regularity. Shale oil fracked in the Bakken lands of North Dakota is pulled from so deep in the Earth that natural gas is still dissolved in it, making it extremely dangerous. Tar Sands oil from Canada is also highly explosive. There is little insurance to cover the risk of explosions, and cities and towns have learned they are on their own for clean-up. The costs from routine oil spills is high, but costs from a catastrophic accident are unimaginable. It's not worth it.



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Put Your Faith Into Action Today!

Stand up against oil terminals in Grays Harbor County

Leaving a Legacy for Our Children

Destructive industries say that oil terminals will create local jobs, but in fact these projects will poison our air and water and cost jobs in fisheries and tourism. A healthy, deep water port and shoreline are extremely valuable assets that we need to preserve for future generations.

Letting those assets be sacrificed for short-term profit will leave the community much poorer in the long run. It is far better to develop sustainable industries that will protect intact ecosystems and create a more robust economy. Basing an economy on oil is not good stewardship of God's creation nor good for long-term prosperity.

Religious Communities Say "We Can Do Better"

There are many ways to build a healthy community. Because of the danger of oil train accidents locally and climate change globally, creative businesses are looking for alternatives to fossil fuels and their dirty pollution. Last year, many more jobs were created in wind energy than in coal. The technology to create renewable energy is cheaper and more available each year.

Protecting our one and only planet by reducing pollution and supporting a just transition to a clean energy economy is the best way to address the problem of climate change head-on. Religious leaders believe in holding polluters accountable while promoting homegrown, local energy sources.



In the end, standing up to oil is a moral stand. People of faith are working together for protection of God's creation, the well-being of our local economy, and to make a better world for all of us. Join us today!

