

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD  
CARE OF CREATION WORK GROUP  
2009 Pre-Assembly Report

**Mission Statement:** The Care of Creation Work Group is called to make peace between people and the rest of God's creation. In partnership with the congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, we:

**affirm** that care of creation is central to the life of God's people,  
**encourage** worship that celebrates God's creation,  
**advocate** education promoting understanding and stewardship of God's earth,  
**practice** good earth citizenship,  
**model** disciplined and fruitful community lifestyles.

The Work Group met twice in 2008 in conjunction with the Board of Ministry in Mission meetings. Activities in 2008 have largely focused on global climate change and energy conservation. The Work Group is a member of the Iowa Environmental Council and of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. David Voigts represents the Work Group in both organizations.

Two newsletters were published in 2008 and distributed with the January and June *Northeastern Iowa STAR*. Topics in January included the Faith Principles on Global Warming developed by the National Council of Churches USA, the Web of Creation ecology resources, Care of Creation educational web resources, and efforts to provide clean water for all. In June, the newsletter topics were Global Warming 101, a summary of "Renewal" which is a documentary film about stories from America's religious environmental movement, information about the Cool Congregations initiative, and energy efficiency myths.

Due to the floods in June, the Synod Assembly had to be postponed and the schedule was greatly condensed, so no workshops were held. The Work Group had sessions planned about Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) called "Know Your Food/Know Your Neighbor", and the energy efficiency measures incorporated into Wartburg's new fitness center entitled "Innovations in Energy Efficiency in THE W".

The Work Group has begun to gather information to become more knowledgeable about the constitutional amendment to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund that would provide dedicated funding for protecting water quality and natural areas in Iowa in order to pass this information on to the Synod's congregations. The Work Group has requested that an energy audit be completed for the Synod office in Waverly, and Synod staff are working on getting this completed. Information about the Work Group is posted on the Synod website at [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org). Anyone is welcome to join this dedicated and energetic group to promote care of our creation in the congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

*Last but not least, we want to express our gratitude to Jackie Juhl, who was a founding member of the Care of Creation Work Group. Jackie is stepping down after many years of serving as the Work Group's secretary and as a driving force in its many endeavors. We have all benefited from her hard work and her knowledge of the environmental issues affecting northeastern Iowa.*