



## **RESOURCES FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2013**



‘Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.  
For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgement against themselves.’  
(I Corinthians 11.28)

This resource has been created to assist Anglicans (& others) in the Brisbane Diocese in our shared commitment to the 5<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission in the Anglican Communion:

*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation  
and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

Together in Christ we *can* make a difference and World Environment Day offers us a particularly good opportunity to do so: helping us to develop our own awareness and action with others and to ground this more effectively in a deepened understanding of God’s love and action in all of Creation.

To support our continued mission, the following suggested aids are included in this pack. It is hoped that they may be of value for Sunday 2 June (the nearest Sunday to World Environment Day), World Environment Day itself and its surrounding week:

1. Background and Information about the 2013 UN World Environment Day theme
2. Some liturgical resources for Sunday June 2 and/or World Environment Day itself
3. Suggestions for Sermon starters or Small Group Discussions
4. Suggestions for other Church activities on or around World Environment Day (including links to Anglican and other helpful environmental resources)
5. World Environment Day A-Z of suggested actions

*May God bless us all that we may celebrate Creation more fully  
and share in the whole mission of Christ’s saving grace!*

## BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION TO THE 2013 WORLD ENVIRONMENT THEME

### **THINK – EAT - SAVE**

**The worldwide invitation** (from the UN World Environment Day website)

With others across the world, we are invited to celebrate World Environment Day on (or about) 5 June 2013. This year, the worldwide theme is **Think.Eat.Save**. The practical aim is to encourage us to reduce our ecological *foodprint* by becoming more aware of the environmental impact of food waste across the food supply chain. The theme calls us to take action and witness the power of the collective decisions we can make to reduce food waste, save money and minimise environmental impacts.

**The theological opportunity**

Theologically and prayerfully, this also gives us a wonderful opportunity to explore the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion, pondering joyfully how God's salvation is for all Creation and not simply our human part of it. How can we better witness to God's saving love in how we think, eat, and interact with others? After all, for Christians who are Eucharistic people, food is at the very heart of our Faith. The Bible is full of stories of God's generosity and care in the giving and sharing of food. Can we embody this more fully in our lives, thereby supporting the world's poor and hungry and better valuing food providers in our own country?

**Background** (from the UN World Environment Day website)

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly to mark the opening of the 1972 Stockholm Conference. It is celebrated around the world in many ways, including street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more.

The 2013 World Environment Day theme is **Think.Eat.Save**. For, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted or lost. This volume of waste is more than the total net production of Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. Approximately 98% of the world's hungry live in developing nations.

Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year's theme – **Think.Eat.Save** – encourages us to reduce our foodprint. The idea is for each of us to become more aware of the environmental impact of the food choices we make and empower us to make informed decisions.

While the planet is struggling to provide us with enough resources to sustain its 7 billion people (growing to 9 billion by 2050), FAO estimates that a third of global food production is either wasted or lost. Food waste is thus an enormous drain on natural resources and a contributor to negative environmental impacts. In fact, global food production uses 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change.

Making informed decision means, for example, that we purposefully select foods that have less environmental impact, such as those that are more sustainable and less polluting in the production process. Choosing to buy locally can also mean that foods are not flown halfway across the world and therefore limit emissions.

So let us **think** before we **eat** and help **save** our environment!

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## **Key Food Waste Facts** (drawn from the UN World Environment Day webpage)

The impact of food waste is not just financial. Environmentally, food waste leads to over-wasteful use of chemicals such as fertilisers and pesticides; more fuel used for transportation; and more rotting food, creating more methane – one of the most harmful greenhouse gases that contributes to climate change. Methane is 23 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas. The vast amount of food going to landfills makes a significant contribution to global warming.

- Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes — gets lost or wasted.
- Every year, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).
- The amount of food lost or wasted every year is equivalent to more than half of the world's annual cereals crop (2.3 billion tonnes in 2009/2010).
- Food loss and waste also amount to a major squandering of resources, including water, land, energy, labour and capital and needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.
- In developing countries food waste and losses occur mainly at early stages of the food value chain and can be traced back to financial, managerial and technical constraints in harvesting techniques as well as storage –and cooling facilities. Thus, a strengthening of the supply chain through the support farmers and investments in infrastructure, transportation, as well as in an expansion of the food –and packaging industry could help to reduce the amount of food loss and waste.
- In medium- and high-income countries food is wasted and lost mainly at later stages in the supply chain. Differing from the situation in developing countries, the behaviour of consumers plays a huge part in industrialized countries. Moreover, the study identified a lacking coordination between actors in the supply chain as a contributing factor. Farmer-buyer agreements can be helpful to increase the level of coordination. Additionally, raising awareness among industries, retailers and consumers as well as finding beneficial use for save food that is presently thrown away are useful measures to decrease the amount of losses and waste.

*Some further 'developed world' statistics – similarly reflected in Australia...*

- In the United States 30% of all food, worth US\$48.3 billion (€32.5 billion), is thrown away each year. It is estimated that about half of the water used to produce this food also goes to waste, since agriculture is the largest human use of water. (Jones, 2004 cited in Lundqvist et al., 2008)
- United Kingdom households waste an estimated 6.7 million tonnes of food every year, around one third of the 21.7 million tonnes purchased. This means that approximately 32% of all food purchased per year is not eaten. Most of this (5.9 million tonnes or 88%) is currently collected by local authorities. Most of the food waste (4.1 million tonnes or 61%) is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed (WRAP, 2008; Knight and Davis, 2007).
- In the USA, organic waste is the second highest component of landfills, which are the largest source of methane emissions.

*Sources:*

*Global Food Losses and Food Waste – FAO, 2011*

*The environmental crisis: The environment's role in averting future food crisis – UNEP, 2009*

## **LITURGICAL RESOURCES**

### **Suggested Opening/keynote Sentence** (1 Corinthians 11.29)

‘Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgement against themselves.’

### **Collect for World Environment Day 2013**

Holy God, source of all life,

we give you thanks for the good things you provide to feed and sustain us.

As we mark World Environment Day across our fragile planet,

grant us wisdom to think, eat and act more sustainably,

that your will may be done, no one go hungry and all creation rejoice in your blessings.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

### **Form of Intercessions on the theme of World Environment Day 2013**

(please use, adapt, or add specific petitions, as suits a particular context)

Bountiful God, you created the fruits of the earth for our sustenance  
and entrusted the birds and animals to our care.

We pray for a deeper honouring of your gifts,

and especially, at this time, in the production and consumption of food.

We ask that you cultivate among us a greater awareness of your sacred presence in what  
we eat, and a will to share in your mission for the redemption of the whole of creation.

Help us think more deeply,

that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.

Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

Liberating God,

you gave your people manna in the wilderness

and commanded them to attend to what they ate.

We pray for the hungry of our world, that they may be fed,

and for all who work to bring relief and put an end to famine.

We ask that you will strengthen us to attend to how and what we eat,

that we may help to bring an end to the scandals of food waste.

Help us think more deeply,

that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.

Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

Sustaining God,

you drew disciples from those who provided food for others

and you nourish us with your very self.

We pray for all who produce, transport, sell and prepare food,

remembering particularly our farmers

and all involved in the food industries of our region.

We ask that you will enable us to work with others in developing sustainable practice,

addressing our foodprints, supporting local production, and giving us wisdom in

disputes over land use, animal welfare and the well-being of farming communities.

Help us think more deeply,

that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.

Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

Gracious God,  
you fed the multitudes with loaves and fishes and turned water into wine.  
We pray for the United Nations, for multinational food companies, and for the  
governments of the world, that your generosity may be embodied in effective economic  
and political change, reducing waste and feeding the poor.  
We ask that all who long for change may receive signs of hope and that our wilful waste  
be transformed into fragments of feasting for all.

Help us think more deeply,  
that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.  
Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

Caring God,  
you taught us to ask for our daily bread, feeding our need but not our greed.  
We pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit,  
remembering particularly those who are afflicted with food-related disorders  
and all those who rest heavily on our hearts and minds at this time...  
We ask that you will give them the living bread that they need for their lives.

Help us think more deeply,  
that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.  
Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

Feasting God,  
you promise that we may dine at your table and know the gift of eternal life,  
We pray for all those who are close to death at this time and for those who mourn,  
giving thanks for those who have gone before us to the heavenly banquet of your Love.  
We ask that, as we share in the Eucharistic meal, we too may taste your joy.

Help us think more deeply,  
that we may eat more sensitively, and share more fully in your salvation.  
Lord you are the bread of life      *Hear our prayer*

### **After Communion Prayer – or Blessing- for World Environment Day 2013**

May the Wisdom of God give us mindfulness in all that we consume  
May the Joy of God make us attentive to the needs of others  
May the Courage of God grant us strength to share in salvation  
That we may thereby feast with all creation in the banquet of divine Love  
*(and the blessing...)*

### **Suggested additional resources:**

**Thanksgiving for the beauty of the earth** (*Prayers for Various Occasions, in A Prayer Book  
for Australia (APBA) p.220, copyright Broughton Books, General Synod of Australia*)

We thank you, God of all loveliness,  
for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea;  
for the richness of mountains, deserts and rivers;  
for the songs of birds and the beauty of flowers.  
We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may guard our heritage,  
to the honour and glory of your name. Amen.

**A Song of Creation** (*APBA pp.427-8*)

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR SERMON STARTERS OR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

This year's theme of **Think-Eat-Save** is a very fruitful one for enabling Christians to have a deeper awareness of the sacredness of God's Creation, and, in particular, the sacramental understanding of food at the heart of our Faith. In a sense, a great deal of Christian life could even be summed up in the three key words:

**Think** – Pray & Reflect

**Eat** – Enjoy and Feast together in the life God gives us

**Save** – Share in God's redeeming Love for the whole of Creation

Whilst the lectionary readings for 2 June 2013 are not the most obvious ones for environmental reflection, it may be worth reflecting on the Gospel story of the healing of the Centurion's Servant (Luke 7.1-10). For who, or what today, are like that slave and his master, outsiders beyond the usual concern of the religious people of Jesus' day? Do we sometimes forget that God's shalom, and mission of healing, is for the outsiders of our day, including the wider environment of which we are a part, our brothers and sisters elsewhere (who, literally, and metaphorically, hunger for healing) and all living creatures? Have we faith, like the centurion, to ask for God's help and trust that God can bring us wholeness, even for our fragile planet, when we seek and depend upon Jesus?

**I Corinthians 11.20-29 – A Suggested Key Text** (a rich Gospel alternative is also John 6.1-14)

In addition to sharing something of the challenge of this year's World Environment Day – see especially the background introduction and 'food waste facts' information earlier in this resource pack (which could be also shared in worship in a creative format or by powerpoint) – clergy and small group leaders might productively consider the use of I Corinthians 11.20-29 as an alternative reading for Sunday worship on 2 June and for deeper small group reflection on the **Think.Eat.Save** theme. For whilst the original context of this passage includes St Paul's specific teaching on the giving of the Eucharistic sacrament by Jesus, it also relates profoundly to Paul's understanding of the sacredness of food and mutual responsibility and service to one another in Christ. Earlier, in 1 Corinthians 8, Paul speaks about how we must approach food in the spirit of love, not out of selfishness or in idolatry. Elsewhere, in his own writings and in the Acts of the Apostles, we are also made well aware of the vital importance of food in the thinking, eating and saving work of the early Church. As Christians, we are inheritors of the Hebrew tradition which took very seriously what was appropriate to eat and when. Although the early Church decided that the Hebrew food laws should not be binding for all, our Eucharistic faith must always remind us of the 'sacred economy' of food in God's eyes, and of the need to share that Eucharistic spirit in the whole of our lives. For, as Paul writes, all who come to the table of the Lord, are not simply to eat, but to examine ourselves (to think) and to consider how we are relating to the wider body of Christ, in the wider community and world, in the poor and hungry and in creation as a whole.

Some questions to consider from 1 Corinthians 11.20-29 and the resources above:

- In what ways do people in our society 'go ahead with our own supper', so that 'one goes hungry and another becomes drunk'?
- Who do we invite to feast with us and who might we include in future?
- In what ways does food waste 'show contempt' for God and 'humiliate those who have nothing'? How can we make our use of food a holy undertaking?
- If the eucharist is a 'new covenant', what does this mean for Creation as a whole?
- What needs of the wider body do we 'discern' in examining food issues today? *and* What can we do about them?



## **SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER CHURCH-BASED ACTIVITIES**

In addition to the United Nations own suggestions for World Environment Day (see the A-Z sheet following), there are a whole host of different ways we can celebrate God's Creation in food and give life to the theme of **Think–Eat–Save**. Here are a few starters...

- Put some of the information in this resource pack into your pew sheet, parish newsletter/magazine, or other parish communications
- On Sunday 2 June, invite members of the congregation to make refreshments out of left-overs – bread and butter pudding or whatever! – for tea after the service
- Pray by name for those in your parish and community who are involved with the food industry
- Make up a simple exhibition/competition in the church building/hall with foodstuffs commonly found in Australian homes – and ask everyone to guess where each item comes from (it can be quite revealing and amazing to realise our connections!) – this may also work well with children and young people...
- Encourage small groups to use this resource material and to reflect upon 1 Corinthians 11.20-29, and other key passages in the Bible
- Establish better links with local farmers and their communities – investigate a parish trip to a local farm or to another parish in a farming community, or work out ways to support local producers directly
- Help host a public exhibition/information day on the themes of World Environment Day – sharing food grown locally
- Arrange a special gathering in a local café, restaurant or other eating place and talk with your hosts about what (good) food means to them, and the issues of food waste and sustainability
- Host a special banquet with the homeless
- Look at ways to support food-related projects overseas and check out what ABM and others are doing
- Install food waste systems in the parish – worm farms, composting etc
- Find out why local farmers in Cecil Plains and elsewhere are so concerned about Coal Seam gas mining
- Join in World Environment Day activities with others in your locality
- Let everyone know more about Angligreen – and its new website!

### **Some helpful web-links**

UN World Environment Day [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)

Angligreen [www.angligreen.org.au](http://www.angligreen.org.au)

Anglican Communion Environmental Network [acen.anglicancommunion.org](http://acen.anglicancommunion.org)

Anglican Church of Australia – General Synod Environment Working Group

[www.anglican.org.au/content/community/working\\_groups/Environment.aspx](http://www.anglican.org.au/content/community/working_groups/Environment.aspx)

### **Acknowledgements:**

Unless otherwise indicated, these resources were created or compiled by the Revd. Dr. Jonathan Inkpin in collaboration with the Angligreen Committee. They may be used freely within Christian gatherings for the purpose for which they are intended.

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## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY A-Z Suggestions for Action**

(from the UN website - [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed))

*It takes only a few simple steps to easily green our daily routines and make good eco behaviour into a habit!*

**Act now. Make the decision to become more aware of issues related to food waste.**

Adopt as many eco-friendly lifestyle choices as you can and make them habits for WED!

Add it up. Our impact is exponential when the global chorus sings together.

**Buy locally!** Flying food across continents increases global transportation emissions.

**Bring a cloth bag** to do all your grocery shopping. A reusable bag will last for years and only needs to be used 5 times to have a lower environmental impact than a plastic bag.

**Bring a mug** with you whenever you go for take-out beverages, so you avoid using paper cups.

**Consume locally.** You will help reduce the demand for cutting down forests in foreign countries to meet export demands.

**Choose naturally grown foods.** They have less of an environmental impact and are much healthier.

**Compost your organic food waste.**

**Don't buy more food** than you really need.

**Discover an alternative** to using traditional wrapping paper for holidays and birthday gifts.

**Engage in an environmental activity**, like school or neighbourhood beautification or tree planting.

**Eat organic and locally grown foods** and help reduce the clearing of forests for agricultural land.

**Educate your friends** on how individual actions can have an exponential impact and motivate action for WED.

**Form a group of peers or colleagues** to oversee the food waste at your school, neighbourhood or workplace.

**Form a tree-planting group** with family and friends and commit to planting and maintaining these trees together.

**Green your office:** print double-sided, turn off monitors, start an office recycling program.

**Grow an organic garden** and your own delicious food.

**Give seedlings** as birthday gifts.

**Go electronic** for bills and payments: at home, in the office, at the bank etc.

**Host a World Environment Day celebration.**

**Have a vegan** (no animal products) dinner party!

**Identify the nature** that surrounds you — take note of the beautiful plants and animals that you may not always appreciate. Learn about the amazing ecosystem services they provide.

**Improve the insulation** of your home – it will really help your energy consumption...and your monthly bills!

**Join a local environmental or conservation group.** You can team up with those around you and make a real difference for your community.

**Jog outside** and save the energy you would have used on the treadmill!

**Kick the habit!** Don't print unless it's absolutely necessary. And when you do print – always print double-sided! **Keep your cup!** When traveling on airplanes, ask to reuse your plastic cup.

**Learn more about the environment impact** of food production. Did you know that it takes 1,000 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk?



## M

**More** food in your pantry increases the risk of food going bad before you consume.

**Mobilize** your networks! Message your friends about WED — facebook, twitter, orkut, SMS, text, phone, email — it doesn't matter how, just get the word out!

## N

**Notify** your friends on how their action against food waste could have a huge impact. Even if just one-fourth of the food currently lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would be enough to feed 870 million hungry people in the world.

**Optimize** the use of your washing machine – use the cold-wash option and significantly save energy and reduce your daily carbon emissions.

**Offset** your travel whenever possible – most airlines provide an option to offset your travel when you book your tickets.

**Opt** for public transport whenever possible.

**Order** small food portions first. Better to add on than waste.

**Plan** in advance. Know what you will need before you go grocery shopping so not to end up buying more food than what will be consumed in your household.

**Pile up!** Lay the grounds for a compost pile and start sorting your garbage.

**Quantify** how much money you could save each cold winter if you lowered the temperature inside your home by 2 degrees Celsius. It could reduce your energy consumption by 14 percent!!!

**Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.**

**Register** a WED activity at [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)!

**Sacrifice** something small each month – eat locally grown vegetables instead of imported vegetables; have a meat-free day (or week); carpool with co-workers; take your bike to work etc.

**Save!** Every year, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).

**Support** and motivate companies that use certified materials and operate in ways that are environmentally responsible.

**Switch** your light bulbs to energy-efficient LED's. You will see substantial savings on energy bills!

**Tell your friends about the enormous amounts of food waste we are creating.** A third of global food production is either wasted or lost.

**Think** before you buy food. What is the environmental impact of your choice?

**Think** outside of the bottle! Bottled water costs 1900 times more than tap water

**Tweet** about #WED and spread food waste tips to the world!

**Understand** your options. Learn about the small ways you, as an individual, can make a positive impact on the environment.

**Use** rainwater for your indoor plants – they love it, and you'll save water at the same time.

**Visit** the WED website regularly and see how you can get involved!

**Waste** not food! 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger.

**X-plore** the World Environment Day website. Find out more about food waste.

**You** can make a difference – individual actions, when multiplied, can make an exponential difference to the planet!

**Zip** around town on your bike, on public transport, or walk to a restaurant near you. It's cheaper!

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