

What we do together

So how does World Pantheism, as an organization, relate to the planet? Nature is central to the WPM's spirituality and ethics, and we have tried to embody that centrality by making it possible for members to realize their goals in our community. We aim to provide resources and channels through which our members can express their concern in individual and joint action, and see tangible results.

We are signatories to the Earth Charter, which sets out the rights of Nature and our responsibilities towards the planet. Below we print an extract of the spiritual and ethical principles of the charter.

We also have three schemes to save habitat for wildlife.

One is the daily click group at EcologyFund, which is now the largest of the religious groups both in terms of numbers and of area of land saved. The WPM group now has 191 members, who have saved over 2 million square feet or 47 acres – equal to a plot 1425 feet on each side. We have saved almost exactly the same amount of land as the group called World Wildlife Foundation, and more than twice as much land as the Sierra Activists. With a little extra push we could be in the top ten of all groups. These land savings are made possible by ad-

vertizers who sponsor payments to the environmental charities that actually save the land.

The second leg of our habitat saving is that we have ourselves sponsored adverts at EcologyFund and at Care2.com, making payment direct to the Nature Conservancy and the World Parks Foundation. Via this channel we have saved 75 acres.

Finally there is our Wildlife Habitat Scheme, which allows members to make a public commitment to managing an area of their land as habitat for native plants and animals – no change in ownership or control is involved. The area involved can be a small patch or a sizeable reserve. Two members - Flora Cordis Johnson and Rusty Pafford with his wife Paula – have recently added larger areas, more than doubling our previous total. The size of all the reserves is now is now 184 acres.

All in all we have now saved the impressive total of 306 acres – equal to 13.3 million square feet or a square with sides of 3650 feet, almost half a square mile. That's equivalent to almost $\frac{3}{4}$ acres per current member. If only every religious group did the same, we could save the planet and all the species we share it with.

From The Earth Charter

“We must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world.

“It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally.

“The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

“Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”



What you can do

- Join our click group at Ecologyfund and save 65 square feet of habitat for wildlife every single day.
- Think about dedicating part of your yard or land to native wildlife to make up for the lost habitat that we occupy.
- Ask us about a donation to sponsor the purchase of wildlife habitat via the World Parks Foundation.

Check out our Greenup Your Life resource page to do any or all of these:

- Audit your lifestyle
- Check hazards in your area
- Offset the CO2 you produce
- Find energy-efficient appliances
- Find green energy suppliers
- Build sustainable housing
- Garden sustainably
- Find recycling centers
- Buy green products
- Audit your workplace
- Combat light pollution

You'll find all the links you need at:
<http://www.pantheism.net/nature.htm>
<http://www.pantheism.net/greenup.htm>

Getting closer together

New local groups organizer

Sharon Dobrovich has taken on the important role of facilitating and promoting local WPM groups. She writes:



For me, Pantheist spirituality is about finding a way to express what I feel and think and believe about the something larger than me in my everyday life in the real world. I think sometimes that takes courage and sometimes it's a bit lonely. It takes courage to stand up in face of communities or families that are not accepting or sometimes downright hostile.

What I have needed is a group of people who understand my beliefs, share them, and don't think I'm crazy or going to hell but will support me and talk with me face to face, give me a hug, people that I can do the same for some day, to become friends, to do activities or work on a project together in our community, to eat together, talk, and share. An important part of this spirituality is sharing it with others and having a mutual support system, so I'm dedicating myself to helping establish local pantheist groups, even if they're very small ones. I want to do what I can to make it a less lonely path, both here online and out in my community, and I very much appreciate what all of you do, too. I really believe that local groups are what will help pantheism grow. I believe and hope that if we nurture each other and have that network behind us, then we gain more confidence and strength to live out our message.

Nature Reverence at Upcoming.org

Local groups are one thing that many people want and ask us for. The truth is that we are still small and scattered. We already have active groups in a few locations such as San Diego, Los Angeles, London, Ohio, and Washington. But groups don't start up by our waving a magic wand. They start up and persist in places where individuals have taken and sustained the initiative.

We used to use Meetup.com and things were moving rapidly there, but then Meetup introduced steep organizer fees which made it very difficult for small groups to start. So we looked around for an alternative and we found one. World Pantheism is now using Upcoming.org to galvanize the creation of local groups. Upcoming allows individuals and groups to organize and publicize events and get-togethers. The service is completely free and commits itself to remaining so on its front page. You can join interest groups, search for events by place and topic, create and add events, and add venues of your own choosing.

To maximize potential attendance we called our Upcoming group Nature Reverence. It is open to all people who feel that reverence for nature and respect for naturalism are central to their spirituality, whether you call yourself world pantheist, eco-atheist, naturalistic pagan, religious naturalist, or religious humanist. It's up to users to create events for people in their area, what Upcoming does is act as a public notice board and organizing facilitator.

Checkout how to join and use Upcoming here:
<http://www.pantheism.net/upcoming.htm>

Other ways of forming a group

1. Join our local email lists. If they are quite active you will hear and hear about meetings, and you can let people know about you and where you are. But remember: if everyone waits for someone to speak up no-one ever will. To be active they depend upon you personally and individually.

All local yahoo groups are listed at:

<http://www.pantheism.net/localgroups.htm>

2. Look people up in the members' geodata and email them asking if they are interested. Not all are current, but it's a good start. Click on <http://members.pantheism.net/imdms/geodata.html> and fill in your ID and password. We have almost 3,000 names and emails on record, you can look up who's in your country, state, city or phone area code.

3. Print out our leaflets from <http://www.harrison.dircon.co.uk/credprin.htm>. Add your name and email for people to contact and leave them at UU congregations, humanist, atheist, environmental and science meetings.

4. Check out your local Unitarian Universalist congregation and talk to people, there are usually a good contingent of potentially pantheists. This can be one of the easiest routes to creating a local group. Check out our pages on UU groups:

<http://www.pantheism.net/uu/uupantheists.htm>

5. Be ready to consult new people about what meetings should be like, but go prepared with ideas of your own. Check out suggestions from existing groups at:
<http://www.pantheism.net/upcoming.htm>