



## Fighting Climate Change Starts with Your Table Scraps

By Jan Wright and Cassandra Hartley

You may be thinking, “But what does climate change have to do with food and justice?”

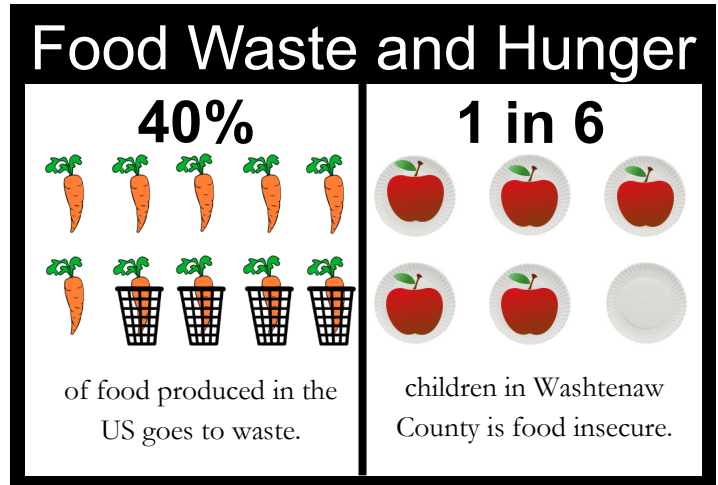
In fact, environmental damage impacts people in very unjust ways. People who are poor and have less power suffer the effects of ecological destruction—from waste dumps to climate change—far more than those who are better off. Even the old saying “The rain falls on the just and the unjust” could be coming into question as climate-related droughts and flooding threaten to disproportionately affect people who are already the most vulnerable.

How does food waste relate to climate change? To begin with, approximately 1/3 of our individual carbon footprint comes from our food. What we eat can contribute as much to our carbon footprint as the cars we drive and the way we heat and cool our homes.

The size of our food waste problem is staggering. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, “40% of food in the United States today goes uneaten.... Reducing food losses by just 15% would be enough food to feed more than 25 million Americans every year at a time when one in six Americans lack a secure supply of food to their tables.” Americans are throwing out the equivalent of \$165 billion each year! And we are moving in the wrong direction--the amount we waste has increased by at least 50% since 1974!

Our food waste affects the climate in two major ways. First, most of our uneaten food ends up rotting in landfills as the single largest component of U.S. municipal solid waste where, according to the EPA, it accounts for 18% of U.S. methane emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas at least 20-25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide and a major contributor to climate change.

Second, an even larger impact of food waste is all the energy wasted and emissions produced as food is grown, processed, packaged, transported and stored—only to be



thrown away.

Although it's difficult for us as consumers to affect waste at the farm, the processor etc., a very large percent of food waste happens much closer to home. Of the food that makes it to the consumer, a whopping 44% is wasted in our homes. Many of us contribute to the waste that happens in restaurants when we leave food on our plates. On average, diners leave about 17% of their food uneaten.



As consumers, we also have an effect on how much food grocery stores waste in ways we aren't even aware of. For example, grocery stores have very strict standards about what fruit and vegetables look like. If a carrot or a tomato is misshapen, it is very likely to end up in the trash before it ever reaches the store. **U.S. grocers**

**throw out nearly 26% of all produce before it even reaches their stores due mostly to self-imposed strict cosmetic standards.**

There's also the issue of confusing date labeling--"sell by" dates, "best by" dates, etc. An NRDC report cites one industry estimate that “each store throws out, on average, \$2,300 worth of food each day because the products have neared their expiration date. Yet most of this food is still edible. In many states, it's still perfectly legal to sell food past its expiration date. Many stores would just prefer not to — it

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### Fall 2015

## Welcome Germaine Smith

*This spring ICPJ welcomed Germaine Smith as the newest member of our staff. Here she shares some of her voyage to social change work.*

I am so happy to be a part of the ICPJ team! I'm grateful for this amazing opportunity to serve you and our community through social justice work.

Growing up in Midland, MI, I lived in a community that had a progressive public education, a strong local economy, and crime was practically non-existent. But, there is another side of Midland that no one talks about. Dow Chemical Corporation is the economic engine of the community, but they also contribute to a number of environmental risks that pose the biggest threat to the city, its residents and its future. When I was growing up, Midland had the highest rate of child leukemia in the nation, there were quarantines from chemical spills, and the rivers were filled with dioxins.

When I moved to Ypsilanti in 2010, I was immediately connected with Growing Hope and began my work in sustainable agriculture and healthy food access. From there I began beekeeping and started volunteering with other food projects, started graduate school at EMU in the Social Foundations Eco-justice Education program, and started my own 3 acre apiary farm. I just recently partnered to launch the Bee Safe Neighborhood Campaign in Ypsilanti and organized Normal Park to be the first Bee Safe Neighborhood in the state. This door-to-door grassroots campaign has taught me that people are ready and want to do something, to become engaged, and as Mahatma Ghandi said, "...to be the change you wish to see in the world."



Germaine Smith (right) joins ICPJ staff members Chuck Warpehoski (left) and Jane Pacheco (center) at the Barbara Fuller Memorial Picnic on August 9.

While I didn't originally seek a path of environmental justice and community activism, I'm grateful that life has led me on this path. I have met so many inspiring, committed, and kind and caring people who are working hard to create change, to look at other alternatives in creating stronger communities, and to really dig deep and confront the hard questions. The collaboration and dedication I have seen from so many people in Washtenaw County has been nothing but transformative and moving. I hope that I can continue that momentum through ICPJ and inspire others to do the same. ☺

## Help Buses Come to Scio

Last year Cities of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Township voted 71% to expand public transit.

This November Scio Township voters will have the same chance. On November 3, 2015 residents of Scio Township will have the chance to approve a millage to expand bus service down Jackson and Liberty roads.

Learn how you can get involved at [partnersfortransit.org](http://partnersfortransit.org).



## 2016 Focus: Black Lives Matter & Income Inequality

Two of the biggest issues facing our country and community right now are the issues of racial injustice and growing economic inequality, and they will be our focus next year. It's not too early to start helping!

1. **Help us improve the plan:** We have put together a draft action plan for next year involving education, policy change, and community building. But you know what? It will be a lot better if it has your ideas in it, too. Visit <http://bit.ly/icpj2016focus> to read the plan and share your input.
2. **Join the Racial and Economic Justice Task Force.** We meet every second Thursday, 2-4pm at 1679 Broadway in the first-floor lounge.
3. **Donate to ICPJ.** We can't do this without your support. Donate online at [www.icpj.org/give](http://www.icpj.org/give) ☺




Since 1965, the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) has inspired, educated, and mobilized people to unite across differences and to act from their shared ethical and spiritual values in pursuit of peace with social and environmental justice. Please join with us as we celebrate our past and mobilize for our future!

### 50 years of Social Justice Exhibit

**Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm** – Join us in the multipurpose room of the Ann Arbor District Library (downtown Ann Arbor) for an Open House-style launch of an exciting, new online exhibit celebrating ICPJ's 50th Anniversary. Hundreds of photos, articles, newsletters, and mementos have been digitized and will be on display spanning five decades of social justice advocacy and activism in our community.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

**Saturday, November 14, 6:00 – 9:00 pm** – Please join us for an evening to celebrate our past, our present, and envision the future of ICPJ. Plus, we'll have a special guest appearance that will be part of our future vision for 2016. Location: Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, in the Morris Lawrence Building. Tickets: [icpj-50dinner.eventbrite.com](http://icpj-50dinner.eventbrite.com) 

#### LA'RON WILLIAMS HOSTS

## Safely Talking and Learning About Race & Racism Film Series



### *The Way Home: Women Talk About Race in America, Sunday, Oct. 18.*

The film documents over the course of eight months, sixty-four women representing a cross-section of cultures (Indigenous, African-

American, Arab/Middle Eastern, Asian, European-American, Jewish, Latina, and Multiracial) who came together to share their experience of racism in America. The women speak their hearts and minds about resistance, love, assimilation, standards of beauty, power, school experiences, and more. Their candid conversations offer rare access into multi-dimensional worlds invisible to outsiders.

**When:** Events start at 2:00 p.m., please be on time.

**Who:** Free & open to the public.

### Light in the Shadows Sunday Nov. 15

*Light in the Shadows* is a frank conversation about race among ten women who participated in the



ground-breaking film *The Way Home*. These American women of Indigenous, African, Arab/Middle Eastern, European, Jewish, Asian, Latina and Mixed Race descent, use authentic dialogue to crack open a critical door of consciousness. What lies behind it is a perspective on race that is often unseen/ unnoticed within the dominant culture. With clear language, open hearts and a willingness to engage – even when it gets hard – these women travel over roads that demonstrate why valuable discourse on race is so laden with emotion, distrust and misunderstanding.

**Where:** Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd.

**Details:** 734-663-1870, [www.icpj.org](http://www.icpj.org), [info@icpj.org](mailto:info@icpj.org)

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**DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE  
AND FACEBOOK PAGE.**

## Fall 2015 Program Schedule

### ICPJ Food Waste Program

**Friday October 2, 6:15 pm** — Join us for a special Food Justice program with Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice. At 6:15 pm ICPJ will meet at the Sukkot (at the building entry outside) to kick off a 40 minute short program about food waste. We'll discuss why the food we waste (both personally and institutionally) is a climate problem and what we might be able to do to help solve the problem. Then at the 7:30 pm service Chuck Warpehoski, Director of ICPJ, will deliver a guest sermon touching on how food justice fits within social justice concerns. Free and open to the public. Location: Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard St, Ann Arbor.

### ICPJ Food Waste Program

**Thursday October 8, 7:00 pm** — Join us for a special Food Justice program with Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice. In addition to a general conversation about the myriad of social justice issues that exist within our food system, ICPJ will specifically focus on why food waste (both personal and institutional) is a climate problem and what we might be able to do to help solve the problem. The hour-long program will kick off with a guest speaker and include interactive discussion and specific calls to action for individuals and groups. Free and open to the public. Location: Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd, Chelsea.

### Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 11, starts at 1:00 PM – Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice is hosting the 41st Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious

groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. More than 1,600 walks take place across the U.S. annually. ICPJ has managed this historic Washtenaw/Ann Arbor 5k walk since 1975 and has raised a total of \$3.2 million. Last year, 390 individuals walked and raised a total of \$49,523. Will you walk with us? Location: Rudolph Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

*"It is He Who has brought into being gardens, the cultivated and the wild, and date-palms, and fields with produce of all kinds, and olives and pomegranates, similar (in kind) and variegated. Eat of their fruit in season, but give (the poor) their due on harvest day. And do not waste, for God does not love the wasteful."*

-Quran 6:141

### Interfaith Potluck & ICPJ Presentation

Friday, October 16, 6:00 pm – Join Chuck Warpehoski, ICPJ Director, and share stories of social justice while enjoying a meal with friends. Bring a dish to pass that celebrates the harvest season and place settings. Open to the public. Location: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann-Arbor Saline Road, Ann Arbor.



## Composting 101 Workshop

Sunday, November 1, 2:00 – 4:00 pm — Jesse Raudenbush, expert worm farmer and Owner of Starr Valley Farms, and ICPJ staffer Germaine Smith, will lead a fun, free, hands-on composting workshop co-sponsored by the Washtenaw Food Hub. No experience or materials necessary. Free and open to the public. Location: Washtenaw Food Hub, 4175 Whitmore Lake Rd, Ann Arbor.

## ICPJ Food Waste Program

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*One of the ethical principles on which the Jewish environmental and food movements rest is ba'al tashchit, the commandment not to needlessly waste or destroy. One area of modern life that desperately needs to understand this principle better is our food supply, where over 40% of the food produced for human consumption is thrown away.*

-Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 22, 7:00 pm —The annual Interfaith Round Table Thanksgiving celebration will be co-hosted by ICPJ this year as a special wrap up to the Fall Food & Justice programming. This unique community gathering may include readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions for the purpose of saying “thank you” together! Open to the public. Location: Church of Jesus Christ of the Later Day Saints, 1385 Green Road, Ann Arbor. ☮

## Ending Hunger We Can Make A Difference!

By Chuck Warpehoski, ICPJ Director

Ever have a hard time finding good news when you read the news? Well, here's some.

One hundred million people who used to be hungry are now adequately fed. According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world has dropped by 100 million in the last decade.

How did this happen? It has been a blend of good hearts and good policies. Good hearts have led people to give generously to hunger reduction programs. When you walk in the CROP Hunger Walk on October 11 (see previous page)

or when you support a CROP Walker, you are one of the good hearts that is taking action to stop hunger.

In addition to good hearts, people like you have pushed our governments to implement good policies that help those in the greatest need. For example, Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Christopher Coons (D-DE) have introduced S.525, the Food for Peace Reform Act of 2015, which would allow US food-aid to reach up to nine million additional people each year by allowing more food purchases in or near the country where it is needed. Learn more at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Closer to home, the Michigan Time to Care Coalition has launched a ballot initiative campaign to expand paid sick leave to all Michigan workers. The Earned Sick Time Act would allow all workers to earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked--time that can go toward taking care of themselves and their families. It would save working parents from the dread of not being able to pay their bills because they have to stay home to care for a sick family member. Learn more at <http://mitimetocare.org/>

We will have information about these issues at the 41st annual ICPJ CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 11 at Rudolf Steiner School, 2230 Pontiac Trail Ann Arbor, MI. Registration starts at 1:00 and the walk starts at 2:00. Sign up online at [www.icpj.org/hunger](http://www.icpj.org/hunger). ☮

## Food Waste, continued from page 1

looks bad."

Some stores will not give perfectly edible food away rather than throwing it out because they fear liability if they give it away. In fact, there is a Federal law that protects stores from such liability.

While by far the best way to "dispose" of food is to eat it, we could also reduce greenhouse gas emissions if we composted more of our food waste rather than putting it in landfills or down the garbage disposal. Composting can be done by individuals or on an industrial level. Ann Arbor currently has a program to pick up and compost food waste from residences. Individuals can also do their own

composting—or even compost indoors in compact worm bins!

As we become aware of the issues caused by waste, many individuals are changing their habits; organizations such as businesses and congregations are making changes as well, as are governmental bodies. Here are some local examples.

- **The Brinery**, a small Ann Arbor company that produces a variety of fermented products such as sauerkraut and kimchi, uses worm composting for its vegetable scraps;
- **Food Gatherers**, which collects unused but still good food from many local sources and makes it available to people in need in Washtenaw County;
- **The City of Ann Arbor** is now asking its residents to add their food waste to the compost bins that the city picks up for 8 months a year.

Some states and even some cities have enacted regulations that prohibit businesses from throwing out above a certain amount of commercial organic waste (unwanted food). Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts, for example, have such bans and Rhode Island is currently putting one in place.

On a national level, there is a campaign to get Walmart and Whole Foods to start selling cosmetically "less than perfect" produce. Grocery stores like these throw out billions of pounds of fruit and vegetables each year because

## WHAT MOST U.S. GROCERS SEE:



Grocery stores throw out one quarter of the produce they receive, often just because it doesn't look perfect. Go to [www.UglyFruitAndVeg.org](http://www.UglyFruitAndVeg.org) to sign the petition.

they don't meet visual standards of beauty. The @UglyFruitAndVeg Campaign hopes to make these fruits and vegetable available to consumers at lower prices, thus saving a lot of waste and making healthy food more available to low-income people.

And just as this article is being written, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency "announced the first official national goal for decreasing food waste across the country. Launched in partnership with state and local governments, private sector companies, and charitable organizations, the goal aims at reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030."

We can all help stop food waste. We can all make a difference for the planet. ♻️

### Ways YOU Can Stop Food Waste

1. **Learn to Compost.** On Sunday, November 1 ICPJ will offer a free compost workshop at the Washtenaw Food Hub. See Page 4 for details.
2. **Track your Waste.** Wondering about your own food waste? Track it for a week! It can be as simple as writing down an estimate every time you put something in the trash, garbage disposal, or compost; or it can be as intense as collecting a week's worth of food waste and weighing it. Then, measuring it in the same way, try to cut your waste over the next week.
3. **Tell Grocers To Stop Food Waste.** Sign the @UglyFruitAndVeg petition at: [www.UglyFruitAndVeg.org](http://www.UglyFruitAndVeg.org)
4. **Stay Informed:** You can sign up at [foodandjustice.icpj.org](http://foodandjustice.icpj.org) to receive action alerts and information about ICPJ's Food and Justice campaign.



# Vigil for Peace with Iran

By *Chuck Warpehoski*

This fall one of the most important peace agreements of recent years almost didn't happen.

The Iran Nuclear Deal provided a verifiable way to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. While the President asked critics for their alternative, some had a clear idea. For example, in a March 13 Washington Post Opinion Piece, Joshua Muravchik of the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies argued "War with Iran is probably our best option."

Scary.

Yet it looked like that might be the option we were heading for. MoveOn's Ben Winkler wrote, "Not long ago, it seemed like a very long shot that the Iran deal would survive. Republicans would be united, the prediction went, and Democrats would be divided. The bill to torpedo the deal would sail through the House, through the Senate—and then, President Obama's veto would be overridden by supermajorities in both houses."

But that didn't happen.

Thanks to a nationwide grassroots organizing effort we overcame a fear campaign costing tens of millions of dollars. We did it through vigils like this, phone calls, and Congressional visits.

We did it with people like you.

Thank you. ☮



Bob Krzewinski of Veterans for Peace (left) spoke out for future generations, such as the author's kids (right), in speaking out for peace and diplomacy.



Sixty people came out on September 10 for the vigil for peace and diplomacy with Iran. [photo: Michigan Daily]



Rev. Joe Summers of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation and former ICPJ Board President argues that peacemaking involves building relationships across differences, especially with those you disagree with.



Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice joined with MoveOn, J Street, Win Without War, CREDO, the National Iranian American Council, Democracy for America, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Daily Kos, Peace Action, the Council for a Livable World, and many more to defend diplomacy and support peace with Iran.



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*“Throwing  
away food is like  
stealing from  
the table of the  
poor and the  
hungry.”  
-Pope Francis*

## *Peace All-Stars 4: Honoring Black Lives*

*A benefit concert for the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice* <sup>JOIN US!</sup>



*Featuring an all-star ensemble of entertainers:*

LEMARCUS PREWITT & THE TEARDROPS	CARLOS SIMON
THE REV. ROBERT JONES	GLEN THOMAS RIDEOUT
EDIE LEWIS & BRIAN BUCKNER	ROBERT EVANS
PETER MADCAT RUTH	KIRA MONEY TURNER
VEENA KULKARNI	SACRED SONG

**Saturday,  
October 17  
7 p.m.**

**Temple Beth Emeth/  
St. Clare's Episcopal  
2309 Packard St.  
Ann Arbor, MI**

**TICKETS ONLINE:** [icpj-pas4.eventbrite.com](http://icpj-pas4.eventbrite.com)

General admission: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.

Benefactor tickets: \$50 (includes artist CD).

Info: [jane@icpj.org](mailto:jane@icpj.org); (734-663-1870)