CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

As much as we talk about the weather, how often do we talk about our changing climate?

In living rooms and classrooms, boardrooms and libraries, community centers and fellowship halls - anywhere people congregate - we are creating opportunities to openly, candidly and respectfully discuss issues related to climate change; to share individual beliefs, confusions, observations, fears and hopes; to explore practical ideas and available resources for creating a healthier planet.

Goals:
- Raise public visibility & individual consciousness
- Encourage open and respectful dialogue, among diverse audiences
- Explore ways of talking about climate change and related issues that are less divisive and political and more unifying and practical
- Identify areas of shared concern
- Create/identify images and messaging to inspire deeper understandings, broader visions, bolder actions, and renewed hope.
- Provide resources to support those actions
- Support/inspire ongoing conversations and active engagement

Motivation:
There is agreement among 97+ percent of (peer-reviewed) climate scientists that the planet is warming, due largely to human activity, with emissions of greenhouse gases at their highest levels in recorded history. Recent reports from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and National Climate Assessment have provided compelling evidence and alarming projections requiring bold, creative and collaborative actions.

Every day brings new images of melting ice caps, retreating shorelines, extreme weather events, raging wildfires, bleaching of coral reefs, species extinction, uncontrolled spread of disease, food and water shortages, growing numbers of refugees. All too often, those suffering the greatest effects of these impacts are those least responsible for causing them.

We can see effects right here in Delaware - eroded beaches, flooded neighborhoods, damaged farmlands, worsening coastal flooding and increased salt levels in critical estuaries and aquifers. We are having more extreme heat days, our growing season is being affected, as are migratory patterns of the birds and waterfowl that that delight and sustain us, attracting tourists from around the world.

These are threats to our quality of life, to the resources and experiences we want for our children. Pursuing common ground on common concerns can lead to broader visions, practical solutions and renewed hope.

And it can start with a conversation…LET’S TALK ABOUT IT!!

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