



**“Today a radical energy transition is needed to save our common home. There is still hope and there remains time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, provided there is prompt and resolute action, for we know that “human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.”**  
—Pope Francis

Welcome! Our January/February edition considers energy’s role within climate change. The issues are very complex. As people of faith, we must ask ourselves how we are treating God’s gift of Creation. So, let’s begin the new year with a brief overview of Catholic social teaching as presented by Father James Martin in: [“Care for God’s Creation”](#).

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## HEART & HOPE

**National Geographic’s** clear, brief video explains the **pros** and **cons** of our growing power sources in [CLIMATE 101 What is Renewable Energy](#).

[Climate Hero’s Carbon Calculator](#). A fun but serious test to **calculate your carbon footprint** in five minutes, with recommended solutions for everyone.

The most important thing you can do about climate change? Talk about it according to climate scientist [Katharine Hayhoe](#). She tells you how to **talk to climate skeptics** in this [TEDtalk](#).

What was the **outcome of COP27**? Familiar warnings, lack of significant progress on cutting emissions and phasing out fossil fuel, but richer nations finally acknowledge responsibility for funding poorer nations. Read about it [here](#).

You can make a difference! Check out these [10 solutions](#) from *Scientific American* to help reduce emissions.

**FINALLY, Some GOOD NEWS!**... Inside Climate News has gathered their picks of **2022’s “wins”** in climate legislation.

For more details on COP27, check out this [article](#).

The [United Nations campaign](#) for **individual action** on climate change and sustainability. There’s even an option for you to add your actions to the over 10 million logged on their site.

Can America’s **parking lots** provide us with **solar power**? *Time* magazine [says](#) we should just look to France.

**Sister Kathleen** Deignan’s submission **turns up the heat**, saying, [“Turn off the gas!”](#)

See Concern USA’s **suggestions** of [policy solutions](#) that **can make a difference**.

In this [TEDtalk](#), [Ayana Elizabeth Johnson](#), biologist and climate change leader, tells us all how to **find joy in climate action!** Tap into your skills, find your joy, and apply where needed.

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The US Environmental Protection Agency has a web page chock full of [energy saving tips](#). See what an energy-efficient house looks like.

Further **hope**... renewable energy... tax credits, more cost-effective storage technology advances, and so much more. Read all about these [three renewable energy trends](#).



**Vampire Loads: Big time energy wasters.** Did you know that 10% of residential electricity usage is due to electronics we are not using? See what you can do about it.

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A science professor gathers grads. Together **they re-think** the climate change **issues and answers** and create [Project Draw-down](#). And, of course, women have something to do with the solution!

Read about the latest evidence that [Exxon was aware](#) of the dangers of climate change 40-50 years ago and spent decades knowingly lying about it.

Beyond Swedish meatballs and furniture, [Ikea sells solar panels!](#) Plus the company has discontinued sales of single-use items, recycles mattresses and introduced a furniture buy-back program. Although there has been political and financial criticism of the company, there is **hope that IKEA will reach climate neutrality by 2030.**

## HANDS

Can you **increase the life of an EV battery**? Absolutely! Check out these [easy steps](#) to increase the life of an EV battery. Pass the information on, as the recipient will be happy you did.

You can make your home more energy-efficient this year with the **federal government picking up at least some of the tab** on everything from stoves to EVs. You can read this in the [The Washington Post](#) if you sign up for a free account that allows you access to several articles a month.

## HEART & HOPE

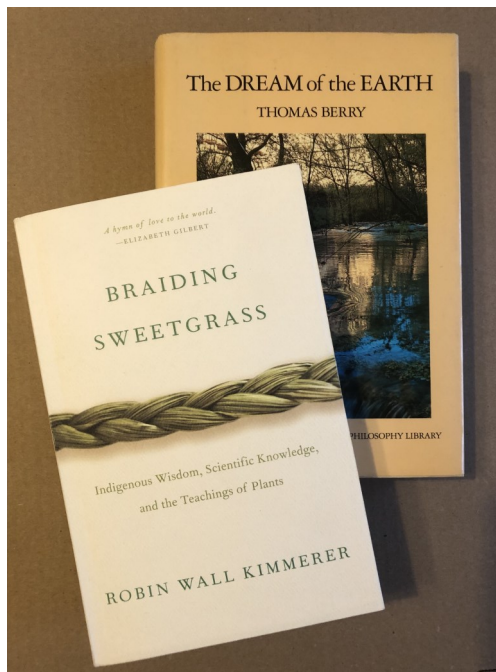
Scroll the Ashden Awards, created by Ashden, a charity supporting **sustainable energy and development**. Find [innovative ideas](#) from **developing countries** that are bringing change, jobs, and energy right where it's needed.

The **United Nations** gives us "[8 reasons not to give up hope](#) and take climate action."

Imagine you could put **solar panels** anywhere you'd put a **pane of glass!** [CNET tells us more.](#)

Please provide feedback or suggestions for future topics to Joy Deignan ([joydeignan@gmail.com](mailto:joydeignan@gmail.com)) or Steve Tanneberger ([stevetpots@comcast.net](mailto:stevetpots@comcast.net)).

## Be Inspired



The societal unrest in the systems that govern our world and the impact of humans on our climate should cause us to re-think how we use and misuse our planetary home. **Two publications** that offer us profound, new understandings are:

***The Dream of the Earth*** in which Thomas Berry explores today's crucial, disruptive juncture of humanity with Earth, our evolutionary task, and what Earth is calling us to be and to do in this moment.

In ***Braiding Sweetgrass***, Robin Wall Kimmerer, a Native American and a botanist, leads us, through personal experiences, to see the natural world through her eyes and to develop a deepened ecological and loving consciousness of our world.

Both books present life-changing material and are available from Amazon.

These challenging times call us to change how we relate to our planet and to one another. Danny Martin, theologian and principal creator of Mindfulness Dialogue, in his reflections for the Second Sunday in Advent, offers an insightful vision of our relationship to our planet. His presentation, *A Voice Crying in the Wilderness*, can be heard [here on his website](#).