

If I was to say environmental problem, you would say...

Problems (some):

- Average global temperature increased by 1°C over the past century
- Rising sea levels and massive summer melts of polar sea ice.
- Global warming
- Green house gasses (CO₂, methane)
- Species extinction (784 since 1500 AD., that we know of).
- Desertification (eg. North Africa, Australia), removal of arable top soils.
- Salination (Salt pans, dissolved salt in rivers in kilo tonnes per day in the Murray/Darling system).
- Killer bugs (HIV, malaria, Bird Flu)
- Drug resistant strains of bacteria eg. Staphylococcus. sp.
- Drought events (longer, more frequent)
- Decreasing availability of potable water
- Use of desalination plants consuming 60% of some countries' energy derived from fossil fuels
- Invasive species in Australia: fire ant, rabbits, cane toad, starling, black bird, Indian myna, goats, pigs, camels, water buffalo, European carp, European wasp, cats, dogs, and then there are the plants!
- Carcinogens, synthetic dyes, herbicides, insecticides, synthetic medicinal drugs (hormones) ending up in treated water supplies
- Containment of nuclear waste, yellow cake, cesium, issue of decommissioned nuclear power plants, power plant meltdowns, world nuclear arsenals
- Toxic heavy metals: mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic, manganese, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, selenium, silver, antimony
- Population growth, urban sprawl, high rise apartment towers
- Destruction of contiguous habitats
- Non-degradable garbage
- Depletion of non-renewable resources such as oil, old growth forests

If I was to say environmental problem, you would say...

Problems (some):

- Average global temperature increased by 1°C over the past century
- Rising sea levels and massive summer melts of polar sea ice.
- Global warming
- Green house gasses (CO₂, methane)
- Species extinction (784 since 1500 AD., that we know of).
- Desertification (eg. North Africa, Australia), removal of arable top soils.
- Salination (Salt pans, dissolved salt in rivers in kilo tonnes per day in the Murray/Darling system).
- Killer bugs (HIV, malaria, Bird Flu)
- Drug resistant strains of bacteria eg. Staphylococcus. sp.
- Drought events (longer, more frequent)
- Decreasing availability of potable water
- Use of desalination plants consuming 60% of some countries' energy derived from fossil fuels
- Invasive species in Australia: fire ant, rabbits, cane toad, starling, black bird, Indian myna, goats, pigs, camels, water buffalo, European carp, European wasp, cats, dogs, and then there are the plants!
- Carcinogens, synthetic dyes, herbicides, insecticides, synthetic medicinal drugs (hormones) ending up in treated water supplies
- Containment of nuclear waste, yellow cake, cesium, issue of decommissioned nuclear power plants, power plant meltdowns, world nuclear arsenals
- Toxic heavy metals: mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic, manganese, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, selenium, silver, antimony
- Population growth, urban sprawl, high rise apartment towers
- Destruction of contiguous habitats
- Non-degradable garbage
- Depletion of non-renewable resources such as oil, old growth forests

Questions for personal reflection and/or small groups

Reflect on, discuss and pray about the Christian response to any of the big environmental problems. Consider whether these environmental problems are the result of greed/envy (wanting an unsustainable life style), short term politically expedient quick-fix solutions, or just seen in terms of focusing on economics/jobs at the expense of the environment? What might your personal radical discipleship look like in response to your convictions about the issue?

Or a different approach:

Consider the following issues in terms of:

Federal/State Govt level: eg. Upscaling the export of high grade coal from the Galilee basin. Using fracking process to extract oil and gas from the Hunter valley. Defunding of grants to CSIRO and the resulting decisions by CSIRO to reduce the monitoring of environmental factors.

State Local/Govt level: Continued destruction of natural habitats for farming and housing. Releasing arable farmland for housing developments. Support of transport options that demand increase use of fossil fuels.

Family/personal: What are examples of how we engage in or mitigate against sustainable living practices? Do our behaviours encourage multinational companies to persist in non-sustainable activities?

Anglican Church: How familiar are we with the Anglican diocese of Melbourne environment policy and other supportive statements from the Anglican Communion Environmental Network? How are these being implemented at St Michael's?

Radical discipleship requires a personal response and a commitment to be part of the answer to many of the problems listed above. As many come to Christ through witnessing how Christians love one another, so many will come to Christ as they witness how Christians demonstrate their love and care of the creation.

'We have to be the change we wish to see in the world.'
(Terri Irwin commenting on her commitment to conservation.)

Questions for personal reflection and/or small groups

Reflect on, discuss and pray about the Christian response to any of the big environmental problems. Consider whether these environmental problems are the result of greed/envy (wanting an unsustainable life style), short term politically expedient quick-fix solutions, or just seen in terms of focusing on economics/jobs at the expense of the environment? What might your personal radical discipleship look like in response to your convictions about the issue?

Or a different approach:

Consider the following issues in terms of:

Federal/State Govt level: eg. Upscaling the export of high grade coal from the Galilee basin. Using fracking process to extract oil and gas from the Hunter valley. Defunding of grants to CSIRO and the resulting decisions by CSIRO to reduce the monitoring of environmental factors.

State Local/Govt level: Continued destruction of natural habitats for farming and housing. Releasing arable farmland for housing developments. Support of transport options that demand increase use of fossil fuels.

Family/personal: What are examples of how we engage in or mitigate against sustainable living practices? Do our behaviours encourage multinational companies to persist in non-sustainable activities?

Anglican Church: How familiar are we with the Anglican diocese of Melbourne environment policy and other supportive statements from the Anglican Communion Environmental Network? How are these being implemented at St Michael's?

Radical discipleship requires a personal response and a commitment to be part of the answer to many of the problems listed above. As many come to Christ through witnessing how Christians love one another, so many will come to Christ as they witness how Christians demonstrate their love and care of the creation.

'We have to be the change we wish to see in the world.'
(Terri Irwin commenting on her commitment to conservation.)