



I have lived in historically and culturally rich Philadelphia for the last six years. However, I was born and raised in a Midwest city on a Great Lake, Chicago. As in Philly, Chicago has some wonderful museums. The most awesome one for me was the Planetarium, where mind-expanding presentations of the stars and planets gave me an inner feeling for the universe of which we are but a small dot.

My early experiences at the Planetarium probably led, many years later, to my being overwhelmed by wondering how we are so lucky as to live on a beautiful green planet that gives and supports life - when so much of our universe is dark, incredibly cold, or hot, and foreboding to life. How precious is our earth!

Wise woman, Joanna Macy, asks: How do we live with the fact that we are destroying our world? What do we make of the loss of glaciers, the melting Arctic and Antarctic, island nations swamped by the sea, widening deserts, and drying farmlands?

One might respond – yes, but climate change is only one of our layered problems. We have to deal with a raging Pandemic, economic collapse, a bitterly divided US, social inequality, and on and on. But has it ever hit you that working to solve all these problems presupposes a place for the problems and the problem solvers to exist? If we go merrily forward, ignoring the amounts of carbon we are pouring into our atmosphere, our planet-home will be well on its way to being uninhabitable in a dozen years. We are time-limited in working to solve this climate crisis. Change is happening much faster than scientists foresaw it would.

As the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a great chance to change course and fight climate change by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI. Why don't we "get with the times"?

The huge New York State Pension Fund has just announced that it is divesting from oil and gas; this is the biggest fossil fuel divestment by a pension fund in the world.

The auto-manufacturing industry, including Ford, BMW, and Volvo, has committed to producing only electric cars within the next twenty years.

By joining RGGI, we too can be pacesetters. Carbon emissions in our state will be reduced by **188 million tons by 2030...the equivalent of taking more than 36 million cars off the road!**

Adlai Stevenson, a beloved Governor and son of Illinois, was ahead of his times. In the early 1960s, during his last speech, he said these words:

“We travel together, passengers on a little space ship, dependent on its vulnerable supplies of air and soil...preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work and...the love we give our fragile craft.”

It is time for Pennsylvania to join, as ten other states have already done, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to heal, support, and love our ‘fragile craft.’”