



Sisters of Mount Carmel
Caring for Creation

Summer 2017 Environmental Newsletter

Top Ten Super Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Between 2010 and 2015 these top ten greenhouse polluters were required to reduced particulate matter and toxic substances such as sulfur dioxide by adding scrubbers and other technological devices to their stacks.

They were not required to reduce emissions of CO₂ , nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases, but the scrubbers did half the toxic waste emissions.



Warning: between proposed budget cuts in EPA funding and presidential executive orders, many of the safeguards already in place will likely not be enforced.



Beef vs Beans

: Fighting Climate Change on a Personal Level

In the United States we raise and kill more than 9 billion animals a year for food because Americans eat more meat per capita than any other nation on earth. Those billions of animals gobble up precious resources and produce millions of tons of waste. Animal agricultural waste accounts for about 50% of all greenhouse gas emissions including methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide at the rate of 7 gigatons per year. According to the National Academy of Sciences, a switch to eating vegetarian diets (includes animal products such as cheese, honey, etc.) would curb greenhouse gas emission by two thirds. Even one individual eating less meat can make a difference.



Demise of Wild Horses: President Trump's proposed budget cuts \$10 million dollars from the Bureau of Land Management budget for wild horses and wildlife preserves. The proposed cuts will increase the likelihood that these iconic animals will be sold for slaughter to the foreign meat market. Some have proposed alternatives such as ecotourism for funding continued protection. Contact your congressional representative to ensure funding for wildlife.



American Rivers: Progress was made under both the Bush and Obama administrations to secure water management solutions for rivers flowing through several states. The proposed Trump budget threatens water security everywhere, most especially the Colorado River basin by cutting the funding for key water conservation initiatives. Trump's executive orders have already rolled back the protections for small streams and wetlands, and the proposed EPA budget cuts will deregulate pollution from large industrial animal feeding installations located near rivers and streams.

A non-profit organization, American Rivers, has produced a 15 minute video about the situation in the Colorado River basin called *Milk and Honey*.

<https://www.americanrivers.org/rivers/films/milk-and-honey/>



The Lowly Opossum: Which animal destroys more ticks than any other? An opossum, though you might not guess it from appearances, is a fastidious groomer. Because they are low to the ground and vegetation, they pick up many ticks that spread lyme disease, among other tick-borne diseases. A single opossum can kill as many as 4,000 ticks a day! There are some people that create welcoming habitats in their backyards to keep the tick population under control.