



## **Opportunities for action abound**

by Catie Faryl and David Wick, Monday, July 15th 2019

In order to have a clearer understanding of opportunities local people have for action, the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission is highlighting a number of organizations.

One is the Pachamama Alliance, as presented by Catie Faryl.

Pachamama Alliance is dedicated to "bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet."

We are fortunate to have a local chapter of this inspiring international organization in Southern Oregon. In addition to offering the Awakening the Dreamer Symposium and the Game Changer Intensive, the Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance offers classes and support to the regional work of Project Drawdown, a scientific, peer-reviewed collection of more than 100 solutions to reverse global warming.

Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance and Project Drawdown work hand in hand, bringing the balance of spirituality and science together to solve our many challenges. One of our regional goals is to make "drawdown" a household word in 2020 by offering opportunities for the public to learn about and engage in solutions.

We invite Ashland Culture of Peace Commission members and all persons of faith and faith communities to share these hopeful and life-affirming messages with our community. Climate solutions are also social, economic and environmental justice solutions, so in fact Project Drawdown becomes a method to address more than climate chaos.

Understanding the fundamental issues can be helpful. The word "drawdown" refers to our ability to capture and sequester greenhouse gases. The carbon cycle is a natural seasonal cycle where carbon escapes into the atmosphere in the winter and is drawn back down in the spring and summer as plants absorb a substantial amount of carbon

dioxide through photosynthesis. Yet the problem now is we've greatly exceeded the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that can be absorbed.

There are several reasons this cycle has been put out of balance. Our overuse of fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal are big contributors, as is our food waste and our present land-use practices. Refrigerant management proved to be the No. 1 solution found by Paul Hawken and his 200-plus team of Project Drawdown researchers. Solution No. 6, educating girls, and solution No. 7, family planning, combined become the top solution to reduce greenhouse gases.

The implementation of solutions and a return to planetary stewardship have the potential to reverse the climate crisis. The recognition of some basic facts is leading the way to a sustainable future for all. For example, geologically stored energy sources such as fossil fuels are nonrenewable and are far more polluting than biologically stored energy sources such as wood, wind, water and solar. The latter are readily available, renewable and sustainable.

A return to renewable energy sources is an important factor in ending human climate impacts. The energy sources of the "100 Year Fuel Oil Party" were based on sun hours — what calories were available for a human or animal to do the necessary work with simple tools. For some fun and simple tips on how you can reclaim some prior, sustainable practices, check out the video (at <https://youtu.be/fzbtu-7T8nU>) from the recent American Association for the Advancement of Science symposium at Southern Oregon University.

Perhaps the most important thing is to remember our spiritual practices and beliefs, like The Golden Rule, where we treat others, including all sentient beings and Earth herself, the way we want to be treated. There are many things we can each do to make a difference in our region and the world — "live simply so others may simply live." Finding the balance between doing and being is a place to explore.

To learn more about the programs offered by Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance, see <https://southernoregonpachamama.org/>.

For more about local Drawdown activities and to register for an Introduction to Drawdown in Ashland July 14 or in Grants Pass July 20, see <https://southernoregondrawdown.org/>.

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