

The New Community Project presents

# Follow the Money

Find out how to get change back from the money you spend...a changed world!



Average annual interest payment by US credit card holder: \$1900. 60% of the world's people earn less than that in a year.

Fast food—not so fast! Every meal creates a pound of trash and requires 1400 gallons of water to produce (burger, fries and soft drink). Beef production is the leading source of greenhouse gases, and we pitch 50 billion soda cans a year—a huge waste of resources and energy!

\$1 of every \$5 US'ers spend is for transportation—and mostly personal vehicles. They're also our worst environmental habit — on average emitting a pound of globe-warming CO2 per mile!

Your sneakers? A young woman in China was paid 30 cents to make them. Globally, 43 million people work in Export Processing Zones. Long hours and low wages—but big profits for somebody!

US'ers spend \$16 billion a year on bottled water. Making, shipping and disposing of the bottles requires 55 million barrels of oil a year. And we throw away 40 million bottles per day! Globally, 1.1 billion people don't have clean water to drink...

Investors' demand for higher profits — and more earnings to pocket — pushes companies to lower wages, outsource jobs, and cut environmental corners.

Coffee break! But no break for small coffee farmers, who are paid as little as 45 cents a pound for their efforts. How much was your cup a' java this morning...?



"... turning the world upside down."

**New Community Project**

Peace through Justice

Care for Creation • Experiential Learning

# Knowledge is Power!

## Know the product

- Research products and retailers on Co-op America's [responsibleshopper.org](http://responsibleshopper.org)
- Ask retailers about origin of products
- Buy locally whenever possible (less transport, supports small businesses/farms, more accountability)

## Know your needs — and the needs of your neighbors

- US'ers will spend \$17 billion on self-storage units this year; one-quarter of humanity doesn't have a place that nice to live in
- US'ers will spend \$45 billion on diet products this year; today 29,000 children under five will die of preventable causes — mostly hunger-related
- 65% of US children have a TV in their room; 80% of the world's poorest children end schooling after the sixth grade

## Know your adversaries

- Learn about the role of groups like the World Trade Organization in regulating commerce and protecting — or not — workers and the environment ([globalexchange.org](http://globalexchange.org); [citizen.org](http://citizen.org); [planetfriendly.net](http://planetfriendly.net))
- Advertisers annually spend \$1000 on each of us, trying to convince us that we are what we drive, drink or drool over — resist!

## Know the Scriptures

- "You who trample the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end...who deal deceitfully with false balances...who buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. Surely I will never forget..." (Amos 8:4ff) "You cannot serve God and mammon (material goods)." (Matthew 5:24)



## Our Neighbors' Predicament — Our Response

*"They treated us like dogs! You could not speak to your friends, there was constant pressure to produce more — and if you complained about anything, the foreman said, 'There's the door — there are 10 more outside who will work for less than you.'" Noe Urbina, on his experience of working in a sweatshop in San Salvador, El Salvador*

*"I decided I had to give up chocolate — and I hated to, because I love it! But I'll still eat Fair Trade." Young adult from California after learning that some cocoa is harvested by child workers in West Africa*

*"The biggest thing I've realized is that even though I always seem to 'need' something, I'm not in need at all. That's why I've decided to give my money to the people of the village." High school student sending NCP money she'd been saving for school clothes after taking part in a Learning Tour to Central America*

Sources for Follow the Money: State of the World 2004 (World Watch); NLC.org; UNDP; Earth Policy Institute; Planet Ark

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# Invest Yourself!

Invest yourself — whether purchases or savings or retirement accounts or contributions — in companies and groups you feel good about. Look into Fair Trade organizations (see Equal Exchange, Fair Indigo, Ten Thousand Villages), then invite your congregation, workplace or other group to purchase Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, or other products.



Get involved by seeing the world for yourself on an NCP Learning Tour and by joining organizations working for economic fairness and ecological sustainability. Check out: Global Exchange (social and economic justice), EPICA (Central America issues), CorpWatch (holding corporations accountable), the National Labor Committee (workers' rights), Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (shareholders' resolutions on economic and environmental issues).

## Support girls and women —

millions of whom don't have a decent chance for a decent life. NCP's Give a Girl a Chance program gives grants for girls' education and women's development.

\*\$60 — year's school, Sudan

\*\$150 — sewing machine for women's cooperative

\*\$250 — micro loan to start a small business



Be an example for your friends, congregation or co-workers, helping them see a better way — for God's earth and for our neighbors.



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