

CREATION CARE GREEN TIPS - JULY

1. The journal *Science* reported in April that about **1/4 of the world's terrestrial insects have perished in the past three decades**, with even larger declines in the Midwest, which **loses 4% of its bug population annually**. Playing a major role in this decline is **chemical-intensive, monocultural agriculture** that not only destroys the **biodiversity of habitat** that insects need, but also relies on **insecticides that indiscriminately kill the good bugs along with the bad**. According to science writer Brooke Jarvis, entomologists have found that **for every one species of pest, there are 1,700 species of insects we can't live without**. In studies that compared conventional industrial farms with regenerative farms (no insecticides, using multi-species cover cropping, no-till, and integration of livestock via rotational grazing), the journal *Peer J - the Journal of Life and Environmental Sciences* reported that **regenerative farms had many more quantities and varieties of beneficial insects, which keep harmful insects under control**. Regenerative farms are also **more profitable**, because they didn't pay for insecticides and expensive genetically engineered "stacked" seed varieties. They also had **more fertile soils requiring less purchased fertilizer**. **BE AN ADVOCATE** of changes to our farm programs that will support regenerative agriculture.
2. As a result of COVID-19, **South Korea** found that its current economic structure was proven vulnerable with even a single virus outbreak, and that **the climate crisis would bring an even bigger economic shock in the future**. In an effort to mitigate this even bigger shock and disaster fueled by climate change, **South Korea became the first East Asian country to proactively tackle it by restructuring the economy with a Korean Green New Deal**. In the lead-up to the parliamentary election, the ruling party announced **a series of policies including net-zero emissions by 2050, a carbon tax on the polluters, no overseas coal investment, and the intention to develop a Korea-customized Green New Deal policy to boost the economy as part of its COVID-19 response**. It proved to be a winning argument.
3. According to the nonpartisan and nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project, the **expansion in greenhouse gas emissions across the U.S. will total 990.5 million tons per year by 2025**. Established in 2002 by former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency attorneys, EIP said the expansion is the **equivalent of 50 new coal-fired power plants**. The expansion in greenhouse gas emissions is the result of the fracking boom, which has helped the **U.S. become the largest producer of oil and gas in the world, and has resulted in greenhouse gas emissions steadily climbing each year**. According to federal records, the boom has resulted in plans over the next five years to **build or extend 157 petroleum and natural gas drilling sites and chemical manufacturing and refinery plants across the country**. **INFORM YOUR POLICY-MAKERS** on the dangers of increased greenhouse gas emissions, and urge them to take steps toward replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.

4. Scientists have documented how a widely used class of insecticides called **neonics, short for neonicotinoids**, are devastating bees in many parts of the country, but a new investigation reveals that **these agricultural chemicals may also be harming migratory birds**. Canadian researchers at the University of Saskatchewan found in a study of one migratory species, the white-crowned sparrow, that **ingesting even tiny doses of a neonic causes the birds to lose weight, decreasing their ability to survive and reproduce**. Bird populations in general have **decreased by 30%**, with research published in *Science* finding clear evidence that these chemicals deliver a potential blow to migratory birds that range in farmlands, especially grassland species that are among the fastest-declining groups of birds in North America. **URGE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES to work to ban neonicotinoids**, and make sure the plants and seeds you purchase have not been adulterated with these chemicals.