

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AS A GUIDE

ETHICAL LENS:

Based on the ethical principles in the One Earth Community and in the Earth Charter.

An ethical response to our environment and development issues should:

1. reflect a responsibility to the Earth in its wholeness;
2. be founded on a just international order which is people-oriented, respects human rights, ensures the voice of the world's poor, and is ecologically-sound;
3. promote change of lifestyle from high material consumption to greater equity and sustainability;
4. promote humanity's understanding of its collective responsibility for environmental damage and repair, and that environmental damage must stop;
5. protect the rights of future generations;
6. not threaten the sustaining capacity of the Earth;
7. respect and protect the biodiversity of the Earth;
8. not contribute to militarization but promote a culture of tolerance, non-violence and peace;
9. ensure meaningful participation of individuals and groups in the decision-making processes;
10. assure opportunities for learning and access to knowledge;
11. be based on adequate environmental, social, and cultural impact assessments;
12. hold authorities and corporations responsible for their actions domestically and internationally and ensure that Canada accepts its global responsibility to prevent environmental damage.

As you consider the principles, a variety of approaches may prove helpful:

- take a broad view on the guidance given by the principle
- relate the principle to specific topics from the list of concerns
- find keywords that may help you to include this principle in your everyday thinking
- ask yourself questions such as: what energy choices or lifestyle changes are supported by this principle; how does this principle relate to energy choices and use, and my view of environmental, economic and social issues; how does this principle relate to my worldview, values?
- read the excerpt under the corresponding principle from the *One Earth Community* to stimulate discussion. [For an energy focus, use *Energy in the One Earth Community*, available from the workshop Leader or at www.united-church.ca/ecology/energy]
- share a hymn or a prayer that captures some aspect of this principle for you