

Environmental Quotes

Awe and Wonder

“I think every discovery of the world plunges us into jubilation, a radical amazement that tears apart the veil of triviality.” Judy Cannato

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” Rachel Carson

“It is only when we are aware of the earth as poetry that we truly live.” Henry Beston

“The universe is an inexhaustible celebration of ultimate mystery!” Brian Swimme

“By cutting ourselves off from the rest of creation, we are left bereft of awe and wonder and therefore of reverence and gratitude. We violate our very beings, and we have nothing but trivia to teach our young.” Matthew Fox

“Because of the Incarnation, I salute all remaining matter with reverence.” John of Damascus

“The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.” St. John of Damascus (675-749)

“Everything in nature is resurrection.” William Butler Yeats

“Earth’s crammed with heaven, and every common bush is afire with God.” Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The Human Role in the Universe

“We are not journeying *in* the universe, but *with* the universe. We are not concerned about living in an evolving world but co-evolving with our world.” Diarmuid O’Murchu

“In the evolutionary story—ours and that of Planet Earth—the planet always wins out. Mother Earth has an amazing resilience, a very profound intelligence, and can be quite ruthless in maintaining her integrity. In Gian terms, we are just another species, neither the owners nor the stewards of the planet. Our future depends much more on a right relationship with Gaia than on enforcing our self-righteous claim to be masters of creation.” Diarmuid O’Murchu

“Where the earth is, we are.” Walt Whitman

“Any human being exists only as a member of the wider community of life, air, water, and soil. We have no existence apart from the living earth. We are Earth. What we do to Earth, we do to our self.” Michael Dowd

The Moral Imperative to Care for the Planet

“All human institutions, professions, programs and activities must now be judged by the extent to which they inhibit, ignore, or foster a human and Earth relationship.” Thomas Berry

“The day is not far distant when humanity will realize that biologically it is faced with a choice between suicide and adoration.” Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

“When civilization stands at the edge of a cliff, a step forward doesn’t make much sense.” Denis Hayes

“The environment is not just another issue, but an inescapable challenge to what it means to be religious.” The Very Reverend James P. Morton, Dean, Cathedral of St. John the Divine

“I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?” Robert Redford

“We should think of our resources not as having been left to us by our parents, but as having been loaned to us by our children.” Kenyan proverb.

"We are called to assist the earth, to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own -- indeed, to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty, and wonder." Wangari Maathai

Miscellaneous

“The earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.” Mahatma Gandhi

“The Gospel’s good news of redemption applies to the earth, as well as the earthling.” Dr. R. H. Meneilly

“The destruction of a species of God’s creation is like tearing a page out of Scripture.” Paul Gorman

“For too long, we have glorified the Creator while crucifying the creation.” From “The Greening of Faith”

“When it comes to loving our neighbor, we should remember we all live upwind and upstream from someone else—both in time and place.” Source unknown.

“In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.” From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

“What is the use of a house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?” Henry David Thoreau

“Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money!” 19th Century Cree Indian