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# Let's Act Locally to Help Globally

We are all truly interconnected. Out of that interconnection has come the adage, "Think globally but act locally." Acting locally can and does affect our bigger reality—whether we think about that often or not.

January 14, 2008 was a special moment in this interconnection. *The Washington Post* carried a major article by Marc Kaufman, "Escalating Ice Loss Found in Antarctica."

He reports on the newest information about changes in our Earth home, specifically in Antarctica.

Antarctica's continent holds almost 90% of Earth's ice, and it serves as part of our global refrigerator that helps keep Earth's temperatures livable. Startling find: how fast that ice is melting now.

Scientists are hustling to ascertain just why. Elements being studied: the ocean currents that circle Antarctica and move among all the oceans; the warmer winds that can warm the ocean waters that can wear away the ice especially from below. The western shelf of Antarctica is flat, so glaciers there could more easily move into the ocean once they get started.

So what does that—and any other information about global warming or climate change or the environment—have to do with Nelson County and one's homeplace?

A really good place to get some answer to that question: Bardstown's Civic Center on South Third Street, January 29 at 7:30 pm—for 90 minutes of citizen sharing on the topic of "Changing Climate: what can we do about it?" This 90-minute session is open to the general public.

Some good, concise information will be provided and those who come will be able to share their concerns and wisdom about all this.

(I need to acknowledge: I hope those who are skept-

tical about this whole speeding up global warming dynamic are right. However, either way we will all be richly blessed if we work together to help clean up our Earth home: its land, air and water, and leave it in a much better shape for our children and grandchildren!)

Whatever the causes of increasingly "interesting" weather with costly consequences from the storms, droughts and fires, there is basic scientific information that we all can understand, given the science we have studied as young people. Among these science basics: the importance of carbon dioxide and oxygen and how they cycle through Earth's processes; the power of humans, plant and animals to adapt to changing situations; the energy cycle. Then there is the power of human ingenuity and generosity in dealing with new situations, getting amazingly efficient when we need to do so. There are also projects and programs in motion that are interesting and helpful and meriting our support.

There is extensive local help available in dealing with out-dated electronics, batteries, hazardous and automotive wastes, aluminum, glass, yard waste. We may learn that we in this part of Kentucky have a lot of resources for making our part of Earth much better and doing our good bit to help out our whole interconnected planet home.

Come to the Civic Center January 29 at 7:30 pm – and bring friends and family! For more information, contact either Harriet Elmore (348-1277) or Martha Hickman (348-8962), co-chairs of the group planning this public forum.

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*The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, established in 1968. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. There are 406,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth. The Bishops of the four dioceses of KY constitute CCK's Board of Directors.*