

Wednesday, November 8

Message From Reclaiming Earth Committee:



We have begun the discussion about integral ecology. As our national Thanksgiving holiday approaches and we begin to invite guests for dinner, how can integral ecology affect our food choices?

Morality and ethics involved in our choices are far reaching and only the person making the choices to purchase can determine their own values. BUT, let's review several food items that have great implications for others on this planet.

Serving shrimp cocktails before dinner? Did you know that a majority of shrimp from Asia is farmed or caught by enslaved persons? There are ethical choices in most supermarkets. Read the labels carefully ...

Chocolate? That is frequently produced by children trafficked for their labor. There ARE ethical brands found in the supermarket. A little more expensive but ... what are the values involved?

Are you aware of the palm oil found within many food items? According to Friends of the Earth, palm oil is found in about 50% of the packaged foods found in our local stores. A large amount of that palm oil comes through Mexico and the Netherlands from Guatemala, which is well known in some circles as producing large amounts of palm oil on lands that were once beautiful forests.

"Most palm oil plantations are inherently unsustainable monocultures that require enormous amounts of water and chemicals," the Friends of the Earth notes.

"Workers are often trafficked into bonded labor, and abused, overworked and underpaid. Government officials are commonly bribed to look the other way."

Friends of the Earth brochure:
Want to do something about palm oil, land grabbing, and deforestation?

FYI: one of the largest producers of the oil in Guatemala is a cousin of an ex-president.

These two items are only the tip of the iceberg. Where are your fruits and vegetables produced? There are many responsible producers of the edibles we use. It is a matter of knowing which ones to buy.