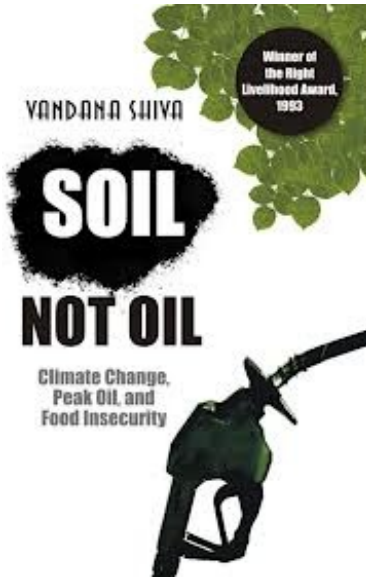


OMNI 350 announcements

OMNI Center for Peace Justice & Ecology

No. 12, 31 August 2013



Climate Change Book Forum

Facilitated by Jeanne Neath

SUNDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER - 1:30 PM
FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY - WALKER ROOM

Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis by Vandana Shiva

Many books on climate change come from the perspective of authors embedded in the industrialized West, but Vandana Shiva in Soil Not Oil instead writes out of a "people's perspective of the Global South" (i.e. the "developing" world). Shiva is a world famous Indian environmentalist and feminist activist and author living and working in India. In Soil Not Oil Shiva explains how the triple threats of climate change, shrinking oil supplies (Peak Oil), and the food crisis are deeply interconnected and how addressing these threats together can bring solutions that benefit all life on earth.

The first part of her book deals with the pseudo-solutions put forward by the "commercial, consumption-oriented energy paradigm rooted in a reductive, mechanistic worldview in consumerist culture". According to Shiva there are two approaches, both highly problematic, coming from this dominant paradigm: the approach of global business and the approach of environmentalists promoting a renewable energy powered but still high energy consumerist society. The second part of the book puts forward nature-centered, people-centered solutions that derive from that "people's perspective of the Global South". Building a living, non-toxic agriculture that provides people with dignified work and that aids in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change is a core element of the book. But, the solutions discussed are wide ranging from economic (e.g. renewable energy driven local economies) to political (e.g. decentralized democracies) to cultural.

Reading Vandana Shiva's book has been a huge help to me in the process of cutting away those corporate-induced and patriarchal blinders provided to those of us living in the overdeveloped West. For Shiva, the blinders no doubt belong on the workhorse at work in the millet field. For us humans in the industrialized world, Soil Not Oil puts climate change into perspective as part of the complex of critical environmental and social challenges that must be addressed and solved together to create an equitable and truly sustainable future.

WHY 350?

Our Newsletter, 350PPM (parts per million concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's

atmosphere) seeks to educate the public about the impending crisis of global warming and climate change. We must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and return the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million. It is only at these levels or below that the climate and environmental systems of the earth as we know them can be maintained. As a point of reference it was 1988 when the earth's atmosphere contained 350 PPM of CO₂.