

# SYNERGY REPORT

*Doing together what can't be done as well alone*

*For a World That Works for Everyone*

## The Environment and “National Security”

*“I’m not coming to the Council meeting because environmental issues don’t interest me; only peace does,”* said a MAP delegate in 2014.

***Should anyone else have a similar position, our June 9th Council speakers shared these thoughts.***

**Bill Habedank**, Vets for Peace-Red Wing said, *“Why should a peace organization be concerned about climate change? VFP is about ending war and institutional violence, but if we do not get this climate change problem under control we are facing catastrophic events—uncontrolled war (which adds to global warming), violence everywhere where it’s country against country, state against state, neighbor against neighbor. There will be huge numbers of refugees looking for a livable environment. And we as peace organizations will see our efforts to stop war exceedingly difficult if not impossible. This is precisely why we need to work on this issue NOW. We are running out of time and the effects of global climate change are already being seen.”*

*“Waging peace is about national security which includes dealing with climate change and economic insecurity. They’re all connected.”* Paul Chappell

**Kathy Hollander**, MN350, said, *“Climate change is an urgent issue. Worldwide, climate scientists are saying the world can, at most, sustain a 2° Celsius temperature increase in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change. And to do that, we need to transition off burning oil, coal and gas in as little as 15 years. MN350 works to slow the extraction of crude oil out of the ground. And, you can help by signing our petition urging President Obama to **stop Enbridge Energy’s** additional [illegal] transport of tar sands oil via pipeline across the US – Canada international border.”* Kathy’s slide show pointed out how oil spills poison our drinking water, cause a loss of jobs, and entail enormous cleanup costs, and how tar sands mining destroys the carbon sponge boreal forest and adds even more carbon to the atmosphere.

***In a May 2015 White House report, the president made a powerful case that climate change has far-reaching national security implications.***

In that light, our Alliance has every reason to make climate change an ongoing high priority national security campaign. It’s a crucial peacemaking initiative in which we can all play a role.

## MAP And A Livable World

Change is not optional. When **“Life Conditions”** change, **we** also [inevitably] change. We are all adapters. Major adaptations are called “Revolutions.” We had the *Agriculture Revolution*; then, the *Industrial Revolution*—which maximized prosperity, financial gain, and the accumulation of stuff.

Now we’re seeing the horrific long term consequences of industrial age thinking. Earth’s resources are rapidly being devoured, and our life support systems seriously threatened.

These changing life conditions are reshaping our thinking, and out of necessity a *Sustainability Revolution* is evolving. In 1946, Martin Luther King got it right when he said, *“We are either going to survive together as brothers, or we are going to die together as fools.”*

So let us celebrate this coming revolution, by whatever name, and connect with, and nourish, the larger sustaining whole.

Individually, and as an Alliance, there are thousands of ways to do that. We just need to get creative.

Sook Holdridge  
editor: Synergy Report

## Every Revolution Is Resisted by Status Quo Protagonists

The Agriculture Revolution was resisted by the hunter-gatherers. The Industrial Revolution was resisted by craftsmen. The Sustainability Revolution also has its resisters. Corporate moguls, fearing their wealth threatened by government, have brazenly used big money and power to influence legislation and elections.

One status quo protagonist, George Will, in his April 16, 2015 Tribune article proposed *“...eliminating every [college or*

*university] position whose title contains the word “sustainability”—and while we’re at it, “diversity,” “multicultural” or “inclusivity.”*

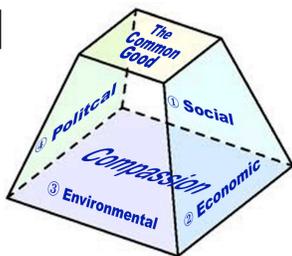
Criticizing “capitalism” is still an intolerable sin, as is questioning “trickle down” economics.

What the status quo protagonists are blind to is the bigger picture of an era that is dying, and the inevitable transition to a new era that is still in its infancy.

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## The “Feedback Report” [new]

For greater transparency between the Alliance membership and its Governing Council, periodic “Feedback Reports” are emailed to delegates to share with their organizations’ members. For example, from June’s Council meeting, the membership should be aware that...



- Move To Amend is asking all MAP members to officially endorse the movement. Go to [movetoamend.org](http://movetoamend.org)
- any request of the Council for more than \$1000 must be reviewed by the Leadership Team before it can be voted on.
- the Council approved \$500 to send 10 youth to Kalamazoo for raising awareness and impacting the winding down of U.S. oil production.
- please sign the [Enbridge Energy petition](#) to stop tar sands pipeline.

## Tell Us What You’re Thinking

Remember, you ARE the Alliance. Every member has a voice in determining the Alliance’s direction, process and actions.

So, give it some thought. Make suggestions, offer your comments, critique our process.



email them to Sook at [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com). Our potential is limited only by our lack of imagination and participation.

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## Lobbying For A More Peaceful World

With funding help from MAP, eight members from Minnesota Peace Project traveled to D.C. April 19-24 to lobby our MN Delegation for a more peaceful world.

We prepared “White papers” in advance on key foreign policy issues including: Iran negotiations, Israel/Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia land-grabbing, Military Spending, Nuclear Disarmament, Repeal of the AUMF and Torture. These papers were given to key staffers prior to discussions with Congress people on each topic.

To show the synergy, from the start we had briefings by subject matter experts from Friends Committee on National Legislation, the National Iranian American Council and End the Israeli Occupation.

Overall, we think we were successful in making our “asks” and conveying important information to the Senators.

Over the past 7 years, we know that our work with them has been a, or maybe THE, factor causing their movement from military intervention to peaceful resolutions to world crises. We’ve seen several modify or even reverse their positions on important foreign policy issues.

**Roxanne Abbas**, Minnesota Peace Project

Note... You can print this newsletter at [MAPM.org](http://MAPM.org) (home page)

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## Supporting MAP Initiatives

MAP’s AOT event notices have been emailed to your delegates. They include:

- the **June 18th** Citizen for Global Solutions annual dinner.
- the **June 19** annual “Community Peace Celebration.”
- the **July 11th** annual Peacestock celebration in Red Wing.



*Hearts that Share*  
**Hearts**  
sharing compassion

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**Burt Berlowe:** [bberlowe@comcast.net](mailto:bberlowe@comcast.net) 612-722-1504 — Media: publications, announcements and MAP publicity

**Mary Faulkner:** [rfofmplsmn@aol.com](mailto:rfofmplsmn@aol.com) 612-823-5524 — Treasurer and members dues and current status

**Sook Holdridge:** [sook51@gmail.com](mailto:sook51@gmail.com) 952-922-7311 — Delegate communications, editor: Synergy and Feedback Reports

**Larry Johnson:** [larryjvfp@gmail.com](mailto:larryjvfp@gmail.com) 612-747-3904 — Readings for council meetings, Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church

**April Knutson:** [knutsoo1@umn.edu](mailto:knutsoo1@umn.edu) 612-823-5989 — Secretary, and letter writing

**Martha Roberts:** [martrobe44@aol.com](mailto:martrobe44@aol.com) 612-554-7009 — Membership records

**Shared Duties:** Spokesperson for MAP; Convener of Delegate Council meetings; and Convener of open space time

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### Other leadership volunteers include:

**Wayne Wittman:** [waynecwittman@gmail.com](mailto:waynecwittman@gmail.com) 651-695-5297 — Membership application forms

**Madeline Simon:** [madeline-mpls@msn.com](mailto:madeline-mpls@msn.com) 952-854-2976 — MAPM Website Postings

**Dennis Dillon:** [dennis.dillon@msn.com](mailto:dennis.dillon@msn.com) 612-333-0723 — Co-Liaison to Plymouth Church