

Mission: To provide people of faith with tools for implementing their values as consumers, investors, employees, employers, and citizens.

In this issue:

Express Your Values through Action	p. 1
Feature: Energy Use Study Highlights Non-Driving Energy Costs of Cars	p. 2
News EPA's Performance Track Reaches 470 Member Mark	p. 4
FTSE4Good Index Series Adds 25 Companies, Removes 17	p. 5
"Companies That Care" Honor Roll Announced	p. 6
Light Bulbs v. Global Warming	p. 7
Sustainability Themed Novel: <i>The Squeeze</i>	p. 8
Resources	p. 9

Our Economic Lives

Every economic decision we make has implications far beyond the financial. We live in a complex world with dozens, or even hundreds, of steps occurring in the development of a product long before we make a decision to buy it. Knowing this makes attempts to be a responsible consumer increasingly difficult (and often prompts a "buy local" mantra).

As investors, we're torn between the specific desire to make an acceptable return on our investments, the desire to invest in "good" companies, and a sinking suspicion that there may not be any companies that actually live up to the standards we would set for their behavior.

As employees and employers, we try to do the "right" thing while meeting our business goals, but we sometimes realize that the difference between what's legal and ethical is significant. Still, we want to do what we consider ethical even when not required by the law. Sometimes we have the latitude to make such decisions, and sometimes the business requirements within which we work don't give us that latitude.

As members of congregations, we help transform our communities of faith into economic actors. Just as we individually act as consumers, investors, and employers, our congregations act as consumers, investors, and employers. As difficult as making economic decisions appropriate to individual values may be, doing so in a group setting may be even more difficult, but is equally important.

Express Your Values through Action

1. **Evaluate your consumer choices.** Read the feature on automobile energy ratings (p. 2) and about a movement to replace 300 million light bulbs in the U.S. (p. 7) and consider your own purchase decisions.
2. **Evaluate your investments.** Read the EPA Performance Track article (p. 4), the FTSE4Good article (p. 5), and the "Companies that Care" article (p. 6) to identify companies that may be good or bad for your investment philosophy.
3. **Read a book and a study.** Read the feature story (p. 2) and the announcement of a novel with sustainability themes (p. 8) for possible reading material.