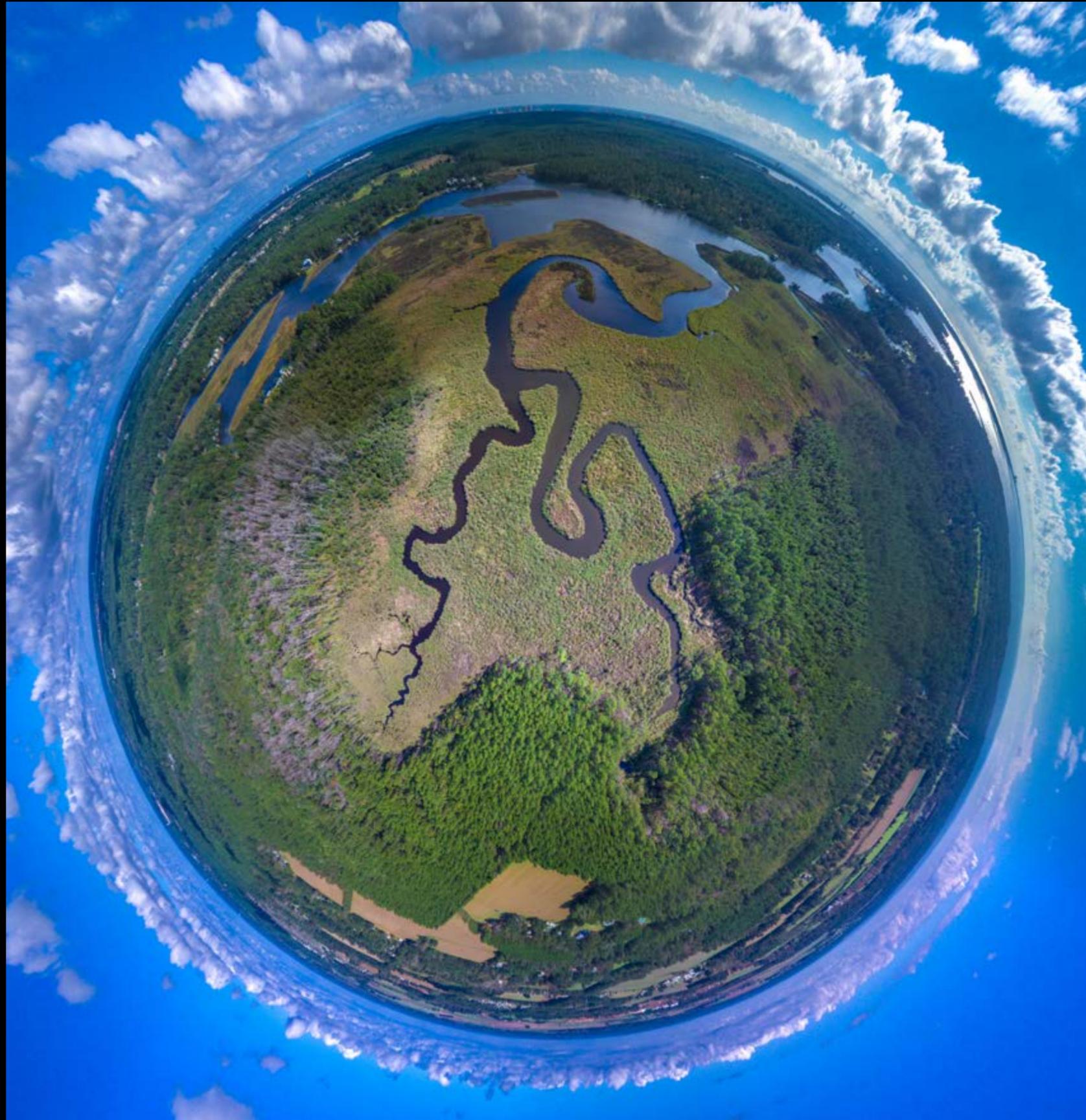
A black and white photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers the lower slopes. In the middle ground, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff face. The background features high, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey band containing text.

A Duty of Care
The Christian Foundations of Environmental Concern

Dr. Andy Bannister, PhD
Solas Centre for Public Christianity
www.solas-cpc.org

A dark, atmospheric landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a slope. In the middle ground, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff face. In the background, a large lake is nestled in a valley, surrounded by towering, rugged mountains. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, creating a moody and dramatic scene. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of grey, black, and dark green.

Why **should** we care about the natural world?



Why does the health of ecosystems matter?



Why should we be bothered
about climate change?



Why should we care about deforestation?



Why care about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

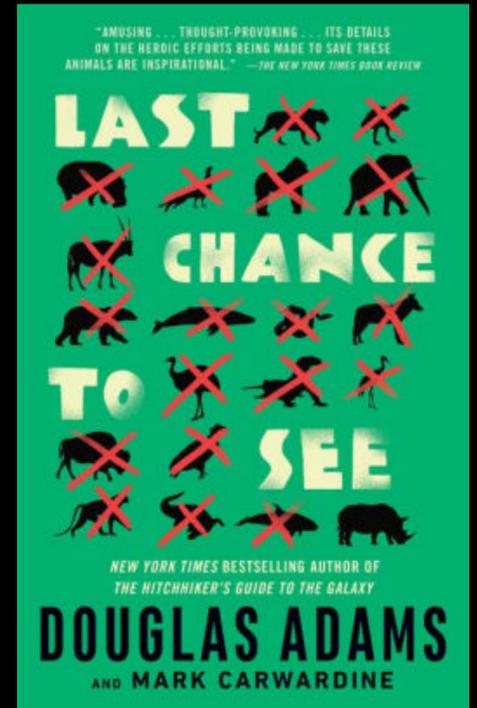


Why care about the growing extinction rate?

“Most of the extinctions that have occurred in the last three hundred years have occurred in the last fifty. And most of the extinctions that have occurred in the last fifty have occurred in the last ten. It is the sheer rate of acceleration that is as terrifying as anything else. We are now heaving more than a thousand different species of animals and plants off the planet every year.”

Douglas Adams & Mark Cawardine

Last Chance to See (London: Pan Books, 1991) pp204-205





But **why** should we care?



Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion



THUNBERG

THUNBERG

THUNBERG

THUNBERG

THUNBERG

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THUNBERG



SAVE OUR SEALIFE

SENTINELS OF THE SOUND BEACH CLEANUP

WEST SEATTLE ALKI BEACH

Saturday June 14, 2014 9:30am - 12:30pm

(meet at Statue of Liberty, Alki Ave and 61st Ave SW, please RSVP @ sealsitters.org)

Many thousands of marine animals die each year from derelict fishing gear, marine debris and pollution. They are entangled and drowned by nets and gear. Strangled and contaminated by plastics.

Make a difference and join us to remove litter from Alki Beach.

POLLUTION HAS A FACE

Sandy, a tiny seal pup, was rescued by Seal Sitters from a West Seattle beach in August of 2011. She was rehabilitated at PAWS Wildlife and, finally healthy, released back to the waters of Puget Sound.

Sandy was found dead sixty-six days later, entangled in derelict fishing line.

LET'S CLEAN UP OUR ACT

Help save sea birds, turtles and marine mammals. Pick up trash ~ protect wildlife and our fragile Salish Sea.



CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



photo: PAWS
learn more about Sandy at www.blubberblog.org



Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion

Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us







Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

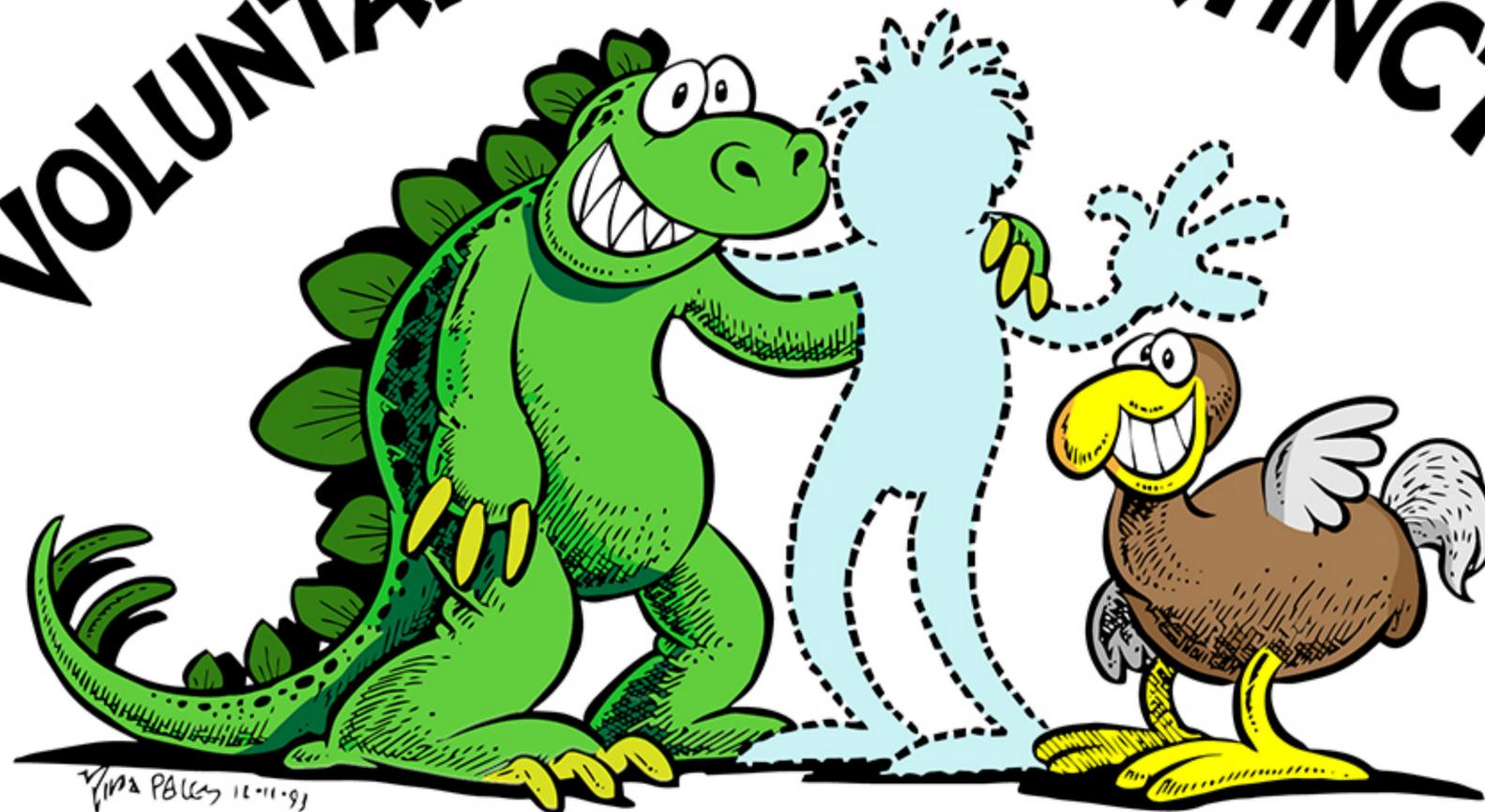
- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us

Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us
- Claim that “we owe it to future generations”

Visualize
VOLUNTARY HUMAN EXTINCTION



May we live long and die out.

The Voluntary Human Extinction movement
www.vhemt.org



Thank you for
not breeding.



“We are a plague on the earth”

Sir David Attenborough

Foundations for Environmentalism

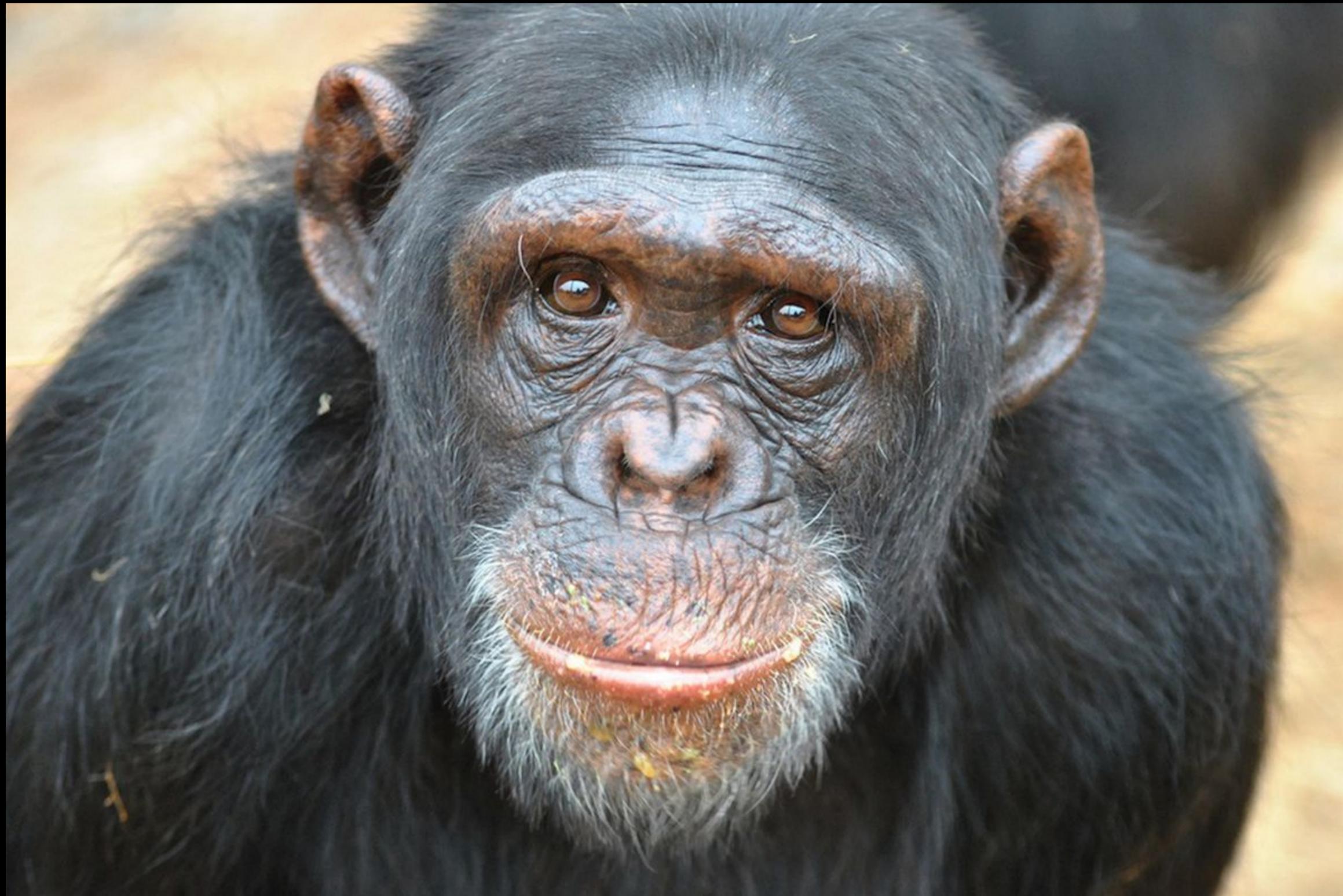
Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us
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Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us
- Claim that “we owe it to future generations”
- Point out that we are closely related to animals



96% of our DNA in common



Carbon atoms in common



60% of our DNA in common

Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

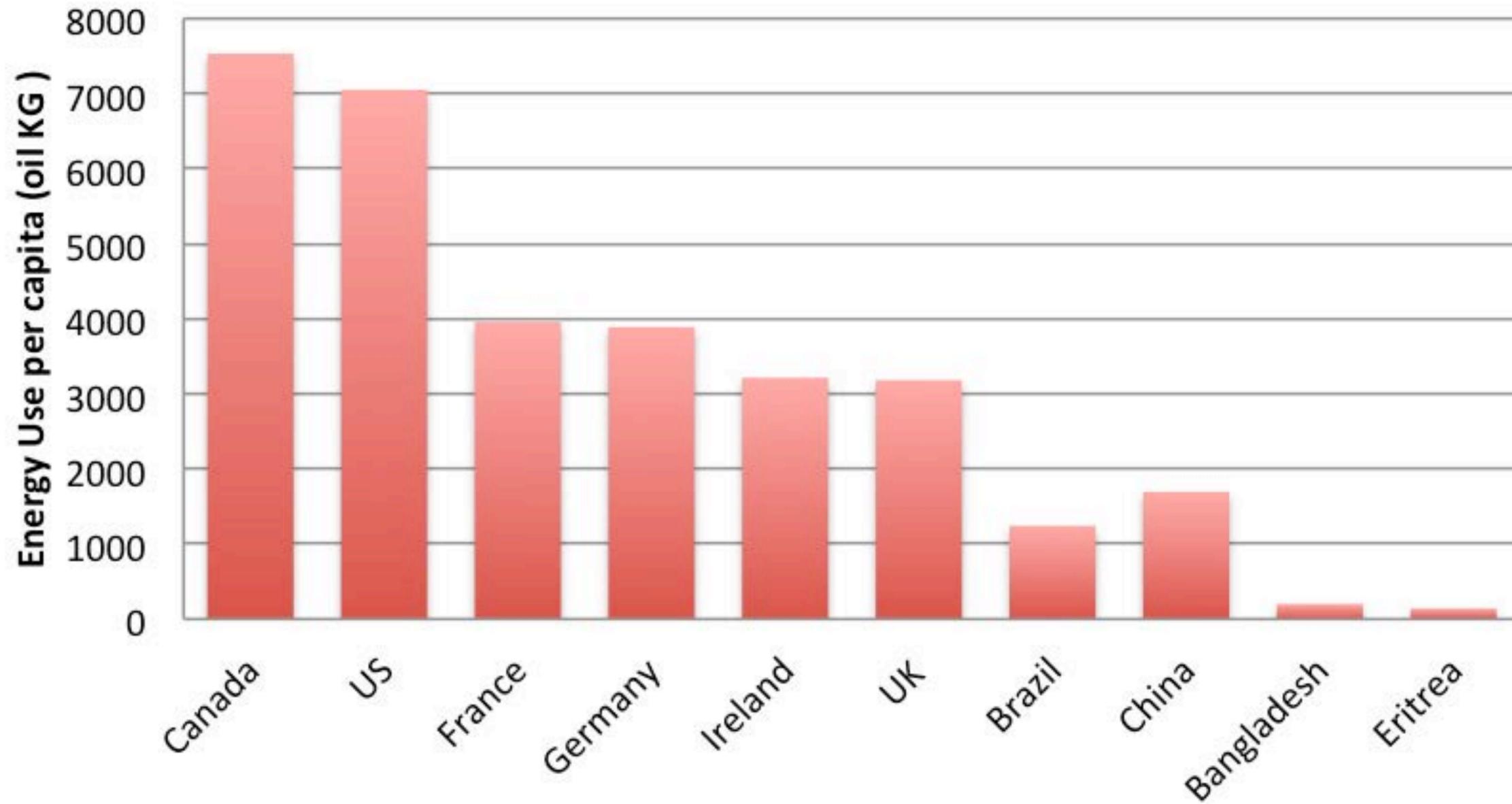
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Foundations for Environmentalism

Secular Attempts to Solve the Problem

- Appeal to emotion
- Show how environmental care benefits us
- Claim that “we owe it to future generations”
- Point out that we are closely related to animals
- Claim that the natural world has “rights”

Energy Use Per Capita



www.economicshelp.org | Source: World Bank

www.economicshelp.org | Source: World Bank

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

Genesis 1:26 (RSV)



Maltbie Davenport Babcock
(1858-1901)

*This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.*

Maltbie Davenport Babcock

“My Father’s World”: Four Responses

Gratitude

Image bearing

Hope

Love

“My Father’s World”: Four Responses

Gratitude

Image bearing

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“My Father’s World”: Four Responses

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“In that coming together, the ‘very good’ that God spoke over creation at the beginning will be enhanced, not abolished. The New Testament never imagines that, when the new heavens and new earth arrive, God will say, in effect, ‘well, that first creation wasn’t so good after all, was it? Aren’t you glad we’ve got rid of all that space, time and matter?’”

N.T.Wright

Surprised by Hope (London: SPCK, 2007) p271



“My Father’s World”: Four Responses

Gratitude

Image bearing

Hope

Love

“Can you identify a greater number of trees or cars? If the Bible says God knows every flower and bird, why do we spend so much effort knowing the names of man-made items. Maybe we’re paying attention to the wrong things. Maybe this is why life seems so hard. If this is our Father’s world, maybe we should pay more attention to it.”

J. Matthew Sleeth

Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007) p61

