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Just Below the Surface

Northwest Earth Institute Unveils New Discussion Guide Aimed at Reflecting on the Gulf Coast Oil Spill and How We Can Move Forward

PORTLAND, OR, February 24, 2011 – The [Northwest Earth Institute](http://www.nwei.org) (NWEI) is excited to introduce its newest discussion guide: ***Just Below the Surface: Perspectives on the Gulf Coast Oil Spill***.

Developed in partnership with [Keen Footwear](http://www.keenfootwear.com) and [PDX 2 Gulf Coast](http://www.pdx2gulfcoast.com), this one-session guide explores the connections between the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, energy policies, and our lifestyles. *Just Below the Surface* offers an opportunity to reflect further on this historical event and the lessons it holds for us moving forward – individually and collectively. The intent is not to assign blame, but rather to take responsibility – as conscious consumers and concerned, active citizens.

“Our goal with this curriculum is to help people explore the connections between the oil spill, energy policy, and our lifestyles,” said Mike Mercer, executive director, Northwest Earth Institute. “It’s important that we all recognize that environmental disasters such as last year’s Gulf Coast oil spill don’t exist in a vacuum. We all have a role to play in moving forward and lessening our ecological footprints.”

The curriculum is part of an on-going effort by NWEI to educate and inspire people to make both large and small lifestyle changes that have a long-term, positive benefit for themselves and the planet. Since its launch in 1993, more than 130,000 people in all 50 states and Canada have participated in NWEI discussion courses.

Through peer-facilitation, this discussion guide can help participants consider a variety of perspectives on the “lessons” of the Deepwater Horizon blowout and identify steps each of us can take to reduce fossil fuel use in our own lives.

About The Northwest Earth Institute

The Northwest Earth Institute is recognized as a national leader in the development of innovative programs that empower individuals and organizations to transform culture toward a sustainable and enriching future. Today, NWEI offers ten study guides for small groups. These self-guided discussion courses are offered in workplaces, universities, faith centers, neighborhoods, and community centers throughout North America. Through discussion with others, each program encourages participants to explore values and attitudes, and then take action on behalf of the planet.

More information on Just Below the Surface, please visit: <http://nwei.org/just-below-the-surface>

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