



Mountaintop Removal is a method of extracting coal that destroys the mountains that are being mined. Information about mountaintop removal and its destructive effects on people and the planet can be found at <http://ilovemountains.org/>. During your time at Bethlehem Farm, you will experience alternative living practices that reduce our dependence on electricity and our participation in the practice of mountaintop removal.



Hydraulic Fracturing aka “fracking” is a method of harvesting natural gas. This system contaminates ground water and drinking water in the surrounding areas, consequently poisoning everything that depends on water for life. A thorough description of fracking can be found at <http://www.dangersoffracking.com/>. Despite the harms it causes, fracking is becoming increasingly prevalent in West

Virginia and other eastern states. At Bethlehem Farm, you will enjoy clean and healthy well water which is not contaminated by fracking - yet. Clean water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in the modern world; therefore, we invite you to join us in reducing our consumption of water, in solidarity with those who do not have this luxury.



The industrial food system that brings food from factory farms to our tables is a system that destroys topsoil, raises animals under inhumane conditions, and poisons those who eat the food. A brief introduction to the industrial food system can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04T23houM4s>. At Bethlehem Farm you will enjoy healthy food from our garden, local farms, and other mainly organic sources. Eating food

grown or raised locally limits consumption of fossil fuels in transporting our food to our table, and eating organic food supports farmers who do not use harmful chemicals.



The caretakers of Bethlehem Farm strive to use products that are **recyclable, reusable, organic** and/or **Fair Trade**. These are not just buzz words, but actual calls from God to live in harmony with all of Creation. Our cleaning products are non-toxic and biodegradable. The greywater from our kitchen and laundry is filtered through the soil to irrigate our orchard. Our deliciously strong coffee may cost a few extra dolla dolla bills, but that money ensures a living wage for the coffee growers. Buying fair trade products lowers the demand for commercially produced products, such as chocolate made from cacao that is grown by [child slaves](#) in Cote d'Ivoire. (So please don't break us off a piece of that Kit-

Kat bar, and rest assured that we won't lay a finger on your Butterfinger!) For a plethora of information on clean, green, and fair trade products, check with the experts at <http://www.greenamerica.org/>.

Bethlehem Farm is committed to growing and learning, so if you have any suggestions for leading a more sustainable, fair, organic, and local lifestyle, please contact us at caretakers@bethlehemfarm.net.