

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

Summer is winding down ...

and before it gets cold ...



Find and pluck the low-hanging fruit!
Improve the efficiency and insulation of your house or your house-of-worship. A few simple actions will save on use and cost immediately.

Two examples of *low-hanging fruit* are

1. "Smart" programmable thermostats
2. Interior "storm" windows.



Go to the [MIP&L EES link](#) for quick, easy to understand information on these actions. Each will pay back in lower use, lower cost and increased comfort **immediately!** After improving the building's heating efficiency as much as possible, you may actually need a smaller boiler or furnace, costing less to install and using even less fuel!



CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE

This year...and every year...MIPL is promoting Clean Energy Choice.

We have a variety of resources that we can provide to your congregation.

These include:

- **The film RENEWAL** — Witness the inspiration of religious ideas in practice for the healing of the Earth in this moving film, portraying the efforts of 8 faith traditions in demanding circumstances for environmental stewardship throughout the US.
- **Global Warming Cafe:** Through this power point presentation and facilitated discussion you will learn ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and the importance of renewable energy to our earth and our economy.
- **Guest preachers and adult education forums.** MIPL will provide a guest preacher to speak about the Theology of Ecology, or design an adult education workshop to meet the needs of your congregation.

The words of the covenant that God commands Moses to make with the Israelites includes these: "I CALL HEAVEN AND EARTH TO WITNESS AGAINST YOU TODAY THAT I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND CURSES. CHOOSE LIFE SO THAT YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS MAY LIVE...." (Deut 30:19).

Choose life! Choose renewable energy!

Contact MIP&L to help your congregation this fall...
Vince Maraventano, JD, MDiv., Clean Energy Coordinator at maraventano@MIPandL.org



Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, (MIPL) is a non-profit initiative offering Massachusetts congregations of every religious tradition a comprehensive means of reducing energy consumption, lowering operating costs, and promoting clean, renewable energy in houses of worship. We work toward environmental justice, in mutual ministry with the community of faith.

Houses of worship leave a notable environmental imprint. Per capita, per hour of use, they're among the biggest wasters of energy, and the United States has more houses of worship than any other country! Many congregations recognize the moral imperative for stewardship, but don't always stand on the moral "high ground" when it comes to actual energy usage. We need to become better stewards and, in the process preserve more of our resources for our core ministries.

In providing a religious response to global warming MIPL emphasizes leadership by example. That response requires a trinity of action, namely: conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Each of these is an essential and inherently connected part of an effective response to global warming. As congregations become more effective at conservation and efficiency we can devote more attention to renewable energy: wind, solar, small hydroelectric, geothermal and others.

For lots of good information (including Everyday Environmental Stewardship briefs on topics such as thermostats, utility use & cost tracking, shower cost, on-demand domestic hot water and so on) go to the MIP&L web page: www.MIPandL.org.

What Makes Us Happy?

The color **Green** and the sound of music. Thus it's easy to understand the smiles of folks at Lowell Folk Festival in late July.



Warm?? Not a problem, when it's solar electricity ("photovoltaics" for those of you with an engineering passion) to the rescue. You might say we're a big fan of PV!



**Sincerely,
Your friends at MIP&L**



East Sky, Lake Adirondack, Fourth Lake on the Fulton Chain
Photo by Tom Nutt-Powell

Everyday Environmental Stewardship

really does mean everyday, and everyway. MIP&L's **EES Briefs** are short, uncomplicated explanations of how to deal with a variety of energy use and environmental issues, from boilers to carpets to paint to showering. Another good source of information on everyday activities and places is...



www.IzzitGreen.com/guide
Check their **Guides** on the places and spaces we go to everyday, including...

- Bookstores
- Coffee Shops
- Day Spas
- Daycare Centers
- Dry Cleaners
- Electricians
- Florists
- Food
- Garden Centers
- Golf Courses
- [Houses of Worship](#)
- Movie Theaters
- Nightlife
- Pizza
- Real Estate
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Takeout Food
- Yoga & Gym

Declare your energy independence!

How can you promote renewable energy? Don't the utilities and the government control where our energy comes from? Yes and no. Massachusetts law requires utilities to provide increasing percentages of electricity from renewable sources, so that 25% of our electricity will be renewable by 2030. Clean Energy Choice is a program that provides incentives for individuals and businesses to purchase renewable energy through their electric utility.

Here's how it works. You can elect to purchase renewable energy through National Grid, either on-line (go to www.cleanenergychoice.org) or by mail. **For every 1 dollar spent** to purchase renewable energy, **two dollars of grant money is earned**. One of those dollars goes to Andover to fund a renewable energy project. A second dollar goes to meet the energy needs of low-income people. If 150 people in Andover sign up during the coming year, a photovoltaic solar panel will be awarded to a public building in Andover. A solar panel on an Andover school will make the statement that Andover knows that the future of the Massachusetts economy is in renewable energy. It will also be an inspiring educational tool for students that moves us one step closer to energy independence.



Three from the Boston Herald

The August 10, 2008 Sunday edition of the Boston Herald published three articles on the problem of rising heating costs faced by many congregations.

Click on the title link for a printable, letter-sized PDF copy. Click here for [the full Boston Herald spread](#) containing all three articles (11x14 inches, 3.1 MB).

[Praying for better efficiency](#) features interview with MIP&L President and co-founder Tom Nutt-Powell.

[No sanctuary from heating costs, as churches feel pinch](#) on the rising costs of heating faced by houses of worship.

[Churches eye new solutions](#) features energy saving measures by local congregations, including many MIP&L members.