



Massachusetts

Interfaith Power & Light

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www.MIPandL.org

Promoting environmental justice and care of creation with the community of faith in Massachusetts

December 2005

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 7

Recent Events –

What have we been up to?

What has Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light been up to recently? Here is a quick snapshot.

On November 21, MIP&L co-sponsored a light dinner and climate presentation by Robert Watson at the [Cambridge Forum](#) held at (MIP&L member) First Parish in Cambridge. Other event co-sponsors were the Environmental Group of First Parish and Green Decade/Cambridge. Robert Watson is the chief scientist and director of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank and Chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC). In his talk, he explored the implications of the 2005 report of the U.N. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Much of the event organization was done by MIP&L Executive Committee member Michele Sprengnether, and the talk was filmed by MIP&L co-founder Steve MacAusland.

On November 29, MIP&L participated in a “[Care for Creation](#)” panel in Salem. This panel discussion on faith and the environment was filmed by Salem Access TV (SATV) in their studio. The panel included Lara Hoke, Program Director of MIP&L; Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell of (new MIP&L member) First Church in Salem, Unitarian; Rabbi Lee Levin of Temple Shalom, Salem; and representatives from SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment) and Healthlink. This discussion will be showing on SATV throughout December and into 2006.

On December 3, MIP&L co-sponsored the [International Day of Action on Global Warming](#), which was held at (MIP&L member) the Cathedral of Saint Paul in downtown Boston.

The panel at this event included MIP&L’s Lara Hoke; Mindy Lubber, President of Ceres; Julian Agyeman, Professor & Environmental Justice Organizer, Tufts University; Jason Mathers, Union of Concerned Scientists; representatives of Students for Environmental Action, Northeastern University; and independent activist and event co-organizer Loie Hayes. This event mirrored the convergence of thousands of delegates on Montreal for the United National Climate Conference on the same day. Participants at the Boston event called on local, state and federal officials to take leadership steps to address global warming. In addition to MIP&L, co-sponsors included Alternatives for Community & Environment; Clean Power Now; Clean Water Action; Climate Crisis Coalition; Conservation Law Foundation; Environmental League of Massachusetts; Global Warming Coalition /Lexington; Healthlink; Massachusetts Climate Action Network; MASSPIRG; Tellus Institute; and Union of Concerned Scientists. ■

Upcoming MIP&L Event in Worcester:

Faith and the Environment

~~December 29~~ ~~7-8:30 p.m.~~

at United Congregational Church (6 Institute Rd.)

At this workshop, we will deliver a brand new

presenting
energy
dependence
on hazardous
energy
Participate
help to
us call

This event is moving back to 2006

postponed

justice. Learn how your energy use choices are related to faith! [To learn more or to RSVP:](#) 508-795-1400 or lhoke@MIPandL.org.

Eco-Gifts for the Holidays!

- You can buy New England Wind in blocks of \$25 to offset the polluting emissions of your loved ones.

This is just the right stocking stuffer or Hanukah gift – a breath of fresh air for hearth



and home! It is tax-deductible, and your \$25 donation is matched by up to \$50 from the Clean Energy Choice program (a grant to your community and to low-income communities in the

state) – see www.CleanEnergyChoice.org for more info!

- Give yourself the gift of a [Free Home Energy Audit!](#)

Learn how you can save energy – and money – as the costs of gas, oil, and electricity have gone up. You will also learn about rebates for being more efficient. If you have NSTAR or NGRID electric, call 1-866-527-7283 to set up an audit. If you have municipal electric, call MIP&L at 1-800-406-5374, and we will tell you how to get an audit.



- Give a plant or [tree](#), which cleans the air, beautifies our living space and lasts for years.
- Gifts can also be [things to do](#), not just things to have – e.g., a gift certificate to a class; lessons; tickets, etc.

- You can also give creative gift "coupons" for [services](#) such as babysitting, raking, weeding or cooking.
- Another idea is membership in an environmental organization or a donation to a favorite charity in the recipient's name. [Tax deductible gifts to Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light](#) are certainly welcomed! In fact, this year, thanks to a generous grant from the National IP&L (The Regeneration Project), [we will be able to match any donation to MIP&L](#) (up to the \$10,000 grant). Make your gift double – now's the time!

- [The gift of interior storm windows!](#)

Did you know that interior storm windows work better than exterior storm/screen windows, which have air penetration to permit moisture to drip out at the bottom when the screen portion is in use? Go to www.MIPandL.org – to the right, you will see "What You Can Do!" Beneath this, click on "EveryDay Stewardship". There you can download instructions for easy, low-cost installations. [Link: MIPandL.org/pdfs/EES.MIPL.StormWindows.pdf](#)

[MIP&L welcomes new members:](#)

First Church in Salem, Unitarian
First Parish in Waltham
St. John's Church, Newtonville
Trinity Church, Weymouth

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