



Dear MIP&L members and friends,

Environmental Assessments as Preparation for Holy Action

February 25 is **Ash Wednesday**, a day that in the Christian tradition begins a 40-day period of assessing one's life and behavior, ending in the celebration of Easter. This formal, extended period of reflection and change is also found in the Jewish tradition in the time of preparation for **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**, and in the Muslim month-long observation of **Ramadan**. Each of these traditions follows practices that involve asking forgiveness for past sins, praying for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and trying to purify through self-restraint and good deeds. A rabbi with whom I consulted quoted Torah:

"We shall examine our ways, and we shall return to you, O G-d."

One often hears the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Younger children often forego candy. As we become older we focus on giving up various pleasures. Yet the tendency is that these acts of "giving up" are temporary, that we can return to life as we knew it.

What is true in each faith tradition is that this assessment is of everything. And in each tradition the time is spent leading up to what is the holiest of days, **Easter**, **Eid ul-Fitr**, and **Yom Kippur**. These holy days are baseline, they send us forth to the next year of holy action, consistent with our faith and our need to practice it every day, in every way.

So I invite each of us to use the next 40+ days as a time of personal, faithful environmental assessment. Earth Day is April 22. It is a once-a-year time when we all affirm our need to care for the earth.

This month's *Everyday Environmental Assessment* brief is on *Home Energy Audits*. Preparing for such an audit is "an examination of our ways". It is a way to identify what is important, what to keep, what to eliminate, what to change. And when the Audit is finished, we have been guided (and even financially assisted) to change, in ways that will help the environment — starting at home for ourselves, and our neighbors, and our communities, and, yes for all world.

So I encourage each of us to prepare for, then invite in the Home Energy Audit professionals. And encourage all your friends and neighbors to do the same. Assess what to change, then act in that holiest of ways, caring for each other.

After all, If We Don't, Who Will?

Tom Nutt-Powell
President

SUCCESS STORY: St. James, Cambridge

RING 350

Have a boiler room that looks like this?



Want to have it look clean and green, like this?



Interested in carbon footprint reductions of over 50%?
What to cut utility costs by over 40%?
Find out how St. James in Cambridge did just that! ([Click here](#))

Inspired? Achieved a lot also?

Write your success story. We'd love to highlight it in a coming newsletter ... and post it on the MIP&L web site.

STEM Event



Savings Through Energy Management for This Old House Of Worship brings 5 to 10 congregations together in five 3-hour training sessions. Sponsor one with congregations in your community. Create interest, and a support group for implementations.

What to learn more? Come to the **STEM Information & Networking Workshop, Sunday, March 8, 2009, 3-5 p.m.**
Where? **First Church Belmont (UU)**,
404 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA

Sponsored by Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, UU Mass Action in collaboration with The Green Sanctuary Team of First Church in Belmont (UU). *Please RSVP.*

For more info and to RSVP, contact Nancy Banks of UU Mass Action at nancy.banks1@verizon.net or call 617-835-5426.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD - [download the poster](#), then send to others.

EES of the Month - Home Energy Audit



Go to [MIP&L home page](#) and click on the EES of the month link. Or click "[Everyday Stewardship](#)" on the green sidebar and download the file.

This month is a "two-fer": you'll learn about Home Audits, and can find out how one MIP&L member household benefited from its home audit.

Get Ready — Prepare a history of your Utility Use & Cost

Get a Spreadsheet
Fill It Out. Keep Using It.

Get Set — Call for the Free Audit

Read Case Studies of Home Audits at the MIP&L web site
Call MassSave 1.800.632.8300 or Set Up via On-line access:
www.MassSave.com.

Go — Implement the Results

Make Use of Rebates for Appliances Heating Cooling DHW Lighting
Change Your Behavior.
Encourage your Friends and Neighbors to do the Same.

Boston Buying Power



Boston Buying Power will assist Boston's business and nonprofit community in the procurement of electricity and natural gas through the creation of a City wide energy-buying group.

There are two ways to save energy dollars: (1) use less energy, or (2) pay less for what you use. Boston Buying Power addresses both aspects and provides most effective purchasing and energy services. DO BOTH!

Boston Buying Power will combined the purchasing power of thousands of customers across the greater Boston area, giving businesses a host of incredible benefits, including low pricing, and long-term rate stability.

For more information on the program or to enroll, go to the web site www.bostonbuyingpower.com or call 888-317-3923.

MIP&L Annual Meeting



HOLD THE DATE!
Tuesday April 28, 7:15 pm
in Andover, MA

Bring your Earth Day week celebration to a wonderful conclusion.

The meeting will include a compelling speaker, and storytelling of how congregations have been good environmental stewards.

More news to follow!

*Peace and blessings,
Your friends at MIP&L*



See the documentary produced by Lydia Sullivan and Anastasia Boucouvalas-Gianourakos at <http://video.google.com/>

Smiling faces and ringing bells by folks of all ages throughout Massachusetts, sounding out the need for good environmental stewardship. Plus thoughtful words from Bill McKibben (www.350.org), Bishop Bud Cederholm and MIP&L's own Tom Nutt-Powell.

To learn more about 350 Rings to Action, [click here](#).

Andover Speaker Series

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Sustainability and Renewable Energy

Tuesday March 10th

"Wind Power"

Edward Krapels, Chairman,
New England Independent
Transmission Co., LLC,
(the Green Line)
at Andover Baptist Church, 7
Central St., Andover, MA 01810

Tuesday March 17th

Invited: **"Corporate Sustainability"**

Brian Major, Philips Medical
(location TBD).

Tuesday March 24th

"Climate Change and Renewable Energy"

John H. Rogers, Sr. Energy
Analyst, Union of Concerned
Scientists, (location TBD)

Tuesday March 31st

"Solar Energy Applications for Businesses and Residences"

Scott McClintock, Director of
Sales, Nexamp, Inc.
at South Church, UCC, 41
Central St., Andover, MA 01810

Welcome Lyle Pirnie

Lyle Pirnie joined MIP&L in mid November as the Vice President for Member Services. In this function, Lyle is responsible for ensuring that the missions of MIP&L are compatible with the energy needs of members. In addition, Lyle will be actively working to increase MIP&L's membership, and will also be managing several energy-related outreach projects, including one already begun in Lawrence and surrounding communities.

Lyle grew up in Bergenfield, NJ, and graduated from West Point in 1968. He spent five years in the Army, including a year in Vietnam as a platoon leader. After leaving the Army in 1973, Lyle worked in manufacturing, sales, marketing, logistics and government affairs for Corning Glass, Vishay, Tyco, IBM, and Lenovo.

Lyle, his wife and two grown sons live in North Attleboro. He brings a passion for sustainability to MIP&L, and gladly plans to spend the balance of his working career practicing and leading others to effective forms of environmental stewardship.

Know somebody who should receive this newsletter?

Let us know. We're happy to add all to the list. And of course, just forward it now! (use the forward link at the bottom of this newsletter).

To add to our list, visit our website, click "[Join our E-mail List](#)" (under "Membership") to add fill the sign up box.

Or send us an email at MIPandL@MIPandL.org with the email addresses to be added to our mailing list. Write "add to MIP&L email" in the subject line.