



# Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light

## NEWS

January 2009

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

### HOW DOES YOUR HOUSE-OF-WORSHIP RATE???

The Environmental Protection Agency has been working to expand the national Energy Performance Rating system to houses of worship based on the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration 2003 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS). EPA is looking to collaborate with a focus group of houses of worship to help determine the applicability of the rating. **Your congregation can participate in this critical effort.**



For the first time, the proposed energy performance rating will allow houses of worship to be compared with others nationwide. The rating will express energy performance on a scale of 1-to-100, with ratings of 75 or higher eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR designation. An energy rating for houses of worship has been long anticipated and will help congregation leaders assess the energy performance of their buildings, make

more informed budget, investment and management decisions and help ENERGY STAR partners publicize their energy efficiency achievements.

In short, knowing what you are using and where you rate in relation to other houses-of-worship gives you a chance to set goals for improved Environmental Stewardship ... and maybe claim bragging rights in your community!

To participate in the initial test, follow these steps:

1. Download the [ENERGY STAR Religious Worship Benchmark Guidelines](#) by clicking on the link. It contains all the information you need about the project as well as contact information.
2. Download the [ENERGY STAR Religious Worship Data Request Template](#) (Excel file).
3. Complete the template and then send it back.

### Gratitude and Creation



February 21, 2009 at Park Street Church, Boston.

Gather to support each other in spending less, buying justly, and treading lightly on the earth. It all begins with a spirit of gratitude. The program begins at 4:30 pm with hands-on workshops, with take-home practices for your family and your congregation. Following the workshops will be a simple dinner and time for fellowship, then a gathering for ecumenical prayer in the spirit of repentance and recommitment. Shane Claiborne will be the keynote speaker.

Claiborne is author of *Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical* and is the founder of *The Simple Way*, an intentional service community in North Philadelphia. To learn more about Shane and his ministry, visit [www.thesimpleway.org](http://www.thesimpleway.org).

The program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the Boston Faith and Justice Network and MIP&L. Suggested donation \$12. RSVP encouraged but not required. Contact Laura E. Everett, 617- 523-2771 x.14, email: [council@masscouncilofchurches.org](mailto:council@masscouncilofchurches.org).

### EES of the Month - Solar Energy



Go to the [MIP&L homepage](#) and click on the link!

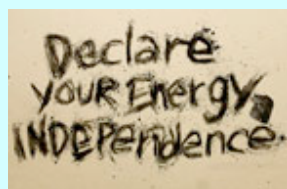
**Save money! Save the planet!**

### Clean Energy Choice

#### You have the power! Choose clean energy!

Through the Clean Energy Choice program, you can:

1. Support clean energy.
2. Earn money for clean energy projects for your town or city.
3. Earn money for clean energy projects to benefit low-income assistance programs throughout Massachusetts.



**Sign-up now!**

[www.cleanenergychoice.org](http://www.cleanenergychoice.org)

Not having your electricity be 100% clean is like choosing to swim in a pool fed by dirty water. Neither is good for you, your neighbors or the world!

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L

### STEM



#### 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. More information [here](#).

### National Climate Change Teach-In

## NATIONAL TEACH-IN

February 5, 2009  
ON GLOBAL WARMING

Occurring throughout the US and Massachusetts. **Join In.**

For information go to [www.nationalteachin.org](http://www.nationalteachin.org).

Then following the National Teach-In — make plans to head to Washington DC the last weekend in February for two historic events:

**Powershift 2009** will draw over 10,000 young people for two days of training and the biggest youth lobbying day in history. And authors Bill McKibben and Wendell Barry are leading a large-scale, **civil disobedience action at a coal plant** inside DC on **Monday, March 2nd.**

### The 2-Mile Challenge



**Clif Bar**, a national leader in corporate sustainability, has joined the National Teach-in as a partner.

Forty Percent of Car Trips are within two miles of your home: Take Clif Bar's Two-Mile Challenge and ride or walk instead!

Check it out at [www.2milechallenge.com](http://www.2milechallenge.com).