



Massachusetts

Interfaith Power & Light

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

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NEWSLETTER

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Fourth Annual “Build the Movement to Stop Global Warming” summer conference

Clean Air-Cool Planet, the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, and the Greenhouse Network have organized the 4th Annual conference on stopping global warming to be held from July 22-24th on Boston’s Thompson Island. This year’s conference will have a dual focus: speaking and community action. Participants will leave with the information and inspiration needed to make a difference in their communities.

The weekend workshop will provide resources on the latest science and solutions, and will feature special sessions:

- renewable energy purchase campaigns
- biodiesel
- wind energy development
- the emerging Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Lara Hoke, program director of Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, will give a presentation entitled, “Global Warming as a Moral Issue – Engaging the Faith Community.”

Other speakers at the conference include Peter Barnes, author of *Sky Trust* and founder of Working Assets; Marc Breslow, Ph.D., Director, Massachusetts Climate Action Network; Larry Chretien, Executive Director, Mass Energy ; Eban Goodstein, Ph.D., author of *The Trade-off Myth: Fact and Fiction About Jobs and the Environment* and Director of the Green House Network; Mike Jacobs, American Wind Energy Association; Kim Lundgren, Northeast Regional Capacity Center, ICLEI; Andy Stern, Hull Wind; Bob Wall, New England Regional Director, SmartPower; and Mark Rodgers, Cape Wind Associates.

Go to www.cleanair-coolplanet.org or www.massclimateaction.org to learn more and register today.

Welcome Carissa Williams, New MIP&L Intern!

MIP&L is pleased to announce that Carissa Williams is our new intern to work on the “Clean Energy and Faith” Campaign in Worcester (through a grant from the Renewable Energy Trust at MTC). Carissa has been working as the Clean Energy Coordinator for the Regional Environmental Council and Clean Water Action. Carissa has an M.A. in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University and has been prominent in the City of Worcester’s movement toward clean energy policies. *A thank you to Natalie Howlett, our outgoing intern, who did a wonderful job!*



Above: Carissa Williams, new MIP&L intern; Lara Hoke, MIP&L program director; and Jim Gordon, President of Cape Wind; at the official opening of Boston’s first wind turbine, at the IBEW on Freeport Street in Dorchester, on May 27, 2005 (turbine visible behind American flag).

Reminder: Presentations in Worcester

Would you like MIP&L to do a presentation – or even a sermon – on clean energy and faith at your **Worcester** congregation? Just ask! We’ll be there. Our local number is 508-795-1400, or e-mail us at lhoke@MIPandL.org. *And welcome to new Worcester member, **First Unitarian Church!***

Mutual Ministry: Yes, Summer is Here!

It was cold and rainy in May, but in June we've seen some *hot* summer weather. This is a reminder that there's no better time than the summer to choose clean electricity for your home, congregation, and office! Why?

In Massachusetts, our boilers and furnaces go off and the fans and window air-conditioners go on when the summer weather starts.

What happens when you turn the fans and window air conditioners on? You use electricity, and usually more than you were using in the colder months (unless you have electrical heat, Heaven forbid!). It's probably not something that most of us think about, but every time we use electricity we are polluting the earth. The electricity that we use comes from power plants. The vast majority of these power plants burn non-renewable fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. These power plants cause a great deal of pollution and impact the health and safety of those who live near them. Unfortunately, these same power plants are disproportionately located in poor communities and communities of color. This is a phenomenon known as "environmental injustice" and "environmental racism".

Another thing to remember: The adverse impacts of this pollution have the most

potential to harm human health in the summer, when we spend more time outside.

The good news is, you can make a difference: You can make a clean energy choice. You can choose to offset your own electricity use with a clean, renewable energy supplier.

How do you make this choice? Go to www.CleanEnergyChoice.org. Once there, you can learn about your options and link to sign-up information. If you don't have Internet access, or if you would prefer to talk to someone, you can call MIP&L at 800.406.5374 for assistance.

What else can you do? Spread the good news of clean energy. Make an announcement at your church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. Contact MIP&L if you would like a sample announcement or a sample blurb for your bulletin and newsletter. Our number is above, and our e-mail is lhoke@MIPandL.org.

There's another thing you can do. Request a free home energy audit. These utility-sponsored audits will help you determine ways that you can conserve energy (and save money and reduce pollution) in your home. Contact MIP&L to learn more.

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