



Massachusetts

## Interfaith Power & Light

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

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

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NEWSLETTER

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### MIP&L Earth Day Activity in Worcester



As we reported in our February newsletter, MIP&L is currently collaborating on a public awareness campaign in Worcester with the Regional Environmental Council (REC) and the Clean Water Fund (CWF). Specifically, MIP&L

has begun its **“Behold, I’m Doing a New Thing: Clean Energy Campaign for the Community of Faith in Worcester”**. MIP&L has been working closely with REC and CWF on their “20% clean energy for the City of Worcester by 2010” initiative. Many members of the community of faith in Worcester have been encouraging their City Councilors to vote in favor of the “20% by 2010” resolution as well as pledging to sign up for clean energy in their own homes. Houses of worship in Worcester are beginning to look into signing up for clean energy for their facilities, too. So far, we’re off to a promising and exciting start!

MIP&L will hold a **forum** in honor of Earth Day: **“Clean Energy and Faith”**. This forum will take place on **April 19** (Tuesday) from **7-8 p.m.** at the **United Congregational Church of Worcester**. In just one hour, forum participants will learn how to make a choice that will help the earth and its inhabitants – a choice that helps us care for creation and create environmental justice. For more details, including directions and a downloadable flyer, please visit [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) and click on the

orange “April 19 event” button. To RSVP or ask questions, call MIP&L at 508-795-1400.

The Regional Environmental Council has, for years, held memorable Earth Day events in Worcester, and 2005 is no exception. REC is having its Earth Day Festival at the EcoTarium (222 Harrington Way) on April 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be a series of family events, and it will happen rain or shine! Also, REC is hosting Worcester’s 16th annual Earth Day community cleanup on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. To learn more, call REC at 508-799-9139.

#### Related Websites for Worcester Earth Day:

MIP&L: [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) REC: [www.recworchester.org](http://www.recworchester.org)  
CWF: [www.cleanwaterfund.org](http://www.cleanwaterfund.org)  
CEC: [www.CleanEnergyChoice.org](http://www.CleanEnergyChoice.org)

### MIP&L Earth Day Activity in Boston

MIP&L will also hold an Earth Day event in Boston – save the date! On **April 24** (Sunday) at **6 p.m.**, MIP&L will celebrate Earth Day at historic **Old North Church in Boston**. We will send out more details, including a list of our guests of honor, shortly! Check our website, [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org), for updates as they are available. For more information, please call MIP&L co-founder Steve MacAusland at 781-329-7335.



**Save the Date:** MIP&L will make a presentation at the Liberty Tree Faith Forum on Friday, **April 22**, from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Central United Methodist Church in **Brockton**. Please join us!

## New Membership and Energy Audit Structure for MIP&L

More than 70 Congregations have joined MIP&L since 2002, making the decision to improve their environmental stewardship through energy conservation and clean energy choices. Many, many more than these 70 congregations have contacted us and expressed serious interest in joining – whether



Above: Trinity Church in Newton Centre, a loyal MIP&L member since our inception.

to work toward environmental justice in a more deliberate fashion or to get an energy audit and save money along with saving energy. For some congregations, MIP&L's membership dues felt "steep".

**For 2005, MIP&L has lowered its membership dues** in the hopes that we have removed the financial barriers for all interested

congregations to join and get involved. As before, the initial membership fee depends upon your congregation's annual operating budget. If your annual operating budget is \$150,000 or less, your initial membership fee will be **\$50**. If your annual operating budget is more than \$150,000 but less than \$350,000, your initial membership fee will be **\$100**. If your annual operating budget is more than \$350,000, your initial membership fee will be **\$250**. This is **significantly lower** than our membership fees in the past. There is no reason not to join and work with us toward environmental justice and care of creation!

How can we afford to lower our membership dues? Simply, because MIP&L membership no longer *includes* the energy audit and extensive Environmental Stewardship Report, which will now be done on a fee-for-service basis. We believe that separating basic membership from the full, extensive energy assessment process will get more congregations involved in environmental stewardship, and that they will proceed with the energy assessment when they are ready.

Please visit our website, [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) and click on "FAQ about membership" for more information. You can also call us at 800-406-5374 with questions.

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