



# Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light NEWS

MARCH 2009

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

## MIP&L ANNUAL MEETING — Be Green, Be Seen!

**Tuesday April 28, 7:30 pm**  
**Andover Baptist Church**  
**7 Central Street, Andover, MA**

**What have we done? Where are we going?**  
**Find out at MIP&L's Annual Meeting.**

Be sure your congregation is represented. Lots to learn, and then to put into practice.

**Mark Gallagher, District Office Director for Rep. Edward Markey, (D-7th Mass. Dist.) will be the featured speaker.**

Rep. Markey has introduced important legislation in Congress that will increase clean renewable energy and energy efficiency. The American Renewable Energy Act would require the United States to draw a quarter of its electricity from clean sources by 2025. "With our economy in crisis, renewable energy can create hundreds of thousands of new green jobs, revitalize declining manufacturing sectors, and decrease global warming pollution," said Markey, who chairs the Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming and the energy and environment subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Clean energy is the fastest growing sector of the Massachusetts economy. It is widely believed that a national renewable energy standard will be enacted by this Congress.

Markey also introduced a second bill that would require the country to reduce energy consumption 15 percent by 2020. Markey estimates that the Save American Energy Act would eliminate the need for 300 new medium-size power plants. Rep Markey has been a leading national advocate of legislation to support American energy independence and to combat global warming.

Other major elements of the annual meeting are awards for significant contributions to environmental stewardship, success stories from those hard at work, information on events and activities, and election of the MIP&L Executive Committee and officers.

### Work in Progress: Grace/Esperanza, Lawrence

MIP&L recently began working with Grace Church and the Esperanza Academy in Lawrence to make repairs to the old facilities, and to teach green job skills in the process.



Grace Episcopal Church was built in 1853. Although two extra office buildings were added in subsequent years, some of the windows and heating fixtures still date back to the original construction. Three are three boilers and two old heating systems being used at the Grace office complex. They are rapidly breaking down.



Esperanza Academy is a Nativity School in the Episcopalian tradition. Esperanza serves middle school-aged Hispanic girls from Lawrence whose families are economically disadvantaged.

Tom Nutt-Powell and Lyle Pirnie from MIP&L recently completed a thorough capital

needs assessment of the buildings. With Susan Almono from Grace Church and Jane Johnson from Esperanza, they are working on foundation grants and energy company rebates and savings-based loans to pay the cost of the transformation of the heating and lighting infrastructure.

The city of Lawrence is economically depressed, and has a very high Hispanic unemployment rate. The intent is to get as much of the building repair work done by Grace congregation members, parents of Esperanza students, and members of the Lawrence Hispanic community. The purpose of this is to teach un- and under-employed adults green job skills, so that they can work as sustainability contractors in the Lawrence community

The intent is to replicate this project in other cities in Massachusetts in the coming months. If you are interested in participating in a similar program through your house of worship, please contact Lyle at [Lyle@MIPandL.org](mailto:Lyle@MIPandL.org).

### Faith and Electricity in Andover ... the Future for Massachusetts?

Faith and electricity are two words that rarely work their way into the same sentence, but Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light is bringing faith and electricity together. MIP&L is sponsoring a four-part lecture series in Andover, MA, focused on renewable energy, which some believe to be a "fuel from Heaven."



The first lecture took place March 10 at Temple Emanuel. Edward Krapels, founder of the Anbaric Northeast Transmission Development Co., spoke about the need for transmission to help incorporate renewable energy into the power grid. While some have championed an "electric superhighway" that would deliver Midwestern wind power to both New York and Los Angeles, Mr. Krapels has a different vision. In his talk he said, "It makes no sense to spend a lot of money building power lines from South Dakota to New England when there are wind resources right here." He also spoke about

his project, the Green Line, which would connect wind energy in Maine to a substation in Boston via an environmentally benign 140-mile subsea power cable in the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Krapels said that he believes that federal legislation requiring utilities to generate higher percentages of electricity from renewable energy — a national renewable portfolio standard — will be passed by Congress in a matter of months. He believes that it is feasible for 50 to 60% of American electricity needs to be generated by wind and other renewable energy sources.

Krapels was the first in a four-part series in Andover which include discussions on oil reserves, climate change, and solar energy. On March 17th Dick Lawrence, co-founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil spoke at the West Parish Church, UCC. His talk was entitled, Are We Running Out of Oil? Peak Oil, Climate Change & Renewable Energy. The rest of the lineup includes:

- **How Will Climate Change Affect Andover? Making a Difference with Renewable Energy**, with John H. Rogers, Energy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists — March 24 at Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central Street, Andover, and
- **Can Solar Technology Lower Your Energy Costs?** with Scott McClintock, Nexamp, Inc. March 31, at South Church, UCC, 41 Central St., Andover.

CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE is a way to support renewable energy today by requiring your utility to purchase renewable energy. For every dollar spent, grant money is earned for renewable energy projects in your town and to meet the energy needs of lower income folks. Over 30 towns have obtained solar panels on public buildings without cost through Clean Energy Choice. Andover has earned \$29,000 in CEC grant money. To sign up go to [www.cleanenergychoice.org](http://www.cleanenergychoice.org) or call 508-870-0312.

### Ministry for Earth Community



On **April 24th, 2009**, Harvard Divinity School (HDS) will host a one-day conference called "**Ministry for Earth Community**." While the environment is often approached as one issue in competition with other important issues, this event will address ecology as the universal context for all religious practice and ministry. The day will begin with a panel discussion featuring three distinguished scholars:

**Susan Abraham**, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Ministry Studies at HDS, will consider ecology from a post-colonial perspective.

**Roger S. Gottlieb**, Professor of Philosophy at WPI, is a leader in the field of "Religion and Ecology," and has written several definitive texts on religious environmentalism.

**Willis Jenkins**, Margaret A. Farley Assistant Professor of Social Ethics at Yale Divinity School, is a fresh voice at the forefront of Christian environmental ethics.)

The afternoon will consist of a series of practical workshops ranging from "*Gardening as Spiritual Practice*" with members of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, to Tom Nutt-Powell's "*Pilgrimage to the Boiler Room*." The event will culminate in a worship service and blessing of the freshly dug HDS community garden. This event is free, and open to all, especially lay and ordained religious leaders.

**Sponsored by:** MIP&L, The Boston Theological Institute, ECOdiv at HDS, HDS Office of Ministry Studies, MA Conference UCC Environmental Ministries, MA Council of Churches.

Please RSVP to: [btioffice@bostontheological.org](mailto:btioffice@bostontheological.org).

AND PLEASE POST/CIRCULATE the informational flyer. ([Click here](#) to download the flyer)

### OUR FATHER'S WORLD



Our Father's World is a seminar that builds on the content of the book "*Our Father's World - Mobilizing the Church to Care for Creation*" by Ed Brown, Director of *Care of Creation*.

- April 18, 2009**  
Faith Baptist Church, Auburn co-hosted by Bethel Seminary
- April 22, 2009**  
Amherst Center for Christian Studies, Amherst
- April 23, 2009**  
Park Street Church, Boston
- April 25, 2009**  
Christ Church, South Hamilton co-hosted by Gordon College

The intended audience is evangelical Christians who are concerned and perhaps confused about the role that they, and their churches, should be playing in responding to today's environmental crisis. Beginning with the Bible's teaching about God and his world, the seminar will help participants to understand how things they already believe lead to a reasonable and consistent – and nonpolitical – response to environmental issues.

Practical topics include integrating creation care with worship, Christian education and local outreach, the place of creation care in missions, and ways that individuals and families can begin making creation-friendly lifestyle changes.

Details about each of these seminars are available at <http://careofcreation.net/home/seminar-schedule/>

### EES of the Month – Green Electricity



Spring has arrived, and things are growing, with green everywhere. Here's how to make your home filled with **GREEN ELECTRICITY**.

Go to the MIP&L home page and click on the link: [www.mipandl.org/ees.html](http://www.mipandl.org/ees.html)

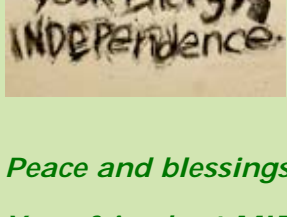
**Get Set – Call for the Free Audit, Read Case**

### 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!**

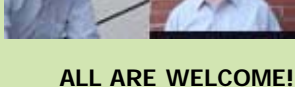
[www.cleanenergychoice.org](http://www.cleanenergychoice.org)

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**

### Andover Speaker Series



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

#### Sustainability and Renewable Energy

**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

### Don't Get Steamed Up, Get Stem'd Up!



#### Savings Through Energy Management for This Old House of Worship

brings 5 to 10 congregations together in five 3-hour training sessions aimed at introducing houses of worship to energy savings techniques which can be used to save energy, save money, and fight climate change.

Each workshop is designed for learning and networking, and for those interested, on planning how to bring STEM workshops to other congregations in the Massachusetts faith community.

The five week collaborative course will help you ...

... Create a comprehensive low-cost written energy audit for your house of worship

... Learn about your building systems on-site and create detailed studies of them

... Calculate potential savings for your church, both short term and long term

... Get information on rebates and other sources of funds

... Learn strategies to get congregational buy-in

There is a nominal charge for attending a STEM. The sponsoring congregations get a substantial rebate from MIP&L when the STEM sessions are complete. And a bonus for bringing new congregations in as members of MIP&L.

If you want more information about STEM, please contact Lyle Pirnie at [Lyle@MIPandL.org](mailto:Lyle@MIPandL.org).

### RING 350



See the documentary produced by Lydia Sullivan and Anastasia Boucouvalas-Gianourakas 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](http://www.350.org)), Bishop Bud Cederholm and MIP&L's own Tom Nutt-Powell.

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

### 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") and fill the sign up box.

Or send us an email at [MIPandL@MIPandL.org](mailto:MIPandL@MIPandL.org) with the email addresses to be added to our mailing list.

Write "add to MIP&L email" in the subject line.



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**MIP&L Annual Meeting Hold the date!**

**Tuesday April 28, 7:30 pm**  
in Andover, MA  
Bring your Earth Day week celebration to a wonderful conclusion.



### Andover Speaker Series

**Tues 3/24, 7:30 PM**  
"Climate Change and Renewable Energy" with John H. Rogers, Sr. Energy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists.

**Tues 3/31, 7:30PM**  
"Solar Energy Applications for Businesses and Residences" with Scott McClintock, Director of Sales, Nexamp, Inc.



### Ministry for Earth Community

**Friday, April 24**  
at Harvard Divinity School  
[Click here](#) to RSVP.



### Our Father's World

- April 18, 2009**  
at Faith Baptist Church, Auburn
- April 22, 2009**  
at Amherst Center for Christian Studies, Amherst
- April 23, 2009**  
at Park Street Church, Boston
- April 25, 2009**  
at Christ Church, South Hamilton

[Click here](#) for more info.