



Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light NEWS

MAY 2009

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

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

MIP&L's annual meeting is timed to be part of the celebration of Earth Day. This year's theme — **Be Green, Be Seen!** — resounded through each portion of the meeting.



Green Public Policy



Held at the Andover Baptist Church, the meeting featured **Mark Gallagher**, District Office Director for Rep. Edward Markey, (D-7th Mass. Dist.). Key elements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were described. This and other efforts by Rep. will increase clean renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Rep Markey 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. Rep Markey has been a leading national advocate of legislation to support American energy independence and to combat global warming.

And A Child Shall Lead Them



As if the news of significant legislative and administration initiatives were not enough, attendees were treated to a genuine reason for hope. Three students from **Central Catholic High School** described a broad array of sustainability projects in the school and in the greater Lawrence community.

Included in these are completely replacing all light bulbs in the school with energy efficient bulbs, building a retention pond adjacent to a new parking lot, and cleaning the pond drains regularly to prevent pollutants from escaping into the Spicket River, annual cleanup projects of the Spicket River, involving both students and faculty, installing weather-resistant plexiglass on all stained glass windows in the

school chapel, the use of "virtual dissection in Biology labs to avoid needless killing of animals, and the use of micro systems in Chemistry labs to avoid chemical spillage into the waste water system. Students and faculty are working together to develop the course curriculum for an Environmentalism class.

Pictured above (L to R) are Samantha Pierro, Matthew Camire, Ms. Betty Desjardins (teacher), Lisa Hua, Bro. Rene Roy (Principal) and Mr. Romanus Maduabuchi (teacher).

MIP&L Awards

In addition to recognizing Central Catholic High with its *Learning By Doing award*, MIP&L applauded the wonderful work of several other persons and organizations, including...

- **Andover League of Women Voters**, for *Clean Energy Choice promotion*
- **Rev. Dr. James Antal** (UCC Conference Minister), for *Ringing Leadership*
- **Clean Water Action**, for *Practical Advocacy*
- **Candy Dann** (Andover resident and activist), for *Boundless Energy for Green*
- **Massachusetts Climate Action Network**, for *Local Sustainability efforts*
- **Massachusetts Technology Collaborative**, for *Leadership for Economically Viable Green in the Commonwealth*
- **Joseph Piantedosi** (Director Plant and Facilities, Town of Andover), for *Making Andover Energy Efficient*

Meeting a Green Event



Special thanks to Kyle McKinney of Andover Baptist. The MIP&L Annual Meeting was a green event through Kyle's contribution to the **New England Wind Fund**. The New England Wind Fund will offset the energy used at this event through long-term renewable energy certificate contracts with new community scale wind projects in Massachusetts and the greater New England area. For more information on how you can **Go Green** for your events, visit www.newenglandwind.org.

MIP&L: The Future of Faith In Action for Creation

During the seven years since its inception MIPandL has partnered with over 160 faith communities in Massachusetts to lower their energy bills and reduce their carbon footprints. Sponsoring **STEM** (Savings Through Energy Management) for This Old House of Worship courses began this past year. MIPandL's organization of community efforts to promote renewable energy under the Clean Energy Choice program has enabled Salem and Worcester to obtain solar panels for public buildings, with Andover next in line.



A variety of initiatives are underway for 2009, which were described by members of the Executive Committee. One initiative, spearheaded by Susan Almono Seaquist and Lyle Pirnie, is **Building Sustainable Communities With Green Jobs**. MIP&L is partnering with lower-income communities to provide green job training. An intensive summer workshop led by MIP&L will give Lawrence youth hands-on experience in making buildings energy efficient. MIP&L will then assist them in carrying the message to others, including their homes, other houses-of-worship and other schools. This will also enable some to obtain either jobs or higher level green job training.



For the first effort, MIP&L is collaborating with Esperanza Academy, Grace Episcopal Church and Tesoro Parent/Teen Network in Lawrence. The church and school buildings need renovations and maintenance to improve energy efficiency, but the church lacks the necessary resources. At the same time, local youth need job skills and employment.

MIPandL is forming a similar collaboration in Lowell with faith communities, JFY Networks and educational institutions.

MIP&L's Executive Committee

MIP&L's activities are guided by an **Executive Committee**, whose members include:

- **Vincent Maraventano** (West Roxbury) — Vince earned an MDiv from Andover Newton Theological School in 2006 and is on an ordination track in the United Church of Christ. He has led MIPandL's efforts to mobilize communities to support renewable energy and to take local action to address global warming. Vince previously served as counsel to the MA Department of Environmental Protection for thirteen years. While at DEP he worked on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and industrial and motor vehicle emissions. Vince holds a JD from Boston College Law School.
- **Lyle Pirnie** (North Attleboro) — Lyle is a West Point graduate and Officer in the US Army from 1968-1973 (including service in Vietnam). He is trained as an engineer. Following military service, Lyle worked his way up from a shift supervisor at a manufacturing facility to executive positions at Lyle Corning and IBM. He also holds an MBA from Syracuse University.
- **Susan Almono Seaquist** (North Andover) — Susan has 20 years experience in non-profit administration, fundraising, and program development and management. Her primary interest is working with low income communities to raise awareness of resource saving techniques to save money and combat global climate change. She has worked as a construction area manager and as a Peace Corps Technical Trainer in the Dominican Republic. Susan is fluent in Spanish and holds an MS in International Development and Appropriate Technology from the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Jim Nail** (Medfield) — Jim is a 27-year veteran of the marketing and advertising field, but his passion for environmental issues goes back to the first Earth Day in 1970. He has served on the Environmental Issues Task Force of the Direct Marketing Association and his town's recycling committee. Jim incorporates his environmental commitment into his daily life by driving a 2002 Prius and installing solar photovoltaic and hot water systems on his house. He currently serves the parish of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Dover as their Senior Warden.
- **Jeffrey Barz-Snell** (Salem) — Jeff is a community leader and minister, first over a decade of experience in environmental advocacy. He is currently minister of The First Church in Salem (Unitarian), and serves as President of the Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE). Jeff received a Masters in Public Policy from Tufts University (2009). His MDiv is from Boston University School of Theology.
- **Thomas E. Nutt-Powell** (Brookline) — Tom is co-founder of MIPandL, a product of service on the Property Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and overseeing capital improvements at his congregation, All Saints Parish, Brookline. ASP was named the Energy Star Congregation of the Year in 2003. His professional background is in affordable housing, where energy conservation is a key to meeting market and mission. Tom also served on the faculty of MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, where he received his PhD.

CLIMATE SUMMER

Annual Member Dues



Massachusetts Power Shift (MPS) is putting together an exciting program this summer to bring the energy and enthusiasm of the youth climate movement to the service of all the great work going on in communities across the state to live harmoniously with creation.

Climate Summer (www.massclimatesummer.org) will assemble small teams of 8-10 students to live and bike together, and with the support of local activists and groups, canvass and hold public events to increase community members' knowledge of the issue, awareness of resources, and inspire new action.

What Can You Do?

- **Housing:** Participants will need a roof to sleep under for the duration of their stay (generally 3-4 days). All will be equipped to sleep comfortably on the floor. Students should have access to any available kitchen to prepare meals and ideally would be able to use space during the day for staging and planning space. It would be fantastic, but not necessary, to arrange for showers or potlucks with the host congregation.
- **Presentation:** We are looking for venues and partners to host the sustainability symposium called "Awakening the Dreamer". This three hour motivating program catalogs the state of environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment and social justice of our society, asks how we got here, and explores possibilities for the future. We are looking for space to be used for the program with a projector or television with a DVD player. We are also looking for partners to help with advanced advertising, calendar listings, outreach to other congregations and possible refreshments. More information can be found about the program at www.awakeningthedreamer.org.

Congregational representatives, please contact: Marla Marcum, Chair, Climate Change Task Force, New England Conference, United Methodist Church/ Ph.: 781-475-0996 • marla.marcum@gmail.com.

It's Green Time Again!

We are a "mutual ministry". We depend on you doing your part — by actions and by \$s.



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 with the email addresses to be added to our mailing list. Write "add to MIP&L email" in the subject line.

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



Savings Through Energy Management for This Old House of Worship brings 5 > 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 building 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.

EES of the Month — Green Trash Bags



Every day we use plastic bags to hold our trash, carry our food, protect our papers from the rain, and even to pick up after our dogs. The average family will throw out 1,500 plastic trash bags every year! But less than 2% of these plastic bags will actually make it into the recycling process, which means that over 98% of plastic bags will end up in landfills, in the fires of incinerators, or on the streets as litter. BUT now there are green options. Find out what — then use them!!!

Go to the MIP&L homepage and click on the **EES of the Month** link.

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L