

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

**Roger Gottlieb, Rep. Frank Smizik and Phil Giudice Address
MA Interfaith Power & Light Annual Meeting**

Professor Roger Gottlieb, Rep. Frank Smizik and Undersecretary Phil Giudice were among those receiving awards at Mass Interfaith Power & Light's annual meeting on May 1st. Their remarks highlight why Massachusetts is a leader in caring for creation.

Roger Gottlieb spoke about the important role religious people play in promoting environmentalism. Gottlieb said that humanity's relationship to the environment is a moral issue that needs to be at the center of a faith community's life. Citing the "island" of plastic waste the size of the United States that exists in the Pacific ocean as an example, Gottlieb highlighted one way that consumerism and economic growth threaten the environment. Environmentalism he said is not an just an interest that religious people have in the same way they might be interested in bowling or golf but is a central and critical moral concern.



Professor Gottlieb, the author of more than 10 books including *A Greener Faith, Religious Environmentalism and our Planet's Future*; and editor of the landmark interfaith collection, *This Sacred Earth, Religion Nature and Environment*, was presented with the Prophetic Witness Award.

Rep. **Frank Smizik** of Brookline, chair of the Mass. House Committee on Global Warming spoke about his legislative agenda for this session. Many environmental bills have been filed this session. He discussed three as particularly important: *The Wind Siting Bill* – (H.1775); the *E-Waste Bill*, (H. 252) and the *Sustainable Water Resources Bill* (H.255)

The *Wind Siting Bill* will provide comprehensive siting reform for land based wind projects over 2 megawatts. The bill requires the establishment of statewide siting standards for wind projects to protect wildlife, the environment, and public health. Applicants seeking to develop a land based wind project in areas with a significant wind resource will need to obtain local approval from a consolidated local board or a regional planning board and state approval from the energy facilities siting board. Having streamlined permitting standards will foster more on-shore wind projects while protecting residents.

The *E-Waste Bill* would require producers to be financially responsible for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products such as computers, televisions and printers. The *Sustainable Water Resources Bill* provides a comprehensive approach to stream flow management to safeguard water levels necessary for sustaining healthy ecosystems for fish, and other water-dependent wildlife.

Rep. Smizik was given the Sen. George Mitchell award for his legislative leadership in securing passage of the MA Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Phil Giudice, Undersecretary of Energy and Environment for the Commonwealth spoke about the joy of service. He led the Department of Energy Resources during the initial implementation of the MA Green Communities Act. Mr. Giudice said that Massachusetts has dramatically increased the amount of electricity generated by wind and solar power, two industries essential to our economic growth. He also provided the important reminder that 95% of the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts are focused on improving efficiency. Efficiency first has long been a hallmark of MA IP&L. He also commented that that MA IP&L is an organization that gets things done.

Mr. Giudice was presented with an award in recognition of his work with the Green Communities Act, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and the Mass. Renewable Energy Trust.



Prof. Gottlieb receiving award from Jim Nail, President of MA IP&L

Awards were also presented to:

Barbara Kwetz Allan, for outstanding administration of the state's air quality laws for more than thirty years, including protecting the health of our citizens by effective regulation of ground level ozone and particulate pollution.

Rt. Rev. Roy (Bud) Cederholm, Bishop, Suffragan, Episcopal Diocese of MA for his leadership in incorporating creation care into the life of the Diocese, including implementation of the Green Grants program providing grants to help churches lower their carbon footprints and energy bills.

Susie Davidson of the Boston chapter of the *Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, (COEJL)* for working in cooperation with the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts to recruit more than 40 synagogues to pledge "to green".

First Baptist Church of Newton for recruiting more people than any Mass. faith community to obtain free home energy assessments with a goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 25%.

First Parish Needham, Unitarian Universalist Association, for lowering its carbon footprint by 50% and becoming the first Massachusetts faith community to earn an EPA Energy Star Label.

John Hart, Professor of Christian Ethics, Boston University, for outstanding teaching and scholarship. Prof. Hart has authored five books including: *Cosmic Commons: Spirit, Science, and Space*; *Sacramental Commons: Christian Ecological Ethics*; and the *Spirit of the Earth — A Theology of the Land*, as well as many articles.

Steve Lanou, Deputy Director Sustainability at MIT, for obtaining dramatic reductions of electricity usage at MIT in cooperation with NStar; and

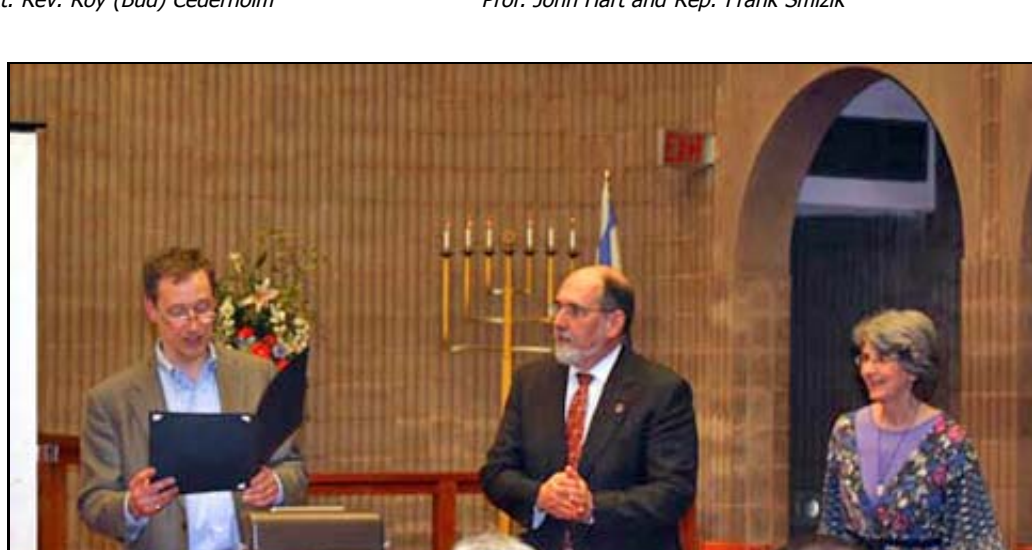
Wadi Muhammad, Energy Star for Congregations and Municipalities, US EPA, New England; for outstanding leadership of the first in the nation regional EPA for Congregations program including promoting the use of Portfolio Manager, EPA's online building benchmarking tool.



The Rt. Rev. Roy (Bud) Cederholm



Prof. John Hart and Rep. Frank Smizik



Jim Nail, President of MA IP&L presenting award to representatives of First Parish Needham



From left to right: Rep. Frank Smizik, Jim Nail, Vince Maraventano, Wadi Muhammad



Prof. Gottlieb with Zainab Lakhani

Outgoing MIP&L Executive Committee member **Susan Almono** and intern **Zainab Lakhani** were also recognized for their service.

"As the Commonwealth's chief environmental official, I would like to thank all of the awardees for their leadership on behalf of the Massachusetts environment, and commend Energy Undersecretary Phil Giudice in particular for the vision and expertise he applies daily in my office as we push the envelope in support of Governor Patrick's clean energy agenda," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

MA IP&L is truly blessed to work in a state with such a talented group of leaders from the academic, government and faith communities.

Workshops on *Making Your Sacred Space Sustainable Space*; *Finding the Funds to Go Green*; and *Education for the Transformation of the Congregation* were well attended and led to productive dialogue and feedback.

**Interfaith Power & Light's National Annual Meeting In Washington —
Inspiration, Education And Advocacy**

MA Interfaith Power & Light board member Fran Ludwig, and Zainab Lakhani joined some 70 IPL staff and volunteers from 38 affiliates for the annual national conference in Washington D.C. from May 2-4th.

The conference presentations reminded us of the phenomenal potential for changing America's attitudes about climate change by working through communities of faith.

Ten percent of Americans belong to an environmental organization, but 83 percent belong to a faith community. We work most powerfully in partnership. Let's build a "coalition of the unexpected," partnership with faith, health, poverty, and industry/business groups.

The concluding session featured an inspiring conversation moderated by Sally Bingham between the progressive Evangelical founder of Sojourners, **Rev. Jim Wallis** and **Rev. Gerald Durley**, an Atlanta minister active in Civil Rights Movement who serves on the national IPL board.

Here are a few quotes from their conversation:

Jim: We were drawn into the civil rights movement by people; we weren't drawn in by strategy or ideas. We were drawn to what people were doing.

Gerald: We were called to a cause. I was compelled to join the movement. It's personal.

Jim: The act of doing empowers people.

Gerald: Movements are effective when people are excited. The environmental movement is boring, it's dull, it's factual. It's scientifically solid. Health issues are at the heart of environmental issues. You are saving a family, you are saving a home. This is environmental justice.

Jim: What is enough to create a movement? ... You need a critical-mass minority. Create this by education, outreach, grassroots organizing, state efforts. You want to reach "Fred and Sheila" in the majority and have them agree to go along with change ...

I learned from Desmond Tutu that ... **Hope is a decision you make because of your faith. There is a direct relationship between the hope defined by movements and the outcome. Faith props hope which fuels action which creates change. Hope is believing in the spite of the faith and then watching the evidence change.**

Reverends Wallis and Durley seem to be in agreement with Ed Maibach, director of Climate Change Communication Group, who says "All Americans ... are into saving energy. They support public policy that does so. [...] Climate change should be framed as an issue for people, [...] not as a distant issue such as polar bears and glaciers. Connect to people's deep values like health for our children and grandchildren. [And] protecting God's Creation."

Several themes emerged from the conference. The budget struggle threatens the EPA — along with many federal programs that benefit the environment and the poor. The Clean Air Act has saved thousands of lives and avoided hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations. Eighty percent of our health care costs come from chronic illness. Ensuring the strength of the Clean Air Act will remain a critical issue for us. Speaker after speaker emphasized the importance of citizens contacting their elected representatives.

MA Interfaith Power And Light Goes To Congress



MA IP&L representatives attended a "coffee with Scott" gathering with Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA) on May 4th. When asked about his vote to support the McConnell amendment and strip EPA of its authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, Sen. Brown said that carbon dioxide is not an air pollutant and does not cause asthma or lung disease. He does not believe it should be regulated by the EPA.

The US Supreme Court, the EPA and the National Academy of Sciences have come to different conclusions, however. In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), the US Supreme Court held that greenhouse gases meet the definition of air pollutant in the Clean Air Act. Specifically, the Court held that "carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous

oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons fit the CAA's "sweeping definition of 'air pollutant'" ... The statute is unambiguous." Id. at 529.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Endangerment finding on greenhouse gases does find that climate change has detrimental health effects. It says:

- **Air Quality:** Climate change is expected to worsen regional ground-level ozone pollution. Exposure to ground-level ozone has been linked to respiratory health problems ranging from decreased lung function and aggravated asthma to increased emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and even premature death;
- **Temperature:** There is evidence that the number of extremely hot days is already increasing. Severe heat waves are projected to intensify, which can increase heat-related mortality and sickness. Environmental justice issues are clearly raised through examples such as warmer temperatures in urban areas having a more direct impact on those without air-conditioning.
- **Diseases and Aero-allergens:** Potential ranges of certain diseases affected by temperature and precipitation changes, including tick-borne diseases and food and water-borne pathogens, are expected to increase.
- **Extreme Weather Events:** Storm impacts are likely to be more severe, especially along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Heavy rainfall events are expected to increase, increasing the risk of flooding, greater runoff and erosion, and thus the potential for adverse water quality effects. These projected trends can increase the number of people at risk from suffering disease and injury due to floods, storms, droughts and fires. For more details: www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html.

The most recent report from the **National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences** states that "Global warming can be attributed to human activities. Many lines of evidence support the conclusion that most of the observed warming since the start of the 20th century, and especially the last several decades, can be attributed to human activities ..."

That report goes on to say that "Global warming is closely associated with a broad spectrum of other climate changes, such as increases in the frequency of intense rainfall, decreases in snow cover and sea ice, more and increasingly intense heat waves, rising sea levels, and widespread ocean acidification. Individually and collectively, and in combination with the effects of other human activities, these changes pose risks for a wide range of human and environmental systems, including ... ecosystems, agriculture, fisheries, human health, and national security, among others."

Together with the Mass. Council of Churches we delivered 800 of your letters to Sen. Brown asking him to support the EPA's authority to implement the Clean Air Act, to remove incentives for the fossil fuel industry and increase incentives for renewable energy, and to increase funding for weatherization and low income fuel assistance.

A Grim Scene During the Chicago Heat Wave of 1995

From July 12 to July 16, 1995, Chicago roasted, and people died. The high of 106 °F on July 13 set the record for the warmest July temperature since records began at Midway Airport in 1928. When the record humidity levels were added, the heat index reached 119° at O'Hare and 125° at Midway.



No official "death toll" was ever announced, but 739 additional people died in that particular week above the usual weekly average. Most of the heat wave victims were the elderly poor living in the heart of the city. They either had no working air conditioning or couldn't afford to turn it on.

During the European heat wave of 2003 that killed tens of thousands, the temperature in parts of France hit 104 degrees. Nearly 15,000 people died in that country alone.

Affordable Solar Options For Houses Of Worship



The idea of having solar panels on your own building is very appealing – "free" electricity and showing your community your commitment to environmental stewardship. A common request we get from members is "We'd like to install solar panels." They are expensive however, and because houses of worship are non-profit organizations, they can't take advantage of the significant tax credits.

Are you a good site to install solar panels?

The first question is whether your buildings are good sites to install solar panels. Unless you meet these criteria, you shouldn't install panels on your roof:

- Your roof faces generally south, or is flat. It should face no more than 45 degrees by the compass away from due south.
- You have no shade from trees, buildings or other obstructions (or minimal shade only in December – February)
- Your roof is covered with asphalt shingles (slate or metal roofs are too difficult to work with). And if your roof is older than 10 years, you may want to consider putting on a new roof before installing the panels so you don't have to remove the panels when you replace the roof.

If your roof doesn't qualify, you may be able to install a "ground mount" system, if you have sufficient property and a location that doesn't get shade. These systems are installed on 10 – 15-foot tall poles, and need fencing or other barriers to prevent vandalism or tampering.

Free solar panels

We've recently been talking with DCS Energy www.dcsenergy.com who has an unbeatable offer: if your site qualifies, they design and install the panels at no cost, don't charge you for any electricity, and donate the system to your house of worship after five years. Your only costs will be for a building permit, possibly a structural engineer to verify that your roof can support their weight, and any preparatory work such as roof work or tree removal.

If solar panels are so expensive how can anyone give them away for free? First, there is a federal grant program that is only available until November that pays for 30% of the cost of the system. Then there is an accelerated depreciation option that gives certain kinds of investors another tax advantage. Finally, the state awards a special allowance called a "Solar Renewal Energy Credit" (SRECs) to owners of solar electricity systems which are sold at auctions to utilities who buy them to meet their requirements under the Massachusetts' renewable portfolio standard. DCS is betting that the price of these SRECs will remain high.

Jim Nail, president of MA IP&L, has talked to DCS Energy and is currently having them prepare a proposal for his church, St. Dunstan's Episcopal in Dover. Jim says, "The references I've talked to have been quite positive about the program and the company has been very responsive."

If you think your site might qualify, contact Peter Carli, pete@dcsenergy.com, with the address of your house of worship and your contact information. He'll take a preliminary look at your site and advise you if it meets their criteria.

Buying Solar Electricity

There are a number of companies that want to build large solar electricity arrays to feed power to the utilities, but they first need buyers for the electricity. Your house of worship can help encourage building these facilities by signing up.

MIP&L is working with Here Comes the Sun LLC which is developing large-scale solar electricity properties on landfills and other large open sites unsuitable for other kinds of development. While details are yet to be finalized, the company expects to offer pricing \$.01 - .02 below current utility rates and guarantee an annual increase of only 3%, below the rate of inflation in utility rates over the past decade. Houses of worship will need to sign a multi-year commitment. If you are interested, email solar@mipandl.org. As more details develop, we'll let you know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New England Climate Summer is Coming!



For 9 weeks this summer, 36 college and graduate students will travel exclusively by bicycle across New England, working with local leaders to build a better future in 42 communities.

Communities across New England are actively addressing climate change through local solutions to create a more sustainable world. Over 9 summer weeks, Climate Summer interns learn from, cross-pollinate and spotlight these initiatives by working with community leaders to connect diverse constituencies and knit together the strands of a nascent, but powerful climate movement. Riders live their values as they travel exclusively by bike and join the next generation of climate movement leaders.

Riders will work to draw media attention to the important work of local organizations, and will use what they learn to create the 2011 State of the Movement Report, which will catalogue the efforts of groups in the communities engaged by Climate Summer.

Three teams will ride in Massachusetts, and are hoping to work with MA IP&L member congregations. Can they highlight the work that you've done to reduce your carbon footprint? Can you provide

hospitality in the form of housing (preferably in your house of worship), food, or meeting space? Are you working on a project this summer that could use a few more hands?

Climate Summer's schedule in Massachusetts this summer:

- Week of 6/20: Lowell, New Bedford, Fitchburg
- Week of 6/27: Newburyport, Brockton, Greenfield
- Week of 7/5: Salem area, Medford, Holyoke
- Week of 7/11: Waltham, Lawrence, Chelsea
- Week of 7/18: Worcester, Arlington, Falmouth to Mid-Cape
- Week of 7/25: Springfield, Westport, Kingston
- Week of 8/1: Winchester, Roslindale, South Boston, Roxbury, East Boston, Cambridge

Let's work together! Contact Marla Marcum marla@betterfutureproject.org 781-475-0996. Check out their website NewEnglandClimateSummer.org (site upgrade coming by early June!).

Climate Summer is a program of Better Future Project, a new organization focused on helping people envision and build a future free from the burning of fossil fuels. Climate Summer's organizational partners include Students for a Just and Stable Future, the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, and the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home: An Ecological Spirituality of Lament and Hope

August 5-7 (Friday dinner – Sunday lunch)
Adelynrood Retreat Center, Byfield, MA

Today's environmental realities call us to examine anew how we live. Spirituality is the way we walk on the earth, work together, build community, honor our bodies, celebrate and struggle, and listen to the promptings of the Spirit. This weekend will include short presentations as well as meditation, prayer, sharing of resources, and personal and group reflection. The themes of lament and hope will be woven throughout our times of prayer. We will be nourished by the insights of theologians from several continents and become more deeply aware of Earth's body, our bodies, and the Body of Christ. The theologians include Dorothee Soelle, Mercy Amba Oduyoye, Rosemary Radford Ruether, and Ivone Gebara.

Leader: Jane Carol Redmont, PhD, author of *When in Doubt, Sing: Prayer in Daily Life*, is a theologian, writer, spiritual director, preacher, and worker for justice. Before this, she worked as a Catholic campus, parish, and urban minister including a time as Social Justice Minister at Boston's Paulist Center. She teaches Religious Studies and Women's Studies at Guilford College and is a Campus Ministry Associate at St. Mary's House, Greensboro, NC. Website: <http://actsofhope.blogspot.com/>

Program fee \$120
Room & board \$200 Total cost \$320
Program check-in 4:00-6:00 pm Friday Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center, Byfield, MA 01922-2812. Visit www.Adelynrood.org for applications.



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Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L