



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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Mutual Ministry: If We Don't Do It, Who Will? "Hot town, summer in the city..."

It hasn't felt too summery in May, but we all know that warm – and then *hot* – weather is just around the corner. There's no better time than the summer to choose clean electricity for your home, congregation, and office! Why?

In New England, most of us burn gas and oil to warm our facilities in the cold months. When the summer rolls around, our boilers and furnaces go off and the fans and window air-conditioners go on!

What happens when you turn the fans and window air conditioners on? You use electricity, and potentially quite a lot of it. 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 think about: The adverse impacts of this pollution have the most potential to harm human health in the summer, when we spend more time outside.

Encouraging the growth of renewable, clean electric sources – and stopping our dependence on dirty, fossil fuel-burning power plants – is one important step toward environmental justice and care of Creation. And the good news is, you can make a difference. You can make a clean energy choice. You can choose to offset your own

www.CleanEnergyChoice.org

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.

Clean Energy and Faith in Worcester

MIP&L continues to be very busy in Worcester. About 20 people were in attendance at the April 19 "Clean Energy and Faith Forum" at the United Congregational Church of Worcester on April 19, 2005. MIP&L has also begun to do presentations at individual Worcester congregations. **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.

Clean Energy is Coming! Clean Energy is Coming!

MIP&L's Earth Day Event at Old North Church, Boston

About 30 people were in attendance for MIP&L's 4th annual event in honor of Earth Day on April 24, 2005, at Old North Church in Boston.



MIP&L President and co-founder Thomas Nutt-Powell presents an award to Senator Jarrett Barrios in Old North Church, Boston.

The evening started off with opening words from the Reverend Stephen T. Ayres, Vicar of Old North Church. MIP&L co-founder Steve MacAusland followed with his "Sermon in a Nutshell."

The awards presentation followed these opening remarks. The first award went to

Massachusetts state **Senator Jarrett Barrios**. Senator Barrios was honored for his environmental justice advocacy and work in the state legislature and community. Next, Boston **Mayor Thomas Menino** was honored for his environmental leadership and innovations. Accepting for the mayor was **James Hunt III**, the Chief of Environment and Energy for the City of Boston. The final award went to **Old North Church** for using energy saving compact fluorescent lightbulbs in its famed steeple lanterns (from "one if by land, two if by sea" lore) and for purchasing clean, renewable energy to offset their usage of electricity. The award was accepted by the Reverend Patricia Handloss, Associate Vicar of Old North Church and co-organizer of the event.

MIP&L President Tom Nutt-Powell and MIP&L Program Director Lara Hoke then did a brief presentation on MIP&L's activities and member congregation accomplishments in the past year.

Mass Energy, a local non-profit, supplied enough clean, renewable wind energy to power the entire event. Thank you, Mass Energy, for this generous donation! *You can learn more about Mass Energy at www.massenergy.com*

The Boston Globe wrote an article about the event that appeared in the April 25 paper.

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