



Massachusetts

# Interfaith Power & Light

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**www.MIPandL.org**

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

November 2005

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 4, Issue 6

## MIP&L's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: The Sanctity of Life

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light's 4th Annual Meeting was held on the evening of November 8 at the **St. Athanasius Parish in Reading**.



Brayton Shanley delivers the keynote.

The evening began with an opening prayer by Bill Lucey, parishioner of Saint Athanasius Parish. The keynote address, "The Sanctity of Life and the

American Lifestyle," followed. The keynote speaker was **Brayton Shanley**, co-founder of the Agape Community. The Agape Community is a



Colette Wood accepts an award on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, presented by MIP&L Executive Committee member Michele Sprengnether; Steve MacAusland, MIP&L co-founder, presents an award to Carissa Williams, accepting for the City of Worcester.

community experiment in Christian living, combining gospel nonviolence with simplicity of living and commitment to prayer. Brayton and his wife Suzanne have traveled throughout the U.S.

and Canada to offer training in peer mediation and conflict resolution. Brayton encouraged attendees to



MIP&L Executive Committee member Peter Kane presents an award to Frank Levington of the IBEW Local 103.

"start somewhere" in addressing the daunting problems of environmental degradation and global warming: He suggested that we start by reducing our usage of oil. He is

making a start at the Agape Community, which uses photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to produce electricity for its straw bale house – and by driving a diesel car which he fuels with grease.

Brayton's talk was followed by a PowerPoint that summarized some highlights from 2005 for Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light.

The Meeting ended with an **awards presentation** to worthy individuals, congregations and organizations that demonstrated exemplary environmental stewardship in the past year:

- Brayton Shanley (*Prophetic Voice for the Earth and Its Inhabitants*)
- St. Athanasius Parish, Reading (*Faith into Action Award*)
- Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts (*Green Convention Award*)
- IBEW Local 103 (*Wings of the Wind Award*)
- City of Worcester, Massachusetts (*Clean Energy Leadership Award*)

### **MIP&L welcomes new members:**

All Saints Parish, Worcester  
Church of Our Saviour, Milton  
Trinity Church, Melrose  
Winchester Unitarian Society

## FAQs for the 2005-2006 Heating Season

### How low can we set the temp in our sanctuary?

Mid-to-low 50s is OK. We have reports of this working at plenty of Members facilities.

**Does this work for other spaces, because we are worried about freezing pipes?** Yes. 50 is higher than 32.

And of course insulation helps pipes. If not insulated, do so. If you have an especially vulnerable pipe run (such as through a foundation between old and new portions of the building) you can install heat tape with a temperature sensor.

**What about my thermostat?** If you have manual thermostats, change to digital. Use a thermostat that permits separate settings every day of the week. (A "24/7" stat.) Always have the last setting to your "low-temp" set back, say 54. Install a thermostat that has "Adaptive Recovery", which means it senses how long it takes to get the space to reach your desired temperature for occupancy, and automatically "calls" for heat in time to reach that temperature. That way you don't have to guess how long it takes to heat your Sanctuary, or other spaces.

**How can I zone the building?** "Zoning" means combining a group of spaces for control by a thermostat. Complete "zoning" links the supply pipes (or ducts) to the thermostat, and the "zone" is heated all to the same temperature.

**Can I "sub-zone"?** A practical short-term step for "sub-zoning" is (a) turning off radiator (or closing diffuser) and closing the door of rooms that don't need to be heated. Of course, this assumes that the thermostat is in the most used room. If in fact several rooms are not really part of the primary zone, then it is time to re-pipe (or re-duct) to make the zones match actual use patterns. Use the "Space Use Form" at the MIP&L web site to help understand use patterns.

**Do interior storm windows help?** Absolutely. They do even better than exterior storm/screen windows, which have air penetration to permit moisture to drip out at the bottom when the screen portion is in use. Use the Interior Storm Window *Everyday Environmental Stewardship Opportunity* instructions for easy and low-cost installations.

**And remember, tell your congregants and friends and neighbors to do this also!**

### Eco-Friendly Holiday Gift Ideas! *(some of these ideas were adapted from ecomall.com)*

- You can buy New England Wind in blocks of \$25 to offset the emissions of your loved ones. *This is just the right stocking stuffer or Hanukah gift – a breath of fresh air for hearth and home!* It is tax-deductible, and your \$25 donation is matched by up to \$50 from the Clean Energy Choice program (a grant to your community and to low-income communities in the state) – see [www.CleanEnergyChoice.org](http://www.CleanEnergyChoice.org) for more info!
- Give a plant or tree, which cleans the air, beautifies our living space and lasts for years.
- Gifts can also be things to do, not just things to have – *e.g.*, a gift certificate to a yoga or tai chi class; musical instrument lessons; theater and museum tickets; memberships to a zoo or nature center; *etc.*
- You can also give creative gift "coupons" for services such as babysitting, raking, weeding or cooking.
- Another idea is membership in an environmental organization or a donation to a favorite charity in the recipient's name. Tax deductible gifts to Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light are certainly welcomed!

*This newsletter was prepared by in the course of performing work funded in part by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative as part of the Renewable Energy Trust.*



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