



Dear MIP&L members and friends,

## October 24 - International Day of Climate Action



**Climate Convocation  
Sunday October 18, 2 pm  
Memorial Church, Harvard Yard  
Cambridge, MA**

[Click here](#) to download a poster

**Saturday October 24** has been designated as International Climate Action Day by the United Nations. It's also known as Ring 350 Day, since many houses of worship around the World will ring their bells 350 times during the October 24-25 weekend.

**Actions are being taken to signify that life can only sustain itself if the level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is at 350 parts per million or less.**

Many houses of worship (**HOWs**) throughout New England are participating in Ring 350 Day events, in different ways. For example, at Grace Episcopal Church in North Attleboro, the bell choir will play several hymns during services on October 25. The title of the sermon being preached is "Is God Green?" At All Saints Church in Attleboro, Tom Nutt-Powell, MIP&L's president, will conduct an environmental audit of the facility, and will also preach the sermon, both participatory activities with congregants.

All **HOWs** in Massachusetts are being asked to perform a symbolic act in recognition of International Climate Action Day, and to **publish the actions taken on the 350.org website**. Notice of all actions taken around the world will be presented to world leaders in Copenhagen in early December as they begin the next round of climate treaty negotiations. It is important for the worldwide community of faith to indicate with many separate events its expectations that the negotiations will lead to decisive actions regarding climate change.

### Buying Insurance ... And Taking Actions That Ensure

The Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell, MIP&L Executive Committee member and minister at First Church in Salem, offers these observations on life and creation.

I just paid my life insurance premium for the year – a sobering moment for any parent. This is not a small amount of money but it buys me the piece of mind and security that my family will be cared for in the event that I should die in the next twelve months. Of course, this is highly unlikely, which is why there is a business called insurance. According to actuarial tables I consulted recently, the average man my age has only a .002026 chance of dying; i.e. approximately 2 out of every 1000 men my age might pass away in the next year. However even knowing the unlikely odds (and that I eat salads and wear my seatbelt), I still nonetheless sent in my insurance premium. In a sense it would be wrong not to do so if I can. Certainly it would be irresponsible. When calculating risk, one must make a distinction between likelihood and severity and plan accordingly.\*



Oddly enough, I delve into this because our country is currently debating a climate change bill. There are very powerful interests in this country who maintain that we cannot afford to reduce our emissions and confront climate change. They claim it would harm the economy and be too expensive. And yet, the largest scientific group ever formally assembled to study anything (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, who won the Nobel Prize for their work in 2007), has declared that the world's industrialized nations must reduce their carbon emissions drastically (i.e. 80% or more) within 40 years. If we fail to do this, preeminent scientists like James Hansen at NASA believe that we are consigning our children and future generations to potentially dire circumstances. According to the best estimates of scientists who look at this, the risk of runaway climate change with an 8 degree (Centigrade!) increase in average temperatures is approximately 1%. Maybe higher. And yet there are huge interests in our country claiming that we cannot afford to address the issue, including the US Chamber of Commerce; a stance that I believe will be regarded by future generations as irresponsible and immoral.

Our country and world is confronted with a gathering storm that could potentially devastate our way of life. There is at least a 1% chance that this might occur and yet there are people claiming that we cannot do anything to respond. I have just one question: Don't these people have life insurance. Don't they understand the principle of protecting oneself from catastrophic events or occurrences?

On Saturday, October 24, churches all over Massachusetts will be participating in 350.org's International Day of Climate Action. Some will hold rallies, others will perform plays and many will ring their bells 350 times that afternoon. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about the importance of the U.S. passing a strong climate change law this year and moving our country onto a more sustainable path; one that will help the world achieve atmospheric CO2 concentrations of 350 ppm. The Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light invites everyone to come and join us as we participate in this historic movement. You can find an event near you by going to [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). We all have a stake in ensuring the future and insuring our world.

\* Note: this way of thinking about climate change is expertly treated in some detail by Frank Ackerman in his short book, *Can We Afford The Future: The Economics of a Warming World*.

### Five Fast Fixes

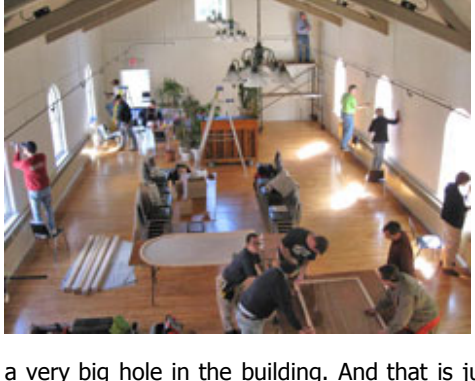


This month's EES provide 5 actions you can do now for little or no money – and without hiring a professional. Each one of these actions saves a little bit on some of the biggest energy users in your home or house of worship. With just a few minutes of effort you may reduce your energy consumption by 10% or more.

- ✓ Heat (and cool) 'em where you are
- ✓ Dip a toe into your hot water
- ✓ See the light
- ✓ Power to the people, not to unused electricity
- ✓ Get an Energy Star for new appliances

Go to our [website](#) to download the document.

### Practice What You Preach



Each year students, faculty and staff of Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) have a Service Day. On October 6, the services included actions to make the ANTS Meeting House for energy efficient. Workers included President Nick Carter, Dean of Faculty Bill Herzog, students, MIP&L volunteers and staff of Brookline-based Green Guild.

The work completed focused on thermal sealing of the 19th century building, including caulking cracks in the walls and constructing interior "storm" windows. You can calculate the impact of cracks. A 1/4" crack every 8" on a vertical plane of 13' tall and 50' long.

That adds up to a very big hole in the building. And that is just the walls! Interior "storm" windows are readily constructed, with wood frames and plexiglas already cut to fit. Any congregation will have at least one person (and likely many) who can do this. Go to [our website](#) to get a easy-to-understand guide to doing this work.



Though not among the **Five Fast Fixes**, both caulking and interior "storm" windows are in the "low-hanging fruit" category for energy upgrades. The cost is only materials when the labor is done by congregants. For this work that saves 80% or more of what it would cost if done by a contractor.

### Little Things Mean A Lot

Congregational Development Day (Sept 26) of Episcopal Diocese of Mass, a 100% green event via an offset by New England Wind Fund, also generated over \$300 in contributions from attendees to offset their own Carbon Footprint, including the trip to and from the event held at Bentley College in Waltham.

The contributions mean that 112 CFL bulbs will be installed in households of low-income families. This will reduce 24 tons of CO2 and save 28 families \$7,400 over the life of the bulbs.



**LiveCooler** is a Massachusetts-based non-profit, focusing its work on carbon reduction by a program installing CFLs in homes of low-income families. For more information (and to donate \$) visit the web site, [www.livecooler.org](http://www.livecooler.org)



is a project of Mass Energy, providing a means for wind project development.

Electricity in New England comes from dirty energy sources that harm our environment. Developing new sources of energy is urgently needed for the health of our economy and citizens. Wind Power is an excellent resource but construction of new turbines is slowed by lack of financing. Dirty energy sources get huge tax subsidies for development and extracting fuel. Wind Turbines face larger upfront costs.

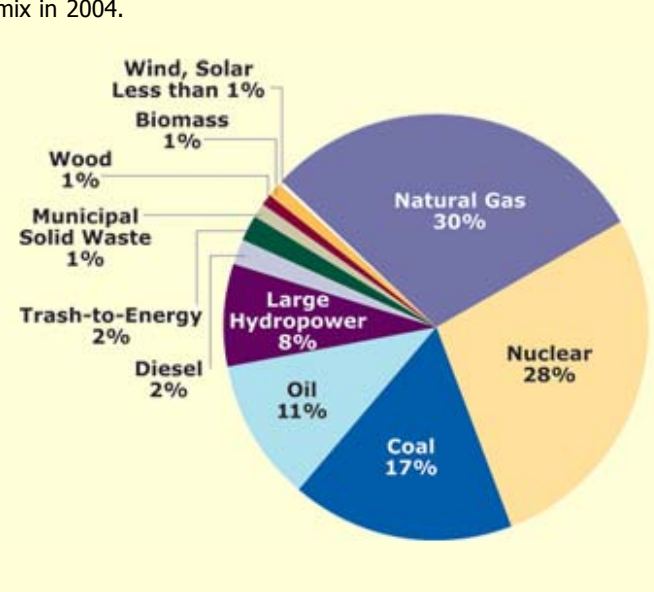
**New England Wind Fund** is a tax-deductible, clean energy option in Massachusetts available to all citizens [www.newenglandwind.org](http://www.newenglandwind.org).

And for more about CFLs, visit [our web site](#) and get the **CFLs Everyday Environmental Stewardship** brief.

### Where Does Your Electricity Come From?

If you're like the majority of consumers, you probably don't really know. Did you know that electricity generation is the number one source of industrial air pollution in the United States and that over 80% of the electricity in Massachusetts is generated from fossil fuels and nuclear power?

The grid operator, known as the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE), provides the following summary of New England's power mix in 2004.



### Walking on (warm) Holy Ground



Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Cambridge was built in 1959. Like many houses of worship (HOWs), it has a large worship space, with high ceilings. Unlike most other HOWs, it has in-floor radiant heating. Why does this make sense? It puts heat where the people are, with their feet on the floor. The heat "pools" in the first 7± of space, rather than being blown to the ceiling (if heating is fan-assisted) or needing to find its way to the middle (if heating is in radiators at the perimeter). To make things better, the congregation recently upgraded to high-efficiency boilers, with a 40% drop in cost for heating!

[Click here](#) to download and read the case study.

### 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 web site, 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.

*Peace and blessings,  
Your friends at MIP&L*

### NEW ADDRESS & PHONE



**New MIP&L Address and Phone number!**

MIP&L's office is now at **197 Herrick Road, Suite 22, Newton Centre, MA 02459**

and our new telephone number is **617-244-0755**

### Caring for God's Creation



**October 29, 2009  
Massachusetts Council of Churches Ecumenical Dinner** at Plymouth Church, Framingham (co-sponsored by MIP&L).

Reception speaker at 5:30 pm  
Keynote speaker is **The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham**, IPL founder.

For reservations: 617-523 2771

Better yet, [download the flyer](#), let others know, and be there yourself!

### TEACH-IN

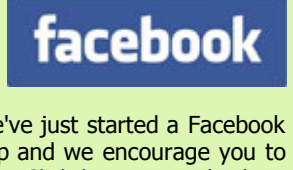


On October 22, colleges, universities & K-12 schools around the world will be part of [The 350 Teach-In](#).

Why 350? The Teach-In is supporting the International Day of Action organized by 350.org.

Many scientists believe that we must get below a long run target of 350 ppm CO2 concentrations if we are to stabilize the climate at a point avoiding catastrophe. The Teach-In will provide background documents to help presenters lead this discussion, including a report being prepared on [The Economics of 350](#) by the [E3 Network](#).

### Find MIP&L on Facebook!



We've just started a Facebook group and we encourage you to join us. [Click here](#) or on the logo to access our group page.

Beyond being able to share information with you on a more timely basis, it allows you to share information with each other.

Have a question about what energy-saving projects have been most successful? Start and discussion and as your peers in other congregations! Want to know the best ways to find the money for energy upgrades — ask others who have done it.

We hope our Facebook group will collaborate in putting our faith in action for creation!