



Massachusetts

## Interfaith Power & Light

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[www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org)

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

September 2006

NEWSLETTER

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### Heating Catastrophe or Good Stewardship: *What's Your Line?*



Stewardship is what we do. Cost is the consequence of our actions. So the question is, What's Your Line?

Is your congregation about to face the horrible fate of bad stewardship? It's not just high utility use and cost, it's the prospect of system demise, and almost

always at the worst possible time.

#### How do you know your line?

**First**, consult the *Environmental Stewardship Assessment* prepared by MIP&L for your congregation. (If you don't have one, it's time!) Boilers and chillers 15 or more years old are on their last legs, and are not efficient.

**Second**, review your running record of Utility Use and Cost. Compare use and cost for each utility type by month for last year and the year before. Do this review every month. Take steps to reduce use without harming programs.

**Third**, review the status with your maintenance contractor. You do have a maintenance contract, don't you? Good stewardship includes affirmative care.

If you don't have the Utility Use and Cost form, or the Maintenance Contract template, go to...  
[http://mipandl.org/congregation\\_energy.htm](http://mipandl.org/congregation_energy.htm)

And then take steps to pick the "low-hanging" fruit of energy efficiency. The least expensive, quickest benefit is replacing manual with *programmable*

thermostats. Get a stat that permits 4 settings each of 7 days.

Interior storms are a good, economical way to improve occupant comfort and reduce energy use. When built and installed by you, the cost is about 20% of contractor cost. Get details at...

<http://mipandl.org/everyday.htm>



#### **PANICKED?**

Fear not. We all start somewhere. It's the first step to intentional environmental stewardship that gets you in the right direction. Need help? A sympathetic shoulder? Good ideas? We're a "mutual ministry".

Call MIP&L at 1-800-406-5374,  
or email to [mipandl@MIPandL.org](mailto:mipandl@MIPandL.org)

#### **DON'T WAIT**

Now is the time for a **Home Energy Audit**. Act promptly to ensure that you have done all that you can for environmental stewardship in your own home...and then tell your friends.

Call 1-866-527-7283 for NStar or NGrid

*If we don't, who will?*

#### **Oil Users — Congregation or Home**

In addition to using the most efficient equipment, save money by participating in the oil-buying group.  
<http://mipandl.org/mipoilgroup.htm>

**For the first time ever: Join Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light as an individual member!**

In the past, only congregations could join Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light (MIP&L). NOW you can join as an individual, or a family! Whether your congregation is a member of MIP&L or not, this is a wonderful way to support MIP&L and to be more involved.

Several levels of membership are available:

- Senior/Student/Limited Income - **\$15**
- Basic membership, individual - **\$25**
- Basic membership, family - **\$35**
- Ultra **Green** membership - **\$100**
- Ultra **Green** family membership - **\$250**
- Lifetime **Green** member, individual - **\$500**
- Lifetime **Green** member, family - **\$1,000**

**Caring For Creation**  
Advocating for Truth & Science in Religion

**Saturday 30 September 9:00 > 5:30**  
University Lutheran Church  
66 Winthrop Street  
Cambridge, MA

Registration including symposium materials,  
continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments: Adults:  
\$50.00; Students: \$20.00 Scholarships available.

**For registration materials or additional information,**  
Gail Phillips Bucher: 978/369-3164,  
[gailbucher@att.net](mailto:gailbucher@att.net);

Make checks payable to *Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light*

And mail to> Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02445

**A “mutual ministry” needs ministers.  
Each of us can and should do something.  
What about you?**

Do any of these tasks/roles appeal to you? Let us know!  
E-mail responses to [mipandl@MIPandL.org](mailto:mipandl@MIPandL.org).

Newsletter      Website      Presentations  
Do Environmental Stewardship Assessments  
Executive Committee member  
Serve on the Advisory Board

**CLEAN ENERGY – DO IT NOW!!!!!!!**

To choose clean energy, go to our website (www.MIPandL.org) and click on the “Clean Energy Choice” button. You can also go to [www.CleanEnergyChoice.org](http://www.CleanEnergyChoice.org) to learn about the matching grant program. For every dollar you spend on clean electricity, there is a match of up to \$1 for your community and up to \$1 for low income communities in MA. This match is from the **Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.**

**Truly, this is a win-win-win!**  
It is quite simply the right thing to do.

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