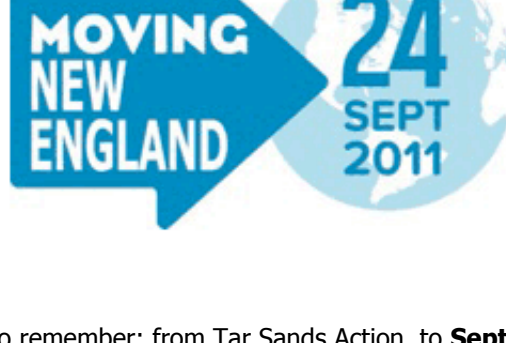


Dear MIP&L members and friends,



It's being called a September to remember: from Tar Sands Action, to **September 24th's Moving Planet, a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis.** Here in New England, people from many different communities will gather in Boston to proclaim one great hopeful vision of life beyond fossil fuels. This is an opportunity for people of faith to stand with the earth, to stand with our friends and neighbors and to stand with people around the world already feeling the effects of climate change.

Will you join us? To march behind the Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light banner meet MIP&L's Fran Ludwig and Vince Maraventano at **Park Street MBTA Station, on Tremont & Park Sts. at 3:00 PM on Saturday September 24th.** Wear something symbolic of your faith community or your solidarity with the earth. Clergy are encouraged to wear green stoles. We'll march to Christopher Columbus Park where religious leaders will offer a meditation and welcome the faith communities represented.

The day's schedule:

Before the event: Move your community from around New England to Boston.

3-3:45pm: Rolling parades to the Columbus Park rally, departing from North Station, South Station, Park Street Station, and Long Wharf North (near the ferry ticket area). Check in with parade marshals who will direct groups of 25 or more to the rally.

3:50-6pm: Rally for Solutions at Columbus Waterfront Park (Aquarium T). New England will join the rest of the world in a peaceful, festive rally calling on leaders at all levels to take action to speed the transition away from fossil fuels.

- Encourage others to come and to get there using as little fossil fuel as possible. Walk if you can. If not, come by bike, MBTA, Commuter Rail, bus, or as many folks as can fit in a hybrid car.
- Put this event on your community's calendar, and add it to your newsletter and weekly announcements.
- Come ready to share stories of how your faith community is putting its Faith into Action for Creation.
- Display your efforts and vision! Get creative to make this a festive event! Bring banners, dress up, make puppets, floats, images, & chants to reflect how you contribute to this movement.
- Sign up to volunteer at the event as a parade marshal, or to help set-up or break-down.
- Let your local press know that a group from your community is traveling to Boston to join this worldwide event! A sample media advisory can be found at <http://moving-newengland.org/resources/>.

Details at www.moving-newengland.org



Renew Boston, Renew Creation

NO COST
Energy
Upgrades
for Boston residents

Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Renew Boston initiative is providing qualifying Bostonians with no-cost home energy efficiency improvements. Renew Boston offers City residents and landlords a low-hassle way to lower their energy bills, increase the value of their homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

RENEW BOSTON SERVICES

Renew Boston and its partners will provide participating residents with a range of no-cost efficiency services including a comprehensive home energy assessment and up to \$3,500 in insulation and air sealing, if applicable. Other no-cost energy efficient products may be available depending on the results of the home energy assessment. As a Renew Boston partner, MIP&L receives a referral fee for each Boston resident who signs up through us. To sign up go to:

<http://nextsteplivinginc.com/mass-interfaith-power-light/>

ELIGIBILITY FOR NO-COST RENEW BOSTON SERVICES

Income-eligible Boston renters and homeowners living in a single family home or a multi-family building with up to four units are eligible for no-cost Renew Boston services. Landlords serving income-eligible tenants can also take advantage of Renew Boston services. Other eligibility criteria include:

- Active interest in weatherization improvements
- Renters have landlord approval for any efficiency improvements installed in the home
- Resident income falls between 60 and 120 percent of State Median Income (see table below)

Persons per household	Qualifying Income Ranges
One \$30,752	\$61,504
Two \$40,214	\$80,428
Three \$49,676	\$99,352
Four \$59,138	\$118,276
Five \$68,599	\$137,198
Six \$78,061	\$156,122

In one year, Renew Boston has already had a significant impact:

- Building Performance Institute (BPI)-certified energy technicians with Next Step Living and their subcontractors are performing quality installations that are projected to save the typical household \$800 or more in annual energy costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25-35%.
- More than 2,800 energy assessments and over 450 weatherization jobs have been completed.
- Over 40 Boston residents have been hired into green collar careers with family-supporting wages through Next Step Living, the City of Boston, Mass Energy, and other contractors.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MASSACHUSETTS INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

New MIP&L Workshop: Spirituality and Sustainability; Moving from Faith to Action

MIP&L will introduce a new series of workshops called **Spirituality & Sustainability; Moving from Faith to Action**, this fall at Old South Church, UCC in Copley Square. Sessions will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. Free will donations accepted.

Consider some surprising facts revealed by a recent study of public opinion in Massachusetts entitled "*The 80% Challenge: A Survey of Climate Change Opinion and Action in Massachusetts*", by independent think tank MassINC.

- 77% of Massachusetts residents believe that global warming is occurring;
- 75% think there will be very, or somewhat serious consequences if solutions aren't found; and
- **83% believe that "we have a moral obligation to do what we can to reduce global warming".**

45% percent say that **people** in Massachusetts need to do a lot and **only 4% believe that residents are now meeting that standard.**

Spirituality and Sustainability will bridge that gap in three critical ways. First it will give people the spiritual grounding that will enable them to clarify their core values around living in harmony with the rest of creation. Second it will provide interactive opportunities to learn the most effective practical actions we can take — and what resources available to take them; Third it will facilitate the formation of support groups that will develop action plans focused on action at the personal, faith community, or larger community level. For more information contact Vince Maraventano at: vince@mipandl.org.

Reducing Energy Bills in Older Buildings with Limited Budgets: Crash Course in Systems Thinking

Saturday, Oct. 1st
First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden St. Cambridge, MA
9AM to 5 PM

Marc Rosenbaum, Award-winning Building Systems Analyst;
Moderated by **Paul Eldrenkamp**, DEAP Energy Group.

This workshop is intended for managers of complex buildings with limited resources. The congregation of the First Church struggles to reduce the church's energy bills and carbon footprint, but faces the challenges of: a large historic masonry building; people who crank the thermostat to 90° believing the heat will arrive faster; a complicated heating system; and the mixed needs of a homeless shelter, preschool and office space.

Many buildings in the Greater Boston area face similar challenges. The First Church case study will be used to teach how to develop realistic long-term plans bringing older buildings into the 21st century Rebates and innovative fundraising/financing options will be explained.

Marc Rosenbaum has won four awards from NESEA, two from ASHRAE, and one from the Energy Efficient Building Association (EEBA). He's been published in ASHRAE Journal, Fine Homebuilding, Northeast Sun, Solar Today, Journal of Light Construction, and others. He is a frequent speaker on sustainable design and a featured presenter at many conferences.

Cost: \$75, lunch included. Limit 100 attendees.

Presented by: National Grid, DEAP Energy Group, HEET, Mass Interfaith Power & Light, and First Church in Cambridge.

Looking To The Skies



(The following editorial from the Cape Cod Times is reprinted with permission)

Many religious groups preach about social justice: the necessity of doing what is right, not necessarily for the individual, but for society as a whole. Not every congregation walks the talk, however.

That's what makes the folks at the Dennis Union Church such a shining example for all communities, religious or otherwise.

Earlier this year, the church was one of four religious groups in New England to receive an Energy Star label, recognizing the congregation's "environmental stewardship." In the case of Dennis Union, that stewardship includes photovoltaic panels, lights that shut themselves off automatically, and double-pane glass.

The congregation freely admits that it did not act solely out of concern for the environment. The changes stemmed from a seven-year effort to renovate and expand the sanctuary, but some protested the idea of adding air conditioning to the 173-year-old building because of the environmental impact associated with drawing that much more electricity.

Then, after a cost-benefit analysis, the congregation discovered it could use solar panels to not only offset the energy to run air conditioning, but to turn a profit as well in the form of electricity sold back into the grid. And, as one congregant pointed out, although not everyone agrees about climate change, everyone likes to save money.

The fact is that so-called green technology leads to both long-term environmental benefits and long-term financial benefits. Every kilowatt generated by solar panels is one more kilowatt that was not generated by a coal or oil-fired plant. It is also one more kilowatt that does not show up on the electric bill.

Church officials said that the panels and associated technology cost \$42,000 to install, but have generated \$6,000 from NStar during the past three years. At that rate, the panels will pay for themselves in another 18 years and thereafter generate a revenue stream for the church. This does not include the money the congregation is not paying to power the air conditioning.

Better religious organizations that look at history in terms of centuries, rather than days or months, are perhaps suited to understand the concept of a big picture than individuals on their own.

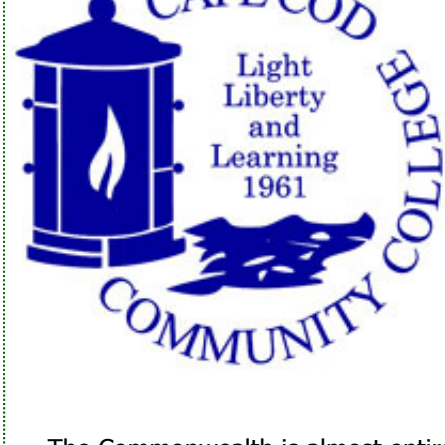
Interestingly, the four New England religious groups cited by EPA included buildings owned by Islamic, Unitarian, and Pentecostal groups, indicating that concerns about environmental and financial stewardship are anything but denominational, and that the solutions may be more ecumenical than we realize.

Perhaps these religious organizations are sharing a secondary message as well; that there is something to be gained by a collective approach to answering big questions rather than dividing into camps and staking out intractable positions. Congregants at the Dennis Union Church were anything but unified in their interests for doing what they did, but they ultimately came together to develop an answer that satisfied nearly everyone.

And there is a power in that which transcends anything found on the grid.

PUBLIC POLICY BRIEFS

HEARINGS ON WIND SITING REFORM BILL



The Mass. House of Representatives will hold hearings on **HR 1775, a Comprehensive Wind Siting Bill on 9/26/2011 at 10:00 AM at the Tilden Arts Center, Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Iyannough Rd, (Rte. 132) West Barnstable, MA 02668**

The Problem that Needs to Be Solved

TRC, a national consulting firm with expertise in wind energy facility development, conducted a study of siting in Massachusetts. They concluded that our laws "do not adequately facilitate the siting of renewable energy and alternative energy facilities" and instead "make it more difficult to site renewable energy facilities than fossil-fueled energy facilities."

The Commonwealth is almost entirely dependent on out-of-region fossil fuel sources for its energy needs. That dependence reduces our energy security and makes us vulnerable to fluctuating markets, price spikes and international instability. Our use of fossil fuels also contributes to local and regional air pollution as well as to climate change. Along with vastly increasing energy efficiency, increasing local sources of renewable energy is critical to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, increasing our energy security, saving on energy costs, reducing environmental impacts, and seizing green economic opportunities.

Current laws and regulations fail in four important respects:

- There are no statewide siting standards, so wind energy developers do not know what criteria they need to meet in order to develop a wind facility;
- At both the state and local level, there are a large number of permits and approvals that are required and obtaining all of these approvals takes significant time. Current laws allow for judicial appeals of virtually all permits, and these appeals take years to resolve even though they often lack any merit.
- For siting purposes, current law discriminates in favor of fossil-fueled facilities. This is because current law grants electric generating projects that are larger than 100 MW a "one-stop" permitting procedure whereby the state Energy Facilities Siting Board issues one permit in lieu of all other state and local permits, with one appeal directly to the state's highest court. Wind projects on land are typically much smaller than 100 MW, and therefore cannot take advantage of this procedure.

The Legislative Solution

An Act Relative to Comprehensive Siting Reform for Land Based Wind Projects (H.1775) directly addresses all of these problems:

- It mandates that the Siting Board establish clear and predictable siting standards for wind facilities; the standards must be at least as protective as existing state laws.
- For wind projects of at least 2MW that meet certain environmental siting criteria, there would be available an expedited permitting process. Rather than getting numerous state and local permits, wind projects would only need one local-level permit and one state-level permit.
- Wind projects would have to get approval from a local permitting board or local wind energy permitting board, which would issue a one-stop permit for all local permits needed, and then get approval from the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board, which would issue a one-stop permit for all state permits.
- The bill **maintains home rule authority**, requiring that if a municipality rejects a wind project, the state Siting Board has no authority to override that decision. Instead, the proponent's only remedy is to go to court- the same remedy that is currently in place. If a municipality approves a wind project, opponents of the project would appeal to the Siting Board. The Siting Board also would issue a one-stop permit for all state permits that are needed.
- There would be one appeal of the Siting Board's decision to the state's highest court.
- These procedures would decrease the time of permitting from 8 years and counting (Hoosac); 5 years (Princeton) and 10 years (Berkshire Wind), to approximately nine to eighteen months, with an additional year if there is a judicial appeal.

For more information go to: <http://www.malegislature.gov/Bills>



Please support MIP&L by going to www.MIPandL.org, clicking on the red **Donate** button and contributing generously.

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at MIP&L