

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

## MOVE YOUR COMMUNITY, MOVE NEW ENGLAND, MOVE THE PLANET



We hope to see many MIP&L member congregations and constituents at Moving New England, on September 24th in Boston. MIP&L will be there, along with interfaith and ecumenical organizations like Religious Witness for the Earth and the Massachusetts Council of Churches. There will be groups from towns all over Massachusetts; biking groups, student groups and advocacy groups. Come on bike or on foot, by boat, carpool or public transportation! Come with your community, your organization, or simply yourself to help make one big, bold, beautiful statement:

*We have the power to build a secure, healthy, just and sustainable future for our children and our planet!*

Watch [www.moving-newengland.org](http://www.moving-newengland.org) for all the details as they develop between now and September 24.

If you'd like to join others from MIP&L let Fran Ludwig know by contacting her at [Fran@MIPandL.org](mailto:Fran@MIPandL.org).

### Keystone/Tar Sands Action August 20–September 3 in Washington, DC

President Obama will decide in September whether to approve the proposed 1,700 mile Keystone XL Pipeline from the massive tar sands in Alberta across the mid section of the U.S. to Texas oil refineries. Barrel for barrel, tar sands oil spews three times more greenhouse gases than conventional oil. Dr. James Hansen, NASA climate scientist, states: "... exploitation of tar sands would make it implausible to stabilize climate and avoid disastrous global climate impacts – if the tar sands are thrown into the mix it is essentially game over."

Environmental activist and author Bill McKibben wrote on Friday Aug. 19th that 2,000 people had signed up to get arrested in front of the White House to protest the pipeline. McKibben added that:

"My big thrill of the day was seeing a blog post from my junior high school biology teacher, Fran Ludwig. She's emerged in recent years as a great Massachusetts leader of the climate movement, and she managed to capture perfectly the message we're trying to spread.

She says, "I'm going to Washington and risking arrest because, in spite of the efforts of concerned individuals and communities to live in a more sustainable way, government policy is the only way to achieve the large-scale change we need to avert the worst outcome of rampant climate change. The approval of the Keystone XL is exclusively up to President Obama. I hope to add my presence to thousands of others in Washington (and hundreds of thousands in the U.S. and across the planet) to say: Enough! We need to take a stand against fossil fuel now!!"

McKibben and the Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Minister and President of the Mass. Conference of the United Church of Christ were among 65 people arrested Saturday as part of the action. Andy Burt, a founding member of Maine Interfaith Power & Light was arrested Sunday morning, and Fran Ludwig, of Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light's Executive Committee was arrested on Monday.

Let President Obama know your views on the Keystone XL pipeline:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

For more information go to: <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/>



MIP&L Executive Committee member, Fran Ludwig

### Upcoming Event

#### 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 are 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, and larger community levels. For more information contact Vince Maraventano at: [vince@MIPandL.org](mailto:vince@MIPandL.org).

### Survey on Climate Change Attitudes: There's Still Time!



The National Religious Partnership on the Environment is sponsoring a survey on climate change being conducted by a Duke University PhD candidate. The survey is designed to learn attitudes about the environment and climate change held by people of faith.

You can take the survey here (until mid-September):

[https://duke.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_cFLthlmevVtEfE8](https://duke.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cFLthlmevVtEfE8)

The data collected will be enormously helpful to each of the four members of NRPE who seek to communicate more effectively the imperative to care for both creation and those most vulnerable to environmental impacts.

### EASY WAYS TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR OWN HOME

Don't let money go down the drain. You can save water and money by installing a .5 gpm (gallons per minute) faucet aerator. You'll save over 75% on the cost of hot water.

Now, if that's not enough, make your water volume for toilet use efficient also. Install a "dual-flush" toilet and cut water use by over 50%.

These are quick, easy and inexpensive actions. Go to the MIP&L web site [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) to learn how from our new **Everyday Environmental Stewardship** brief on Sinks and Toilets. Check out the Sink Cost Calculator to calculate costs, in \$s and environmental impact.

Also, be sure to get MIP&L's EES Brief on Showering, which explains using 1.5 gpm (gallons per minute) showerheads and reducing showering time. There is also a Shower Cost Calculator (available at MIP&L's web site) that shows current and reduced cost, both in \$s and environmental impact.

### NEW RESOURCE: Catholic Parish and School Planning Guide

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is re-launching the **Catholic Climate Covenant: St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor** in time for the Feast of St. Francis. Accompanying the re-launch will be several new resources. One of those is now available: **The Catholic Parish and School Planning Guide**. The Planning Guide offers suggestions and resources which are designed to help you:

- Prepare for and meet with parish/school decision maker(s)
- Convene a St. Francis Pledge Committee with key stakeholders
- Develop targeted questions for the Committee to consider
- Successfully implement the St. Francis Pledge initiative with all the resources, tips and tools in one place

Find this exciting new resource here: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-resources/>



Please support MIP&L by going to [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org), clicking on the red Donate button and contributing generously.

*Peace and blessings,*

*Your friends at MIP&L*