



MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Follow MassIPL on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mass_IPL

April 2022

In This Issue

*From our Executive
Director*

Pray

*Faith Climate Action
Week*

*Featured Film:
Youth v Gov*

*CREW Interfaith
Summit*

*Ecological Spiritualities
Conference*

Act

Solar Open Forum

*Turn off your
thermostat!*

*Learn about Heat
Pumps*

Mobilize

Faith Action Network

*Great Tide Rising:
Earth Day Action*

*Track MA's Progress
with its Climate Goals*

*Public Hearing:
Buildings Sector*

*Prevent Biomass
Energy, Protect Air*

Dear friends,

Are you ready for it? After all the April Fool's jokes and pranks subside, all those "Green" Earth-centric and "Save the Planet!" messages are coming! April has become "Earth Month" in many circles, and, of course, there will be plenty of greenwashing.

At MassIPL, we try to bring you only the most relevant news and upcoming opportunities for your faith-based environmental and climate action, with no greenwashing or sugar-coating. This month does bring a significant uptick in new items for your consideration, meaning a longer newsletter than usual. (*Heads up! This message may be clipped in your inbox. Be sure to click through to view the entire message.*)

April 22nd marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day which was founded in the US as a "national teach-in on the environment." The [Earth Day 2022](#) theme is [Invest in Our Planet](#), now calling citizens around the world to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). Again, national Interfaith Power & Light offers its signature program, National Climate Action Week. Check out their programming, resources, and featured film below as you consider how your faith calls you to invest in the health and wellbeing of this planet and future generations.

Personally, I appreciate April's many "Earth Month" reminders to deepen my own eco-theological roots and open myself to the many and varied iterations of our common appreciation and love of this Earth. I plan to expand my own faith lens and repertoire of spiritual practices at the upcoming Ecological Spiritualities conference. Perhaps I'll see you there, in person or on screen?

Spring has always been my favorite season, as the miraculous unfolding and regrowth of life reveals itself. While I find joy in that beauty, I also know how vital it is to allow time and space for naming and lamenting all that has been lost. Only then can our ecological grief give way to joyous resolve, and provide a firm grounding for our fierce commitments to protect the life we love.

May opportunities for you to draw upon your faith in our shared quest to combat climate silence be abundant. May you grow in clarity and resolve as take your next best steps for climate and environmental awareness and justice in your community.

Blessings to you and yours,

Inspiration

"Those meddling kids"
Youth v Gov Plaintiffs

Pray

Connect environmental justice to your faith tradition through prayer, worship, and reflection



Climate Action Week - Sacred Trust: Our Children's right to a livable future

Semana de Acción Religiosa por el Clima -Misión Sagrada: el derecho de nuestros hijos a un futuro habitable

Friday, April 22 - Sunday, May 1, 2022

Nurture your love of the earth and help safeguard a thriving Earth for future generations! IPL's premier annual program offers a rich collection of resources for climate-themed worship

services, sermons, faith-based discussions and actions in celebration of Earth Month. Help create a mass movement of people of faith preaching, teaching, and acting to heal the climate!

Sacred Trust: Our children's right to a livable future is the theme of 2022's Faith Climate Action Week. Our children and grandchildren and all future generations are depending on us to ensure a livable Earth and stable climate for all. Let's live up to the trust they have placed in us!

As people of faith, how do we embrace our responsibility to safeguard our Earth for future generations? How are we called to respond with bold and just solutions to the climate crisis?

[Download the 2022 Organizer's kit](#) and share these resources with your clergy, worship committee, "Green" team and others so they can plan the Faith Climate Action Week activities in your congregation.

[Obtenga Aquí el Kit](#)

[See Faith Climate Action Week Activities In Massachusetts and List Your Activity](#)

Two Opportunities to View the Feature Film: *Youth v Gov* (110 minutes)
Film and discussion guide available in Spanish!



Youth are undeniably leading the way in climate advocacy and activism around the world. This film documents the story of 21 youth plaintiffs suing the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights by perpetuating the climate crisis through its policies.

[Register through April 5th](#) with National IPL to host a free group live or virtual screening in your community from April 11 - May 1. Can't stream? You can request a DVD loan!

[Sign up here to join our neighbors at Vermont IPL](#) on **April 13, 6:30pm** for their virtual screening and Youth Panel. After the screening, join a discussion with one of the filmmakers and Vermont-based and national youth activists. Event moderator Sylvia Burkman, VT IPL Board member and South Burlington High School senior, says, "This will benefit anyone interested in learning more about the legacy of the climate crisis and how everyone, especially youth, can make a difference."

Save the Date: Wednesday, April 27, 7:30pm. One-hour IPL webinar with *Youth v. Gov* Plaintiffs. Hear from the film's director and two youth plaintiffs from the featured court case whose activism is inspired by their faith. Register at: https://bit.ly/YvG_IPL



CREW Interfaith Summit 2022: Together in Climate Chaos: Interfaith Solidarity for Climate Resilient Communities
Sunday, May 1, 4 - 6 pm

North American Indian Center of Boston, 105 South Huntington Ave, Jamaica Plain and on Zoom.

Join faith communities around the greater Boston area as we come together to discuss extreme weather and climate resilience in combination with diverse faith groups. [Register here.](#)

Ecological Spiritualities Conference
Wednesday-Saturday, April 27-30, 2022
Harvard Divinity School, Program for the Evolution of Spirituality



Register to attend virtually at no cost!

Join speakers from across the globe in this inaugural conference on Ecological Spiritualities. Workshops, presentations and papers aim to explore the evolution of earth-based spiritual traditions and highlight innovative spiritual practices that are emerging in response to climate change, mass extinction, biodiversity loss, and the disruption of local and global ecosystems.

[Learn more and register HERE.](#)

Act

Lower the carbon emissions of your house of worship and your home



Solar Open Forum
Thursday, April 7, 1 pm
Get Answers to Your Questions About Solar!

130 houses of worship in Massachusetts have installed solar panels, and many more have considered it. This session will focus on the experiences they have had and provide attendees with information about the steps in the journey, what to expect in the process, challenges met along the way, and how to overcome these challenges.

After brief descriptions of their solar journeys by three congregations currently working through the process, the session will be open for your questions. Are you considering solar now? Bring your questions! Have you considered solar in the past but weren't able to make it happen? Share your experience with the group and get practical suggestions on how to restart the process and be successful. Click below to register:

Register for the Solar Open

Get Ready to Turn Your Thermostats Off!

We just set our clocks back...days are getting longer...temperatures are getting warmer. This is what is called "shoulder season" -- the time of year when you still need a little heat, but not much. So you can save energy and money if you:



1. Set your overnight or unoccupied temperature down to 50 degrees. With average overnight lows in the 40's in April the risk of freezing pipes is practically gone and rooms will heat back up pretty quickly.
2. Set daytime and occupied temperature no higher than 68 degrees. As daytime highs climb into the 50's, rooms feel warmer than the did when outside temperatures are in the 30's. Maybe give 65 degrees a try!
3. Turn off the heat as soon as is comfortable. This varies based on your building and what kinds of temperatures spring brings us -- always a roller coaster in New England! But typically you can turn the heat off entirely at the end of April or early in May.
4. Plan ahead for summer. If you have air conditioning, the Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat at 78 degrees.

These recommendations are appropriate for both your home and your house of worship. Give them a try!



Now Is The Time To Learn About Heat Pumps

Yes, heating season is over, but it isn't too early to prepare for the next one. Especially if your furnace or boiler gave you trouble over the winter, you are thinking of replacing it, or it is more than 15 - 20 years old.

Because heat pumps use electricity and don't burn fossil fuels, they are the preferred solution for lower-carbon heating. As the electric grid adds more wind and solar sources, electricity will become lower carbon and eventually zero carbon. The Baker Administration's 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap says "Electrification of space and water heating is a low-risk, cost-effective strategy for decarbonizing the majority of the Commonwealth's building stock."

Here are three great resources to help learn about heat pumps and plan to install them at your home and house of worship:

This article in *Wired* explains why using a furnace is so 1922! In 2022, humanity has to massively ramp up adoption of clean ways to heat buildings. [Why You \(and the Planet\) Really Need a Heat Pump](#)

The New York Times Wirecutter section also had an excellent introduction to heat pumps: [A Heat Pump Might Be Right For Your Home: Here's Everything You Need To Know](#)

[HeatSmart Alliance](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to [providing free coaching](#) to Massachusetts residents who want to transition from their oil, propane, and natural gas heating and hot water systems to modern heat pump technology. Their site has [great resources](#) to learn about heat pumps, learn about the financial incentives available, and to find an installer. Homeowners appreciate the help in heat pump decision-making, with one saying, "We reviewed all options with our coach. He was fabulous at explaining the different options, comparing the proposal costs, and suggesting questions to ask the installers."

Join the Faith Action Network for Climate & Environmental Justice



MASSACHUSETTS
Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

Have you heard?! Mass IPL is launching the Faith Action Network for Climate & Environmental Justice (FAN): local multifaith teams that will hold our legislators and other decision-makers accountable on climate and environmental justice. (This campaign was formerly called Faith in Action: we selected this new name to avoid confusion with the national [Faith in Action](#) justice organization).

Grounded in their home congregations, Faith Action Network (FAN) Teams will reach across boundaries of religious tradition to work together on statewide legislative campaigns and local issues. Mass IPL will offer training, guidance, and support. For more information, please contact organizer Miriam Cohen at mcohen@massipl.org. If you'd like to get involved in the Faith Action Network, please fill out this form: bit.ly/faithactionnetwork

FRRACS PRESENTS:
GREAT TIDE RISING:
EARTH DAY AT THE COMPRESSOR
Saturday, April 23
10am - 1pm

Red Rebels Procession on the Fore River Bridge at 10am
Procession led by the Red Rebels, an international performance troupe dedicated to highlighting the global climate crisis (more info: redrebelsboston.org). The procession will begin at 10am on the Fore River Bridge. Allies are welcome to join.

Rally in the Park
Gather in the park for a rally with various speakers and lively music. Featuring music by the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians band (BABAM) and Eamon Anderson.

Community Picnic and Gathering
Join us for refreshments, a walk through the park, and more music.

50 Bridge Street, Weymouth
Rain Date: April 24

For more details and event updates, visit our website: NoCompressor.com or scan this code with your phone.

Great Tide Rising: Earth Day Action at Weymouth Compressor Station, Saturday, April 23, 10am – 1pm 50 Bridge St., Weymouth Hosted by Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station.

Show your support for closing Enbridge's compressor station by joining Red Rebel Brigade, the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians (BABAM) Band, elected leaders, musicians, including MassIPL Policy Director Rev. Fred Small and Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman who will lead "The Tide is Rising," and others.

All clergy and lay faith leaders invited!

Carpooling suggested! Public transportation and parking logistics can be found [HERE](#).

Track Massachusetts' progress (or not!) toward its climate goals

Back in 2015, when the United States joined the Paris Climate Accords, The Daily Show's Trevor Noah compared it to a gym membership. Joining a gym is easy. Actually showing up and working out--that's the hard part!

Massachusetts' landmark Next Generation Roadmap Act, signed into law last year, is like that. One of the strongest climate laws in the nation, it set ambitious emissions reduction targets, required that the administration set interim goals overall and by sector, and established new protections for environmental justice communities. Great stuff--if it's actually implemented.

Our friends at [Environmental League of Massachusetts](#) have created a new website, NetZeroMA.org, to monitor real-time progress on fulfilling the promise of the Roadmap Act. The website is a one-stop resource to hold our government accountable for implementing real solutions to the climate crisis. The website shows the deadline for each legal

ELM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS

**ONE YEAR LATER,
IS THE STATE ON TRACK?**

NetZeroMA.org

duty alongside its current status. (Spoiler alert: deadlines have already been missed, including the required appointment of an Environmental Justice Council.)

MassIPL and many other public-interest groups labored mightily to enact the NextGen Roadmap. It's up to all of us to make sure this law is more than words on paper.

NetZeroMA.org will help!

Clean Energy Climate Plan Public Hearing: Buildings Sector Thursday, April 14 – 1 - 3pm, and 6 - 8 pm



Speak out on limiting carbon emissions from buildings!

Here is an opportunity to make sure the Baker Administration implements the Next Generation Roadmap Act.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is developing the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide job benefits to Massachusetts residents. Join in upcoming public hearings to provide feedback on EEA's proposal for 2025 and 2030, including economy-wide emissions limits, emissions sub-limits for specific sectors, goals on natural and working lands, and policies to achieve these emissions limits, sub-limits, and goals.

Register for one of two sessions with the same presentation:

Thursday, April 14, **1:00pm - 3:00pm** bit.ly/3tbtlai

Thursday, April 14, **6:00 - 8:00pm** bit.ly/3q5sBqG

Written feedback accepted at [THIS LINK](#) until April 30, 2022.

Recordings in multiple languages posted afterwards at www.mass.gov/2030CECP.



Join MassIPL in urging passage of H.3333 and S.2197: An Act to prevent biomass energy to protect the air we breathe.

Wood-burning power plants are not “clean energy” and should not qualify for renewable energy credits. This legislation aims to prevent this.

Smokestack CO2 emissions from utility-scale wood-burning power plants are *worse* than coal per unit of energy generated. They also emit large quantities of other harmful air pollutants and are damaging to our health, our climate, and our forests. And without renewable energy credits, they are not economically viable.

This act removes woody biomass from the list of technologies eligible for renewable energy incentives in the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (APS). These ratepayer-funded programs are best used to incentivize clean, non-emitting energy technologies, such as wind and solar, *not* wood-burning technologies, which cause harmful air pollution while exacerbating climate change.

Email your state legislators! Ask your House Rep to cosponsor H3333; ask your Senator to pass S2197. Click [here](#) to find out who your state legislators are and how to contact them. Or send an email through the [Action Network](#) site and they'll find them for you!

Here are some suggested talking points:

- Wood-burning power plants are not “clean energy.” They emit large quantities of harmful air pollution and are damaging to our health, our climate, and our forests.
- The new regulations open the door even wider for dozens of existing, highly polluting

biomass power plants across New England to sell renewable energy credits in Massachusetts.

- Massachusetts ratepayers don't want to subsidize polluting biomass power plants with their clean energy dollars, here or elsewhere!

Learn even more about the pitfalls of biomass energy and the shortcomings of MA's proposed regulatory changes from [Partnership for Policy Integrity](#) and [No Toxic Biomass](#).



VTIPL Spring Conference: *Limits to Growth: Finding Pathways to a Sustainable Future*
Sunday, April 24, 1:30 - 7 pm
Norwich Congregational Church
Norwich, VT

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Jon Erickson**, the David Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science & Policy of The University of Vermont and author of upcoming book, *The Progress Illusion: Reclaiming our Future from*

the Fairytale of Economics. He asks, "With the planet in peril and humanity in crisis, how did we become duped into believing the fairytale of economics? And how can we get past the illusion to design an economy that is socially just and ecologically balanced?"

Four workshops in two sessions featuring:

- Prof. Jon Erickson & Marta Ceroni**, Co-Director, Academy for Systems Change;
- Bob Fireovid**, Exec. Dir. of Better (not bigger) Vermont;
- Creative Activism Youth Workshop** moderated by **Sylvia Burkman**, South Burlington High School senior & VTIPL Board member; and,
- Rev. Joan Javier-Duval**, Pastor of Unitarian Church of Montpelier & **Jared Duval**, Exec. Dir. of Energy Action Network (EAN).

More information and [Registration details on VTIPL's website](#); pay online, or print the registration form and mail it. The Conference registration fee is \$45 per person which includes a meal, snacks, and beverages. Student registration fees are waived, but students still must register. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Inspiration

[CLICK on this link to read what the Plaintiffs, aka "those meddling kids" have to say!](#)



"Here's the deal. If you have a child-rearing bone in your body — or, really, anything other than a raisin where your heart should be — YOUTH v GOV will move you. The film, which chronicles the path to trial for the 21 youth plaintiffs suing the federal government over climate inaction, is a masterclass in making the mundane emotionally resonant. Part of that power comes from the skill of the filmmakers, who weave together 60 years of archival material, stirring footage of natural disasters, and dramatic courtroom video to bring dense legal arguments to life. But the vast majority of the documentary's emotional muscle comes from those meddling kids." -- Clayton Aldern, Grist.

Find the information in this newsletter valuable?
You can help MassIPL expand its impact!

Forward this newsletter >>> to others in your network and area.
Consider making a donation to support MassIPL's work.

Donate to
MassIPL

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light | 897 Washington St., Unit 600163, Newton, MA 02460
www.MassIPL.org

