



MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

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July 2022

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Dear friends,

The recent Supreme Court decision on *WV v EPA* dealt a significant blow to the climate movement by limiting the agency's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Although not unexpected, I had honestly hoped for better.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her dissenting opinion, "*The Court appoints itself — instead of Congress or the expert agency — the decision maker on climate policy. I cannot think of many things more frightening.*"

I'm with her. The clock ticks through yet another delay and denial of the urgency to cut emissions; meanwhile, we know suffering will increase for so many. Yet, we are continuously called by our sacred responsibility to revere and honor the god of our understanding and all of creation to be faithful stewards.

We are called to make a way out of what seems to be no way.

Fortunately, we have other options to explore and exhaust towards the goal of a livable future and climate justice:

Madison Mayhew, IPL's Federal Policy Advocate, writes, "*The good news is that Congress still has the power to do what the Court will not, which is why we're calling on them to take bold and just action now by delivering the \$550 billion in investments in climate and clean energy through Reconciliation. Congressional action can accelerate a just transition to a clean energy future and help protect the climate for our beloved communities—in spite of the Court's obstruction.*"

We can keep urging President Biden to sign executive orders that declare a climate emergency and Build Back Fossil Free.

We can involve ourselves and our congregations in voter engagement efforts across the country to ensure our legislators are scientifically literate and environmental and climate justice friendly. With a recent poll finding "63 percent of likely voters are concerned about the Supreme Court removing environmental protections established under the Clean Air Act," now is the time.

MassIPL encourages you to get involved in whatever ways you find meaningful and possible. And, our newsletter this month includes plenty of timely summer reading to help you do just that,

Inspiration

Elizabeth Kolbert,
*Under a White Sky: The
Nature of the Future*

including the excellent and timely report on Voter Suppression featured below and the IPL Faithful Voter Reflection Guide.

Remember to take time for reflection and feeding your soul, for we are in this for the long haul!

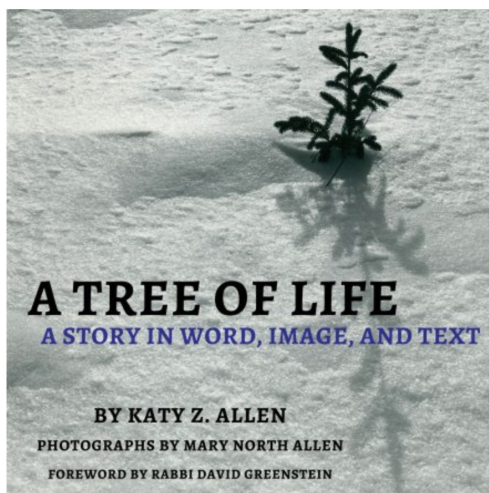
With joyous resolve,



Rev. Cindy Davidson

Pray

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



A TREE OF LIFE: A Story in Word, Image and Text

A compelling new resource for individual or group study and reflection

"This small, beautiful book is a gem! I found it extremely refreshing and moving, just what I needed, during a time when I was feeling too much had shaken my trust in humanity and my hopes for a livable future. The poetic nature, the images, the sequential prompts and the spaciousness of the whole seamlessly woven together helped me work through feelings of discouragement, grief, despair, and hopelessness to a more hope-filled place. Thank you!" -- Rev. Cindy Davidson

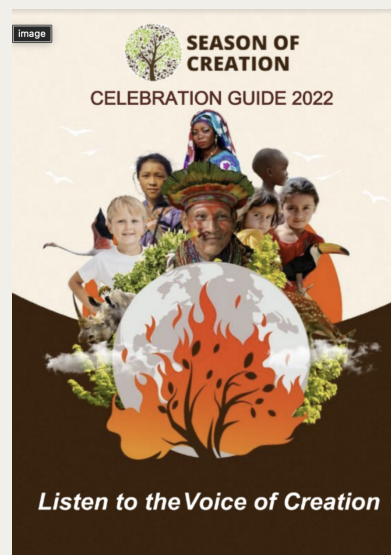
Rabbi Katy Z. Allen is the founder and spiritual leader of Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope, an outdoor congregation in Wayland, MA, and also the founder of the Jewish Climate Action Network - MA. Much of her climate work is eco-chaplaincy. You can purchase the book [HERE](#).

Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4 "Listen to the Voices of Creation"

The World Council of Churches invites Christians worldwide to take Action for Creation and care for our common home during the 2022 Season of Creation.

The Season begins with the [World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation](#) on September 1 and goes through the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. Tune into the online Prayer Service streaming from Assisi, Italy on September 1!

The 41-page Celebration Guide shares ideas for celebrating the season and includes resources for worship, prayer and study and suggestions for activities ranging from sustainable living practices to opportunities for advocacy. Something for everyone!



Download the Guide and get more information
[HERE](#)

Act

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

Shave the Peak Program Green Energy Consumer Alliance

Do your part to help reduce pollution and emissions by paying attention to peak regional electricity demands throughout the summer. Sign up for this program to receive texts or emails on hot days alerting you to conserve energy during certain peak hours.



What is "peak"? Why is it so bad for the environment? Learn more at this [webinar recording](#).

Learn more and Sign up for Shave the Peak

Mobilize

Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world



MASS Legislative Session Count-Down!!

Wake Up for Climate Justice Rally
At the State House and online
Monday, July 11, 11am – 1pm Eastern

FULL INFO online [HERE](#):

With the legislative session scheduled to end July 31, NOW is the time to continue demanding climate action! Join organizers and activists including Mass Power Forward and UU Mass Action at the State House, online and in at least 10 mini-rallies in communities across the state!

On June 24, the Baker administration advanced final [renewable energy regulations](#) that would subsidize wood-burning power plants across the Northeast. This parting gift to the biomass industry will direct millions of dollars to power plants that are **more polluting than coal**, instead of to clean renewables like offshore wind and solar.

**ACTION ALERT: Biomass Call-In Day: July 7th
... and keep the calls going in afterwards!**

Urge the conference committee to make a "clean sweep" and end all renewable energy subsidies for burning wood.

Can you spare a few minutes to make some calls?

House TUE Chair Jeff Roy: (617) 722-2030

Senate TUE Chair Mike Barrett: (617) 722-1572

House Speaker Ron Mariano: (617) 722-2500

Senate President Karen Spilka: (617) 722-1500

Specifically, ask them to:

1. Keep sections 22-30 of S.2842 in the final climate and energy bill, which take woody biomass out of Massachusetts' two main renewable energy programs, the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Alternative Portfolio Standard
2. Remove woody biomass from the new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard for municipal light plants

RSVP for the Wake Up for Climate Justice Rally

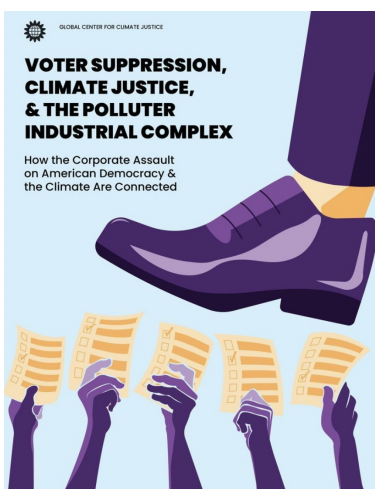
IPL Briefing: Carbon Pollution Reduction Opportunities at Federal Agencies in 2022 July 19, 2pm Eastern (recording follows)

Get an overview of all the tools the federal government has to offer to make the emissions reductions we need to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Learn the specifics of what the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior, and other federal agencies can -- and must -- do to set strong standards to clean up power plants, transportation, and other pollution.

Knowledge is power in urging the Biden administration to take meaningful and immediate action to tackle the climate crisis and protect our health, air, land, water, and wildlife.



Register [HERE](#) for the Webinar via Zoom



VOTER SUPPRESSION, CLIMATE JUSTICE & THE POLLUTER INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX:

How the Corporate Assault on American Democracy and the Climate Are Connected.

Report released by the Global Center for Climate Justice

This comprehensive, 78-page report connects the dots and exposes how corporate interests in the suppression of voting rights and stalling climate action go hand in hand. Readers learn how conservative billionaires and corporate supporters of climate science denialism are providing tens of millions of dollars to the political sponsors of voter suppression initiatives targeting people of color across the country. The reason for this assault is simple: people of color and youth are on the

frontlines of the climate crisis. And, voters of color, young people, those with disabilities and working class folks are more likely to vote for environmentally conscious candidates.

The report lays out options to counteract the spreading threats of election subversion and voter suppression, and suggests: we must pass federal legislation that protects and expands voting rights; creates protections against the most common obstacles faced by voters; and creates new transparency requirements on the flood of dark money financing elections. We have the solutions: members of Congress have introduced key voting rights legislation and numerous organizations are already leading the charge to enhance and expand voting rights.

The climate justice movement depends on preserving fair voting rights!

READ THE REPORT ONLINE
HERE

PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY discussion July 14, 7 pm Eastern Online webinar

Join Rev. Susan Hendershot, IPL's President, for a discussion with Rev. Terrance M.

McKinley, Sojourners' Director of Racial Justice Mobilizing, and affiliate IPL leaders from Georgia, Michigan, and Texas, to discuss what's at stake and why people of faith and conscience and our faith communities are uniquely positioned to protect our democracy.



Register for the Protecting our Democracy
Webinar

Get your Faithful Voter Reflection Guide now!

[Download a free digital version](#) of the guide.
[Printed guides available for purchase](#) \$5 plus shipping.

Learn more about the guide by watching IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot's June 10th **conversation about the guide** and this election season with Climate Reality Project's William J Barber, III and other IPL partners.

Intended to spur discussion and discernment, and whether you use it at a kitchen table, in a house of worship, at a community forum, or at an event with political candidates, the hope is it helps you navigate the urgent moral questions raised by this election. The issues addressed here provide a framework for evaluating issues and candidates in a way that prioritizes solutions that promote dignity and the common good. Each section includes suggested questions to guide your conversations and spark ideas for questions to ask political candidates.



Inspiration

"Neither optimism nor pessimism alters the fact that we live in an extraordinary moment.

The choices that we'll make -- that we are making right now, without necessarily being aware of them -- will determine the future of life for our children and their children and all the

other species on earth for generations to come.

This is the situation we're in, and there's no avoiding it, because, in the end, this marvelous, fragile planet is all we've got."

-- Elizabeth Kolbert, Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future



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