



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

...Faith in Action....

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In 1997 Rev. Sally Bingham, San Francisco Grace Cathedral, formed the Episcopal Power and Light ministry to educate members about energy efficiency, green power and deregulated energy. In 2002, Father Charles Morris, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Wyandotte, MI, teamed with the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM), ENERGY STAR Program to launch an IPL in Michigan. The purpose of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light (MiIPL) is to *involve communities of faith as stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices.*

MiIPL Board of Directors:

Dr. Dick Brown
Danielle Conroyd
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MiIPL Newsletter

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Mark H. Clevey, MPA, Senior Editor

Message from the Director

The last couple of months have been momentous both for MiIPL and for the Interfaith Power & Light movement across the nation. Mark Clevey and I represented MiIPL at the first gathering of state representatives of IP&Ls. Established programs such as California, Oregon, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Jersey were represented. There were also States like Michigan – Georgia and Connecticut – who have been up-and-running over the course of the past year. What was very exciting was the growth we were seeing as new States are coming on board. New Mexico, Vermont, Virginia, Colorado, Illinois, and the District of Columbia are all beginning programs.

We had the opportunity to share our stories, to consult with one another, and to form new friendships. As a result we are forming a confederation of sorts. The Regeneration Project, which is the national coordinating arm and clearing house for the State IP&Ls, will be working with a steering committee, representative of participating States. I like to quip that the “right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing” works only in prayer. It is a sign of the

both the growth of the IP&L movement and the challenges we face as a faith community if we are to point toward a sustainable future that we share resources and help to coordinate a national vision. Global warming and the future depletion of the world's oil reserves poses a greater challenge than can just be addressed in an individual State. Here is a list that came from the meeting about things you can do to celebrate "Green":

- Green Sabbath
 - People wear green to worship that day.
 - Green cookies for refreshments.
 - Green soap and product displays.
 - Congregation covenant.
 - "Light a candle and change a bulb.
- Set up Interfaith Earth Care Teams through the Social concerns committees.
- Carbon Cutting Pledge
 - Plant trees
 - Recycle
 - Energy Conservation
 - Green Power
- Display Panel: "You Have the Power". Theological piece, lifestyle piece, green power piece, and lobbying, etc.
- MiIPL Congregation of the Season – Recognition for most Energy Saved and Carbon Emissions offset.

I am also very excited to announce that Noelle Hartner, who has been director of outreach at Urban Options, will be working at the behest of MiIPL as office manager. Noelle will continue her work at Urban Options [It will even expand]. MiIPL is contracting with Urban Options for one-half of Noelle's time. Since Noelle and I have shared an office for the last several months, and because Urban Options and MiIPL collaborate on a number of projects this should be a great blessing for both organizations. Noelle began working with MiIPL on April 12. Since my sabbatical ends on June 30 and I am scheduled to resume my duties as a parish priest we will need someone who can carry out the day-to-day operations of MiIPL. Noelle is very well qualified. In our next issue Noelle will share some of her story with you.

Our Detroit pilot project "Faith in Energy" is proceeding very well. As we have shared in our last issue, MiIPL is a partner in a low-income energy efficiency grant that the State of Michigan is funding. In partnership with organizations such as Urban Options, WARM Training, Credit Union ONE, Shepherd Advisors, and SBAM. Among those most vulnerable to the pressures of rising energy prices the faith community carries both a powerful moral voice and is a strategic partner in helping folk in the low income community achieve energy independence. Finally, in March Mark Clevey submitted a pre-proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency for a \$1.5 million, 3 year program to expand the ENERGY STAR Aggregation project piloted by MiIPL over the last two years. EPA is looking for a "market-based" approach to global warming. If this grant is awarded, MiIPL will receive a substantial increase in our ENERGY STAR funding.

Rev. Charles Morris

Meet the MiIPL Board

Paul Stankewitz brings a lot of both expertise and deep faith to his work on the Board. Growing up as a young Catholic in Royal Oak Paul's parents instilled in him a strong sense of stewardship. Paul went to Michigan State, where he received a B.A in Public Policy and a M.P.A. in Public Administration. Paul has worked as City Manager for the City of Onaway. Since 2001 Paul has served as Director of the Michigan Catholic Rural Life Coalition, where his passion for a sustainable land ethic has deepened. Paul was drawn to Michigan Interfaith Power & Light because of its interfaith dimension, its commitment to the environment, and that it helps congregations accomplish goals of social justice while saving money. We are very blessed at

MiIPL to have someone of Paul's experience, his clarity of mind, and his experience as an advocate for the Michigan farmer and the sacredness of the land.

MiIPL Impact Report

In 2003, MiIPL Piloted an Aggregated Refrigerator Purchase project. To date, over 20 refrigerators were purchased by MiIPL members and/or their congregants. Refrigerators use the most energy of any home appliance. A new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator uses less energy than a 75-watt light bulb *left on for one year*. An ENERGY STAR® refrigerator is 40% more efficient than conventional models sold in 2001.

Replacing a 10-year old refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® model can reduce an electricity bill by \$25-\$60 a year. If every household in Michigan replaced their ten year old refrigerator with a new ENERGY STAR® model, the annual savings would be 1.3 billion kWh/year. That is enough electricity saved to light the city of Lansing for 19.3 years. If only one in ten houses used ENERGY STAR appliances the change to our atmosphere would be like planting 1.7 million new acres of trees - every year.

Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

The Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life is a Metropolitan Detroit Michigan based organization housed in the Jewish Community Council (a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization). The Jewish Community

Council serves as the public affairs voice of the Detroit Jewish community, representing more than 200 Jewish religious, civic and social organizations and approximately 100,000 people. It represents the Jewish Community in the public arena and serves as the liaison between the organized Jewish community and the public at large. The Jewish Community Council supports environmental concerns as a legitimate Jewish issue, and as such, supports the Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (MI-COEJL). MI-COEJL focuses on environmental education and the promotion of energy efficiency in the Jewish Community.

As a faith-based environmental program, MI-COEJL works to help congregations and other Jewish institutions integrate environmental and Jewish ideals into programming and practice, and to mobilize the Jewish community to act on behalf of the environment. Jewish tradition teaches the concept of *Bal Tashchit*, do not destroy or waste, as well as *Tikkun Olam*, repair of the world. Based on these Jewish ideals, MI-COEJL wants to establish comprehensive energy conservation and recycling programs within the Jewish community.

A 2001 survey of synagogues, temples, organizations and agencies in the Detroit area found that only 10 of 53 respondents noted the environment as a focus of social action activities. More than half of the Jewish institutions that participate with MI-COEJL (congregations and Jewish agencies) have not had a comprehensive ENERGY STAR energy audit of their buildings and do not have formal recycling programs. In most cases, those that have had audits have failed to make any changes based on the audit recommendations. Those that do, recycle bottles and cans, but almost no paper, newspaper or any other material recycling.

The opportunity for energy recovery and waste reduction through ENERGY STAR and recycling are significant. Thus, MI COJEL was

an early supporter of MiIPL. In 2004, the Michigan ENERGY STAR Promotion Program, operated by SBAM, provided a SEED grant to MI COJEL to pilot a program to raise the environmental and energy awareness in the Jewish community and increase the membership of Temples, across the state, in MiIPL. For more information on this project please contact:

For more information: Sara Bernstein, Director, MI COJEL, c/o Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, 6735 Telegraph Road. PO Box 2030, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-2030. (248) 642-4260.

Green Power Primer: By, Mark H. Clevey

“You Have the Power”

<i>SAVINGS FROM:</i>	
1. Conservation (Reduce Energy Bill by 25 %)	\$
2. Energy Efficiency (ENERGY STAR) (Reduce Energy Bill by 25%)	\$
3. Deregulated Non Renewable Power (Reduce Energy Bill by 15% - 35%)	\$
PAYS FOR:	<i>Green Power</i>

Green Tags

This article continues our series on Renewable Energy designed to make it easier for MiIPL members to purchase Green Power (Grid Connected and/or Stand-alone, on site and/or off site). This month we will focus on Green Tags.

The dark side of green power is the potential for deceptive advertising and the need for industry standards and enforceable substantiation requirements. For MiIPL members that want green power, the marketing of environmental

benefits is a powerful advertising theme. When power flows from the generator to the customer, all green and non-green electrons are merged together in the states electrical grid.

When buying green power it is important to **look closely** at power marketer claims and materials. It is important that power marketers offer and provide to consumers what they had sought to purchase: environmentally beneficial green power. For example, by simply **reclassifying existing Hydro Power as Green Power**, a seller could charge more for their **existing** electricity. Naïve, unwitting or well-meaning consumers, acting in good faith, may believe they are offsetting pollution when in reality nothing has changed but the price and bureaucratic definition. *In this instance, congregation members could actually reduce their ability to stimulate green power by **paying extra to maintain the status quo**. ARUG!!!*

Environmentalists, independent power producers, renewable energy companies and fossil fuel power utilities often disagree on what is “green” and “renewable”. **Disclosure** of an energy products contents using a definition such as proposed by the National Association of Attorney’s General is essential to all consumers to have the final say. **Credible** renewable energy products and companies are those – and **only those** – that can meet **enforceable substantiation requirements** (fuel types, attributes, generation processes, emissions, environmental benefits, quantities, function of generation or transmission systems, comparisons, endorsements, certifications or tags, etc.).

Green power cannot become a viable industry unless consumers are allowed to vote with their dollars for what they believe is the most desirable power source. Consumers must have a clear, straightforward means to **“vote”** with their dollars for the kind of energy facilities they wish to support.

Within this context, the National Association of Attorneys General has proposed a set of “Environmental marketing Guidelines for Electricity” to establish the operating parameters of the Tradable Credits system. In these guidelines, the Attorneys General note that it is,

“physically impossible to determine the sources of the electrons used by any given consumer. Thus, when a consumer chooses a particular electricity product based on the environmental attributes associated with how and where that power was generated, what s/he is actually doing is financially supporting the chosen generation source, not buying the precise energy generated by that source.”

While it is impossible to verify the source of any particular electrons it is possible to *follow the financial transactions* that underlie the generation of electricity and its purchase by consumers. The Attorneys General report notes:

“First, the usage by the customer is measured at the customer’s meter. The customer is billed for that usage and the proceeds for the energy to the supplier. The supplier in turn must pay, either directly or through a middleman, the generators whose power it bought in order to meet customer demand. In this way, the customer’s usage is linked, through the financial process, to identifiable generation units and characteristics – for example, the fuel type or emissions associated with electricity that came from those units. Thus it is possible to say with reasonable certainty that the customer’s purchase and use of power did result in the generation and placement on the grid of power possessing the power characteristics of the supplier’s offer and that no other claim is made on that power. This allows suppliers to use the financial trail to substantiate their claims as to the quantity and attributes of their electricity.”

A major difficulty associated with linking the “financial process to identifiable generation

units and characteristics,” however, concerns the use of substantiating electricity product or company claims for consumers. According to the Attorney’s General, the issue “*involves the flow of money from the consumer to the advertised generation source and evidence that claims are not made twice for the same units of electricity.*”

“**Tagging**” is a system of tradable certificates that links the “*financial process to identifiable generation units and characteristics.*” Properly designed, a “tagging” system ensures that the supplier will have “*certificates that reliably establish that, for the period relevant to the claim, the supplier purchased the sole rights to the claimed attributes in an amount adequate to meet consumption demand for the product consistent with the claimed attributes.*” In addition, “*no more than one certificate*” will be “*issued for any one unit of power.*”

NativeEnergy

NativeEnergy is a renewable energy venture that is using Tags to help develop domestic renewable energy resources on Native American land, creating social, economic and environmental benefits. In 2002, *NativeEnergy* took a major step forward by joining forces with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, to help them build the first large-scale Native American owned and operated wind turbine and is currently helping the Tribe build Phase 2, 10 MW wind farm on their Reservation.

According to *NativeEnergy*, the premium consumers pay for the *NativeEnergy* Green Tags goes to support the construction of only new wind projects, and in exchange, the environmental benefits are attributed to the buyer through your purchase of the Green Tags. MiIPL is working with **SBAM, Dr. Debra Rowe and Don Johns (Michigan Independent Power Producers Association)** to evaluate

NativeEnergy as an option for our members. For more information on NativeEnergy please see:

www.energyindependenceday.org

www.nativeenergy.com

www.honorearth.org

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) – Part I

“Socially Responsible Investing” (SRI) can be described as a form of “*Karmic Capitalism*” that allows investors to invest their “principals with their principles.” MiIPL members have the opportunity to use their investment to foster the growth of businesses that share their principals. For example, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) is a coalition of religious organizations that has focused on SRI related investments for over 30 years.

While ethical investing can be traced back to 17th century Quakers, SRI really began in 1971 with the Pax World Fund that screened stocks for their social responsibility. Today, there are roughly 200 SRI individual mutual funds handling \$151 billion in assets. Although much evidence exists that social investment screens have little negative impacts on returns, they do seem to have a positive impact. SRI funds have generally outperformed the average and SRI is the fastest growing sector of the financial services industry. According to *E The Environmental Magazine*, for example, “*from the \$40 billion first surveyed in 1984, socially oriented portfolios had climbed to \$2.1 trillion by the end of 2002 – a more than 5,000 percent increase.*”

One of the greatest impacts of SRI is in getting people to realize that ethical and

environmental issues can be a key part of a business mission and practices (Karmic Capitalism). Indeed, many believe that capitalism is a finely tuned race car with a broken steering wheel. SRI focuses on the steering wheel. SRI is not an exacting screen, however.

For example, before its collapse Enron was considered a model SRI company and investment. Also, if a company CEO lost money by adopting SRI related practices, it could be considered a breach of his fiduciary responsibilities. **So.... it is important that you do your homework.** For example, investing in a company whose entire product line is environmentally conscious may have more impacts than one that is just trying to “green-up” for public relations purposes.

The following is a list of resources, banks, mutual funds and Money Managers dedicated to Socially Responsible Investing:

- **As You Sow** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting corporate social responsibility. (415) 391-3212 www.asyousow.org
- **Calvert Financial Group** (Mutual Fund). (800) 368-2748. www.calvertgroup.com
- **Citizens Funds** (Mutual Fund). (800) 368-2748. www.citizensfunds.com
- **Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)** is a coalition of organizations that holds companies accountable to a 10-point code of environmental conduct. (617) 247-0700. www.ceres.org
- **Domini Social Investments** (Mutual Fund). (800) 762-6814. www.domini.com
- **First Affirmative Financial Network** (Money Manager/Consultant). (800) 422-7284.
- **Green Century Funds** (Mutual Fund). (800) 934-7336. www.greencentury.com.
- **GreenMoney Journal** maintains a website and newsletter on SRI. (800) 849-8751. www.greenmoneyjournal.com.
- **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)** is a coalition of religious investors that promotes corporate responsibility. (212) 870-2295. www.iccr.org
- **Investor Responsibility Research Center IRRC** is an independent research firm that has been the leading

source of high quality, impartial information on corporate governance and social responsibility issues affecting investors and corporations. (212) 833-0700. www.irc.org.

- **KLD Research & Analytics** compiles social profiles on roughly 3,000 U.S. companies and maintains SRI benchmark indexes. (202) 872-5319. www.social-invest.org.
- **New Alternatives Fund** (Mutual Fund). (800) 423-8383. www.newalternativesfund.com
- **PAX World Fund** (Mutual Fund). (800) 767-1729. www.paxworldcapital.com
- **Portfolio 21** (Mutual Fund). (877) 351-4115 (X 21), (503) 244-7828. www.Portfolio21.com.
- **Principle Profits** (Money Manager/Consultant). (800) 972-3289. www.PrincipleProfits.com.
- **Progressive Asset Management Network** (Money Manager/Consultant). (800) 786-2998. www.progressiveassetmanagement.com.
- **ShoreBank Pacific/Eco Deposites**. (877) 326-4326. www.eco-bank.com
- **The Clean Yield** (Money Manager/Consultant). (800) 809-6439. www.cleanyield.com.
- **Trillium Asset Management** (Money Manager/Consultant). (800) 548-5684. www.trilliuminvest.com.
- **Winslow Green Growth Fund** (Mutual Fund). (888) 314-9049. www.winslowgreen.com

References use in this article include:

- Peter Camejo, *The SRI Advantage* (New Society, \$29.95). Comprised of articles on mutual fund performance, community and international investing and pension funds.
- Jack Brill, Hal Brill and Cliff Feigenbaum, *Investing with Your Values* (New Society, \$10.95). Information for those interested in making SRI investments.
- E The Environmental Magazine, "Working Capital" (March/April 2004, Vol. XV, No 2, pp26)
- Marshall Glickman, (editor of "Green Living") "The Mindful Money Guide"
- Marjorie Kelly (co-founder and publisher of "Business Ethics: Corporate Responsibility Report") "The Devine Right of Capital: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy"
- Serria Club Magazine.
- OXFAM Exchange.

Ways to Leverage Your Green Dollar Power...

Here are some ways to use your buying power to effect social change:

1. **Fair Trade** – The average U.S. household spends nearly \$8,300 each year on food, clothing and home goods. If just 5% of this amount were earmarked for Fair Trade goods - \$415.00 – it would support products, pay small-scale producers a fair price for this goods and stimulate the creation, retention and expansion of retailers specializing in fair trade clothing, crafts and other items. SEE: www.fairtradefederation.org, www.transfairusa.org, and/or www.fairtraderesource.org.
2. **Do Your Homework** – A good resource for corporate performance is the *World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)* - a coalition of 170 international companies united by a shared commitment to sustainable development via the three pillars of economic growth, ecological balance and social progress. In Michigan WBDSC members include Dow Chemical and Dow Corning, Ford Motor Company, Pfizer and General Motors. The WBCSD's activities reflect their belief that the pursuit of sustainable development is good for business and business is good for sustainable development. Their mission is to "provide business leadership as a catalyst for change toward sustainable development, and to promote the role of eco-efficiency, innovation and corporate social responsibility." **For more information:** <http://www.wbcds.ch>. To support social responsibility by industry, corporation, or brand see: www.coopamerica.org or www.idealswork.org.

2. **Influence Corporate Behavior at your Workplace** – Develop a Corporate Citizenship Committee at your place of employment. Promote business practices that that reduce poverty and promote environmental sustainability. For example, energy conservation and efficiency, recycling, etc.

Green Gazelle Profile

In April, 2004, it is anticipated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will announce that both West and Southeast Michigan are out of Clean Air Attainment. **Both communities will face significant fines and cleanup costs.** Rather than increasing our tax burden to support command and control approaches that only seem to foster law suits, irrationality and demonization of others in implacable conflicts over unsplittable differences, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Green Gazelle program is proposing a “market-based” solution to clean air in Michigan: **IdleAire Technologies Corporation.**

There are an estimated 4.2 million "18-wheeler" tractor-trailer rigs traveling U.S. highways. The nation's 1.3 million long-haul heavy-duty diesel trucks with sleepers annually idle an average of 2,600 hours while drivers rest, produce some 38 million tons of emissions (including 838,308 tons of NOx alone) and waste 4.4 billion gallons of diesel fuel. In addition, diesel powered refrigeration units on 18 percent of these trucks produce 35,303 tons of NOx emissions each year. **This idling practice has a number of undesirable consequences: wasted fuel; increased engine maintenance costs; medical problems; air pollution; noise in residential neighborhoods; and poor resting environment for drivers.**

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations require that over-the-road drivers rest at least 8 hours after driving a maximum of 10 hours. Higher fuel costs, health and safety concerns, and regulatory pressure will make it difficult for drivers to continue the idling habit. If resting drivers can't idle their trucks to stay comfortable, they must spend money for motel stays unless an alternative is available.

Many U.S. states now have some form of anti-idling legislation and some cities and

regional entities are enacting regulations of their own. In general, these regulations limit diesel truck idling to 15 minutes or less. However, most of these regulations simply aren't enforced because **drivers have no reasonable alternative.**

The impact on human health from breathing diesel emissions has been well documented: elevated risk of lung and bladder cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, and cancer. Carcinogens are found in gaseous form (VOC) and also adhering to particulate matter (PM) that penetrates deeply into the lungs. Nitrogen dioxide (a component of NOx) can be a factor in acute respiratory illness in children. Carbon monoxide threatens the elderly and those with cardiovascular disease as well as truck drivers. Carbon dioxide, though not regulated as a toxin, is a significant contributor to the greenhouse effect. Several of these compounds are important in the formation of smog, ozone, and acid rain.

IdleAire Technologies Corporation, a Green Gazelle, recently was awarded a prestigious EPA Clean Air Excellence Award (see: www.epa.gov/air/caaac/2003awar.html).

IdleAire's "Advanced Travel Center Electrification (ATE)" technology virtually eliminates extended idling emissions. Drivers using the IdleAire system can shut off their trucks while they rest. External, electric powered HVAC units provide the necessary heating and cooling. Commercial power plants can transform fossil fuels into useable energy more cleanly and efficiently than idling diesel engines. Moreover, the scrubbing equipment at commercial power stations is much more effective than anything currently available for truck engines. Lastly, green power can be generated and distributed by commercial power plants and operations.

The IdleAire system provides benefits to truck owners, fleet operators, drivers, travel

centers, and the environment. Truck owner's benefit by saving fuel and maintenance costs and they reduce unnecessary wear and tear on truck engines so they can keep their trucks longer. Fleet operators who use ATE also gain a valuable employee benefit that doesn't burden the company with extra expenses. Drivers benefit because they don't have to sleep with a noisy, idling truck in a pollution filled environment. Drivers also benefit from the in-cab telephone, touch-screen computer, television and Internet connection that are part of the basic IdleAire service. These services, reminiscent of resting at home, have caused some to describe IdleAire as "a hotel room without brick and mortar."

Travel centers and other parking lot owners benefit from additional income through revenue share from IdleAire's sales of services. Property owners do not make any capital investment to add ATE services to their parking lots, so the income they receive goes straight to the bottom line. Neighborhoods adjacent to truck stops benefit from reduced emissions. The IdleAire technology permits drivers to turn off their trucks while they rest, removing 100 percent of the emissions these trucks produce while idling.

IdleAire founders and management are an experienced team of business professionals who have worked on a number of successful business enterprises, individually and together as a team. IdleAire is an authority on the travel center environment and on issues of truck-related emissions that affect air quality of virtually every U.S. citizen. In addition, IdleAire has formed the nucleus of a corporation that in 5 years could generate \$3.1 billion in revenues and revolutionize the trucking industry. IdleAire was founded in June of 2000, but already has completed the engineering required to deploy a commercial product. IdleAire is a privately held company with strong financial support from a variety of individual and corporate backers. The Company raised over \$8.5 million in initial

investment and is currently working with a New York investment bank to raise the money required for a broad-based, national roll out of facilities.

Attracting IdleAire to Michigan is smart environmental policy, small economic development policy and small business policy. Even a fully sustainable economy will require the transportation of goods. Bringing IdleAire to Michigan will allow us to address Clean Air Attainment while stimulating new jobs and industries in Michigan. What's more, we can use Federal Highway Transportation Grants (money we have already paid to Washington DC in the form of taxes) to pay for a large portion of the IdleAire project(s).

For more information on IdleAire contact:
Tom Badgett, Chief Operating Officer, 865-342-3636, IdleAire Technologies Corporation, Riverview Tower, Suite 300, 900 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902. Tel: 865-342-3600 Fax: 865-342-3650. Email: info@idleaire.com www.idleaire.com. tbadgett@idleaire.com.

Green Playground's

Playground equipment is often built with "pressure-treated" boards (ordinary planks and posts injected with "chromated copper arsenate" (CCA) (a form of arsenic) that can extend the life of the wood fivefold, eliminating repairs and saving millions of trees annually.

What is not so clear is the threat of poison in playgrounds from the CCA that leaches out of the wood into mouths, onto hands and shoes, etc. 98% of outdoor wood sold in the U.S. is treated with CCA. Prolonged exposure to CCA can lead to nerve damage, dizziness and numbness, as

well as increased risk of bladder, lung and skin cancer.

In Florida alone, 30,000 tons of arsenic is believed to be at large. Investigators testing soil in Florida playgrounds have found arsenic levels far higher than hazardous-waste experts consider safe. Many congregations have playgrounds and playground equipment. What can you do???

- **Arm yourself with the sword and shield of knowledge** - EPA announced that starting this fall, CCA-treated lumber will contain a warning label and stores will be provided with stickers and signs for their displays.
- **Testing Equipment** – a home-testing kit for arsenic-treated wood online: www.origen.com/testlabs.html.
- **Safe Disposal** - how to dispose of or seal toxic wood: www.epa.gov/pesticides/citizens/1file.htm
- **Alternatives** – *STOP SUBSIDIZING ANTI-GREEN COMPANIES!*. Manufacturers that don't use CCA are listed at: www.healthybuilding.net

Faith Statement on Global Warming

We are continuing with faith statements of various faith traditions which are tackling global warming. There is now high confidence in the scientific evidence of human influence on climate as detailed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and endorsed by 18 of the world's leading Academies of Science.

In this issue we issue a statement that comes from Christian evangelical pastors and scientists from the Climate Forum 2002 Conference that took place in the United Kingdom.

Background

God created the Earth, and continues to sustain it. Made in God's image, human beings are to care for people and all creation as God cares for them. The call to "love the Lord your God and love your neighbor" (Matthew 22:37–39) takes on new implications in the face of present and projected climate change. God has demonstrated his commitment to creation in the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ who "reconciles all things" (Colossians 1:20) calls his followers to the "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18,19).

Statement from the Christian evangelical pastors and scientists from the Climate Forum 2002 Conference

“Human-induced climate change is a moral, ethical and religious issue. We, the forum participants, recognize the urgency for addressing human induced climate change, repent of our inaction and commit ourselves to work diligently and creatively to adopt solutions in our own lives and in the communities we influence. We call upon leaders in churches, business and government to join us in recognizing human induced climate change as a moral and religious issue and to take necessary action to maintain the climate system as a remarkable provision in creation for sustaining all life on Earth”

Lighten Up Video Available

MiIPL has a great resource for congregations who want to learn more about global warming and how the faith community can respond. This twenty minute video is entitled "Lighten Up" and features Rev. Sally Bingham, the co-founder of the Interfaith Power & Light movement. It features an accompanying study guide. It is free and is an ideal resource for adult education groups, social ministry committees, or youth groups. For more information and to order your free copy give Rev. Charles Morris a ring at (734) 552-0104. Or you can e-mail him at miipandl@yahoo.com.

Poets Corner

**"There are only two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though,
Everything is a miracle."**

Albert Einstein

Prayer

May God bless us not with clean air alone,
But the will to keep our air clean.

May god bless us not with a vision of a healthy
planet alone, but with the will to do all in our
power to restore and maintain our planet's health.

May god bless us not with a change of heart in
the great world leaders alone to save our planet,
But with a change in our own heart to use our
own power to save the planet.

May the blessing of God not bring to us saints
alone, but make of us saints greater than any we
imagine.

Daniel J. McGill

Worth reading...

David Goodstein, Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.) 2004.

Stephen and Donna Leeb, The Oil Factor: Protect Yourself – and Profit – From the Coming Energy Crisis (New York: Warner Business Books) 2004.

Richard Heinberg, The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies, (Canada: New Society Publishers) 2003.

James Fustave Speth, Red Sky at Morning (Boston: Yale University Press) 2004.

MiIPL Calendar of Spring Events

- Facility Manager Training, April 23, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak
- Day of Recollection, April 25, U of M. Dearborn [Voices for Earth Justice]
- Congregation Energy Workshop, May 27, Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center, Oxford
- Global Warming Awareness Rally, June 15, State Capitol

For More Information contact Rev. Charles Morris at (734) 552-0104; e-mail: miipandl@yahoo.com





MiIPL 2004 Membership Form

Contact: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Rev. Rabbi Imam Sr. Other: (_____)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

P.O. Box _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail: _____ www: _____

MiIPL is organized exclusively for the purposes of receiving and administering funds for charitable, [religious,] educational and scientific purposes as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. Annual Dues are **\$100.00/Congregation, \$75.00/Partner, \$50.00/Individual**). Please check payment method:

- Please make ENCLOSED Checks Payable To: "MiIPL"
- Master Card Visa Discover American Express Other: _____
Card # _____ Expiration Date (mm/yy) _____

Signature: _____

Please mail completed Membership Form AND Payment to: Rev. Charles Morris, Executive Director, MiIPL, P.O. Box 4606, East Lansing, MI 48826.

**Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)
c/o Urban Options, Inc.
405 Grove Street
East Lansing, MI 48823**