



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

...Faith in Action....

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MiIPL Newsletter

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Mark H. Clevey, MPA, Senior Editor

Message from the Director

Happy Birthday - We are now three years old! As we go forward I want to thank the three Board members who have been with us from the beginning for their tireless service to MiIPL and to the cause of sustainability in Michigan. Sr. Ginny Jones, Ada Kidd, and Paul Stankewitz have all served admirably in helping this organization get off of the ground. We have highlighted each of their stories in earlier editions. In our next issue you will meet some of our newer Board members.

Of particular importance is that MiIPL won a \$90,000 grant from the Michigan Energy Office to operate the Michigan ENERGY STAR Promotion Program (previously operated by SBAM). We are very grateful to the State Energy Office and to the support of our partner organizations who have given us such support as we continue to expand our mission.

The 2006 MiIPL Conference is shaping up to be a great event. It is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 12** at

Calvin College in Grand Rapids. We will be having a focus this year on environmental justice and on youth. We hope to have some other activities in keeping with the Conference theme that will take place the day before on Wednesday, the 11th. We will keep you informed as we go forward. So mark your calendar. It should be a wonderful event.

MiIPL has now made it much easier to get significant discounts on ENERGY STAR appliances. Go to any of the 43 ABC Warehouse stores across the State and tell the store manager you are a MiIPL member and the name of your congregation. You will be given a special discount on major appliances such as washing machines, refrigerators, window air conditioners and many more ENERGY STAR appliances. Remember, these special discounts apply only to ENERGY STAR rated appliances. But as purchaser for my own church of St. Elizabeth of both a washing machine and a refrigerator for this program I can attest that the savings are very significant indeed, and usually much greater than in-store sales. The MiIPL website has a link to ABC Warehouse and the location of the stores across most of Michigan where this discount applies.

In January we had a retreat and orientation for representatives of MiIPL who are going to serve as our regional Creation Care team representatives. As we have shared previously, Creation Care teams help congregations develop resources around community life such as education and worship to lower their ecological footprint and help them witness toward a more sustainable life. Our representatives include: Grand Rapids and west Michigan – Sr. Lucille Janowiak and Barbara Howard; Cadillac and northern Michigan – Dean Sandell; Marquette and the Upper Peninsula – Fred Young; Lansing and mid-Michigan – Ada Kidd and Jessica Yorko; Ann Arbor and S.E. Michigan – Rev.

Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou, Dick Brown and Al Connor; Saginaw and the Thumb – Kim Winchell; and in the Detroit area – Patty Gillis and Rev. Charles Morris. We will post this list on our website [www.miipl.org] with their contact information. In each of these regions around the state the MiIPL Creation Care team representatives are your resource as your congregation goes forward in implementing the recommendations of the assessment, in scheduling evenings of energy education, in setting up workshops and in helping to “green” your congregation.

Rev. Charles Morris

“You have a great newsletter” - Mike Whitty
11/24/2005

(Editor: Thank you very much for the compliment – we aim to please!!).

Jessica’s Journal (Jessica Yorko)

Some folk have asked about the lights offered on the MiIPL website and what advantage does it accrue to get lights from the MiIPL shopping cart as opposed to purchasing compact lights from a box store. There are at least three major advantages:

1) The lights on the MiIPL shopping cart, in addition to being ENERGY STAR®, are all commercial and industrial grade, as opposed to residential grade. They consistency of lighting quality is much higher. Further, they will last almost twice as long as the comparable residential light you would get at a box store.

2) The lights are still nearly always, much less expensive. You may compare, for example, the tubular T-8 fluorescent lights and their cost at a box store or on the shopping cart. Since T-8 tubular fluorescent lights are only manufactured for commercial grade you can check out a much lower price.

3) MiIPL offers over 1,200 different kinds of lighting through our arrangement with TCP. Everything from cold cathode technology for chandelier lamps, to LED desk lamps that only draw 3 watts to full spectrum screw-in spring-lamp compact fluorescent lamps [CFL] that help folk who suffer from seasonal affective disorders, are all part of the offering. In addition, Chuck Wood, the TCP lighting engineer, is willing to go into any MiIPL member house of worship and do a free lighting assessment. No, there is no comparison to the price, the quality and the variety that MiIPL offers to members. And don't forget the water conservation kits that you can order off of the shopping cart as well. And don't forget – *If ever one of the lights purchased from the shopping cart burns out while under warranty TCP will replace those lights at no cost.*

(Editor: thanks for the clarification!)

**"The world is green and beautiful
and God has appointed you his
stewards over it"**

The prophet Mohammed

Evangelical Climate Initiative

Despite opposition from some of their colleagues, 86 evangelical Christian took a stand in February (2006) by deciding to back a major initiative to fight global warming. In their accompanying statement, the signers said, *"millions of people could die in this century because of climate change, most of them our poorest global neighbors."* Among the signers are the presidents of 39 evangelical colleges, leaders of aid groups and churches (e.g., Salvation Army), and pastors of megachurches, including Rick Warren, author of the best seller "The Purpose-Driven Life."

According to the Rev. Jim Ball, executive director of the Evangelical Environmental Network, the statement signers constitute a: *"very centrist evangelical list, and that was intentional. When people look at the names, they're going to say, this is a real solid group here."*

The statement calls for federal legislation that would require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions through *"cost-effective, market-based mechanisms"* — a phrase lifted from a Senate resolution last year and one that could appeal to evangelicals, who tend to be pro-business. In their statement, the evangelicals praised companies like BP, Shell, General Electric, Cinergy, Duke Energy and DuPont that it said *"have moved ahead of the pace of government action through innovative measures"* to reduce emissions.

The statement is expected to be the first stage of an **"Evangelical Climate Initiative"** including television and radio spots in states with influential legislators, informational campaigns in churches, and educational events at Christian colleges. The Evangelical Climate Initiative is being supported by individuals and foundations, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, the

Hewlett Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

In one of the television spots that links images of drought, starvation and Hurricane Katrina to global warming, the Rev. Joel Hunter, pastor of a megachurch in Longwood, Fla., says: "*As Christians, our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to love our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation. The good news is that with God's help, we can stop global warming, for our kids, our world and for the Lord.*"

The initiative is one indication of a growing urgency about climate change among religious groups, said Paul Gorman, executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, a clearinghouse in Amherst, Mass., for environmental initiatives by religious groups. Interfaith climate campaigns in 15 states are pressing for regional standards to reduce greenhouse gases, Mr. Gorman said. Jewish, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox leaders also have campaigns under way.

(Editor: And in Michigan.....?)

SBAM Announces National IPL Partnership

In February, the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) announced it had completed an Agreement with the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GWIPL) to serve as a national partner in its model Faith Based Energy Initiative. In 2005, SBAM received a three-year, \$150,000 grant from the EPA ENERGY STAR program to replicate the MiIPL ENERGY STAR aggregated purchasing

model in five other states. At least four other states are expected to join in the partnership in 2006.

Seeded by grants from the Michigan Energy Office, the SBAM Faith Based Energy Initiative helps religious congregations join together to aggregate their purchasing power. This unique market based approach has been successful in lowering front end costs of vendors by harnessing the power of "bulk purchasing" and applying it to energy.

ACEEE offers tips to help consumers save energy this winter and throughout the year

A new Consumer Guide: Condensed Online Version offers advice from ACEEE's popular book, *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*. The online *Consumer Guide* details what homeowners and renters can do today and throughout the year to save energy and increase the comfort of their homes.

The *Consumer Guide: Condensed Online Version* offers additional tips and more detailed information on heating and cooling systems, water heaters, windows, appliances, lighting, and much more.

Energy efficiency investments are not only good for the family budget, but they are also good for the health of the planet. "*More than cutting our energy bills, saving energy helps protect our health and the environment by preventing air pollution that contributes to asthma and heart disease as well as global warming,*" added Bill Prindle, ACEEE Deputy Director.

The *Consumer Guide: Condensed Online Version* is featured on ACEEE's Web site at <http://aceee.org/consumerguide/mostenef.htm>.

one for Hanukkah and one for Advent, but we are working on developing a Kwanzaa kit as well."

MiIPL Holiday LED Lights A Rousing Success!!!

In 2005, MiIPL added holiday LED lights for sale on its OnLine Shopping Cart. Available in strings of 50 lights up to 120 lights these LED lights could be used either indoors or outdoors. Their unique shapes, such as snowflakes or multi-color programmable lights were not yet available anywhere else.

These lights used only about 1/30 the power of traditional C7 bulbs and less than 1/3 the power of mini-incandescent holiday lights. For families that use 1,500 lights this can result in a savings of over \$400 [on the assumption that 1,500 lights are on 24 hours/day for 30 days.

Through partnerships with TCP Lighting and Niagara Conservation and Integrated Systems Management MiIPL was able to bring these products to its partners at discounts of up to 50% or more off of retail. Further, at check out the customer was given a tag page where she or he receives lifecycle estimates of offsets of CO₂, SO₂, Nox, particulates and mercury [using estimates from the E-Grid file and other sources] from the purchase of those products as well as lifecycle estimates of energy and dollar savings. Adapting the EPA calculator the customers receives as well an equivalent estimate of acres of trees planted or cars kept off of the road for a year from their transaction.

MiIPL's sister organization, the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, also had a good holiday program this year. GIPL put together various holiday kits of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs). *"These are a great way to teach your congregation about energy efficiency while raising money for your favorite mission or group. We currently have two kits available -*

The Advent kit included 5 CFLs and the study guide "Preparing for a New Light." Congregants change one light in their house to a CFL every Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve when they light the candles in their Advent wreath. The study guide included scripture passages, a prayer, and information on electricity generation for each Sunday.

The Hanukkah kit included 8 CFLs and the study guide "One for Each Night." Congregants change one light to a CFL every night of Hanukkah when they light the candles in their menorah. The study guide includes a prayer, a light bulb joke, and information on electricity generation for each night of Hanukkah. The Kwanzaa kit will include 7 CFLs and a study guide as well.

(For more information on the goings-on at GIPL contact: Katy Hinman, Executive Director, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, PO Box 5866, Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-588-9978, www.gipl.org.)

DOE, ASE Provide Information on Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

DOE and the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) have compiled Web-based information on how consumers can reduce their federal income taxes in 2006 and 2007 by making their homes more energy efficient and purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, consumers can save up to \$500 in taxes in 2006 and 2007 by installing certain energy-efficiency upgrades to existing homes.

In addition, consumers and businesses can save up to \$3,400 on taxes by buying energy-efficient hybrid-electric or diesel vehicles. Although the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has not yet issued specific guidance for consumers on how to claim the income tax credits, the ASE Web pages offer the latest information based on the new energy law. The Web pages will be updated on a continuing basis as the IRS makes new details available.

<http://www.ase.org/content/article/detail/2654>

Grand Rapids Community Sustainability Partners Agreement: A Model for “Faith in Action”...

In the fall of 2005, the City of Grand Rapids instituted a “Community Sustainability Partners Agreement” designed to help “*restore, renew and revitalize*” the community. Through this initiative, the City has committed itself to focus on a “*platform of sustainability including non-toxics purchasing; LEED building design for all commercial buildings; and the goal of reducing the City’s dependency on non-renewable resource power by 20% by 2008.*” The initiative has been endorsed by numerous businesses and organization across the city and state.

The Community Sustainability Partners initiative is an excellent model for MiIPL members to emulate in their communities. Through our *Faith in Action*, MiIPL Congregations could provide the necessary leadership to create a Community Sustainability *everywhere*...

Imagine if every MiIPL member pledged itself to non-toxic purchasing, LEED building design for all their properties and the purchase of 20% of their energy from renewable energy sources by 2008!! *Imagine* if the Earth Care

Teams from MiIPL Congregations in local communities joined together and got their local governments to commit to non-toxics purchasing, LEED building design for all buildings; and the goal of reducing the City’s dependency on non-renewable resource power by 20% by 2008. *Imagine* if these cities joined together and got their counties and the State to commit to non-toxics purchasing, LEED building design for all buildings; and the goal of reducing the their dependency on non-renewable resource power by 20% by 2008. *Imagine Faith in Action*.....

For more information, see:

<http://www.wmeac.org/haps/GRsustain.pdf>

Moral obligation to ratify Kyoto

Australia's 5 million Catholics are as morally bound to combat the loss of biodiversity as they were to protect the rights of the unborn child, according to a landmark statement by the church's bishops that calls for Australia to cap greenhouse emissions. The nation's 30 Catholic bishops said ratifying the Kyoto Protocol was the least that Australia could do to continue to “*support international structures that help reduce global warming*”.

Their statement on climate change points to a converging partnership between church leaders, environmentalists and scientists, giving moral force to public campaigns to win environmental safeguards. It forms part of a national church strategy to mobilize Australian Catholics to face the changes required to tackle global climate change. In the past, Catholic bishops have also spoken out strongly in support of environmental safeguards for the Great Barrier Reef and the

Murray-Darling basin, but never before have they dealt with climate change.

In July, a key international body of the Anglican Church declared the willful destruction of the environment to be a **sin**. Given the gravity of the crisis, the bishops said, detailed and resolute responses needed to be "swift and radical". Rising sea levels were threatening to swamp island nations such as Kiribati and create a wave of environmental refugees.

A critical part of the solution was in the development of alternatives to fossil fuels. "As pastors of more than a quarter of the Australian population, we urge Catholics as a matter of conscience to co-operate in facing global warming as one of the major issues of our time, and take roles of responsibility proper to them."

The scientist and author Tim Flannery applauded the bishops' statement, saying it was immensely helpful to furthering the debate on climate change and mobilizing individuals to change their lifestyle. "The debate about climate change is not a debate between left and right, religious and non-religious. It's about holding onto the old economy, on one hand, or moving forward to better our future."

The church's position paper was presented by Bishop Christopher Toohey last night at a climate change conference hosted by Catholic Earthcare Australia. Copies will be sent to more than 4000 parishes, schools, religious congregations and church agencies. It will be followed by an updated audit which urges them to switch to more sustainable practices, including use of gas or solar heating and green electricity, grey water recycling systems, car pooling and ethical investment policy for savings.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/moral-obligation-to-ratify-kyoto-bishops/2005/11/18/1132016989649.html?oneclick=true>

Legacy: "The Carob Tree"

One day Rabbi Ohoana was on a journey and he noticed a man planting a carob tree. He asked him: "how long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years", the man replied. He then asked him: "are you sure you will be alive in seventy years?" The man replied, "I found the world ready with previously planted carob trees. As my forefathers planted them for me, I will plant them for my children."

Today we stop to consider what is growing in the orchard of our lives. What have we planted that generations beyond ourselves can reap? Today we stop to consider the impact of our lives on future generations knowing that in time we too will be ancestors. Today we stand back and survey our land. Today we tend to the soil of our lives. Today we plant so that generations to come can reap.

From A Shabbat Service by Rabbi Tamara Kolton, Birmingham Temple

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations" –

From, the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

Towards Greener Buildings...

If you are undertaking new building construction and want a "greener" project, you and your architects should visit Green Building Studio:

<http://www.greenbuildingstudio.com/About.aspx>

This free site is designed to work with CAD building models and promises to save both money and time on building designs, provide an energy analysis, accelerate LEED compliance and help identify appropriate energy saving products for your project. It's funding by various grants and can be highly useful.

A recent issue of Greener Buildings featured a column by Green Architect Eric Corey Freed who addresses sustainable building performance, materials and design. The column featured a question about green church projects, LEED or otherwise. Read his comments about five featured projects at [Green Church Construction; IAQ RFP; Designing a Green Dorm.](#)

http://www.greenerbuildings.com/news_detail.cfm?Page=1&NewsID=29149

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)

Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) screen stocks for their social responsibility. Today, there are over 200 SRI individual mutual funds which have generally outperformed the average, making SRI is the fastest growing sector of the financial services industry.

A number of SRI milestones were reached in 2005/06:

- The California Public Employees Retirement System is investing \$200 million in what it calls the "burgeoning environmental technology sector."
- The Investor Network on Climate Risk will be investing \$1 billion in companies with green products.
- Goldman Sachs Group announced that it would "encourage clients in environmentally sensitive areas to use appropriate safeguards." It also added that it would establish a Center for Environmental Markets to study how the free-

market system can solve environmental problems.

- General Electric intends to double its research budget for energy and environmental technologies to \$1.5 billion, forecasting revenues of \$20 billion by 2010.
- In 2005, Energy Innovations, Inc., of Pasadena, California, received \$16.5 million in new venture funding to expand their work in low-cost rooftop photovoltaic solar concentrator systems and other related areas.¹
- In 2004, SJF Ventures and Deutsche Bank of New York City invested over \$1.2 billion in innovative green companies.
- The San Francisco based Rainforest Action Network has persuaded J.P. Morgan Chase and Co., Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. to account for pollution costs in their loan underwriting process.

Global investment in renewable energy also set a new record of \$30 billion in 2004, according to a report released by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21). Renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, biomass and geothermal provide more energy than ever before and amount to 17 per cent of the global primary energy supply. In addition to 720 gigawatts of large hydropower, technologies such as wind, solar, biomass, and small hydropower, sometimes referred to as "new renewables", now provide 160 gigawatts of electricity generating capacity, about 4 per cent of the world total, the report finds.

"Renewable energy has become big business," said Eric Martinot, lead author of **Renewables 2005: Global Status Report**. The report estimates that nearly 40 million households worldwide heat their water with solar collectors, most of them installed in the last five years. Altogether, renewable energy industries

¹ Jerome Goldstein, "Green Investing," in, In Business, November/December, 2005. pp 11.

provide 1.7 million jobs, most of them skilled and well-paying.

Countries with the strongest markets in renewable energies include Brazil (particularly for biofuels), China (solar hot water and small hydro), Denmark (wind), Germany (wind and solar PV), India (wind and rural solar and biomass), Japan (solar PV), Spain (wind), and the United States.

The report finds that government support for renewable energy is growing rapidly. At least 48 countries now have some type of renewable energy promotion policy, including 14 developing countries. Most targets are for shares of electricity production, typically 5-30 percent, by the 2010-2012 timeframe. Mandates for blending biofuels into vehicle fuels have been enacted in at least 20 states and provinces worldwide as well as in three key countries—Brazil, China and India. Other key findings in the report include:

- The fastest growing energy technology in the world is grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV), which grew in existing capacity by 60 percent per year from 2000-2004, to cover more than 400,000 rooftops in Japan, Germany, and the United States. Second is wind power capacity, which grew by 28 percent last year, led by Germany, with almost 17 gigawatts installed as of 2004.
- Production of biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) exceeded 33 billion liters in 2004, when ethanol displaced about 3 percent of the 1,200 billion liters of gasoline globally.
- An estimated US \$500 million goes to developing countries each year as development assistance for renewable energy projects, training, and market support, with the German Development Finance Group (KfW), the World Bank Group, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) providing the majority of these funds, and dozens of other donors and programs providing the rest.
- Over 4.5 million "green" power consumers in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and

Japan purchased renewable electricity at the retail level or via certificates in 2004.

Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition (MSEC) calls for Michigan Renewable Energy Portfolio

A hearty group of activists and industry players have joined together to form a new organization to ***PUSH*** for a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) in Michigan: Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition (MSEC). An RPS is state policy that requires certain percentages of power sold in his state to be generated from systems using renewable sources of fuel.

Twenty-one states now have renewable portfolio standards, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and New York. In creating a proposed RPS for Michigan, MSEC strove for policy that was credible, achievable and followed has six core principles:

- Establish goals for new renewable power generation that are realistic and achievable
- Apply the RPS to all suppliers of retail electricity
- Specify eligible “renewable fuels” but let the market determine technologies used
- Advance renewable energy projects that are located in Michigan—not out of state
- Create a level and highly competitive market
- Minimize the need for public funding

With these principles in mind, MSEC is proposing an RPS with the following goals:

<u>Year</u>	<u>% of Michigan Electricity Provided from Renewable Energy</u>
2004 (Baseline)	3%
2007	4%
2009	5%
2011	6%
2013	7%
2015	8%



MiIPL 2006 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)
P.O. Box 4696
East Lansing, MI 48826