



New Mexico INTERFAITH Power & Light

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Caring for Creation: A Prayer and Action Guide For a Lenten "Fast from Carbon"

New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light works with people of faith as they strive to link their love for the Creator with their care for Creation, particularly in ways that address the threat of global warming. We believe that protecting God's Creation is a moral responsibility.

The spiritual practice of fasting, accompanied by prayer and meditation, moves us to openness to God in our lives. Fasting helps us to listen for guidance from the small still voice to make new choices for actions to care for creation. During Lent this year, New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light invites you to "fast from carbon," that is, to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide you put into the atmosphere.

Why should you consider doing this? There are at least five reasons:

1. The carbon dioxide we are putting into the environment, in the form of "greenhouse gases," is changing the climate of God's Creation, our planet Earth. Scientists are no longer debating the basic facts of climate change.
2. The sources of these greenhouse gases are largely produced by human beings and the society we have created. The largest component of greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide, which comes from the burning of fossil fuels—from the generation of electricity and from the modes of transportation that we use.
3. Unless we reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases, the impact of these increases in greenhouse gases will be devastating for our planet, for its people—especially the poor and vulnerable—and for the plants and animals that have lived here for millions of years. Time is critical.
4. God created this Earth, declared it to be good, and expects us to care for Creation and to maintain its goodness for future generations.
5. And it's not as hard as you might think to "fast from carbon," although of course we cannot give up carbon entirely as it is so intertwined with our existence. But we can use these seven reflections to consider the amount of carbon dioxide we each generate and to commit to reducing that amount.

For your "fast from carbon," we have prepared seven spiritual reflections (Ash Wednesday and the six Sundays of Lent) that include the following:

- information on global warming in New Mexico—likely impacts and opportunities
- a statement by the faith community
- a scripture reading followed by a prayer
- actions for individuals to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide generated
- suggestions for congregational activities

We are also providing additional documents that you may find useful for your congregation throughout the year.

This resource has several possible uses: as a weekly bulletin stuffer, as a follow-up to a showing of a video (e.g., *An Inconvenient Truth* or *Kilowatt Ours*), as a focusing prayer for parish meetings, or as a discussion starter around climate change issues.

We are grateful to Linda Rimer, a member of Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill for sharing the concept of "fasting from carbon" with us and for the ideas presented above. —Joanne Kennedy Frazer

Ash Wednesday

Impact of global warming on New Mexico:

Climate models project substantial changes in New Mexico's climate over the next fifty to one hundred years, if no measures are taken to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Projected climate changes by mid- to late-21st century include: air temperatures warmer by 6-12°F on average, but more in winter, at night, and at high elevations; more episodes of extreme heat, fewer episodes of extreme cold, and a longer frost-free season; more intense storm events and flash floods; and winter precipitation falling more often as rain, less often as snow. Some climate models project that average precipitation will increase, while others predict a decrease. However, recurrence of a severe multiyear drought like that of the 1950s is likely some time during this century, regardless of human-caused climate change. When such a drought does recur, higher evaporation rates because of warmer temperatures will exacerbate effects of drought, and will at least partially offset the effect of any increase in precipitation that might occur due to climate change. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: Episcopal

"We are called to be good neighbors and act with love and care for all of what God called "Sacred." The natural greenhouse effect set up by God has been disrupted and the imbalance is causing temperatures to rise. Global warming means not only higher average temperatures, but also changes in weather patterns, precipitation, and ranges of plants insects and animals. Such changes would threaten natural resources, human health, already endangered species, and fragile ecosystems. Although no person would be immune from the consequences of climate change caused by global warming, the world's poor would be especially vulnerable."

(From a resolution adopted by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, 2001, http://www.ecusa.anglican.org1866_70059_ENG_HTML.htm)

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:12-13

Yet even now says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart
With fasting, and weeping and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments,
And return to the Lord, your God.
For gracious and merciful is God, slow to anger, rich in kindness,
And relenting in punishment.

Prayer: Gracious and merciful God, as we "fast from carbon," grant us the humility and the inspiration to move through authentic mourning for the destruction of so much of your Creation. Move us to accept our obligation to restore your Creation, and to act with love and care for all that You call sacred.

Actions:

- Change your light bulbs: Replacing one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light saves 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year (up to 730 pounds over the life of the CFL). If you replace a bulb for each of these reflections, you will have "fasted" from 1050 pounds of carbon dioxide for the next year.
- Reuse items: repair them, donate them, sell them. Reusing is even better than recycling because the item does not need to be reprocessed before it can be used again.
<http://www.epa.gov/msw/reduce.htm#reduce>
- Educate yourself and your congregation: view the DVD *The Story of Stuff*. You can watch it and download it at no charge on the web at <http://storyofstuff.com/>.

First Week in Lent

Global warming and New Mexico:

Water resources are vital to New Mexico, and many areas of the state are already facing potential shortages in meeting the needs of our growing cities, agriculture, and manufacturing. Warmer temperatures will reduce mountain snowpacks, and peak spring runoff from snowmelt will shift to earlier in the season. A longer and hotter warm season will likely result in longer periods of extremely low flow and lower minimum flows in late summer. Water supply systems which have no storage (e.g., many acequia systems) or limited storage (e.g., small municipal reservoirs) may suffer seasonal shortages in summer. Large reservoir systems may also suffer shortages from a reduction in average runoff. Recurrence of a multiyear severe drought like that of the 1950s would have greater impacts on the water resources and the economy of the state than in the 1950s because of the warmer temperatures, as well as the great increases in population and demand for water since the 1950s. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: Presbyterian USA

"Global Warming is likely to increase hunger. It will hit the poor hardest. Climate change (or global warming) is already affecting and will dramatically impact food production patterns...

We are called as Christians to love our neighbors and how we, individually and corporately, react to climate change and our own role in causing global warming demonstrates this witness to God. While the link may not appear obvious at first, reducing our energy use, particularly our use of fossil fuels, is one way of demonstrating our love for our neighbors."

In June, the General Assembly passed an action calling on Presbyterians to live a carbon-neutral life by reducing our use of fossil fuel energy and purchasing offsets to make up for the amount we still contribute to carbon emissions, the main cause of global warming. (From the Presbyterian Hunger Program, 2006, <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/features/climate.htm>)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the human whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Prayer: God of all, instill in us the knowledge that we are called upon to tend and care for your garden. Grant us the wisdom to cultivate for the good of all, so that all your creatures may be fed from the bounty of your Creation as we insure that even those without access may be nourished.

Actions:

- Plant a tree. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Resolve to celebrate "new life" by nurturing your trees and planting new ones!
- Do you remember to take shopping bags with you to the store?
- Go for a walk with your children, grandchildren or friend's children and talk about caring for creation and what this means for them.
- Choose at least one meatless day this week and explore the world of vegetables, grains and beans.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, share with each other how you have been "fasting from carbon" during Lent.

Second Week in Lent

Global warming and New Mexico:

Infrastructure systems sensitive to climate include those for flood control and drainage, climate control in buildings (e.g., air conditioning), electrical power distribution, sewage, water supply, and transportation. A potential increase in flash flood intensity may impact flood-sensitive structures such as flood control and drainage systems, including roadway and railroad bridges and culverts. Water use restrictions may adversely affect the functioning of sewage systems. Design standards for infrastructure systems may have to be revised to cope with a changing and uncertain future climate. Existing systems may need to be retrofitted, modified or replaced to cope with warmer temperatures, more intense storms, and drought. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: Orthodox

"God's creation delivers unsettling news. Earth's climate is warming to dangerous levels... To continue to walk the current path of ecological destruction is not only folly; it is sin..."

Churches, as communities of God's people in the world, are called to exist as representatives of the loving Creator, Sustainer, and Restorer of all creation. We are called to worship God with all our being and actions, and to treat Creation as sacred. We must engage our political leaders in supporting the very future of this planet. We are called to cling to the true Gospel - for "God so loved the cosmos" (John 3:16) - rejecting the false gospels of our day." (From "God's Earth is Sacred: An Open Letter to Christians in the United States", Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), July 2005)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 121

I raise my eyes toward the mountains.
From where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer: Creator of all, we are called to worship You with all our being and actions and to treat your Creation as sacred. Give us the insight we need to reject "false gospels" that encourage consumption patterns that are destructive to the web of life.

Actions:

- Drive less. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Walk or bike during Lent this year, and watch as spring unfolds its magnificence around you! If you drive 20 miles less each week this Lent, you will have "fasted from" 120 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- Adjust your thermostat down 2 degrees in winter and 2 degrees up in summer and "fast from" about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- Monitor your use of water with shorter showers and conservation when doing dishes.
- Let a walk take you today and revel in the glory of God's creation making each step one of heart gratitude.
- Truly thank the Creator and all the seeds, soil, water and people who give you each meal.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, share with each other how you have "fasted from carbon" recently.

Third Week in Lent

Global warming and New Mexico:

Climate change impacts on agriculture are highly dependent on whether precipitation increases or decreases. Increases in precipitation would increase yields of rainfed and irrigated crops and would tend to improve forage availability on rangelands. Warmer temperatures will lengthen the frost-free growing season. Severe drought coupled with warmer temperatures would adversely affect crop and rangeland production. Higher atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations will tend to increase yields of some crops, if water and nutrients are not limiting. On rangelands, however, higher carbon dioxide levels may favor woody plants over grasses, which would reduce grazing capacity. Major uncertainties are the impacts of intense rainfall events, pests, weeds, and pathogens. Warmer conditions may affect pest populations, requiring new strategies for pest control. Farmers can use a number of adaptation strategies to lessen potential yield losses. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: United Church of Christ

"[United Church of Christ] recognizes the dangers of global warming and our biblical mandate as stewards of God's creation to be diligent in our efforts to decrease the emission of greenhouse gases;

- affirms the greater responsibility of industrial nations and especially the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- encourages local churches, Conferences and national agencies to engage in efforts to educate and advocate for ratification of the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty and to address their own lifestyles (institutional and personal) to assure the minimum production of wastes that threaten the environment;"

(From "Statement on Global Climate Change," 22nd General Synod, <http://www.interfaithpower.org/TDSunitedChurch.htm>)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95

Come let us sing joyfully to the Lord, cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us greet God with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the Lord is the great God... Whose hand holds the depths of the earth; Who owns the tops of the mountains. The sea and dry land belong to God, who made them, formed them by hand.

Prayer: Great God of the mountains and the sea and creator of all that is, we give joyful thanks for the gifts of your Creation. Give us the courage to assume individual and congregational commitment to renewing your creation through our study, prayer and actions.

Actions:

- Buy and eat locally produced food when you can. The average U.S. food product travels 1500 to 2500 miles to get to your table. You can "fast from" 500 pounds of carbon dioxide by supplying 25% of your food from local sources.
- Encourage your congregational leaders to save energy. Contact NM IPL about hosting an Energy Audit Program for your house of worship.
- Educate yourself and your congregation: watch and discuss the DVD, *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America*. Borrow it from the NM IPL lending library (contact info@nm-ipl.org) or use the order form on our website.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, share with each other how your "fast from carbon" is progressing.

Fourth Week in Lent

Global warming and New Mexico:

Climate change is likely to have significant impacts on the ecosystems of New Mexico's forests, grasslands, deserts, lakes and streams. Predicting the specific impacts is difficult because of the complexity of natural systems, with each species responding in its own way to the physical environment and with multiple interactions among species. Changes in ecosystem structure and functioning will often be abrupt rather than continuous and gradual.

Aquatic systems are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they will be impacted not only by warmer temperatures but also by changes in the timing and amount of water. Climate change is expected to result in a significant loss of aquatic habitat. Habitat suitable for coldwater fish (e.g., trout) is expected to shrink, with replacement by warmwater fish species. Extinction rates of many endemic species of the eastern plains is expected to increase. Riparian ecosystems are expected to experience losses and decline, with a reduction in species diversity. Change in terrestrial ecosystems will include shifts in the timing of seasonal life history events such as breeding of birds, insects or amphibians, and flowering of plants. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: United Methodist Church

"The decisions that humans are now making will either enhance or degrade the quality of life on the planet. We have entered an era of greater energy interdependence. As the world confronts global issues such as climate change, energy inequity, and pollution, energy-related problems will require international solutions based upon the values of justice and sustainability... We support strenuous efforts to conserve energy and increase energy efficiency. A transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources will combat global warming, protect human health, create new jobs, and ensure a secure, affordable energy future. (From the General Board of Church and Society Energy Policy Statement, Resolution 5, 2000, www.umc-gbcs.org)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Prayer: God of all, we confess our complicity in failing to be good stewards of your Creation. We ask your forgiveness as we seek to live in the light, walking gently on your Earth, looking for ways to replenish what we have taken away, to heal what we have damaged.

Actions:

- Use less hot water. It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less by installing a low-flow showerhead (thereby "fasting from" 350 pounds of carbon dioxide in one year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water ("fasting from" 500 pounds per year).
- Educate yourself and your congregation: Borrow or buy the *God's Creation and Global Warming* video from NM IPL and view and discuss the relationship between our love for the Creator and caring for Creation.
- Encourage your congregation to Just Say No To Styrofoam, and invite congregants to carry their own mugs for church fellowship times. Change from using petro-plastics to vegi-plastics; go to www.recyclaholics.com.
- Go on line and google climate change to educate yourself in some area you are not familiar with and then hold your ponderings during a prayer time.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, share with each other recent results of your commitment to "fast from carbon."

Fifth Week in Lent

Global Warming and New Mexico:

Geographic ranges are expected to shift to the north and to higher elevations. Some species trapped on isolated mountain ranges could become locally extinct if the mountain is not high enough to provide suitable alternative habitat and the species cannot disperse across intervening deserts to other mountaintops. Invasions of non-native species are likely, but species diversity may be reduced. Shrubs such as mesquite and creosote bush are likely to further invade grasslands. Forests are likely to experience more catastrophic wildfires, and more massive dieback due to drought stress and insect outbreaks. Alpine meadows may largely disappear from New Mexico. This may result in reduced opportunities for outdoor recreation and the quality of life and the tourism industry. Warmer winter temperatures are likely to severely reduce opportunities for snow sports, and ski resorts will suffer economically. Lower water levels in lakes and rivers will adversely impact water sports such as boating, angling, and whitewater rafting. Periods of high fire hazard may further restrict access to wild lands for picnicking, camping, hiking, hunting, bird watching and other outdoor activities. The attractiveness of our scenic vistas may be diminished by more air pollution episodes. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: Roman Catholic

"At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both "the human environment" and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us." (From "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good", U.S. Catholic Bishops, June 15, 2001, <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/globalclimate.shtml>)

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37

O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus your shall know that I am God. I have promised and I will do it, says God.

Prayer: God of all, let us trust in a resurrection of will to restore Your Creation. And grant us your vision of Creation transformed. Lead us to let go of those behaviors that would keep us from imagining such a renewal. Give us the desire to work with others who understand that faith in you demands working for healing for your creation.

Actions:

- Reduce waste. Avoid buying products with a lot of packaging. You can "fast from" 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide per year if you cut down your garbage by 10%. Using your own canvas bags when you visit the grocery store will also reduce waste.
- Put up a clothesline or use a drying rack to dry your laundry.
- Use a power strip and turn off computers, televisions, etc. as you end your day.
- As a congregation, consider establishing a discussion group on simplicity of living. Check the Simple Living Network website at <http://www.simpleliving.net/main/> for resources.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, share with each other how you are progressing in your "fast from carbon."

Sixth Week in Lent

Global Warming and New Mexico:

Climate change is likely to increase air pollution in New Mexico. Warmer temperatures and more air stagnation episodes are projected to increase ozone (smog) levels. Wildfires and dust storms associated with drought are likely to increase particulate air pollution. Episodes of extreme heat are expected to become more severe and much more frequent, resulting in increases in heat-related illness and mortality. Disruption of ecosystems and natural controls may lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases that are transmitted by, or have reservoirs in, rodents, birds or insects. Such diseases include hantavirus, plague, dengue fever, and arboviruses such as West Nile virus. Warmer temperatures and increased dust storm activity may result in greater incidence of coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever), which is caused by a soil fungus and is currently more common in Arizona than in New Mexico. The potential impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income communities, thereby raising issues of environmental justice in communities with limited resources. (Information from Governor Richardson's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Executive Order report from New Mexico, 2005, www.nmclimate.change.us.)

Statement by the faith community: Evangelical

"[We] recognize both our opportunity and our responsibility to offer a biblically based moral witness that can help shape public policy in the most powerful nation on earth, and therefore contribute to the well-being of the entire world. Whether we will enter the public square and offer our witness there is no longer an open question. We are in that square, and we will not withdraw.

Over the last several years many of us have engaged in study, reflection, and prayer related to the issue of climate change (often called "global warming"). For most of us, until recently this has not been treated as a pressing issue or major priority. Indeed, many of us have required considerable convincing before becoming persuaded that climate change is a real problem and that it ought to matter to us as Christians.

(From: "Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action", Signed by 90 Evangelical Leaders, Issued January 2006, <http://www.christiansandclimate.org/statement>)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say: God's love endures forever.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Lord, grant salvation! Lord, grant good fortune.

Prayer: God of all, help us to respond to your never-ending love by giving to us the strength to bear moral witness to the assault on your creation, the audacity to make global warming a major priority in the public square, and the courage to remain steadfast in this effort.

Actions:

- As an individual, or as a family, let your local, state, and national representatives know that you want legislation that will reduce the impact of climate change.
- Become informed about opportunities to affect change in the political arena. Join the New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light e-mail list to receive our monthly notes and sign up to be on our policy advocacy list to receive action alerts on local, state and federal issues where your voice can make a difference. Contact NM IPL at info@nm-ipl.org
- Invite one other person to join you in your policy advocacy efforts.
- In your circle of friends find one other person from another faith community to tell about NM IPL and ask them to get their faith community to become a partner or member.
- If you are using this resource in a group setting, celebrate with each other the ways you have been "fasting from carbon" this year during Lent.

Here are 10 simple things you can do to reduce global warming

When you reduce energy consumption by using it less or more efficiently, or use renewable energy, you lower the demand for gasoline, oil, coal, and natural gas. Burning less of these fossil fuels produces fewer emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the major contributor to global warming.

** CO₂ calculations are from www.climatecrisis.net **

<p>CHANGE A LIGHT Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light saves 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year (up to 730 pounds over the life of the CFL). CFLs are also available for floodlights, dimmers and 3-way fixtures.</p>	<p>We've replaced _____ incandescent bulbs so far, saving _____ pounds of CO₂. We plan to replace _____ more incandescent bulbs within a year, which will save _____ pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>DRIVE LESS You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit more often.</p>	<p>We will reduce our driving by _____ miles each month, and save _____ pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT Lower your thermostat 2 degrees in the winter and raise it by 2 degrees in summer, saving about 2,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide.</p>	<p>We will adjust our thermostat by _____ degrees and save _____ pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>REDUCE WASTE AND RECYCLE MORE Avoid products with a lot of packaging. You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%. You can save 2400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling half of your household waste.</p>	<p>We will cut down our garbage by _____ % and save _____ pounds of CO₂. We will recycle _____ % of our household waste and save _____ pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>THINK GLOBALLY, EAT LOCALLY The average U.S. food product travels 1500 to 2500 miles to get to your table. You can save about 500 pounds of carbon dioxide by supplying 25% of your food from local sources.</p>	<p>We will grow food, use farmers' markets or join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group, supplying _____ % of our food locally and save _____ pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>USE LESS HOT WATER It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less by installing a low flow showerhead (350 pounds of carbon dioxide) and washing clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds per year).</p>	<p>We will install a low flow showerhead and save 350 pounds of CO₂ _____ (X if yes). We will wash our clothes in cold/warm water and save 500 pounds of CO₂ _____ (X if yes).</p>
<p>PURCHASE NC GREENPOWER For each block of only \$4.00 added to your monthly utility bill, you can supply 100 kWh's of clean energy into the electric grid, replacing 100 kWh's of fossil fuel power. Your contribution may be tax-deductible! To learn more go to www.ncgreenpower.org.</p>	<p>We added _____ blocks of NC GreenPower on a monthly basis, saving _____ pounds of CO₂ per month. To calculate the resulting emissions reductions, go to the calculator at www.ncgreenpower.org/signup/calculator.htm</p>
<p>PLANT A TREE A single tree, on average, will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.</p>	<p>We will plant _____ trees and save _____ tons of CO₂.</p>
<p>TURN OFF ELECTRONIC DEVICES Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you're not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.</p>	<p>We will save CO₂ this year by turning off the following:</p>
<p>GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY Join the NC Interfaith Power & Light listserv to keep track of global warming public policy issues and actions, and learn how to encourage legislation and regulation that promotes clean energy. Sign up by sending an e-mail to info@ncipl.org.</p>	<p>We will join the NM IPL listserv. We will let our legislators know that we are reducing our energy consumption and that global warming is a moral issue they must address, potentially saving millions of pounds of CO₂.</p>
<p>Please photocopy your completed form and mail it to NM IPL to our address. Name(s): _____ Address: (street, city, zip) _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____</p>	

Become a Creation-Conscious Congregation!

Two good reasons for the faith community to conserve:

- **Saving energy saves money... funds that can be used for other ministry efforts**
- **Saving energy reflects our deeper concerns for environmental justice and our religious calling to care for the Creation**

Starting points to reduce energy use while protecting the Creation from global warming:

Heating and Cooling:

- Have your HVAC unit inspected, cleaned and tuned once a year to ensure proper operation and efficiency.
- Up to 30% of heat loss occurs from leaky ductwork, missing and/or misaligned insulation and penetrations in the building shell (not always visible). Use mastic, caulk and foam to properly seal these holes, including spaces around light fixtures.
- Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows.
- Install 7-day programmable setback thermostats. When facilities are not in use, set the thermostat(s) to 55 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer. Install locking boxes to protect against unnecessary adjusting of thermostat.
- Cover stained-glass windows with UV-filtering storm windows for insulation and damage protection.
- Remove vending machines (or at least turn off or unscrew the lighting). Consider using VendingMiser®, which can reduce the power consumption of a cold drink vending machine by an average of 46%.
- Place the refrigerator at least three inches from the wall behind it, clean the coils regularly, and check to see if the refrigerator door gasket needs replacing. If you close the door on a dollar bill at various points, it should not pull out easily.

Water:

- Turn your hot water heater down to 120°, and insulate water pipes.
- Install a 3" insulating blanket on hot water heaters older than five years old.
- Catch rain water using barrels at downspouts of your building.
- Install low flow aerators in all faucets and shower heads.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, which last up to ten times as long and use 75% less energy.
- Convert Exit signs and emergency lighting to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) units.
- Install motion detectors on bathroom lights.

Other:

- Chart gas and electric bills by the month for one year to determine when and how you use energy.
- Refrain from using throwaway cups, plates and utensils.
- Provide containers for recyclables: aluminum, glass, plastic and paper.
- Save paper by printing on both sides and using blank sides of unneeded sheets for everyday office use.

- Use copy paper and bathroom products that contain some post-consumer recycled materials.
- Enlist the aid of a professional to do an energy audit of your facilities. Contact NM IPL for information on our free energy audit workshop program.
- Contact NM IPL at info@nm-ipl.org and arrange for one of our free programs.

Use the IPL Online Shopping Cart:

- ⑩ Check out www.ShopIPL.org. A representative of your group can quickly set up a congregational account and begin using the online catalog to order compact fluorescent light bulbs, programmable thermostats and hundreds of other energy-efficient items. With each purchase, you'll be told how many pounds of global warming gases you are keeping out of the atmosphere, and the total will be added to what other NM congregations have saved. The Shopping Cart provides a profile of NM IPL congregations' aggregated emissions savings.

And...

As you promote energy conservation in your congregation, advocate in the public arena for policy changes:

- Rather than the building of new fossil-fuel power plants, demand safe, clean energy generation by our public utilities.
- Talk or write to your legislators to urge them to support renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation. Require political candidates to present programs that will achieve greenhouse gas reductions.
- Sign up for NM IPL's faith-based local global warming news and advocacy network by e-mailing info@nm-ipl.org. Join our advocacy list to affect policy on energy and climate change.

If you're interested in any of our program offerings and services, please e-mail info@nm-ipl.org.



New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light

We're working with faith communities to address the causes and consequences of global climate change.