



From the President



MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

The August 2, 2010, edition of the *Albuquerque Journal* carried a powerful op-ed piece written by NMIPL's Executive Director, Sr. Joan Brown. It's posted on the NMIPL website, and I hope you've all had a chance to read it and share it with friends and colleagues. The following is an excerpt from the closing paragraphs:

...People are tired of the lack of moral integrity of leaders who do not look after the future of the children, and all that God has created on this amazing place we live, Earth.

Are our elected representatives incapable of addressing the greatest environmental crisis of our generation? How do we explain this to our children when they ask? How do we explain this to people from other countries who are waiting for us to act?...

Our senators and President Obama have a responsibility not just to do what is easy, or what is politically expedient, but to do what is right.

It is time for moral leadership.

The goal of the Interfaith Power and Light movement is precisely to remedy this lack of moral leadership. Too often the debate over comprehensive energy and climate legislation relies solely on economic, political and security considerations, and the moral dimension is left entirely out of the picture. We, as people of faith, have an obligation to speak out wherever and whenever we can, to keep raising the moral issue until our voices can no longer be drowned out and our leaders have the courage at long last **to do what is right.**

Edwina Beard



COOL CONGREGATIONS COMES TO NEW MEXICO

On Saturday, October 30, NMIPL will welcome Sarah Webb, the creator of the Cool Congregations program for Iowa IPL, to conduct a training workshop for New Mexico faith communities. The

workshop will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Albuquerque's First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE. If you are from outside Albuquerque, NMIPL may be able to arrange local housing.

The informative and entertaining workshop (yes, there will some laughs along the way!) will teach Green Teams of two or three people from each faith community how to build a Cool Congregations program in their own congregations and will include time for networking and planning. Topics to be covered include:

- Why our congregation should care about a religious response to climate change.
- What's a Cool Congregations program? How do we go about organizing one?
- Measuring your own family's carbon footprint and finding ways to reduce it.
- The Other Side of the Meter: local, state and federal policies on energy and climate change.

Each Green Team will receive:

- Cool Congregations training manual
- Resource CD
- Cool Congregations Carbon Calculator designed specifically for New Mexico.

People of faith across New Mexico are responding to climate change by implementing energy-saving measures in their own homes and saving money in the process. The Cool Congregations stewardship program will provide you with the tools you need to make a difference in your home, congregation and community.

Here's how to participate:

1. Register each member of your Green Team at www.nm-ipl.org.
2. Complete the Carbon Footprint Checklist that will be provided, entering information based on your household's energy consumption over the past twelve months.
3. Bring the suggested contribution of \$20 per person or \$50 per Green Team to the workshop.



GET ON BOARD WITH BILL MCKIBBEN

Bill McKibben is on the road, driving a biodiesel van, on his way from Unity College in Maine to the White House in Washington, DC. He's transporting a piece of history—one of the solar panels installed on the roof of the White House by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. The solar panels were removed by President Reagan, but Bill is hoping that the current occupant of the White House will restore the panel to its rightful place as part of a Global Work Party on October 10. The 350.org campaign has designated 10-10-10 as “A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions,” and events are scheduled in more than 140 countries.



NMIPL invites people all over the State of New Mexico to engage their faith communities in 10-10-10 actions, which might include conducting energy assessments, weatherizing homes

or houses of worship, planting trees or winter gardens, or writing letters to leaders demanding action on clean energy. Resources and ideas are available at www.nm-ipl.org, and events may be registered at www.350.org.

Here in Albuquerque a coalition of organizations including NMIPL, the League of Women Voters, New Energy Economy, 1Sky, 350.org, and the Sierra Club is sponsoring a low carbon rally at Albuquerque Academy Simms Auditorium from noon to 2:00 on Sunday, October 10. Nationally-known speakers will join in a call for the city to reduce its CO2 emissions by five tons in one day. Participants are asked to bike, carpool, walk or run to the event. For more information or to register for the rally, go to www.cutcarbonrallynm.org.

EIB UPDATE

The NM Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) is still in the process of taking public testimony on the petition filed by New Energy Economy and numerous co-petitioners including NMIPL and the New Mexico Conference of Churches. As previously noted, the petition asks the EIB to cap carbon emissions in the state at a level consistent with scientific recommendations, and is strongly opposed by the oil and gas industry and by public utilities and cooperatives that depend upon coal-fired power plants to provide energy for consumers.

A favorable EIB ruling on the petition would result in the reduction of statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 25% below 1990

levels by 2020 based on the theory that such emissions qualify as “air pollution” under the Air Quality Control Act and therefore constitute a threat to the wellbeing of New Mexico’s people and natural resources.

NMIPL ANNUAL MEETING

We invite representatives from all our member and partner congregations, and anyone who is interested in, and supportive of, the work of New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light, to attend the NMIPL Annual Meeting on Saturday morning, October 30, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Albuquerque’s First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE.

The agenda will include:

- A brief period for worship/reflection;
- A report on First Unitarian’s solar panel installation;
- An overview of NMIPL’s projects and achievements during the past year;
- A segment of the film *Renewal*;
- Music and fellowship.
- Door prize drawing for a “Kill A Watt” electricity usage monitor valued at \$30.

Following the meeting, and preceding the Cool Congregations training workshop, a meal of soup, bread, fruit and cheese will be served.

Please join us!



WHAT NMIPL OFFERS

New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light (NMIPL) can help your faith community care for creation, reduce its energy consumption and expenses, and save money for ministry and mission.

Contact NMIPL to arrange a free energy assessment of your house of worship, offices, social hall and/or school. Our volunteers will evaluate your facilities and recommend some energy efficiency measures, many of which might be “low-hanging fruit” that could be done easily and inexpensively.

Contact NMIPL to take advantage of the Quick Saver Program sponsored through PNM. The program assesses lighting and pays for 40-80% of the recommended replacement lighting from certified lighting companies. Some customers have experienced a 100% payback within a year from utility savings.

Encourage your faith community to become a member of NMIPL and receive regular updates on activities and resources.



The Rev. Gary West, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gallup, follows in the footsteps of St. Francis as he teaches youngsters attending an ecumenical vacation Bible school during July about caring for creation. The children were introduced to recycling, solar greenhouse food production, and many other sustainable practices. One of the program's coordinators was Betsy Windisch of First United Methodist Church in Gallup, who is also a NMIPL Board member.



The Rev. Roger Perkins, Church of the Holy Spirit, Gallup, and The Rev. Martin Bayang, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Grants, receive CFL bulbs to distribute to their parishioners and through local food pantries. NMIPL's project for supplying CFLs to these outlying Episcopal parishes, and to Church of the Holy Cross, Edgewood, and Church of the Epiphany, Socorro, was made possible by a generous grant from the NW Deanery, Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande.



GIVING THANKS

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous financial support of the following:

- The Regeneration Project • Donald W. Hyde
- PNM • Elena Rodriguez
- NW Deanery, Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Please visit the NMIPL website, www.nm-ipl.org, for information about how to contribute. NMIPL was granted independent 501c3 status from the IRS, enabling our supporters to make tax-deductible contributions through United Way. Just write "New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light" in the space provided on the United Way pledge form.

We also appreciate the many wonderful volunteers who:

- Make phone calls, work at tabling events, spread the word to their friends and neighbors;
- Serve on the NMIPL Board of Directors. We welcome returning Board member The Rev. Janice Bales and new Board member The Rev. Anita Amstutz.

Please forgive any omissions or oversights—we are grateful for everything you do.



The Church of the Holy Spirit has also installed an energy-efficient drainage system along with other renovations including energy-efficient lighting and lighting, and new heating and cooling systems. Fr. Perkins noted that the renovations were undertaken with an eye to the future of the parish, and they are already benefiting from the savings.



Parishioners of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City are doing their part to care for creation as well. They have installed energy-efficient lighting and have made a commitment to wash dishes following parish functions instead of using disposable tableware.



New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
PO Box 27162
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7162
www.nm-ipl.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall 2010

DATED MATERIAL

ABOUT NMIPL

New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light (NMIPL) engages faith communities and individuals in an active response to climate change.

NMIPL is a New Mexico non-profit corporation with 501(c)3 status through our fiscal sponsor, the Partnership for Earth Spirituality. NMIPL is governed by a Board of Directors whose current members are as follows:

Edwina Beard, <i>President</i>	Joan Brown, <i>osf, Executive Director</i>
Kathy Garland, <i>Secretary</i>	Sherry Lewis, <i>Treasurer</i>
The Rev. Anita Amstutz	The Rev. Janice Bales
Bunny Bowen	Ward Camp
John Dickel	The Rev. Pam Gilchrist
Marilyn O'Boyle	Allan Scott
Doug Stewart	Betsy Windisch

The Board meets quarterly in Albuquerque, with members in remote locations participating by conference call. Board meetings are open to all interested persons, and we welcome your attendance. Please contact us through the website www.nm-ipl.org to ask about the dates and locations of upcoming Board meetings.

NMIPL's work with member faith communities outside the Albuquerque area is coordinated by regional satellite committees. When a faith community in another part of the state joins NMIPL and appoints a liaison, we will put that person in touch with the local satellite committee.