



From the President

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

The national IPL campaign has reassessed and revised its strategy in light of last year's distressing failure of the Senate to pass climate legislation despite widespread support and considerable momentum. The result is a focus on "Building a Movement." It has become obvious that the only way to bring about meaningful change in this country's climate and energy policy is to activate large masses of people to speak out with a strong, clear and consistent voice. The faith community has a history of doing just that, having produced leaders for the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement and other campaigns for peace and justice. The key question is: how can we get people of faith activated in large enough numbers and with deep enough commitment to make a difference when climate change is not yet forcing us to pay attention?

One of the features of the national IPL conference in DC that I attended in May was a "conversation" among IPL founder The Rev. Sally Bingham and her two guests: The Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners, and civil rights activist The Rev. Gerald Durley. Both men were active in the civil rights movement, and Jim Wallis was also involved in the apartheid movement in South Africa. They talked about how and why they became involved in movements that meant leaving home and family, traveling to distant places, and risking injury, imprisonment, and maybe even death. Both of them were inspired either by friends or family members who were being affected, or by witnessing (TV news reports, for example) the injustices that were being perpetrated. In other words, it took something very real and immediate and personal to get them engaged, and it was a compelling emotional engagement, not simply a pragmatic or intellectual one. Perhaps that's the distinction between a "cause" and a "movement"—emotional engagement.

Our challenge is to figure out how to make the threat of global climate chaos so real and immediate and personal to members of our faith communities that they will be emotionally engaged and thus compelled to become part of an IPL "movement." Any ideas you might have would be greatly appreciated!

Edwina Beard



COOL CONGREGATIONS

Be cool

Entries Due: October 20, 2011

CHALLENGE

Get relief from New Mexico's summer heat by preparing an entry for the Cool Congregations Challenge. The contest, sponsored by New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light as part of a national campaign, began on July 12 and will end on October 20 with the awarding of cash prizes in recognition of congregations that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models.



Energy assessment at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Albuquerque.

Top cash prizes of \$1000 will go to winning contestants in four categories: energy efficiency, renewable energy, grounds and water conservation, and helping congregants lower household energy use. All faiths are welcome to participate, and the contest is free. Projects of any size completed in the last year from October 20, 2010 through October 20, 2011 qualify. Entries are due by October 20, 2011, and an entry guide is available at www.interfaithpowerandlight.org.

Take advantage of the Summer Learning Calls associated with the Challenge. When you sign up for the Cool Congregations Challenge Guide, you will automatically receive reminders about the calls, but you can participate even if you don't enter the contest. Each call will be from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time; dates and topics are as follows:

- July 26: Energy Efficiency—affordable ideas
- Aug. 2: Renewable Energy—examples and guidance
- Aug. 9: Cooling Grounds—trees, native plants, re-thinking lawns, and other ideas
- Aug. 16: Inspiring Congregants—helping congregants stay cool at home

This contest and associated congregational activities send a global message that people from multiple faith traditions are united in protecting the climate. Susan Stephenson, Executive Director of Interfaith Power & Light, says that congregations that have pledged to continue to work towards the goal of carbon reductions “are strong moral role models for their communities, and these activities have a ripple effect.”

GIVING THANKS

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous financial support of the individuals and organizations named on the enclosed list.

Please visit the NMIPL website, www.nm-ipl.org, for information about how to contribute. We are working to match a \$15,000 challenge grant from The Regeneration Project, meaning that every contribution will be effectively doubled. NMIPL is also eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions through United Way—just write “New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light” in the space provided on the United Way pledge form.

We 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.

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



Above: 1) The roof of First Unitarian Church, Albuquerque, with solar collectors installed. 2) Rev. Christine Robinson at the dedication.



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE: CAMP STONEY SUMMER OUTREACH

Some of you may have seen the news article published in June about 16-year-old Alec Loorz, the founder of Kids vs. Global Warming. Alec has yet to graduate from high school, but he is already focusing his energy on environmental issues. Alec is the lead plaintiff in a landmark case charging the federal government with failing to address climate change. “I think that the time has now come for young people to stand up and hold our government accountable. We are going to have to grow up and live in that future. We’re going to be affected more than anyone else by climate change,” he told a news reporter.

Alec is just one of many inspired, and inspiring, young people who are putting their love for the earth and their concerns for their brothers and sisters around the planet into action. NMIPL wholeheartedly supports such action, and hopes to recruit youth (grade school to young adults) volunteers to join their elders in this earthkeeping journey.

This summer NMIPL had the pleasure of collaborating with the staff of Camp Stoney, the diocesan camp located in the foothills outside Santa Fe and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. The theme of all the camps this season was “Keeping the Earth,” and NMIPL provided several resources: Earthkeeper keyrings bearing the NMIPL logo; Earthkeeper covenants for campers to sign; and youth-oriented printed materials. NMIPL is grateful for this opportunity and hopes to expand its partnership with Camp Stoney.

We are interested in working with youth groups in any faith community, religious education program, or camp. And we are seeking names and contact information for individual young people who would like to get involved. NMIPL plans a periodic e-newsletter with a youth emphasis, and we hope to recruit a committee of dedicated youth leaders to plan a youth Earth Day event in April 2012 incorporating a spiritual component appropriate for young people.

Contact info@nm-ipl.org if you or someone you know would like to join us.

FIRST UNITARIAN CELEBRATES SUMMER SOLSTICE BY GOING SOLAR

Members of Albuquerque’s First Unitarian Church (corner of Carlisle and Comanche) celebrated Father’s Day and the summer solstice with the blessing and dedication of new solar panels on Sunday, June 19. Theirs will be the first faith community in New Mexico to generate a significant percentage of their power from solar energy.

“The members of First Unitarian are very committed to living in a suitable way, and have wanted a solar project since before it was feasible! We gave extra attention to being a model for other non-profit institutions, religious and secular, to be early adopters of this technology. It’s been a long wait, but we are really happy!” commented Pastor Christine Robinson.

First Unitarian worked with Consolidated Solar Technology (CST) to design the 48.65 KW system, which is estimated to generate 76,963 KWH per year (about 75% of the 800-member congregation’s needs) and to set up a lease arrangement between the church and CST, with CST handling all regulatory and tax issues.

The panels cover the roofs of most buildings on the church's campus, and the total cost is \$352,676. The congregation has two options: to purchase the system for 35% of the original cost after seven years, or to continue the lease for twenty years. Prior to this installation, First Unitarian paid PNM \$.0985/KWH; they now expect that expenditure to be reduced by 10%.

CST enjoyed its collaboration with First Unitarian, is delighted that the project will have long term benefits for the church and for future generations, and hopes that it will serve as a model for other New Mexico faith communities. CST would be interested in working with other congregations, and invites your inquiries.

NMIPL, which engages the state's faith communities in caring for creation and addressing climate change through energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy, is thrilled that this project has come to fruition. "Many faith communities have instituted energy-efficient policies and practices and would like to take the next step of going solar. Affordability on limited budgets is the challenge. First Unitarian's success can be an example to other congregations, and NMIPL would love to help," said Sr. Joan Brown, osf, Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Within the past few months NMIPL has been engaged in numerous advocacy efforts at both the state and national levels. Monthly e-notes with timely alerts and information about events and meetings come to you via e-mail. If you or someone you know would like to be on the advocacy list, contact info@nm-ipl.org or call 505-266-6966.

* NMIPL followed the lead of the national organization in urging our Congressional Representatives to support the continuation of the 2007 law mandating the use of CFLs. A recent effort in the House of Representatives to overturn the law was unsuccessful.

* NMIPL is participating in the national campaign to show support for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson by gathering and mailing pre-printed postcards. The deadline for delivery is August 1. To get postcards for members of your faith community to sign, contact info@nm-ipl.org.

* Other advocacy actions:

- NMIPL signed onto a national letter endorsing the Clean Air Act
- NMIPL submitted a letter signed by more than twenty state faith leaders supporting strong safeguards for the coal-fired power plants in the Four Corners area
- Representatives from NMIPL visited our Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC
- NMIPL took part in several hearing in New Mexico addressing energy efficiency building codes and safeguard updates for coal-fired power plants.

NMIPL is once again distributing CFL light bulbs donated by PNM. If your faith community is located within the PNM service area, NMIPL can provide free CFLs for your congregation— 4 per household. Contact info@nm-ipl.org.



Entertainers at the Serenade for Mother Earth, April 17.

NEWS BRIEFS

- St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church food pantry, 601 Montano NW in Albuquerque is accepting extra produce from your garden for their food pantry distribution on Tuesdays. You may leave produce outside the food pantry building (the one just west of the parking lot) on Monday evenings or call the office at 345-8147.
- NMIPL hosted its second annual Serenade for Mother Earth on Sunday, April 17, at St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church. (*See photos above.*) The concert featured the lively music of the Celtic Coyotes, several string ensembles, classical selections played by a talented young pianist, and two pieces arranged for bagpipe and organ. The appreciative and generous audience made around \$500 in free-will contributions to support the work of NMIPL.
- *GASLAND*, a film about hydrofracking, is available from info@nm-ipl.org for screenings in homes or faith communities. Many religious traditions are speaking out against this process for extracting natural gas because of its devastating effect on the water table, particularly in the West, including New Mexico. NMIPL can provide educational information, petitions and a policy statement from the national IPL for anyone who would like to host a screening.
- Check out the NMIPL website (www.nm-ipl.org) for a calendar of upcoming events, resources, and much more. You can also donate online!



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer 2011

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	Cheryl Foote
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Miller	Marilyn O'Boyle
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.