



Celebrating  
— 15 —  
Years!

40

State  
Affiliates

Supporters  
in all

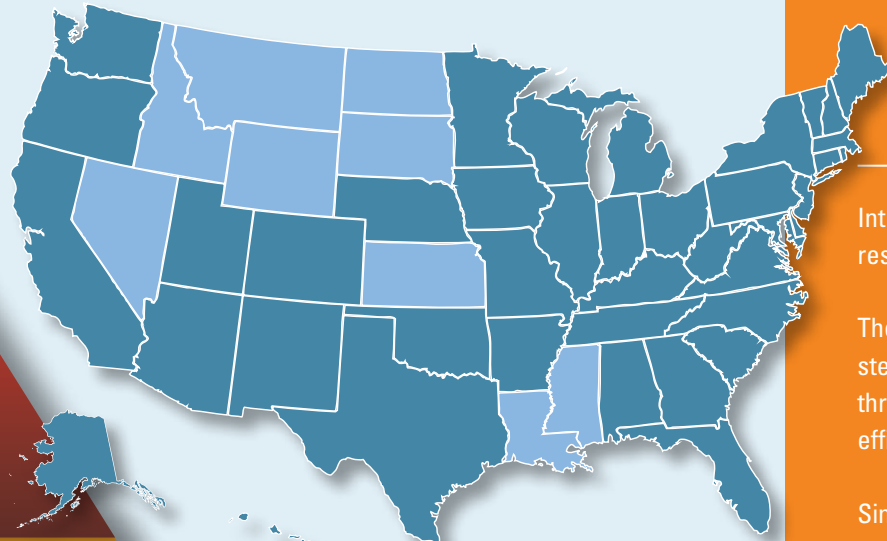
50 States

18,000

Congregations

6,000,000

People of Faith



## Interfaith Power & Light

*A Religious Response  
to Global Warming*

Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a faith-based response to global warming.

The mission of Interfaith Power & Light is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Since the year 2000, IPL has built a powerful grassroots network of people of faith, to drive smarter energy policymaking and helped thousands of congregations address global warming by modeling energy stewardship in their own facilities. We have a track record of tangible results: shrinking carbon footprints and educating millions of people of faith about the important role they have to play in this challenging issue.

Today, IPL has a national network of 40 IPL-branded state affiliates and supporters in all 50 states reaching 18,000 faith communities. United in our mission to build a religious response to global warming, we have a diverse array of issues and programs, from fighting to retire dirty coal power plants in the Midwest and Southeast, to passing precedent-setting renewable energy targets on the West Coast.

This model allows IPL to leverage its resources to have an impact at both the national and the state levels.



The Rev. Sally G. Bingham, President & Founder

## Message From Our President and Founder

*“Climate Change is the greatest moral challenge of our time and religious voices are going to be the agent of change.”*

— The Rev. Sally Bingham speaking at the National Mall, Earth Day 2015

### In 2015 we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of IPL's founding.

I couldn't be more proud of all the things that we have accomplished since 2000. We've educated millions of people of faith about the impacts of global warming and mobilized them to take action to address both the causes and the impacts of our changing climate. We've grown our state affiliate network and we've pushed our elected leaders and representatives to support policies and pass legislation that is helping us to transition from dirty fossil fuels to a clean renewable energy future. Along the way we've had some great successes and some set-backs, but we have never given up.

### On Earth Day, I addressed a gathering of 250,000 on the national mall in Washington, DC.

It was truly a thrilling experience! In June, Pope Francis released his encyclical on ecology and reinforced a message that we have been preaching for 15 years that climate change is real, is hurting poor people first and worst, and is a moral issue for everyone to address. Thank you Pope Francis.

In September, I was invited to be on the **White House lawn to greet the Pontiff**, I heard him speak to Congress, and once again was on the national mall speaking to a large crowd about our work. A month later in London I met with Prince Philip and others at Lambeth Palace for a three day conference on how the religious community was engaging on climate change.

Then in December, I attended the **COP21 climate talks in Paris at the invitation of the State Department**, to present how the religious community is responding to the climate crisis in America. Together with my colleagues Sr. Joan Brown and Susan Stephenson, we unrolled an 11-foot banner with the names of more than 5,000 people of faith and houses of worship who had taken the Paris Pledge. I know that our support and commitment helped provide a boost to the U.S. I was elated when 192 countries came together in solidarity to reach an historic agreement that will cut carbon emissions. The faith voice was prominent leading up to and at the talks. We brought home the moral message of addressing climate change. It was a thrill to have been there. **2015 was one of our most exciting and successful years!**

**We still have a lot of work to do and we are as dedicated as ever** to tackling the issue of climate change and restoring the health of our planet. My deepest thanks to our funders, our champions, our advocates, our network of state leaders and volunteers, our staff and all of you who have worked over these last 15 years to create this movement.

In faith,

The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham, President and Founder



## The Road to Paris and the Historic Climate Agreement



From left to right: Sister Joan Brown, OSF, New Mexico IPL Executive Director; The Rev. Sally Bingham, IPL President and Founder; Karen Florini, U.S. State Department; and Susan Stephenson, IPL Executive Director, with Paris Pledge Scroll presented at COP21.

In the months leading up to the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris, IPL organized people of faith across the country to demonstrate the U.S. faith community's support of a strong agreement at the critical gathering.

People of faith responded by the thousands to take IPL's Paris Pledge and commit to reducing their carbon emissions by 50% by the year 2030 and to be carbon neutral by the year 2050. Together, we showed the world that every day people of faith in the U.S. are willing to act on their values and change the way they use energy in order to preserve a safe climate for future generations.

At the invitation of the U.S. State Department, **IPL presented an 11-foot banner at the Climate Conference with the names of 5,500 congregations and households that took the Paris Pledge.** The day after IPL's presentation, nearly 200 countries reached an historic agreement to reduce carbon emissions and keep global warming to no more than 2° celsius. Even better, 1.5° celsius was stated as the aspirational target. Though the agreement is far from perfect, and we still have to ensure the U.S. delivers on its promises, we heard over and over again that the faith community's presence helped create a stronger and more equitable agreement.

*“Leadership is required from faith-based organizations in order to build the courage, the confidence, the political space and the urgency for accelerated action”*

– Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



## Pope Francis and his Encyclical on Ecology, “*Laudato Si*”

In his much-anticipated encyclical on ecology Pope Francis called on “all people of good will” to take action on climate change. The very first chapter, entitled “Pollution and Climate Change”, states that the climate crisis “represents one of the principle challenges facing humanity in our day.” In stark terms, he warns that fossil fuel use is causing “unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us.”

**The IPL network responded in force to this call to action! We mobilized hundreds of events across the country to engage people from all faith traditions to celebrate and study this inspired encyclical.**

IPL joined with our partner organization Catholic Climate Covenant to create a “Pope Francis Encyclical Action Kit” to educate faith communities about Pope Francis’ message and to facilitate action. More than 3,500 kits were downloaded in both English and Spanish in just one week!

*“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.”*

– Pope Francis



## White House Honors IPL Faith Climate Leaders with Champion of Change Award

In July, The White House recognized four IPL leaders as **Champions of Change for their efforts in protecting Creation and communities from the effects of climate change.** From New Mexico to Wisconsin, these leaders are bringing the moral authority of the faith community to the forefront of our nation’s discussion around climate change.

Rev. Kim Morrow of Nebraska IPL, Sister Joan Brown, OSF of New Mexico IPL, Huda Alkaff of Wisconsin IPL, and Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley of the IPL national board (pictured above left to right), were honored for their leadership at an event in Washington, DC.

These seasoned IPL network luminaries have been leading grassroots efforts to green their faith communities, as well as educating others on the moral implications of climate change.

*“As faith leaders, no voice is really more important than yours in this. As the president and others, including the pope, have indicated, this really is a moral responsibility. We need to remind people of that and engage them. It’s a responsibility that we all have to share, to protect our neighbors, to protect God’s creation from the threats of climate change.”*

– Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protective Agency

# 2015 Advocacy Highlights

## Fighting Coal Exports: Faith Leaders form a “Thin Green Line”

*With U.S. coal-fired power plants closing left and right, the coal industry has set its sights on exporting this dirty fossil fuel to Asia.*

Proposals for coal-export terminals are popping up along the Pacific Coast, from Washington to California, and IPL has organized faith communities to take a stand against them. These people of faith have been an important element in forming a “thin green line” that has been successful in preventing these terminals and the toxic coal dust they would bring.

Washington State IPL has partnered with the Lummi Nation for the past five years to mobilize people of faith to speak out and stand with the tribe in defending their sacred lands and water from North America’s largest proposed coal-export terminal at *Xwe’chi’eXen* (also known as Cherry Point) located in the far north west corner of the state.

Further south, California IPL made headlines organizing faith leaders to speak at City Council meetings and to the media about how a proposed West Oakland-based coal-export terminal would increase asthma and cancer among their communities whose health is already disproportionately impacted by pollution.

The coal industry gets increasingly desperate as the world moves away from fossil fuels, but IPL and passionate faith communities are prepared to continue the fight to protect Creation, understanding pollution knows no borders. Shutting down coal plants in the U.S., only to have American coal mined, exported, and burned in China, would defeat our purpose. Our country must instead be a leader in clean energy, sharing renewable energy technology with developing nations. As a wealthy, powerful, and innovative country, this is an important role we can and must embrace.

**UPDATE:** Washington IPL celebrated a huge victory in May 2016, when the Army Corps of Engineers denied necessary permits to build North America’s largest coal export terminal, stating that it would have adverse impacts upon the Lummi Nation.



California faith leaders assemble in front of Oakland City Hall to oppose coal export.

*“California Interfaith Power & Light has been an important partner in organizing Oakland’s diverse faith communities against coal exports, the health and safety of our neighborhood and planet depend on all of us working together. CIPL member congregations and staff have helped raise awareness, build trust, and nurture a hopeful collaborative vision for a thriving Oakland without coal.”*

— Pastor Ken Chambers, West Side Missionary Baptist Church, Oakland CA



From left to right: Lummi Master Carver Jewell James; Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean of St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral; and Earth Ministry/WAIPL Executive Director LeeAnne Beres  
Photo © Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light.

# National Programs & Campaigns

## Preach-in on Global Warming Reaches 2.4 Million People

The annual Preach-in on Global Warming is IPL's core program for inspiring and supporting clergy and lay leadership to preach from the pulpit and educate their congregations about climate change.

Since 2010 congregations in all 50 states have taken part in the program and it has grown by 223%! With nearly 6,000 congregations participating, we have reached more than 2.4 million people of faith with the climate message.

The 6th Annual Preach-in on Global Warming inspired faith leaders across the country to discuss global warming. The Preach-in provided support and resources (example sermons, liturgical resources, prayers and inspiring books and films) to clergy and lay leadership to preach from the pulpit and educate their congregations. The Preach-in kits also included facts sheets, bulletin inserts, and postcards to send to senators on important climate policies. In 2015 people of faith sent over 62,000 postcards to senators in support of the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

*"We will have a special sermon, special music, your kit activities, and other climate change and drought materials displayed on our patio for the congregation to see and act on before or after church services. This package saved us a lot of work in preparing materials, as well as a chance for the congregation to act immediately. Thanks for making our work easier."*  
- Joan Fish of the Green Team at Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach



## Cool Congregations Challenge

Across the country, people of faith are making changes in their places of worship to address climate change through our Cool Congregations program. IPL's yearly contest encourages congregations of all faiths to enter their projects to be recognized for their leadership and to inspire others. In 2015, 76 congregations entered their projects in the challenge.

Winners were selected from five categories: Cool Planner, Sacred Grounds Steward, Energy Saver, Renewable Role Model, and Community Inspiration. Along with the winners there are twenty-one runners up across eighteen states.

Jointly these congregations prevent over 5 million pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere annually. This is the equivalent of the energy used by 249 homes in a year, or preserving 2233 acres of mature forest every year, or Americans driving 5,652,944 million miles less every year. And that's just 76 congregations. The nation has 370,000 congregations. This program and the inspiring stories it generates provides thousands of congregations with the motivation they need to become excellent role models as well, to other faith communities, and to their communities at large.

### SPOTLIGHT ON 2015 COOL CONGREGATIONS ENERGY SAVER CHALLENGE WINNER



### St. Mary's Catholic Church in Johnson City, TN

St. Mary's Catholic Church was inspired by Pope Francis' call for all to help green the world. The church's Justice, Peace and Creation Care Committee has a mission to keep our earth as God gave it to us and to live up to Pope Francis' recent encyclical, "Laudato Si".

In 2015, St. Mary's undertook an energy audit that led them to switch from old equipment to new energy efficient equipment, new LED lighting, new energy saving entryways and better energy saving procedures. This inspired 40 congregants to also undertake energy audits and implement energy saving measures in their own homes. Within the first six months, the church saved over \$1,000 in energy costs and the savings keep growing. St. Mary's estimates they are saving 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year. Congratulations St. Mary's!



# National Programs & Campaigns

## Cool Harvest – Making the Food/Faith/Climate Connection

Cool Harvest is a food, faith and climate program to facilitate congregations in educating their members about how our food choices impact the climate. Cool Harvest includes resources to support activities such as Cool Potlucks and organic gardening. Backyard gardens and climate-friendly food choices can play a big part in helping America reduce its carbon “food-print.” Since 2012 Cool Harvest has disturbed over 4000 gardening and cool food kits.

Modern agribusiness — that favors toxic pesticides, petroleum-based fertilizers, GMO foods (genetically modified), distant farm-to-plate transportation, and the factory farming of animals — exacts a heavy toll on the atmosphere. It is estimated that nearly one-fifth of climate change pollution comes from the food industry.

**Every year in the United States between 40% and 50% of all food that is produced and ready for harvest is wasted.** That means that for every square mile of corn that is grown, every gallon of milk that is produced or animal that is raised an identical one ends up in the landfill. Not only is this wasteful but it places a heavy and unnecessary burden on the planet.



*“Thank you so much for your offering of heirloom and rare seeds. Giving our students an opportunity to be good stewards of the earth, as well as an ability to take part in understanding how to grow plants from seeds, is an invaluable experience that they will take with them throughout their life.”*

—Michael P. West, Superintendent of Schools, Colusa County CA

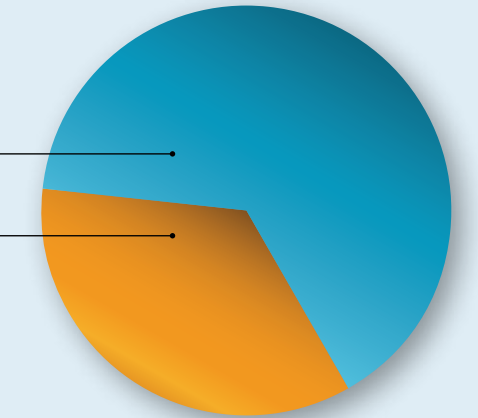
# Financials

## 2015 Financial Commentary

In 2015, IPL’s total income increased by 35% to \$1.9 million. Our 2015 total operating budget was \$1.5 million. 78% of operating expenses went to support for state and national programming with \$353,333 being granted out to state affiliates, partners and congregations, \$201,890 supported the California Interfaith Power & Light program and \$625,318 funded national programs and campaigns. Individual and congregational donations provided 30% of total funds raised. We are grateful to all of our donors for their generosity, which made this work possible.

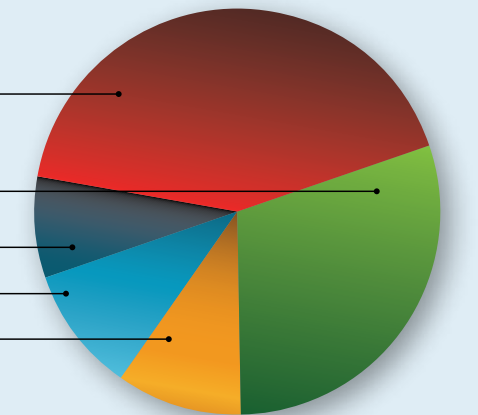
## Income

Foundation Grants	\$1,341,833	70%
Individual Contributions & Other Income	\$587,238	30%
<b>2015 TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,929,071</b>	



## Expenses

National Program	\$625,318	42%
Re-grants to State IPLs	\$353,333	23%
California IPL	\$201,890	13%
Development	\$209,166	14%
Administration	\$115,552	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,505,259</b>	



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*Interfaith Power & Light  
gratefully acknowledges  
our 2015 donors*

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Mt. Toby Friends Meeting  
Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
San Francisco Zen Center

Society of Jesus and Mary  
St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
St. Christopher's School  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
St. Paul's Cathedral  
Stanford Memorial Chapel

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The 11th Hour Project  
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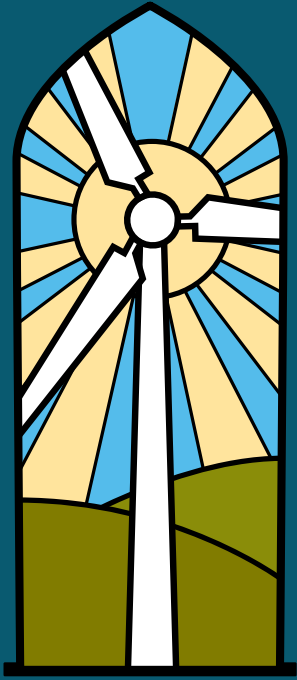


**“While the climate crisis has been predicted and documented by science, its solution requires a moral, spiritual, and technological response.**

**This is why as a scientist I support Interfaith Power & Light.”**

**– IPL supporter,  
Dr. Andrew Gunther**





The Regeneration Project

# Interfaith Power & Light

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## Ways to Help Interfaith Power & Light

IPL depends on our members and supporters to achieve our mission. There are many ways to help: volunteering, donating, making a gift of appreciated securities, or leaving a legacy gift. You can support our state affiliates by designating your gift for our regrant program, and our Carbon Covenant program by designating the project of your choice. Another great way to provide reliable support is by making a monthly donation that is automatic, secure, and convenient.

**To learn more please contact Sarah Berg at 415-561-4891.**

## Ways to make a legacy gift include:

- Bequest
- Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
- Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)
- Real Estate Gift
- Stock Transfer

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