



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

...*Faith in Action*....

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Executive Director

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In 1997 Rev. Sally Bingham, San Francisco Grace Cathedral, formed the Episcopal Power and Light ministry to educate members about energy efficiency, green power and deregulated energy.

In 2002, Father Charles Morris, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Wyandotte, MI, teamed with the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM), ENERGY STAR Program to launch an IPL in Michigan. The purpose of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light (MiIPL) is to *involve communities of faith as stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices.*



MiIPL Newsletter

**Vol I, No. 1
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Message From The Director: MiIPL Launches...

Hi and welcome to Michigan Interfaith Power & Light (or MiIPL). I am Rev. Charles Morris, a Catholic priest at the Archdiocese of Detroit. I have been granted a year's sabbatical by my Ordinary, Cardinal Maida, that began on July of 2003. But MiIPL has been up-and-running since early in the year. We have been incorporated since February and have applied with the IRS for tax exempt status. We have a wonderful Board representative of Michigan's diverse faith community whom you will meet in future issues.

MiIPL is a coalition of congregations open to any faith organization (congregations, office, school, etc.) across the State of Michigan. As the faith community wrestles with skyrocketing natural gas prices and how it might address global warming MiIPL is here to announce that member congregations will not only be able to save thousands of dollars per year in utility costs but they will have the satisfaction of knowing that their community will be living more sustainability.

For instance, my own parish of St. Elizabeth in Wyandotte, has reduced its peak energy demand by 60% in five years. Not

only have we prevented thousands of pounds of CO2 in the atmosphere but we have saved over \$14,000/year in utilities.

Membership in MiIPL is only \$100/year. Because of grants from the EPA and from the Archdiocese of Detroit the first fifty congregations to join MiIPL will receive a free audit energy audit under the auspices of Mr. Doug Black. We guarantee that we will be able to save your congregation up to thousands of dollars each year. MiIPL offers the following services to our members:

ENERGY STAR energy audits and assessments; help in locating and purchasing energy efficient products (to reduce wasted energy), facility manager training in energy; aggregated (bulk) purchase renewable and non-renewable energy and sustainable products; information and networking; and, a collective voice that speaks a clear message to policy makers about energy: ***implement energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices.*** (See membership Brochure in this issue).

But there is so much more. Through our relation with the Small Business Association of Michigan we are able to link to “clean” technology businesses that produce and sell energy efficient and environmentally sound products. SBAM has a partnership with Michigan State University called: “GIFT” or Green Industries for Tomorrow. The mission of GIFT is to address environmental concerns by creating, retaining and expanding Michigan businesses that research, develop and commercialize breakthrough environmentally sound technologies, products and processes.

Already we have several congregations from around the State that have become members. In future issues we will feature their stories as to how they are saving energy and \$\$\$. If you would like to know more or would like myself or one of the Board members to speak to your congregation or ministerial association please feel free to contact me via our e-mail address at:

miipandl@yahoo.com. You can phone me at (734) 552-0104.

Thanks for your continuing support,

Rev. Charles Morris

MiIPL Milestones:

❖ **First Annual MiIPL Conference – November 7, 2003** - Get your calendars out: the date has been set for the first Annual MiIPL Conference, focusing on sustainability as Faith in Action. The conference will focus on green building practices, green energy technologies (renewable energy) and green products (biobased materials and ENERGY STAR rated products).

The conference will be held Friday, November 7 at Marygrove College. Rev. Sally Bingham, the founder of the Interfaith Power & Light movement (now in over a dozen states) will be our keynote speaker.

A number of organizations have already signed on as partners on the conference including the U.S. Green Building Council (S.E. Michigan Chapter), Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, Small Business Association of Michigan, ENERGY STAR Promotion Project and others.

The next evening, Saturday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Student Parish in East Lansing (a MiIPL member). Rev. Bingham will also be addressing “A Religious Response to Global Warming”. ***This will be an important weekend that you and your congregation will won't want to miss!!***

❖ **MiIPL Sets up Shop at Urban Options**

- It's official: MiIPL will set up its offices at Urban Options in East Lansing, MI. Urban Options serves as the primary Support Contractor

to the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM), under their ENERGY STAR Promotion Project contract with the Michigan Energy Office.

Under this arrangement, Urban Options will provide MiIPL with office space and support. Costs for the service will be covered by MiIPL through its various grants (e.g., ENERGY STAR, etc.). Doug Wood, (Congregations Energy Auditor, Michigan ENERGY STAR Promotion Project) also hangs his hat at Urban Options and will be able to “better coordinate his activities” with MiIPL in the future. SBAM will also “continue to provide meeting space and support for the fledging organization,” says Mark H. Clevey, Director, ENERGY STAR, SBAM.

❖ **Worth reading AGAIN:**

- Hayden, Tom. The Lost Gospel of the Earth: A Call for Renewing Nature, Spirit and Politics. (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books) 1996.
- Gore, Albert. Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company) 1992.

MiIPL Wins TWO new Grants!!!

With the ink barely dry on its Articles of Incorporation, MiIPL, in collaboration with the Michigan ENERGY STAR Promotion Project, was awarded two new grants in June and July, 2003. The first was a special grant conduct ENERGY STAR energy analysis on congregations in the state. According to John Sarver, Michigan ENERGY Office, the proposal “received the highest evaluation score of any proposal submitted in the region.”

The second grant was from the Catholic Action Fund Grant to conduct ENERGY STAR energy analysis on Catholic facilities with Detroit.

Funding from these two grants will be used to cover the costs of ENERGY STAR Energy Audits for MiIPL members. The ENERGY STAR Energy Audits will identify ways MiIPL members can reduce their energy costs by using products that are energy efficient (i.e., ENERGY STAR rated). “We expect that a large number of these product opportunities will include lighting, office equipment and appliances,” said Doug Wood, Energy Auditor, Michigan ENERGY STAR Promotion Project. The project will also work with interested MiIPL members to aggregate their purchase of ENERGY STAR products identified in the audits.

“Karmic Capitalism” - turning the lumbering engine of capitalism into a racing engine of Karmic Capitalism where a robust economy is combined with the purposefulness of faith, the Bill of Rights and the American Dream...

The Blue Nuns Go Green, by Danielle Conroy

Nicknamed the “Blue Nuns” for their royal blue habits of bygone days, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary officially opened their newly renovated “green” house to the public during a press conference held on Earth Day, April 22.

The 376,000-square-foot Motherhouse is home to 240 sisters and administrative headquarters for the 600-member Catholic congregation. The building went through 2 ½ years of environmentally friendly renovation that was completed in January 2003.

The \$56-million renovation is an enormous financial burden, but a risk the sisters chose because they consider sustainability a moral mandate for the 21st century.

Sister Janet Ryan, IHM, says “We’ve always been committed to social justice and advocacy for the abandoned and the poor. Our founders’ call was to respond to the needs of the world. In this century, we’ve come to understand the Earth is abandoned in many ways. People don’t realize it’s a living organism and must be treated with care. We consider sustainability a moral mandate for the 21st century.”

Sustainable design elements of the motherhouse renovation include choosing to renovate the 1932 building and not build a new structure, reusing and recycling materials, installing energy-efficient HVAC systems, and using products that reduce the impact on the environment.

Among the dozens of energy-efficient design elements incorporated in the motherhouse is a geothermal heating and cooling system consisting of a field of 232 bore holes 450 feet deep. The closed loop piping system circulates water through 54 miles of pipe to be warmed or cooled by the earth’s constant temperature of 55 degrees. The motherhouse has the largest residential geothermal field in the Midwest and it is expected to contribute to significant energy savings to heating and cooling system.

The graywater system collects water from sinks and showers, filters it through constructed wetlands, and returns it to the building for flushing toilets. This system allows for conservation of approximately 5,000 gallons of water a day. It is estimated an average of 7,200 gallons of water a day will flow into the wetlands for natural wastewater treatment before being recycled back into the building.

Reused and recycled materials included 800 restored and reused wood windows, 450 cherry doors, salvaged marble pieces used for countertops and windowsills, and over 100 existing period light fixtures retrofitted. New sustainable or “green” products were used whenever possible. The sisters chose low-VOC and no-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)

paint; water-based adhesives; rapidly renewable cork flooring; recyclable carpeting; gypsum fiberboards for interior walls; and a recycled wood and plastic floor for their upstairs veranda.

In welcoming remarks at the press conference, Sister Virginia Pfau, IHM president, said the sustainable renovation of the motherhouse is much more than creating a “green” building. “It is rooted in a desire for deep transformation of the hearts and minds of the community,” she said. “We are lifelong educators, which implies that we are lifelong learners. We hope that this living laboratory will serve to educate others.”

The IHM sisters hope the motherhouse will set an example of successful sustainability in the construction and building industry. Lynn Rogien, project manager for The Christman Company, a construction company hired by the sisters to manage the renovation, said this project taught him and his colleagues a lot about sustainable, or “green”, renovation.

“They literally took us to school,” Rogien said. “They knew they wanted a sustainable project. They demanded it out of the design team, and we, in turn, demanded it out of the contractors.”

The largest sustainable renovation project in the state of Michigan, the building’s new design already has won several awards from environmental and design agencies, the sisters said. The project won the Clean Air Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, received honorary affiliate member Award from the American Institute of Architects, and a \$6,000 community energy project grant from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

“It is my hope that the experiment that you’ve tried here will not be an experiment that stops here,” said Rev. Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, during the press conference on Earth Day. “God

is calling us to make sure that we leave this planet better than we found it.”

For more information, please visit the SSIHM website: www.ihmsisters.org

Sustainability: *“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*
- Brundtland Commission, 1997

Book Review: Kenneth Geiser, Materials Matter: Towards a Sustainable Materials Policy (Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2001)

Kenneth Geiser in his recent book, “Materials Matter,” is a well documented and thoughtful analysis of the relationship between our environment and how we produce and use materials that make up our products. According to Geiser, *“the four primary materials processing industries – metals, chemicals, paper and plastics – generate 71 percent of the country’s toxic air releases... These same four industries create the largest industrial energy demand, which further adds to the planet’s pollution.*

The production, use and disposal of these four primary materials generate substantial costs to the environment. For example, *“costs show up in the damage caused during the extraction of materials, in the pollution generated and energy consumed in producing and using materials, and in the disposal of waste materials.”* Costs also appear in increase health problems and diminished economic activity.

Geiser offers a simple solution: *“If we paid closer attention to the materials that we produce, we could pay less attention to the impacts of those materials once they are released to the*

environment.” This solution is extremely preeminent to Michigan in a number of ways. First, as a high industrialized durable goods producing state, Michigan is ground zero for pollution generated and energy consumed in producing and using material and in the disposal of waste materials.

Second, materials issues are all central to three prominent public policy debates currently going on in our state: Energy (Choice) (renewable vs non-renewable energy), recycling¹ (expansion of bottle recycling vs a comprehensive “materials based” recycling policy) and Land Use² (bio-based vs oil-based materials).

Lastly, materials policy goes to the heart of sustainability and faith in action. Converting natural materials into toxic pollutants is in stark opposition to living in harmony with nature.

“Materials Matter” provides both the layperson and scientist with a clear understanding of the problem, a path to a better way and the tools to begin to solve the problem. It is an important resource for anyone seriously interested in actualizing their faith.

Green Power Primer...

Renewable energy – or Green Power - offers MiIPL members the opportunity to reduce our dependency on imported oil, stimulate new business and related economic development and reduce pollution. However, significant confusion continues to surround the renewable energy debate, making it hard for congregations to choose the renewable energy option.

¹ See: “Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force” (Senator Brown, Chair Sen. Cameron S. Brown, Sen. Patty Birkholz, Sen. Mike Bishop, Sen. Alan Cropsey, Sen. Jud Gilbert, and Sen. Michelle McManus)

² See: “Michigan Land Use Leadership Council”

This article begins a series on Renewable Energy designed to make it easier for MiIPL members to purchase **both** Grid Connected and/or Stand-alone renewable energy (on site and/or off site). Let's start with a definition: the National Association of Attorneys General defines a "renewable" energy source as, "*any energy source that is naturally replenishable and replenished on some reasonable time scale. Renewable energy sources include, but are not limited to, wind, sun, heat from the earth's interior, oceans and rivers, and eligible biomass.*" Under current legislation, the State of Michigan also includes "waste-to-energy" in the definition of renewables (PA 142).

Most renewable energy practitioners use the standard definition as a starting point for a good – better – best debate. For example, new vs old renewables are considered better because they are a new source of pollution reduction. Zero emission renewables are considered better than partial emission renewables for the same reason. A number of renewable practitioners strongly endorse Landfill Gas as a renewable because it generates a negative emission when used to create power (vs flaring). Finally, many say that hydrogen is the only true renewable.

Anyway, let's start with an easy one: Solar Energy. A constant and universal sun, a simple device with no fuel and no moving parts, and energy as near as your backyard: this image of solar has sparked the imagination of millions of people. The sun bathes the earth with more energy each minute than the world consumes in one year. Solar has three applications:

- Solar Photovoltaics uses semiconductor technology to directly convert light to electricity;
- Solar Thermal uses the collection and concentration of the sun's rays to produce heat to run electric generators;
- Solar Chemical uses the sun's energy to drive chemical processes that produce new fuels.

Michigan has been on the forefront of Solar Energy since the early 1970's. For example, research conducted by Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. laid the foundation for U.S. Solar – a thin film photovoltaic manufacturing operation in Troy. The Michigan Solar Energy Association Michigan, founded in 1975, evolved into the widely respected Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association. A 4 Kw utility interconnected solar photovoltaic demonstration project has been in operation at the Oakland Community College Alternate Energy Technology Program since 1984.

Since 1994, the Utility PhotoVoltaic Group has managed TEAM-UP (building Technology Experience to Accelerate Markets in Utility Photovoltaics) - a partnership of the utility industry and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), provides cost sharing for selected PV business ventures in the United States. Detroit Edison is currently one of 94 TEAM-UP members and has three PV TEAM-UP projects:

Lastly, numerous on-site solar projects have been successfully implemented in the state including one at St. Elizabeth in Wyandotte. For more information on solar please see:

- Richter, John and Rowe, Debra G. Michigan Renewable Energy and Efficiency Success Stories. (Lansing, Michigan: Urban Options, Inc., Michigan Energy Center Network). 2002.
- California Energy Commission, Guidebook for the Renewable Technology Program. 1996.
- Michigan P A. 142 (SB937).
- National Association of Attorneys General, Environmental Marketing Guidelines for Electricity, December, 1999 and Final Report: Model Utility Interconnection, Tariff and Contract Provisions for DG, June, 1999.
- Renewable Energy Policy Project, Green Energy: Green Guide to Electricity Choices, 1999.
- Thomas Stanton, Michigan Public Service Commission, Where There's a Bill, There's a Way: Renewable Energy Markets in a Restructured Utility Industry, 1999.



MiIPL 2003 Membership Form

- Energy audits of houses of worship using ENERGY STAR for Congregations manual.
- Follow-up audits by training of facility managers and/or congregational representatives
- Educate congregants around ENERGY STAR
- Provide workshops, newsletter and conference for member congregations
- Provide manual of sustainable and energy efficient products and services of use to houses of worship
- Provide opportunities for aggregated purchases of products and service
- Provide opportunities for aggregated purchase of electricity from discounted and/or renewable sources

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
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