



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

...Faith in Action....

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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 Board of Directors:

Dick Brown
Danielle Conroyd
Al Conner
Rev. Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou
Ginny Jones (SSJ)
Ed Kohl
Ada Kidd
Charles Morris
Paul Stankewitz
Betsy Winkelman



MiIPL Newsletter

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Mark H. Clevey, Senior Editor

Message from the Director

In June I had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Energy Fair in Custer, Wisconsin. It was an incredible experience. Leading vendors and experts in the energy efficient and renewable energy field were there with exhibits and putting on workshops. The entire Fair was powered by wind turbines located right on the grounds. Thousands of folk were there from all over the country. On Sunday for lunch I shared a meal with Richard Heinberg, the keynote speaker and the author of the book *The Party's Over* [details in our last newsletter]. The book outlines how the world's supply of cheap oil is about to come to an end, as the demand will outstrip the available supply. The technology required to get the supply as well as the energy involved to procure oil that is either trapped in shale or in lower concentrations in deeper locations in the ground will greatly increase the price forever. Our current \$2.00/gallon of gas, according to this scenario, will be looked back with nostalgia.

As Mr. Heinberg stated both at lunch and, later, during his keynote address, at the gathering of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil [www.aspo.net], which had met in Europe in late spring of this year, the signs indicate that perhaps as early as 2007 the world

will cross that peak oil threshold. Although some folk are not quite as pessimistic [i.e. the June 2004 issue of *National Geographic*, which estimates the threshold as being crossed in about 2015] we are entering territory for which no one is prepared. When we think, for instance of our food supply, petroleum plays a major role at all stages, from fertilizer to shipping to packaging. This has brought home to me the critical need for organizations in the faith community such as MiIPL, who have taken as their charge to the mission of a practical witness to energy conservation, energy efficiency, natural systems and renewable energy.

In closing, I also want to challenge each MiIPL member to take the lead in forming active EarthCare Teams in each their congregations (see related article in this Newsletter). These EarthCare Teams will be your local instrument to express our Faith in Action theme.

Rev. Charles Morris

MiIPL Now Offers Green Tags

We are excited to announce that you can now help to offset global warming and help economic development among the tribes through the purchase of “green tags” through MiIPL’s collaboration with Native energy. Either for yourself or as an alternative holiday gift you can offset a ton or more of CO₂ by purchasing a green tag through Native Energy.

At the MiIPL website [www.miipl.org] go to the Native Energy link and you can have the satisfaction of reducing global warming. For more information about green tags go to www.nativeenergy.com and go the windbuilders link.

2nd Annual MiIPL Conference

Mark Your Calendars for the 2nd Annual MiIPL Conference, featuring Dr. Calvin DeWitt [The AuSable Institute and Robert Grough [Intertribal Council on Utility Policy] and numerous other workshops will be on Thursday, October 28, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. More information and conference registration can be found by going to our website at www.miipl.org. Thanks to our partners at Native Energy this Conference will be officially labeled “climate neutral”, the first time an event in Michigan will ever receive that designation.

Meet the MiIPL Board

Danielle Conroyd, the MiIPL Board secretary, is project director for the Monroe Campus of the IHM Community’s Master Plan.

Danielle is married with three children – all teenagers. Danielle has had long roots with the IHM Sisters and at one time was a professed member of the community. Danielle has a long background in Human Resources Management. Danielle has a B.A. from Marygrove and a M.Ed.

from Wayne State. In addition she has over 25 years of service in Human Resource Field and working with organizations as a change agent.

Danielle's journey to sustainability as a way of life began with her work with the IHM Sisters compassion toward sustainable communities. To Danielle it was more than a renovation of a building; it was a vision of the future. This journey has transformed Danielle and the entire community as part of a larger vision where nature is teacher.

As a result of the Motherhouse renovation Danielle first heard from Fr. Charles about how the faith communities across the State could join together to carry the sustainable vision. Danielle had already read about the work of Rev. Bingham and saw that the whole faith community needed to come together to share their faith view, to carry out their mission in ways they hadn't thought about before. This was also an opportunity for the IHM Community to share their wisdom and witness from their own experience to a vision of sustainability.

One of the blessings Danielle sees in her involvement with MiIPL is the inter-faith aspect. As Danielle states, "We have a common hope no matter what our background. We are continually learning what a blessing we can make when we use resources. Working with Fr. Charles and the networking that MiIPL has been engaged in has been a great joy for me. We are all working together to a common and sustainable future." [NOTE: our fall issue will feature a profile of our newest Board member, Iman Achmat Salie]

MiIPL Impact Report

MiIPL is now helping congregations form EarthCare teams, providing educational, worship and organizing resources to help leaven congregations in the path of sustainability. One MiIPL congregation that provides a great model

of energy stewardship is St. John Student Parish in East Lansing. Their sustainability group has been animated by Dr. Joel Nigg, a professor at Michigan State as well as an active and committed parishioner at St. John. In the following Joel shares a little of that story.

St. John Student Parish in East Lansing initiated a parish group to work on sustainability and faith in fall of 2002. The group was started by interested parishioners with the encouragement of the pastoral team. They put up a website <http://www.msu.edu/user/nigg/Catholic.htm> and an email list-serve. The list has enabled the group (about 60 people, students and permanent community members on the list) to send blocks of letters to Congress on key environmental legislation from a faith perspective. To educate and evangelization of the parish community, the group brought in a series of outside speakers, including Rev. Sally Bingham of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco (a visit made possible due to Rev. Bingham's parallel contact with MiIPL), Paul Stankewicz of the Michigan Catholic Rural Life Conference, and Sr. Janet from the Monroe IHM Sisters to talk about their renovation project. These speakers were well received and sparked good discussion. The parish has also made ongoing attempts to make their own operations more sustainable.

Key steps here have been changing the Sunday coffee and donuts to "Fair Trade" coffee outreach, switching to post-consumer recycled office paper, conducting an energy audit of the church, and beginning to install more efficient lights in response to the audit. The group and the parish thus support the work of MiIPL by helping the parish live out the mission of conversion within the parish and by making the coalition known in the parish. The group has also benefitted from MiIPL involvement, in particular for making contact with technical support (energy audit, workshop with Urban Options planned for this year), and for help in recruiting speakers (notably, Rev. Bingham.)

Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life: **Faith in ACTION!**

Dear Governor Granholm:

Adat Shalom Synagogue, a 1200 member congregation, moved from DTE to a different supplier of electricity to safeguard costs. We, as do other religious institutions, provide many services to our members and the community and it is imperative we conserve our resources to enable us to continue to provide these services. Our high electric bills were staggering in spite of our efforts to conserve energy.

As a customer of Electric Choice and a proponent of competition, I feel very passionate about the introduction of Senate Bills 1331-1336 and that my lawmakers should not be supporting legislation that will lead to price hikes and less competition.

This law has been working well since its inception, competition is thriving, existing businesses are able to lower their expenses and hopefully new businesses will be encouraged to do business in our state.

This package of bills negatively impacts all businesses in the state. PA 141 and 142 of 2000 was a carefully negotiated compromise between Michigan's business community, the utility industry, the Governor's office, and the Legislature.

First and foremost, electric restructuring should be about lowering Michigan's excessive electric rates, not killing competition and job development. The electric restructuring compromise of 2000 had several key elements to bring about competition and lower rates for Michigan businesses and customers. Under this competitive plan, rates have come down and reliability has increased because of construction of new generating plants by out-of-state companies, not by DTE.

SB 1331 - 1336 will take away everything that the Michigan business community negotiated in PA 141 and 142. This anti-competition package will guarantee that Michigan rates will be higher than any of the surrounding states.

At a time when Michigan is struggling to keep its valued manufacturing jobs and is on constant alert to help small business stay healthy and expand, nothing could be worse than to pass this self-serving package that only helps the utility industry and straps ratepayers with the highest electric prices in the entire region for years to come.

I hope you will reject this outrageous attack on Michigan's business community at a time when we are trying to account for every nickel. SB 1331-1336 is an outright double cross of our negotiated agreement with the utilities. Make them honor this agreement and not just protect their monopoly status. Sincerely,

Ed Kohl
Electric Choice Coordinator
Adat Shalom Synagogue
Farmington Hills, Mi 48334

Sincerely,

Ed Kohl
7275 Danbrooke
West Bloomfield , MI 48322

Maine: Setting a New Pace

According to Paul Gorman, director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, in a July 17 2004 issue of the New York Times, Maine is moving to the forefront of “religiously motivated environmental activity.” Over 35 congregations now have EarthCare teams – mostly lay-led environmental groups who introduce environmentalism into Sunday schools, provide energy audits and facilitate energy efficiency.

What’s exciting about our EarthCare Teams, and similar movements around the country, is that “we’re taking actions with people who see themselves as church-going people not environmentalists. They’re beginning to see saving the planet through the eyes, through a faith journey, says Anne Burt, Director of the Maine Council of Churches’ Environmental Justice Program. Burt notes that “beyond the usual newspaper recycling and turning off lights, they are also holding energy-efficiency fairs, buying organically grown coffee for coffee hours and exploring possibilities of using solar power for their facilities” Three small congregations have saved about 900,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere, says Ms. Burt.

Apollo Alliance Ten-Point Plan for Good Jobs and Energy Independence

<http://www.apolloalliance.org/>

The Apollo Alliance is building a broad coalition within the labor, environmental,

business, urban, and faith communities in support of good jobs and energy independence. The Alliance is developing public education campaigns and communications strategies to link allies and build a national constituency for a bold, broad based, and immediate program of public policy.

1. Promote Advanced Technology & Hybrid Cars: Begin today to provide incentives for converting domestic assembly lines to manufacture highly efficient cars, transitioning the fleet to American made advanced technology vehicles, increasing consumer choice and strengthening the US auto industry.

2. Invest In More Efficient Factories: Make innovative use of the tax code and economic development systems to promote more efficient and profitable manufacturing while saving energy through environmental retrofits, improved boiler operations, and industrial cogeneration of electricity, retaining jobs by investing in plants and workers.

3. Encourage High Performance Building: Increase investment in construction of “green buildings” and energy efficient homes and offices through innovative financing and incentives, improved building operations, and updated codes and standards, helping working families, businesses, and government realize substantial cost savings.

4. Increase Use of Energy Efficient Appliances: Drive a new generation of highly efficient manufactured goods into widespread use, without driving jobs overseas, by linking higher energy standards to consumer and manufacturing incentives that increase demand for new durable goods and increase investment in US factories.

5. Modernize Electrical Infrastructure: Deploy the best available technology like

scrubbers to existing plants, protecting jobs and the environment; research new technology to capture and sequester carbon and improve transmission for distributed renewable generation.

6. Expand Renewable Energy Development:

Diversify energy sources by promoting existing technologies in solar, biomass and wind while setting ambitious but achievable goals for increasing renewable generation, and promoting state and local policy innovations that link clean energy and jobs.

7. Improve Transportation Options: Increase mobility, job access, and transportation choice by investing in effective multimodal networks including bicycle, local bus and rail transit, regional high-speed rail and magnetic levitation rail projects.

8. Reinvest In Smart Urban Growth:

Revitalize urban centers to promote strong cities and good jobs, by rebuilding and upgrading local infrastructure including road maintenance, bridge repair, and water and waste water systems, and by expanding redevelopment of idled urban “brownfield” lands, and by improving metropolitan planning and governance.

9. Plan For A Hydrogen Future: Invest in long term research & development of hydrogen fuel cell technology, and deploy the infrastructure to support hydrogen powered cars and distributed electricity generation using stationary fuel cells, to create jobs in the industries of the future.

10. Preserve Regulatory Protections:

Encourage balanced growth and investment through regulation that ensures energy diversity and system reliability, that protects workers and the environment, that rewards consumers, and that establishes a fair framework for emerging technologies.

EarthCare Teams...

Rev Charles Morris, founder and Chairperson, MiIPL, is challenging MiIPL members to form *EarthCare Teams* within their congregations. An *EarthCare Team* is a group that takes the primary responsibility for the cultivation of creation awareness and religiously motivated environmental activities at their congregation. Typically *EarthCare Teams* are led by lay people and involves both members and employees of the congregation.

EarthCare Teams oversee such things as energy audits, the purchase and use of energy efficient products and renewable energy technologies, recycling programs, environmental curriculums and lessons in congregation schools, environmental sermons and community programs.

EarthCare Teams also join together to educate policy makers about the relationship between public policy choices and the environment (e.g., see Apollo Alliance).

EarthCare Checklist

- ENERGY STAR Energy Audit
- ENERGY STAR Products
- Deregulated Energy
- Renewable Energy
- Recycling Program
- Fair Trade Goods
- Socially Responsible Investments
- Environmental Lessons in Sunday School Programs and Sermons
- Tracking Energy Savings and Emissions Reductions
- Community Action Programs
- Other: _____

**For help in setting up your
EarthCare Team contact
Charles Morris, MiIPL...**

Green Power Primer, By, Mark H. Clevey

Hydrogen Hype...

“Unfortunately, the path set by the current energy policy of the United States and countries in the developing world will dramatically increase emissions during the next few decades, which will force sharper and more painful reductions in the future when we finally do act. Global CO₂ emissions are projected to rise more than 50 percent by 2030. From 2001 to 2025, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects a 40 percent increase in U.S. coal consumption for electricity generation. And the U.S. transportation sector is projected to generate nearly half of the 40 percent rise in U.S. CO₂ emissions forecast for 2025, which again is long before hydrogen-powered cars could have a positive impact on greenhouse gas emissions.”

Joseph J. Romm, “The Hype about Hydrogen,” *The National Academies of Science, Issues in Science and Technology*, Spring 2004, pp 79.

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Part 2 – Sierra Club Mutual Funds

This article is the second part of a series on “Socially Responsible Investing” (SRI). This month we will focus on the Sierra Club Mutual Funds.

The 15 months old Sierra Club Mutual Fund out performed the S&P 500 by more than 4 % in 2003. While the fund is still in its infancy, SCF

fund staff anticipate a continuation of the trend. Garvin Jabusch, SCF’s product manager and director of research notes that “*we believe in the concept called the virtuous cycle. We think green, socially responsible companies will do better and outperform others in the long run.*”

The fund, operated under the umbrella of Forward Management, LLC, (a privately-owned investment company) include two options: a Stock Fund and a Balanced Fund. The club had a life member fund for several decades that invested primarily in bonds. Seeking higher returns, the fund started investing in stocks in the 1990’s. In 2003, the club started its own SRI mutual fund.

The Sierra Club’s Investment Advisory Committee has set strict criteria and, according to SCF Senior Analyst Maria Potapov, “*all of the companies we invest in are reviewed three times.*” Review criteria include issues such as renewable energy, natural habitats and resources, waste management, agricultural practices and military weaponry. For more information on the Sierra Club’s shareholder resolutions see: sierraclub.org/planet/2000401.

For more information on the Sierra Club Mutual Funds contact:

Sierra Club Funds
433 California Street
San Francisco, California 94104
Tel: (866) 897-5982
www.sierraclubfunds.com

Green Gazelles

Over one billion wireless handsets are currently in use worldwide, with average life spans for handsets now falling to under 18 months. In the United States alone, 100 million cell phones will be retired annually in the coming

year – a rate more than 25 times higher than in 1990. While many of these phones gather dust in drawers or closets, a large number are sent to landfills, adding to the solid waste problem that is impacting cities and communities everywhere.

ReCellular, Inc. buys, sells and recycles used cell phones, pagers, printer cartridges and other handheld electronics. The company provides cell phone retailers with high quality refurbished, graded, and used wireless product at an affordable price. ReCellular reconditions, resells, and/or recycles millions of wireless products annually. So far the company has kept over 10 million of such products out of America's landfills.

ReCellular works tirelessly to convince people to donate their used phones. Most of the phones received are donated through recycling programs conducted by non-profit organizations and wireless service providers. ReCellular is recommended by INFORM, a leading environmental group, as an alternative for keeping used cell phones out of landfills and incinerators. In 2003, the Michigan Recycling Coalition named ReCellular the Recycler of the Year.

In addition to its plant in Michigan, ReCellular just opened (July 2004) a new refurbishing facility in Fort Worth, Texas. This facility will be able to process as many as 50,000 cell phones per month. This new operation will employ nearly 150 people. Of those jobs, at least 40 are expected to be technical positions.

“Despite the clear advantage of cell phone recycling, only one percent of retired cell phones are currently made available,” says Chuck Newman, founder and CEO of ReCellular. “People seem to inherently know that throwing old cell phones in the household trash isn't a good thing to do, so many are simply hanging on to them. It's critical we get the word out that cell phone recycling is not only immensely beneficial, but also easy to do.”

Contact:

Mike Newman
Director of Marketing and Services
ReCellular, Inc.
2555 Bishop Circle West
Dexter, MI 48130
(734) 205-2134 Phone
(734) 205-2312 Fax
mnewman@recellular.com

Lighten Up Video Available

MiIPL has a great resource for congregations who want to learn more about global warming and how the faith community can respond. This twenty minute video is entitled “Lighten Up” and features Rev. Sally Bingham, the co-founder of the Interfaith Power & Light movement. It features an accompanying study guide. It is free and is an ideal resource for adult education groups, social ministry committees, or youth groups. For more information and to order your free copy give Rev. Charles Morris a ring at (734) 552-0104. Or you can e-mail him at miipandl@yahoo.com.

Ecological Footprint

“Karmic Capitalism” is a concept that means what economic policies go around, comes around. Within this context, an “Ecological Footprint” is the impact a person makes on the environment. Ecological Footprinting is a concept developed by “Redefining Progress,” a think tank in Oakland California. It measures the resources being consumed and the waste generated then calculates the amount of

biologically productive land necessary to sustain that flow and absorb the waste.

For example, the following is the Ecological Footprint of several selected nations: Australia – 17 acres; China – 4 acres; Egypt – 4 acres; France – 13 acres; Italy – 9 acres; India – 1.9 acres; Mexico – 6 acres; Pakistan – 1.6 acres; United States – 24 acres; Average World Citizen – 5.6 acres. Worldwide, there exists 4.5 biologically productive acres per person. **If everyone lived like the U.S. we would need 5.3 planets (formula: 24/4.5)!**

To determine **your Ecological Footprint** go to: MyFootprint.org. After you determine your Footprint, click on the TAKE ACTION button on the results page of the Ecological Footprint Quiz.

Islam and the Environment

“Moreover, virtually all current world religions have much to say about the relationship between humankind and the earth. Islam, for example, offers familiar themes. The Prophet Mohammed said, *‘the world is green and beautiful and God has appointed you His stewards over it.’* The central concepts of Islam taught by the Qu’ran – *tawheed* (unity), *khalifa* (trusteeship), and *akhras* (accountability – also serve as the pillars of the Islamic environmental ethic. The earth is the sacred creation of Allah, and among Mohammed’s many instructions about it is: *‘whoever plants a tree and diligently looks after it until it matures and bears fruit is rewarded.’* The first Muslim caliph, Abu-Baker, drew upon the Qu’ran and the *hadith* (oral traditions of the Prophet) when he ordered his troops: ‘Do not cut down a tree, do not abuse a river, do not harm animals, and be always kind and humane to God’s creation, even to your enemies.’”

Senator Al Gore, [Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit](#) (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992) pp 261.

Upcoming MiIPL Events

- Energy workshop at Upland Hills – August 21

Prayer

May God bless us not with clean air alone,
But the will to keep our air clean.

May god bless us not with a vision of a healthy planet alone, but with the will to do all in our power to restore and maintain our planet's health.

May god bless us not with a change of heart in the great world leaders alone to save our planet, But with a change in our own heart to use our own power to save the planet.

May the blessing of God not bring to us saints alone, but make of us saints greater than any we imagine.

Daniel J. McGill

Worth reading...

Carl Pope and Paul Rauber, [Strategic Ignorance: Why the Bush Administration Is Recklessly Destroying a Century of Environmental Progress](#) (Sierra Club Books) 2004.

James Fustave Speth, [Red Sky at Morning](#) (Boston: Yale University Press) 2004.



MiIPL 2003 Membership Form

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, Executive Director, MiIPL, P.O. Box 4606, East Lansing, MI 48826.

**Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)
c/o Urban Options, Inc.
405 Grove Street
East Lansing, MI 48823**