



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

...Faith in Action....

In this issue...

- Message from the Director - 1
- MiIPL Adds Holiday LED Lights to its Shopping Cart- 2
- MiIPL Welcomes Jessica Yorke - 2
- The Work of God is our Destiny - 3
- ENERGY STAR Congregations Award - 3
- Jewish Environmental Activism - 4
- What will Become of the Earth...? - 4
- Sustainability, Stewardship and Social Equity: A Progressive Spiritual Vision - 4
- If We Want an Energy Efficient Economy, Look to MiIPL - 7
- ENERGY STAR Cell Phones + - 10
- Readings & Resources - 10

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MiIPL Newsletter

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Mark H. Clevey, MPA, Senior Editor

Special Annual Conference Edition

Message from the Director

We continue to grow. We now have over 100 congregations who have joined themselves to this collaborative. To meet this growing challenge of being able to provide adequate service [or pastoral care] to our member congregations MiIPL is forming relationships with area representatives who can be an on the ground resource in helping to form Creation Care teams and provide assistance as congregations implement the ENERGY STAR® assessments.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition we are very excited to welcome Jessica Yorke to MiIPL. Jessica brings a wealth of experience and commitment as she has worked for a number of years with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. She has phenomenal personal commitments to sustainability reflected in

her lifestyle of living in an urban co-housing project in Lansing.

I want to take a moment to thank Jennifer Barone for all her dedicated work over the course of the last year-and-a-half. Jennifer was the voice you heard when you called with a question or to arrange an assessment. Jennifer did much to make the transition to expanded services seem so smooth. Jennifer has great skills on marketing and MiIPL has benefited. As Jennifer expands her duties with Urban Options we wish her Godspeed in what will be a very bright future for this very talented and personable young woman.

Rev. Charles Morris

MiIPL Adds Holiday LED Lights to its Shopping Cart

MiIPL has, just in time for the holidays, added holiday LED lights for sale. Available in strings of 50 lights up to 120 lights these LED lights can be used either indoors or outdoors. Their unique shapes, such as snowflakes or multi-color programmable lights are not yet available anywhere else.

These lights use only about 1/30 the power of traditional C7 bulbs and less than 1/3 the power of mini-incandescent holiday lights. For families that use 1,500 lights this can result in a savings of over \$400 [on the assumption that 1,500 lights are on 24 hours/day for 30 days.

Through partnerships with TCP Lighting and Niagara Conservation and Integrated Systems Management MiIPL is able to bring these products to its partners at discounts of up to 50% or more off of retail. Further, at check out the customer is given a tag page where she or he receives lifecycle estimates of offsets of CO₂, SO₂, Nox, particulates and mercury [using

estimates from the E-Grid file and other sources] from the purchase of those products as well as lifecycle estimates of energy and dollar savings. Adapting the EPA calculator the customers receives as well an equivalent estimate of acres of trees planted or cars kept off of the road for a year from their transaction.

The MiIPL website can be found at www.miipl.org. For more information call (517) 333-9133 or (734) 552-0104.

MiIPL Welcomes Jessica Yorko

MiIPL welcomes Jessica Yorko of Sustainable Solutions. Jessica received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Environmental Studies from Kalamazoo College in 2000. She will be playing a key role in fundraising and managing MiIPL's grants and contracts.

Jessica has been coordinating and promoting energy-related programs since 2001; working in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Education and Outreach Unit. At the DEQ, Jessica assisted in organizing and promoting over 120 conferences and workshops, including the DEQ's annual Waste Reduction and Energy Efficiency Conference, attended by 500 people per year, on average.

In 2002, Jessica joined the board of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council (Mid-MEAC) – a partner, along with MiIPL, in the SBAM "Michigan Energy Star Promotion Project in 2004." In her work with Mid-MEAC, Jessica also organized the 2003 Green Building Conference & Expo, funded in part through a Community Energy Grant, which attracted over 100 building professionals from around the state

to learn about green building concepts and applications, including energy efficiency.

In 2004, Jessica started Sustainable Solutions, a consulting firm which provides event planning, marketing, and fund-raising services for environmental non-profit organizations. Sustainable Solutions has served as a contractor to Michigan Interfaith Power and Light since 2004. In 2005, Sustainable Solutions began coordinating MiIPL's outreach and member services.

ENERGY STAR Congregations Award



Each year ENERGY STAR Congregations recognizes groups who have demonstrated their commitment to energy savings. A 2002 winner, All Saints Parish of Brookline, MA, is

practicing stewardship of the earth's resources while saving nearly \$5,000 a year on its utility bills, despite an increase in operating hours since the upgrade.

Mark Clevey is leading a Task Group to *nominate MiIPL* for the **2006 ENERGY STAR Congregations Awards**. In addition to receiving a custom designed plaque naming the winning congregation, ENERGY STAR Congregation Network works with winners to share their story in the local media as an example to others. ENERGY STAR also helps winners demonstrate how to provide stewardship for the environment by reducing green house gases and preventing pollution.

MiIPL members interested in helping out with this application should contact Mark

Clevey, (517) 242 6880 or email:

mhc@sbam.org. For details, see the ENERGY STAR Congregations website:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations

From MiIPL Board Member, Ed Kohl...

THE WORK OF GOD IS OUR DESTINY

God Sculpted the mountains; God Filled the sea,
And Fashioned every insect and Sowed every
type of tree,
And Spawned every kind of fish,
And propelled rivers to flow.

And Taught the birds to fly and Impelled the
winds to blow,
And Gave the animals freedom and Bid the sun
to shine.
And Painted prismatic rainbows and the planets
did Align,
And Made creatures large and Made creatures
small.

And Made creatures of every kind that our minds
enthrall,
And Installed Time and Expanded space.
Then Magnified creation with Mercy,
And Glorified it with Grace.

When all was completed as was Designed,
Shabbat, a time for Rest, was then Enshrined.
Sacred Time, a time to heal a Time to ponder,
On the Grandeur of creation and all its Wonder.

This Gift from God,
Is our destiny.
To enjoy and bequeath,
To posterity.

NORMAN CHANSKY

Jewish Environmental Activism

Gearing up for the 35th World Zionist Congress elections, the grassroots Green Zionist Alliance (GZA) is actively seeking support and participation. The first environmental Zionist party to win a seat to the Congress (in 2002), the GZA's Slate of candidates "includes activists, professionals, rabbis, scientists and leaders...devoted to Israel's ecological future."

The group's Platform includes initiatives that address environmental oversight in the Jewish Agency, sustainable development in Israel, reduction of Israel's oil use, support of Israel-Diaspora environmental cooperation, ecological education, and working collaboratively within Israel and the Middle East to demonstrate that "environmental issues are not confined to political or social borders." For further information visit The Green Zionist Alliance at <http://www.greenzionism.org/greenz/index.html>. The link needs to be copied to the subject line to open.

What will Become of the Earth...?

When I was a student reading theology there was a popular joke:

Jesus said to Peter, "Who do people say that I am? Peter said to Jesus, "You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being'. Jesus said to Peter, "You what?"

It pokes fun at how theological language and concepts can be so remote from ordinary lives. Who on earth knows the meaning of eschatology? Well, it may not be widely understood, yet it could become the dominant theological concept that will push off the shelves all other '-ologies', from ecclesiology to

pneumatology. Why? Because it is the study of the end, a look into the future. To put it into popular speak, 'What on earth will happen to the earth?' Or, to give the question a theological slant, '*What in heaven's name will become of the earth?*'

James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool,
Jesus and the Earth

Sustainability, Stewardship and Social Equity: A Progressive Spiritual Vision, (by, Michael D. Whitty, Phd, The Institute for Building Sustainable Communities, At the University of Detroit Mercy)

Sustainability is our greatest challenge of the 21st century. Evidence is abundant that social and environmental life-support systems are breaking down throughout the planet as billions of world citizens are being deprived of basic necessities such as food, water, adequate shelter and work, and other fundamental human rights.

Major destabilizing and destructive threats to a sustainable future are uncontrolled economic growth, excessive consumption, overpopulation, militarism (war), racism, poverty and homelessness.

Fortunately, we're also witnessing a growing global movement towards environmental preservation, social justice, and world peace. The progressive spiritual and political mission of educating for stewardship and social justice are a part of this movement for the common good and the beloved community.

Changing Values and Priorities: The Possible Human Evolution

Voluntary Simplicity - More than 30 million U.S. adults are eating lower on the food chain, tending to vegetarian diets, wearing simple, utilitarian clothing, buying smaller, fuel-efficient cars, and cultivating their “inner” lives -- through living consciously, deliberately, intentionally mindful of the impacts of their activities on the environment.

Ethical Consumerism - Some 63 million U.S. adults (30% of households) also engage in some form of environmentally or socially conscious buying, according to a survey by LOHAS Consumer Research. In the U.K., ethical purchases by individuals -- in areas ranging from organic foods to renewable energy -- increased 19% between 1999 and 2000, six times faster than the overall market in these sectors.

Green Investment Strategies - Over \$1 trillion is now controlled by investors who either sponsor shareholder resolutions or vote their proxies based on socially responsible goals. Social investors filed some 260 resolutions with over 170 major U.S. companies in 2001. In so doing, shareholders, with as little as \$2,000 worth of a company’s stock, have played a part in changing corporate behavior regarding health, social justice, and environmental issues.

Since the 1960s, thousands of more democratic, health-conscious, and Earth-friendly businesses have sprouted up throughout the U.S. Over 2000 of these green businesses and organizations are listed in Co-op America’s annual National Green Pages, which also provides hundreds of everyday tips for sustainable living, and is committed to customers, employees, community, and the Earth (there are 55,000 individual members).

“Green” Cities: A Possible Future of Sustainable Communities

Hundreds of cities are resisting sprawl and unbalanced development. Land use, including creating more green spaces, has become a critical topic for regional and multi-level co-operation in many places. Downtown areas are being restored. In line with the small is beautiful philosophy, local economies are being rejuvenated through neighborhood businesses and various consumer and producer cooperatives. Urban gardens are mushrooming. Rural farmlands and wilderness areas are being preserved.

Large cities are beginning to regulate automobile use and establish more efficient, low- and non-polluting transportation options such as car sharing, car-free days, fuel efficient hybrids, bikeways, and light rail systems. The New Urbanism is also marked by a surge in growth of co-housing, ecovillages and other cooperative living arrangements with pedestrian-friendly shopping and recreation.

In Scotland, the Edinburgh Council has approved a \$13 million housing development in which no one will own a car (there will be a car-sharing pool), trees will replace pavement, water will be recycled and heating and lighting will be free. There will be no roads, parking spaces and garages, and a landscaped garden will surround more than 100 homes.

The city of Goteborg, Sweden, holds training seminars, lectures, and workshops to inform purchasers and other stakeholders about legal requirements, specific tools, and best practices for green procurement. By 2000, 80 to 90% of municipal staff (both purchasers and end users) had been trained on green purchasing.

Environmental Education: An Interdisciplinary Trend Worldwide

Today's students are testing the lead levels in local grade schools, transforming college land with native plants, and developing data-bases to track acid rain. More and more often their classes are held in buildings powered by solar panels and treated by gray-water systems. After they leave class these same students are devising campaigns to save hardwood forests and move incinerators out of their communities.

Schools with cutting-edge eco-programs include the Center for Sustainable Systems at the University of Michigan. The New College Santa Rosa Campus in California now offers BA and MA degrees in Culture, Ecology, and Sustainable Community. Other colleges and universities like Oberlin in Ohio and Maharishi University in Fairfield, Iowa, have both "green" programs and buildings. One website describes 100 MBA programs, 1,000 courses, 800 extracurricular activities, 150 institutes, and 700 articles from academic journals (www.BeyondGreyPinstripes.org).

The holistic schools infuse ecological consciousness into knowledge which aims to develop all levels of a child's existence: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual as well as their potential to serve society. Group dynamics, cultural diversity, morality, meditation, and cooperative games are included.

Global Business and Democratic Trends

The most comprehensive new operational system that promotes sustainability, including social equity, is the collaborative-based "The Natural Step" (or natural capitalism) which has been adopted by hundreds of countries, corporations, governmental agencies, and environmental organizations throughout the world. The Natural Step provides a valid framework for the science, analysis, methodologies, and tools for corporations,

communities, and other organizations to use in the transition to sustainability.

In Sweden, more than 70 municipalities and 60 corporations such as IKEA, Electrolux, McDonald's, Scandic Hotels, and OK Petroleum have adopted The Natural Step's framework and are actively using it to change the way they do business.

The book *Dancing with the Tiger: Learning Sustainability Step by Natural Step* presents case studies of some of the most successful progressive companies and communities in North America that have used The Natural Step in their pursuit of sustainability.

Since the 1980s, millions of citizens from scores of nations have been protesting against unfair trade policies, neoliberal economics, Western domination, and U.S. imperialism. Throughout the world there are over 30,000 citizen's groups committed to social and economic justice for all as well as world peace and global democracy.

For example, in the U.S., Jobs with Justice has been promoting, with some success, living wage campaigns in dozens of cities. For the past 43 years in Sri Lanka, Sarvodaya has been a Buddhist-inspired community and spiritual development process in 15,000 villages. Since 2002 in Brazil, France, and elsewhere, over 100,000 progressives have participated in European and World Social Forums dedicated to democratic dialogue and building global civil society and a new economic and political order.

The global civil society movement is at the heart of the "threefolding" process toward comprehensive sustainable development. In 1996, this became an official national policy when Philippine Agenda 21 (PA 21) was launched by the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development, Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines. PA21 is currently supported by the Executive Branch of *government*, as well as by most *civil society*

organizations and some prominent *business* Institutions.

Conclusion

Visionary thought leaders, such as The New Renaissance Journal, PROUT and the world civil society, are helping to shape this new worldview, and providing the moral authority and community-building capacity to grow a sustainable world.

The future requires a broad-based, multi-level partnership model for a sustainable society. We must become stewards committed to sharing and caring -- for a more equitable distribution of vital resources for the welfare of the whole, especially those ravaged by extreme poverty. We must elevate the values of generosity, human community, and reverence for all life, and redefine what we mean by progress, human potential, and the good life to embrace time-honored ethical and spiritual principles. We are destined to become people for others.

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If we Really Want an Energy Efficient Economy, Look to the MiIPL Model, by Mark H. Clevey

Rising energy costs are finally forcing Michigan to consider some hard choices. Generally, public policies, since the 1973 Oil Embargo, have failed to slow the growth of energy imports, stimulate a robust renewable energy industry or foster the efficient use of energy in any rate class in our state. Research clearly shows that Michigan could benefit greatly by reducing the flow of dollars outside of the state to import energy. There are several thorny problems associated with energy efficiency, however.

Higher electric rates have made it harder for Michigan small businesses to purchase energy efficient products. Even more troubling, however, is that this unfair rate - "tax" - on small businesses has made it harder for them to invest in the kind of *entrepreneurial growth* that would help revitalize our troubled economy today. It is in "our" interest as citizens that small businesses have the capital they need to create an Entrepreneurial Economy in Michigan

(characterized by the robust creation, retention, expansion and attraction of small business entrepreneurs who research, develop and commercialize breakthrough technology innovations and products).

MiIPL Model

Through the “Faith In Action“ approach, MiIPL leverages the Affinity Marketing opportunity afforded by congregations by effectively funneling pre-qualified customers to pre-qualified vendors who provide pricing discounts to MiIPL program participants. MiIPL leverages tax-payer dollars by effectively aggregating the buying power of member congregations to drive down the price of energy efficiency products with bulk purchases rather than rebate programs. In referring to the MiIPL model, Jerry Lawson has noted,

“your group purchasing (volume discounting) model is simply a normal dynamic of the market place, rather than a temporary price subsidy that can disrupt real price signals. You have a more sustainable business model in which the price ‘buy down’ itself is a normal market transaction based on volume purchase, and does not require the taxpayer to subsidize a lower price. The quality of the MiIPL Shopping Cart and credibility of SBAM are unique assets.”

MiIPL’s most significant accomplishment is that members’ actions implemented to date as a result of MiIPL services are listed below. These savings have been realized through a combination of purchases of nearly 6,000 Energy Star products, participating in the Electric Choice program, and making other simple improvements recommended in the Energy Star Congregation Building Assessment. *(MiIPL collects data on which recommendations are implemented, and tracks all purchases through surveys and Aggregate Discount purchases, and then uses the Energy Star software to determine the emissions prevented and money saved as a result of reduced energy demands.)*

- **Members are currently collectively saving \$81,000/year (for a total lifecycle savings of 7,759,762 kilowatt-hours, or \$775, 987 on energy bills) due to improvements made through MiIPL between July 2004 and May 2005.**
- **The energy improvements made through MiIPL between July 2004 and May 2005 have also prevented lifecycle emissions of:**
 - **5,548 tons of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas that plays the largest role in global warming)**
 - **27.2 tons of sulfur dioxide (pollutant responsible for asthma-causing soot and acid rain)**
 - **13 tons of nitrogen oxide (NOx emissions are a leading cause of smog)**
 - **1,079 pounds of particulates (asthma trigger responsible for 64,000 premature deaths from cardiopulmonary causes each year)**
 - **241 pounds of mercury (contaminant which makes it unsafe to eat fish from Michigan rivers, lakes, and streams).**

Within this context, I suggest the state do three things in 2005 and 2006 to foster an energy efficient economy in the state:

First, the state needs to be A LOT MORE supportive of MiIPL as a highly successful, Faith Based Affinity Marketing model to lower energy costs in Michigan. The state needs to make a *real commitment* to the MiIPL Faith Based Initiative by providing funding to expand this effort. Again, Jerry Lawson has noted,

I trust the State of Michigan appreciates the significance of MiIPL and SBAM providing national leadership in energy efficiency purchasing for the entire small commercial sector, as well as in the state.

Second, the state needs to lower energy costs through a new **Energy Efficiency SBT Tax Credit** for the purchase of ENERGY STAR® rated products. Such a tax credit would stimulate the economy, immediately reduce energy costs

for Michigan small businesses improve our environment and help to reduce our dependence on Middle East oil.

Third, Michigan should follow the example of Vermont and create a new Michigan Energy Efficiency Investment Corporation. MEEIC would operate similar to an Energy Service Company (ESCO) and would invest in sound energy efficiency projects. Unlike the P/SBC and Energy Bank, the MEEIC would place the energy efficiency incentive right where it should be: between the buyer and seller of energy efficiency products. Non-profits that wanted to participate – such as MiIPL - could do so by aggregating consumers and using the MEEIC to finance the purchase of discounted and bulk purchased energy efficiency products.

ENERGY STAR Cell Phones +

If all the cordless phones, answering machines and cordless phone/answering combo units sold in the U.S. this year were ENERGY STAR, we would prevent over 650 million pounds of air pollution—the equivalent of taking more than 7,000 cars off the road. Learn more about ENERGY STAR cordless phones by visiting “Find a Product” on the [ENERGY STAR Small Business website](#):

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=CL

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INFORM: Strategies for a Better Environment

INFORM and the Council on the Environment of NYC published a report in 1999 that presents common-sense strategies for reducing waste in office areas, shipping and receiving, food services and facilities. The guide also includes suggested purchasing policies and sample procurement documents. This online guide includes case studies on reducing procurement, labor and disposal costs. SEE:

<http://www.informinc.org/wasteatwork.php>

***Unity is Strength,
Knowledge is Power
and Attitude is
Everything***

Lance Armstrong



MiIPL 2006 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)

P.O. Box 4696

East Lansing, MI 48826