



# Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)

## ...Faith in Action....

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## MiIPL Newsletter

Vol III No. 3  
Summer 2005

Mark H. Clevey, MPA, Senior Editor

### Message from the Director

Hello again. As part of the MiIPL collaborative you are part of an expanding interfaith initiative that promotes a sustainable world while mitigating global warming through energy education, energy efficiency, promotion of green power and advocacy. MiIPL is part of several new initiatives that are showing the impact of the voice of the faith community.

**National IPL.** In mid-July all of the State IP&Ls met in Washington D.C. for training, visioning and advocacy. We now have IP&Ls in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Virginia, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Maine in addition to Michigan.

During our workshop we were able to hear from one another where we need to be going as a national movement in the next few years. We heard a presentation from Annie

Potsonak of the Environmental Defense Fund where the latest climate science is as well as what has been happening over the course of the past year in Congress. The head of the Energy Futures Coalition gave us an update on the latest possible technologies in energy efficiency and renewables [including the use of switch grass as well as corn for ethanol and variable fuel cars] as well as economic analysis in the use of those technologies. We received presentations on fundraising and how to deal with the media. We had a workshop in advocacy which culminated in visits on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, to see our U.S. Senators and Representative. I was able to personally meet again Sen. Debbie Stabenow [I also met with Sen. Levin's environmental staff assistant as well as the staff assistant from Congresswoman's Kilpatrick's Office, my own U.S. rep]. I reminded Sen. Stabenow that we have invited her to speak at our fall Conference.

There was much practical information that will hopefully strengthen our Board and the work of MiIPL. I can report that not only did I helped give a workshop on our shopping cart and emissions reduction but other states are beginning to track their own impacts on the saving of dollars and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

MiIPL's ***On-line Shopping Cart*** [www.miipl.org] is now up-and-running. As this newsletter goes to press we are working on giving immediate access to the shopping cart. *We have over 1,200 variety of energy efficient lighting!* We are also adding water conservation equipment. In the interim you may still have to, when you press the flashing "Buy Now" button go to a sign-in. The password is "miiplrules". When you go to check out you will find that you will see immediately the estimated savings you will

accrue over the life of the product. In addition you will see the estimated offsets of CO<sub>2</sub> [global warming], SO<sub>2</sub> [acid rain], NOX [smog], particulates [asthma and heart attacks] and mercury. This is the first such shopping cart of which I am aware that will give you all of those estimates as to how you are making a positive impact on both your pocketbook and environment by your decision.

### ***Collaboration with the State and Other Faith-Based Environmental Groups.***

MiIPL was part of a gathering of faith-based environmental groups who met with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Chester and senior staff recently. As a result of that meeting MiIPL and the MDEQ will be collaborating on many projects where feasible.

For example, MiIPL will be distributing MDEQ literature on water conservation in Creation Care visits with member congregations. MiIPL participates in the Michigan Renewable Energy Program as well as the State's EDGE2 [Economic Development through Environmental Efficiency] program. After the meeting Director Chester suggested to the staff that they utilize the MiIPL matrix, which is tracking emissions reductions as a consequence of changes you have all made, as a model with the other participants in the EDGE2 process, such as State Government and the Universities.

Thank you for your participation

***Rev. Charles Morris***

## **Third Annual Great Lakes Interfaith Fall Conference**

We are very excited to announce that our Third Annual Conference will be held this year on Thursday, November 3, at the University of Detroit/Mercy in cooperation with UDM's Institute for Building Sustainable Communities. This year's featured keynote will be Terry Gips. Mr. Gips, from Minnesota, is the Director of the Alliance for Sustainability. He is one of the country's leading champions of *The Natural Step*. *The Natural Step*, which has its origins in Sweden, provides a practical process by which companies, communities and congregations achieve sustainability.

In addition to Mr. Gips, we have invited Sen. Debbie Stabenow for acknowledgement of her support of sustainable policies for our country. In addition we will be offering presentations on lighting, on sustainable design for houses of worship, how to form Creation Care teams in your congregation, and success stories from congregations who are now saving 30% or more on their electric bills, such as First Baptist Institutional in Detroit and St. John Episcopal in Royal Oak. You can register for the Conference on line at the MiIPL website [[www.miipl.org](http://www.miipl.org)]. Early bird registration [by October 14], will be \$25 for MiIPL members and \$30 for non-members. We are excited to announce that the University of Detroit/Mercy has received a grant from the State Energy Office for a ten kilowatt solar array. We will have the opportunity to take a tour of this system.

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### **Meet the Board - Sr. Ginny Jones SSJ**

Sr. Ginny Jones has had a deep love of the earth for a number of years. Her father, although from New York City, conveyed to his family a love of nature. While in college at Springfield College in Massachusetts Ginny met a professor who was to have a great influence on her spirituality. John Brainerd, a Quaker, was Professor of Botany. He was also a woodsman, a poet and a musician. Ginny then received her M.S. in Botany and Plant Pathology at MSU. She began a Ph.D. program at MSU in environmental education.

But her life took another direction when she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Nazareth in 1968. Sr. Ginny spoke at first Earth Day celebration in Kalamazoo. Her varied experiences included: receiving a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to develop a program in environmental studies for teachers. In 1970s she got grant from Kellogg for to create "Bow in the Clouds" [from the covenant God makes with all

of creation in Genesis 9:12-13], a 55 acre natural area on the SSJ campus.

Sr. Ginny then spent ten years during the 1980s as Vice President of the Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo. In 1990 the Sisters of St. Joseph took on as part of their mission to look at systemic change in environment. It was then that Sr. Ginny started the Center for Ecology and Spirituality, which she serves as director to the present... In the 1990s she also began teaching environmental studies at Western Michigan University as an adjunct professor. Sr. Ginny was a leader in the State throughout the 1990s in such groups as the Michigan Ecumenical Consultation on Christianity and Ecology [MECCE]. Sr. Ginny has also been very active with the Michigan Catholic Rural Life Coalition.

An idea for Manitou Eco-Village began about 1995. The Sisters asked how they could use resources for the future. Since Sister Ginny has a certificate in permaculture she has been active with the development of an ecovillage on the Sisters' farm. It is her hope that they could begin building in the next three years.

Sr. Ginny is very excited to be part of the MiIPL Board. MiIPL, as she puts it, "seems to be the perfect place to take theoretical ideas and make them real and share that with many people. It is a wonderful vision." Over the course of the last few months Sr. Ginny has been sharing the vision of MiIPL with congregations throughout the Kalamazoo area. We are so blessed to have such as champion of eco-justice and sustainability as so important part of the MiIPL family.

## **Michigan must Pursue Energy Efficiencies, by Martin G. Kushler, Ph.D.**

Michigan is in an economic war regarding energy costs - and we are losing. Due to our geology, Michigan has very little traditional energy natural resources. Michigan has to import 100 percent of the coal and uranium, 96 percent of the oil and petroleum products, and roughly three-fourths of the natural gas we consume. This burden was bad enough in the past, but since 2000, market prices for fossil fuels have more than doubled. Michigan consumers, businesses and government now send more than \$18 billion a year across our borders to pay for energy fuels.

The effects of this dollar drain are devastating for the Michigan economy, and are a significant factor in why Michigan's unemployment rate is among the highest in the country. The \$18 billion hemorrhaging out of our economy every year is the dollar equivalent of the lost payroll from closing 90 large manufacturing plants.

The worst news is that this is not a temporary price spike that we can just "wait out." In my work, I review a large amount of inside information from the energy industry, including

the future energy supply and price projections from the top government and industry forecasters.

For a number of structural reasons too lengthy to detail here, high world energy prices are here to stay. So what should we do about it? Michigan's only weapon in this battle is to become more energy efficient and reduce the amount of energy we need to import. But don't expect any help from the federal government.

Washington, D.C. is completely dominated by the oil and coal industries. It's no coincidence that the president, vice president, and chair of every significant energy committee in Congress come from a handful of major energy-producing states - Texas, Wyoming, Alaska, Oklahoma, and New Mexico - and those states are reaping an economic windfall from high energy prices.

However, a number of energy-dependent states are taking aggressive action to improve their energy efficiency, and we need to catch up. Gov. Jennifer Granholm's executive directive issued on Earth Day is a good first step, setting policies to improve energy efficiency in state government operations. But much more needs to be done to make Michigan's homes and businesses energy efficient.

Proven conservation programs can save energy at half the cost of acquiring new electricity or natural gas supplies, and keep the dollars in-state by using local businesses and labor to install the energy efficiency improvements.

Michigan needs to take bold action to improve energy efficiency, and there are several policies being considered that deserve strong public support. These include the proposed upgrade to Michigan's residential building code (currently one of the weakest energy codes of any state), and legislation such as Senate Bill 334 and House Bill 4608, which, with some improvement, could create significant utility

energy efficiency programs. (Michigan's utilities were once national leaders in energy efficiency, but in 1996 those programs were eliminated.)

This should not be a partisan issue. We all need to work together to help defend Michigan's economy in the 21st century energy cost war.

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## **National Energy Efficiency Forum Recognizes Governor Granholm**

The National Energy Efficiency Forum has recognized Governor Granholm for her efforts to promote energy efficiency within state government. Granholm received the Forum's Governor's Award recognizing her efforts to promote energy efficiency in state facilities through Executive Directive 2005-4. The directive requires state government to reduce energy use 10% in all state-owned and operated buildings by 2008 and reduce state purchases of grid-based energy 20% by 2015.

Completed audits of state-owned facilities show that the state can potentially save \$4 million by becoming more energy efficient. The state has already made changes in accordance with Granholm's executive directive and is now using energy efficient light bulbs, requiring newly acquired electronics and appliances to be Energy Star, and adding hybrid cars to the state's fleet.

## **Kyoto and MiIPL**

The City of Ann Arbor has been chosen as one of eight cities in the Great Lakes region to take part in a two-year Great Lakes Climate Policy Coordination Project. Eight cities (Chicago, Toronto, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Toledo, & Duluth) will collaborate on the development and implementation of innovative policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gasses and air pollutants. Funding comes from the Joyce Foundation.

The North American Solar Challenge car race ended July 27 when the University of Michigan team's vehicle, Momentum, crossed the finish line in Calgary with a cumulative time of 53 hours 59 minutes 43 seconds. After starting in Austin, the 18 cars mostly followed U.S. Highway 75 and Canadian Highway 1 to Calgary.

***Emissions Reduction Matrix*** - Thanks to funding and assistance from SBAM and assistance of Doug Black, MiIPL has been tracking emissions offsets as member congregations have replaced lighting, upgraded weatherization, and installed energy efficient boilers. As these member congregations have shared their impacts we have aggregated the totals. Using estimates from the utility annual emissions reports and EPA calculations member congregations, between July of 2004 and the end of April, 2005, have, in the aggregate, reduced lifecycle offset emissions by an estimated 5,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> [greenhouse gas], 27.2 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> [acid rain], 7.3 tons of NOX [smog], 900 lbs. of particulates [asthma], and .28 lbs. of mercury. This represents the equivalent of planting 1,335 acres of new forest, or keeping 965 cars off of the road for a year.

## **Sustaining Life, by Lawrence Levine**

Let us consider that the present outcomes of biological evolution justify our subscribing to it as an overarching and plenary principle from which to derive meaning and understanding of life. Nothing makes any sense unless we do so. And in doing so we shall also subscribe to life, not necessarily for the individual, but for the collective, the whole context of genes, which made life all that it is.

Our purpose in life will then follow. To endorse survival we must live with a heightened awareness that we no longer live immersed within a landscape that has endless possibilities to generate and sustain life. Nothing will grow in Chernobyl for a long time; cancer stalks the neighborhood toxic dump site; patches of tropical rain forests have reverted to desert. Let these examples serve as a warning that we can break the line of our descent from the rocks forever. We must therefore promote the understanding of our linkage to the planet in all quarters, burn less in the way of fossil fuels, banish chlorofluorocarbons, and save the tropical rain forests. Above all, we must subscribe to the planet first in all matters, before commerce, before creature comforts, before the bell is silenced forever.

In that case the forefinger in Michelangelo's creation becomes transformed – no less exalted, important, or powerful – it becomes our own.

## **GreenerChoices.org**

On Earth Day, *Consumer Reports* launched [GreenerChoices.org](http://GreenerChoices.org): Products for a Better Planet Free Website New online survey by Consumer Reports finds nearly 9 out of 10 consumers have made environmentally sound purchases but most have to search for advice.

The site will explain how making choices with a conscience for the environment often has other important benefits too. These benefits include protecting personal health and saving money--key reasons why survey respondents buy green. Greenerchoices.org also helps clear up public confusion about whether or not greener products actually perform as well as their mainstream counterparts. (Source: ENERGY TIDBITS – May 2005)

## **Governor Signs Executive Directive on Energy**

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed an executive directive designed to cut energy use in all state-owned buildings 10% by the end of 2008 and grid-based energy purchases by 20% by 2015. The Governor wants energy conservation improvements in how the state heats, lights, ventilates and cools its buildings. The Dept. of Management and Budget, Dept. of Environmental Quality and the State Energy Office have already conducted 38 energy audits in state-owned facilities and found \$4 million in potential energy savings.

Also under E.D. 2005-4, the state fleet will be encouraged to use bio-fuels, departments will use "green" goods and supplies and any new building for state agencies, universities, and community colleges will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. The Governor's executive directive also creates

an annual Governor's Energy Efficiency Award program to recognize energy efficiency efforts by state agencies.

### **Earth Teach Me – Native American Prayer from the Ute, North America**

Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands alone.  
Earth teach me limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.  
Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep in the rain.

### **This Much I Know Is True – Rabbi Tamara Kolton, Birmingham Temple**

You taught me joy.  
I want more in my life,  
More joy.  
To feel more of it.

Let it fall down on me  
Like beads of rain.  
Transforming sorrow  
To joy.

More strength,  
More compassion,  
More joy.  
This much I know is true.

### **Green Power Primer**

Secretary of Energy Bodman joined United Solar Ovonic – *a leading Michigan Green Gazelle* - in breaking ground on the company's new amorphous silicon thin-film solar manufacturing plant in Auburn Hills. When the new 160,000 sq.ft. facility is completed in May 2006, it will create 200 new jobs and double production, allowing the company to produce enough solar modules each year to generate 50 megawatts of power.

### **My Help Is in the Mountain – Nancy Wood**

My help is in the mountain,  
Where I take myself to heal,  
The earthly wounds,  
That people give me.

I find a rock with sun on it,  
And a stream where the water runs gentle,  
And the trees which one by one  
Give me company.

So must I stay for a long time,  
Until I have grown from the rock,  
And the stream is running through me,  
And I cannot tell myself from a tall tree.

Then I know that nothing touches me,  
Nor makes me run away.  
My help is in the mountain,  
That I take away with me.

### **MiIPL Success Story – St. John Royal Oak**

St. John Episcopal Church on Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak has been a leader for a

number of years in witnessing to their values of a just and more sustainable world. They truly have represented a team effort. Under the pastoral leadership of their rector, Rev. Linda Northcraft and the enlightened stewardship of their facility manager, Jay Hoeberrmann, St. John has seen a major impact not only in their utility bills but also in the quality of their worship life.

As a follow-up to their MiIPL assessment St. John took many of the recommendations and immediately implemented them, with gratifying results. They have replaced all of the incandescent lights in their sanctuary with compact fluorescent lights [CFL]. As a consequence they now draw only 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the electricity that they had in the past. Surprisingly, they now have gone from a previous output of 5 candlepower to 35 candlepower. Since 30 candlepower is recommended for sufficient light in a worship space this change has made a big difference in their community's worship life.

They haven't stopped there. They have replaced hallway lights with CFLs and fourteen exit signs with LED exit signs. When they recently replaced their copier they made sure that the new copier was ENERGY STAR®. All totaled they expect to realize a savings of up to \$800/year, the equivalent of reducing lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub> by 47 tons [akin to keeping 8 SUVs off the road for a year or planting 13 acres of forest] .

Under the leadership of Julie Lyons-Bricker [who has been a volunteer with MiIPL over the course of the past couple of years] St. John has an active Creation Care team up-and-running, and will soon be showing the "Lighten Up" video to their team. Way to go, St. John ☺.

## **Harmony Is Worth Remembering** **By, Mark H. Clevey**

I usually go walking in the woods early on Sunday mornings. I truly relish the experience

of "walking meditation/praying" as taught by Thich Nhat Hanh.

I was walking briskly this Sunday morning. The ice had melted only 4-5 days ago and it was still very brisk and cold. The buds were on the trees and new growth was in the washes and little streams. Some pretty yellow flowers were inching up around the rocks and ice.

As I walked, I could hear this strange sound echoing in the woods. The Frogs had woken up! I made my way off the path into the woods for about a mile and came to two little ponds nestled in a little Hollow. I sat down next to the ponds and just waited. No sound at all for about 15 minutes - my patience was being sorely tested.

I pressed harder into my prayer/meditation, focusing on peaceful patience as the key to the door of enlightenment.... My mind cried out, my muscles twitched, I redoubled my efforts to sit still and be peaceful. Breathing in I release my irritation, breathing out I smile. Breathing in I..... "*...burn from within; with the wildfires of wanting for all things to begin; and to experience anew both the future and the past; and for all that I love to forever last....*" Sigh... Breathing in...

Then it started - one little croak/chirp. Three times.... Then, an answer from across the pond. Then another, and another. Soon, the pond *exploded with sound*. Croaks, chirps, squeaks, la-la's, twills and more croaks.

I tried to join in with my own version of a croak/chirp and found my own voice was drowned out by the chorus of frogs in that pond. I was caught up in the sound and experience – transported. The wondrous sound moved in waves across the pond - first one side would start with croaks and it would wave across the pond. Then it would be returned with chirps which were in turn returned with squeaks, twills, etc. Back and forth, back and forth. Sound merging with other sounds into a chorus.

My music trained ears found patterns, chords, solo's, refrains, new versus. I was enthralled. I looked and looked to see what was making these wonderful sounds - I couldn't find any of them, even though some of the sounds were coming from all around me. Finally, I spotted one. This frog was about the size of my little finger. He/She (don't know enough about frogs to know who makes sounds) was blasting out this incredible chorus of croaks, chirps, la-la's, twills and more croaks.

This little being announcing - I am here, I am alive, I am happy about spring, I am part of the life force, I am part of the harmony that exists between and among all living things. I celebrate, I create. Thank you for the gift of spring, of life, of my voice, of .....

I too was thankful. Thankful for being reminded that, as Einstein had said, "God is revealed in the harmony that exists between all living things." Harmony....., yes. I had forgotten....., again. But, now I remembered - harmony is worth remembering...

### **Resources:**

Energy Choices for a Sustainable Future Conference will be held on Saturday, August 27, 10 am - 5 pm at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Cost: \$25/20 if registered by August 15. Topics include: Faith and Business, Energy State-of-the-State, Renewable Energy Primer, Energy Education for Teachers, Wind Energy, Future of Transportation, Peak Oil, Green Building, Home Energy Audits, Zero Energy Home, Hydrogen Myths & Facts, and much more! [www.uheac.org](http://www.uheac.org) or call 248-693-1021 or e-mail [uheac@earthlink.net](mailto:uheac@earthlink.net). [Note: MiIPL will be presenting one of the workshops at this Conference]

The Great Lakes Bioneers Conference [on October 16-18] will be at two sites this year - Traverse City and Detroit. MiIPL will present at the Detroit workshop. Please go to

[www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers](http://www.sustainabledetroit.org/bioneers) for more information. Or you can call WARM Training at (313) 394-1030 and ask for Jacob Cordivae.

Michigan Greenhouse Gas Inventory has been completed by the Center for Sustainable Systems at the U of Michigan. A copy is available at [http://css.snre.umich.edu/css\\_doc/CSS05-07.pdf](http://css.snre.umich.edu/css_doc/CSS05-07.pdf)

Future Electric Capacity Needs status report has been released by the MPSC. Last October the MPSC launched a Capacity Need Forum (CNF) charged with investigating the state's potential need for additional electric generation. Over 200 individuals representing 47 groups have participated in the Forum. Participants have been divided into five work groups: electric demand; central station generation; alternate renewable energy generation; transmission; and integration. Electric demand is expected to grow by about 2% annually. The final report, due Jan. 1, 2006, will include recommendations on the best resources to meet future need. Resource options include new power plants, expanded transmission, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, demand response programs, and combined heat and power options.

[www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)

Unleashing the Potential: Future of Energy in Michigan (October 20) and Wind Energy in Michigan (October 21) Conferences will be held in Lansing. Save the date.

[www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)

Energy Matters is a quarterly newsletter from DOE's Industrial Technologies Program that promotes energy efficiency.

[www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/36784.pdf](http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/36784.pdf)

***Unity is Strength, Knowledge is Power and Attitude is Everything – Lance Armstrong***



# MiIPL 2005 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**  
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