



# Growing Our Impact

The Regeneration Project's Interfaith Power & Light Campaign

2011 Annual Report

# Growing our Impact



Remember the song Willie Nelson made famous — “On the road again?” Well, 2011 was me, “on the road again”. Sadly I don’t sing or play the guitar but Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) programs have sprung up in several more states and kept me on the move for more than 80 days. Along with being there for the launch of Hoosier IPL in Indiana, I visited the folks in Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, New York, Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. We planted seeds for an affiliate in Montana and are waiting to see the sprouts under the Big Sky. Additionally, I had my first trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos as part of a religious delegation invited to

participate. What all this means is *GROWTH*. It means that word has gotten around to 39 states about the good work of IPL. We are educating multitudes, attracting lots of attention and becoming a force to reckon with when politics, money, and profit try to rule society. Our voice of moral responsibility rang out when faith leaders came together to support the EPA clean air standards to shelter the unborn and our children from harmful mercury, arsenic, and acid gases. IPL leaders testified in four states and gathered thousands of public comments. We face a great challenge with our energy and climate work, but you will see in this report a sprinkling of our many accomplishments and our growing impact. I especially want to thank our friends, advisors, and supporters for your commitment to us.

**The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham**, President & Founder

## Carbon Covenant



Youths in Cameroon soften the dry soil for planting.

*...a tree is life for us. Our cattle, our households, and our life depend very much on the survival and growth of a tree. The tree brings wind to cool us off from the scorching heat, it draws the water table up to provide water, it holds the soil together to enhance the growth of vegetation for our animals. Our life is sustained by a tree...*

— Adamou Djaouro, Project beneficiary

“Our life is sustained by a tree...” This quote from Adamou Djaouro in Cameroon sums up why IPL is spotlighting and raising public support for four faith communities that are weathering hardships from the impacts of climate change and mitigating it through tree planting and forest protection. These groups are working on the front lines of climate change impacts, directly addressing the number one source of carbon emissions in the developing world – deforestation.

In 2011, thanks to the support of the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, the Kendeda Fund, and donations from congregations and individual donors, IPL was able to devote staff time on this project to focus on communications, outreach, and fundraising. Our goal is to empower faith communities in the U.S. to partner with sponsored projects in the developing world. The four projects are led by Buddhist monks in Cambodia, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon and Ghana, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Visit [www.co2covenant.org](http://www.co2covenant.org) to learn more about these important projects and how you and your faith community can support the Carbon Covenant program by making a gift or becoming a Covenant Community.

# Clean Air Act and EPA Safeguards

At the federal level, our top policy priority continues to be defense of the Clean Air Act in Congress and strong and expeditious implementation of new EPA rules relating to climate and energy. To defend these new regulations from Congressional attacks and potential weakening, IPL has focused on turning out strong support at the public hearings around the country. IPLs in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Massachusetts actively participated in the public process on new Mercury & Air Toxics standards with dozens of faith leaders testifying at public hearings. We also generated thousands of written comments in support of the rule. IPL faith leaders were noticed as prominent advocates, and the EPA invited IPL to attend the press conference announcing the latest air quality safeguards, which will save 11,000 premature deaths and prevent 500 heart attacks each year.

## Keystone Pipeline

The headline climate change issue of 2011 was the proposal for a risky 1,700-mile Keystone Tar Sands oil pipeline through America's heartland to carry oil from Canadian tar sands to Texas refineries.

IPL quickly mobilized, particularly in three states through which the oil would travel: Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas. IPL-affiliated faith leaders turned out at public hearings held by the State Department, and they spoke passionately about the threat the pipeline poses to Creation. IPL joined the environmental community in generating media coverage of the risks posed by oil spills and thousands of comments opposing the project. Finally, at the end of the year, the State Department denied the cross-border permit and President Obama announced that a new review process would commence, explicitly taking climate concerns into consideration.



Approval of the pipeline had seemed virtually assured at the beginning of the year, but IPL and its allies succeeded in stopping the project in its tracks. The faith community role was pivotal in communicating the moral and ethical dimensions of our energy choices. This was an important victory that would not have been possible without IPL's individual donors who support our advocacy campaigns. IPL will continue to be active on this issue as the new review process for the pipeline begins.

## Alternatives to Coal

IPL is working to move the U.S. away from coal and toward clean energy in a variety of ways. At the state level, especially in the Midwest, IPLs are working to clean up or shut down specific coal plants. With the support of the John Merck Fund, IPLs in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin are bringing clergy on tours of communities in the shadow of coal plants to help them understand the impact on human health and the environment, and then viewing clean energy solutions, like wind farms. As a result, clergy are becoming powerful advocates for renewable energy. Recently, our Illinois IPL and its partners achieved a major victory shutting down Chicago's two coal-fired power plants. Washington IPL was part of a coalition to secure the phase-out of the TransAlta coal plant in Centralia, WA.

# The Cool Congregations Challenge

The 2011 Cool Congregations Challenge received more participation than any previous year – with entries from approximately 550 congregations representing all major faith traditions in 44 states and the District of Columbia. The goal of the challenge is to facilitate and inspire congregational actions to reduce carbon footprints of their facilities and to broadcast those actions across our network and beyond. Media coverage of the Challenge demonstrates that people of faith are united by concerns about climate change and eager to highlight solutions. Winners of the 2011 Challenge were selected from four categories: energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable grounds and water conservation, and inspiring congregants to lower their energy use at home.

Thanks to the support of the 11th Hour Project, four \$1,000 prize-winners (below) were chosen based on the creativity of their projects, the extent to which they engaged congregational members, clear and measurable carbon emissions reductions, and their replicability by other congregations.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY WINNER

St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon, CT



Members of St. John's participated in a six-week program through Connecticut IPL. They learned how to perform an energy audit and how to calculate the significant energy and cost saving that would accrue if new lighting were installed. Because the \$13,000 required for new lighting was prohibitive, they launched an "adopt a lighting fixture" campaign for the congregation and were able to complete the installation. Their electricity usage since the upgrade decreased by 1,328 Kwh, or 22%, over the same period in 2010. The church is on track to decrease its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by five tons per year.

## SUSTAINABLE GROUNDS AND WATER CONSERVATION WINNER

Central United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC



Located in an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse urban area of Charlotte, NC, Central United Methodist Church focused on creating a community garden to directly benefit congregants, local residents, and the Church's food pantry. Their garden grew produce on a small carbon footprint and educated their community about the benefits of "growing local." A celebration was held in October, where a meal including "fruits of the harvest" was shared by the congregation and neighborhood participants, along with a sustainability workshop covering composting to preserve water and complementary crop planting, combined with rotation, to preserve the land.

*Winning the Challenge was a great validation for our whole congregation! The award got news coverage which led to our church being on a city wide garden tour, generating a very positive community response for our local food production methods. And we used the prize money to make more upgrades to the garden!*

— Karen Carpenter, Central United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC

## RENEWABLE ENERGY WINNER

First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, NM

First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque explored solar energy and after analyzing federal and state regulations, developed a proposal for a straightforward lease arrangement between a vendor and the church with the solar company handling the regulatory and tax issues. The church has the option to purchase the system in seven years. The 48 kW system is estimated to generate almost 77,000 kWh/yr, supplying about 75% of church needs. Their system will save about 42 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year and \$70,000 in electricity costs over the 20-year term of the lease.



## INSPIRING CONGREGANTS TO LOWER THEIR ENERGY USE AT HOME WINNER

Congregation Beth Shalom in Bloomington, IN

As of October 2011, more than one-third of Congregation Beth Shalom's households had reduced their energy use by at least one-seventh (14%) and/or their carbon footprint to significantly less than half the average for an American household of their size. Beth Shalom promoted energy reduction through Hoosier IPL's Task of the Month program, scriptural teachings, participatory intergenerational holiday programs, an interactive bulletin board featuring each month's energy-reducing task, discounted supplies, and monthly newsletter interviews on what members did and the challenges they faced. Their goal is to help create a tipping point, inspiring more of their members and other congregations in the city and state to follow suit.



# The Preach-In on Global Warming

Nearly 700 congregations around the country participated in The Valentine's Weekend Preach-In on Global Warming, reaching an estimated 300,000 individuals. The theme was loving Creation and loving our neighbors by caring for the environment. The specific call to action was support for the Clean Air Act, and more than 15,000 Valentines were sent in to senators asking them to support this landmark legislation by not undermining the EPA's action on clean air and climate. The event generated more than 40 media stories, mostly in local news outlets.

*Thank you, Interfaith Power & Light,  
for providing the opportunity of the  
National Preach-In on Global Warming.*

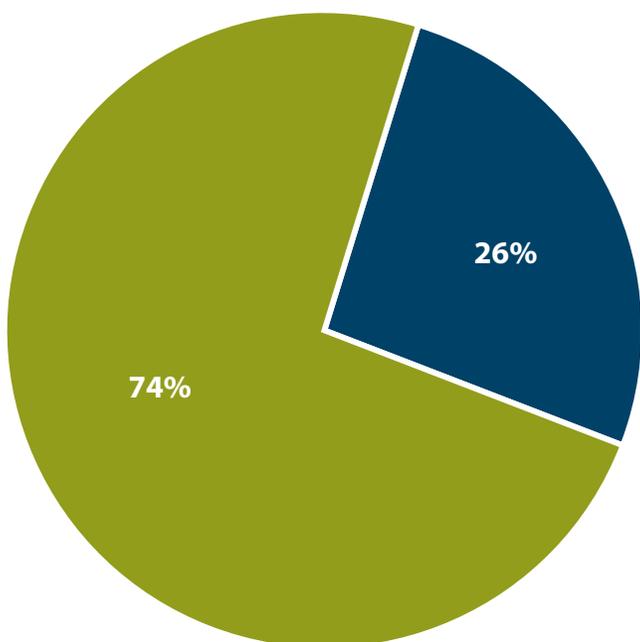
*It was an eye opening, inspiring  
experience for our church family.*

— Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon,  
Friends Congregational Church,  
College Station, TX

# 2011 Statement of Activities

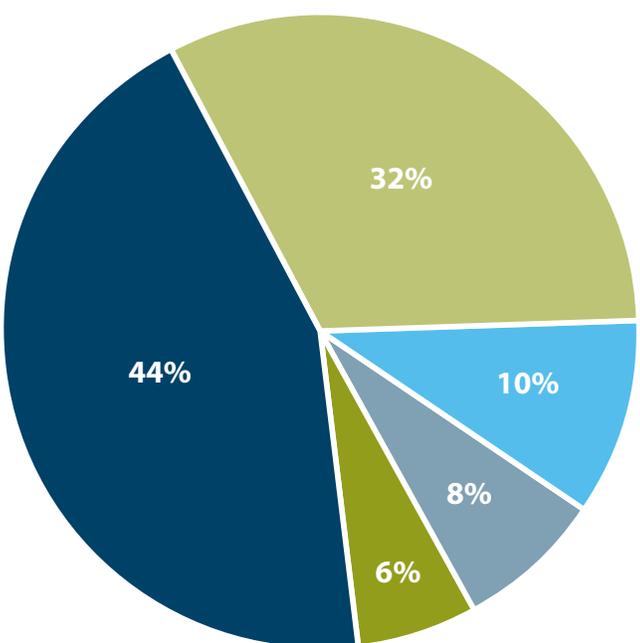
Year Ending December 31

In 2011 TRP's total operating budget was \$1.5 million, a slight decrease from 2010. The vast majority went to support state and national programming, and about 15% for development and administration. In total, \$489,253 was granted out to state affiliates, another \$152,666 supported the California Interfaith Power & Light program, and \$672,315 funded national programs and campaigns. Another benchmark in 2011 was a significant increase in individual donations, which made up over a quarter of total funds raised. We are grateful to all of our donors for their generosity, which made this work possible.



## INCOME

Beginning Net Assets	\$1,176,559
■ Foundation Grants	\$959,000
■ Individual Contributions & Other Income	\$335,419
<b>2011 Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,294,419</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$2,470,978</b>



## EXPENSES

■ National Program	\$672,315
■ Re-grants to State Affiliates	\$489,253
■ California IPL	\$152,666
■ Development	\$115,416
■ Administration	\$90,059
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,519,709</b>

Cumulative net assets at the end of 2011 were \$954,674. Of this \$400,000 is allocated for re-grants to state affiliates in 2012.

# Thank You To Our 2011 Donors

## FOUNDATIONS AND PROPHETS CLUB

### *Gifts and Grants of \$100,000 and above*

11th Hour Project  
William K. Bowes, Jr.  
Energy Foundation  
The Kendeda Fund

### *Gifts and Grants of \$10,000 to \$99,999*

Mary A. Crocker Trust  
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Lisa Renstrom and Robert Perkowitz

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN  
Orinda Community Church, Orinda, CA  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill, CA  
St. Ignatius Parish, San Francisco, CA  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakland, CA  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda, CA  
Stanford Memorial Church, Palo Alto, CA

*I support Interfaith Power & Light because their message is powerful, and because truly the way to make a difference in combating global warming will come from bringing together people of all faiths to speak for the health of Creation.*

— Amy Rao

Chair, Board of Directors

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The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham

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## WAYS TO HELP INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

We rely on your support to help us protect the Earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of all Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all. You can help by making an outright gift, giving a gift of appreciated stock or leaving a legacy gift to Interfaith Power & Light. Here are popular ways you can make a legacy gift:

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

For more information about making a legacy gift, contact Ann Root at 415-561-4891.



## THE REGENERATION PROJECT'S INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT CAMPAIGN

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