A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE
to Global Warming

Interfaith Power & Light  A Campaign of the Regeneration Project
Interfaith Power & Light is a religious response to global warming.

The mission of Interfaith Power & Light is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Since the year 2000, IPL has helped thousands of congregations address global warming by being better stewards of energy. We have a track record of tangible results: shrinking carbon footprints and educating millions of people of faith about the important role religious voices play in this challenging issue.

IPL has built a national network and has IPL-branded affiliated programs in 40 states, supporters in all 50 states and 18,000 participating congregations. While our state affiliates all have the same mission, each has the flexibility to develop programs and advocacy efforts specifically related to their state or local region.

This model allows IPL to leverage its resources to have an impact at both the national and the state levels.
“Who can stop climate change? We can. You and you and you, and me. And it is not just that we can stop it, we have a responsibility to do so that began in the genesis of humanity...”

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu
IPL Advocates for Public Policies that Reflect our Values

Being good stewards of Creation, protecting the most vulnerable members of our community, and leaving our children a safe climate are tenets shared by our diverse religious traditions.

It’s clear that the moral message resonates when it comes to acting on climate. Recent polling found that 72% of Americans understand acting on global warming is a moral obligation. Religious leaders and people of faith are important messengers, and bring a nonpartisan voice that can defuse ideological polarization around the issue. In 2014, we saw how faith leaders are some of the most influential and impactful messengers for state, local, and national policy makers.

Historic Limits on Carbon Pollution from Power Plants

Power plants are the nation’s largest source of global warming pollution. The EPA’s proposed limits on power plant emissions will reduce carbon pollution 30% by 2030. But the new standards are threatened by polluting industries and their allies in Congress. To shore up the rules, IPL delivered thousands of comments of support from our constituents. IPL then joined with other religious organizations to meet with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and deliver the comments with a message of support on behalf of millions of people of faith. We followed up with over 70,000 letters and cards to U.S. Senators, asking them to support the EPA action.
Preparing for Paris in 2015

Toward the end of 2014, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a Climate Summit, and asked members of civil society to bring “bold initiatives” to inspire global leaders to take action on climate change. IPL responded by announcing our Paris Pledge. Congregations taking the pledge commit to cut their carbon emissions in half by 2030 with a goal of becoming 100% renewable energy powered or carbon neutral by 2050. People of faith are motivated by what’s right and what’s necessary to protect Creation; we can’t wait any longer for governments to act. It is our hope that the Paris Pledge will inspire global leaders to make the kind of significant reductions we know are needed at the U.N. Climate Conference in Paris at the end of 2015.

Climate March in New York City

In September, over 400,000 Americans marched in the streets to demand international action to halt global warming. It was the largest climate action in U.S. history, and the faith community was out in force. IPL contributed significantly to the “faith block” of the march, which was thousands strong. We also printed yellow IPL signs, banners, and armbands to make our presence more visible. As the marchers passed a U.N. meeting in progress, a delegate from Europe remarked in amazement:

“So many people for climate — and they’re all Americans!”
Fighting Dirty Energy

IPL and our affiliates worked hard this year to stop dirty energy projects: especially coal power and tar sands oil. IPL presented thousands of comments to the State Department opposing the Keystone XL pipeline on climate and safety grounds. Thanks to IPL’s ongoing advocacy, the Keystone XL Tar Sands pipeline has — so far — been denied entry at the Canadian border.

Indianapolis Power & Light operates one of the last major coal burning power plants in a major Mid-western city. But not for much longer, thanks to the good work of Hoosier IPL! With their in-state partners, Hoosier IPL had a stunning victory in convincing the utility to stop burning coal in the city — 18 years ahead of schedule. The Indianapolis plant will shift to natural gas in 2016, and IPL will keep pushing the utility to convert to renewables.

In Nebraska, IPL helped convince the third-largest public power utility in the state to commit to 48% renewable energy by 2016 — one of the strongest renewable energy portfolios in the nation. Nebraska utility commissioners said that “church people” showing up at public hearings was pivotal, and pushed them to do more to advance renewable energy.

These successes show the unique impact we can have by bringing the moral voice of people of faith into the policy-making arena — at the state, national, and international levels.

“Climate change is a defining issue of our time. It is a moral issue, it is an issue of social justice, human rights and fundamental ethics.”

— Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations
Preach-in on Global Warming

The annual Preach-in on Global Warming is IPL’s premier program for inspiring and supporting clergy and lay leadership to preach from the pulpit and educate their congregations about climate change. IPL provides sample sermons, films, prayers and bulletin inserts. In addition each year postcards are provided for congregants to send to the president or other elected officials urging them to support important climate legislation and to be leaders in protecting the climate.

In 2014 IPL received a generous grant to distribute hundreds of DVD’s and online screening copies of the critically acclaimed film *Chasing Ice* free of charge with our Preach-in kit. A record number of congregations jumped at the offer. This afforded congregations a unique opportunity to host community climate conversations following the film.

Cool Harvest

As people were starting new gardens all over the country, IPL wanted to ride the wave of interest and clearly carve out the food, faith and climate connection with its Cool Harvest program. It is estimated that nearly 20% of climate change pollution comes from industrial agriculture. Backyard gardens and climate-friendly food choices can play a major role in helping America reduce its carbon footprint.

“Just when I think you folks can’t get any more brilliant, you fly over the top with an idea this cool!!”

— Sunny Thompson on the cool harvest seed kit

According to the National Gardening Association, 42 million households, that’s 35%, now grow food in home and community gardens. And the report shows younger Americans — Millennials, specifically — are driving the gardening revolution. This finding is confirmed by IPL’s faith communities, which are reporting that veggie garden projects attract young people — something most congregations are eager to do.

In 2014, Cool Harvest went paperless and created a dedicated website at coolharvest.org to offer three new food and gardening kits for different times of the growing season. The new website attracted nearly 10,000 unique visitors, and over 2,500 kit downloads — more than double the interest from 2013.
"The human family has received from the Creator a common gift: nature ... Nature, in a word, is at our disposition and we are called to exercise a responsible stewardship over it.

— Pope Francis
Certified Cool Congregations

IPL and its 40 state affiliates encourage congregations of all faiths to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change. Many IPL state programs provide congregations with hands-on analysis and support. In addition, in 2014, IPL entered into a partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, to match IPL and USGBC state affiliates to create synergy and innovation at the local level. All of these programs generate concrete stories and wonderful role models of climate action.

IPL rolled out a new national certification program in 2014 to honor exemplary houses of worship reaching significant carbon pollution reductions in response to global warming. Driven by a common mandate to be good stewards of Creation, the first 20 Certified Cool Congregations averaged 42\% greenhouse gas reductions, showing that where there’s a will, there’s a way. These congregations are leading the way. They are putting their faith into action and bringing moral responsibility to the forefront of the movement to protect the climate.

Jointly these congregations prevent 2.2 million pounds (1,000 metric tons) of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere annually. Every year, this is the equivalent of not burning one million pounds of coal, or preserving 820 acres of mature forest, or planting 25,000 trees, or asking Americans to drive 2.3 million miles less. And that’s just 20 congregations. The nation has 370,000 congregations. IPL is confident that this program and the stories it generates will provide thousands of congregations with the motivation they need to become excellent role models as well, to other faith communities, and to their communities at large.

Carbon Covenant

IPL’s Carbon Covenant Program links faith communities in the U.S. with those on the front lines of climate change in the developing world in a commitment to curb climate change and help mitigate its impact on vulnerable people. Deforestation is responsible for 20\% of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions, and is the major source of emissions for the developing world. Deforestation is also taking a grave toll on the local communities living in or near the forests. IPL supports faith community-led projects in four developing countries: Cameroon, Tanzania, Cambodia and Ghana.

In 2014, IPL raised $4,600 for these projects which include slowing deforestation and preventing illegal logging, reforestation of degraded areas, introducing sustainable livelihoods and promoting awareness and education about the need to conserve forest resources. Since 2010, IPL has raised more than $64,000 to support these programs.

Please visit www.co2covenant.org to find out more.
2014 Financial Commentary

In 2014, TRP’s total operating budget was $1.6 million. These funds supported state and national programming, and about 19% covered development and administration. In total, $503,493 was granted out to state affiliates, partners and congregations; another $168,296 supported the California Interfaith Power & Light program, and $701,107 funded national programs and campaigns. Individual and congregational donations provided 35% of total funds raised. We are grateful to all of our donors for their generosity, which made this work possible.

Income

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>$851,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Individual Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>2014 TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2014 TOTAL FUNDS</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<td>National Program</td>
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<td>Re-grants to State IPLs</td>
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<td>California IPL</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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Cumulative net assets at the end of 2014 were $587,119. Of this $203,000 is allocated for re-grants to state IPLs in 2015.
Interfaith Power & Light gratefully acknowledges our 2014 Donors

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$100,000 and above
- The Kendeda Fund
- The Partnership Project
- 11th Hour Project
- William K. Bowes Jr. Foundation

$10,000 - $99,999
- The Energy Foundation
- Environmental Defense Fund
- High Meadows Group
- Hitz Foundation
- The Keith Campbell Foundation
- Leavens Foundation
- Marisla Foundation
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- San Francisco Foundation

$1,000 - $9,999
- Build It Green
- Climate Ride, Inc.
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- Felician Sisters of North America
- New Resource Bank
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- Davis United Methodist Church
- Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
- Episcopal Diocese of California
- First Congregational Church of Long Beach
- First Congregational Church of Palo Alto
- First Congregational Church of Sonoma
- First Mennonite Church of San Francisco
- Montclair Presbyterian Church
- Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church
- Saint Luke Presbyterian Church
- Stanford Memorial Church

$250 and above
- Catholic Charities of Stockton
- Christ United Presbyterian Church
- Davis United Methodist Church
- Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
- Episcopal Diocese of California
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- First Mennonite Church of San Francisco
- Montclair Presbyterian Church
- Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church
- Saint Luke Presbyterian Church
- Stanford Memorial Church
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website: InterfaithPowerandLight.org

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IPL depends on our members and supporters to achieve our mission. There are many ways to help: volunteering, donating, making a gift of appreciated securities, or leaving a legacy gift. You can support our state affiliates by designating your gift for our regrant program, and our Carbon Covenant program by designating the project of your choice. Another great way to provide reliable support is by making a monthly donation that is automatic, secure, and convenient. To learn more please contact Sarah Berg at 415-561-4891.

Ways to make a legacy gift include:
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• Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation
• Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
• Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)
• Real Estate Gift
• Stock Transfer

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