

From Rev. Fred Small, Executive Director,

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Dear friends,

For my first newsletter as your executive director, I planned a jaunty, upbeat greeting full of news of my first weeks hard at work for MassIPL, my excitement for the organization's future, and the terrific support I've received from the Executive Committee, Administrator Mary Anne Schoonover, and many able volunteers.

All true. All important. But I can't write that message tonight.

It's Friday, May 29. Just four days ago, George Floyd died on a Minneapolis street after Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, even as Floyd pleaded that he couldn't breathe.

Another black man dead at the hands of the police. Another community bereft and outraged. Another city on fire.

It's all too familiar. And it's still heartbreaking.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality," Martin Luther King Jr. wrote from Birmingham Jail, "tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Dr. King spoke the essence of both ecology and justice.

The Interfaith Power & Light movement knows that justice is not severable. We can't achieve climate justice without racial justice, and we can't achieve racial justice without economic justice. We can't hold the earth sacred without holding sacred every human being who dwells upon it.

As Julia Nerbonne, my counterpart at Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, wrote to their members yesterday, "We work towards climate justice because we believe all beings deserve a thriving, life-giving environment, and because we strive to preserve our planet for generations to come. The violence of white supremacy strikes at the core of our hopes and dreams, and it withers our work towards a healthy and sustainable planet."

After the pandemic, we can't go back to normal, because normal was failing too many of us. We can—and we must— “build back better.” May we renew our shared commitment to a future of safe, clean, renewable energy in the just, equitable, and beautiful world our children deserve.

Blessings,



Pray

Connect environmental justice to your faith tradition through prayer, worship, and reflection



Catholic Climate Covenant Offers Study Program Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si

Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si is a landmark in the faith movement for environmental justice. Faith leaders of all traditions as well as secular leader regularly reference it. Five years after its publication, its words are still prophetic.

Catholic Climate Covenant's 2020 Earth Day program is a free, one-hour educational program designed to complement the Earth Day Network's 50th anniversary theme, "Climate Action" and help us commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Pope's encyclical letter, Laudato Si'. The program has been revised in the light of the physical distancing we are all practicing, and is also available in Spanish .

Download your free copy at the [Catholic Climate Covenant web site](#).

The Festival of Homiletics: Preaching A New Earth: Climate And Creation

[The Festival of Homiletics](#) is an institute and gathering aimed at improving preaching in all Christian denominations. This year's festival includes well-known preachers and speakers in the field of climate justice, such as **Bill McKibben, Stacey Abrams, Katherine Hayhoe, William Barber II, Leach Schade, and Anna Carter Florence.**



The festival offers an extensive range of ideas and inspiration for how to include environmental justice in your worship. Select presentations are available on the [Festival Wrap Up blog](#) and an [on-demand access package](#) - a full set of materials and recordings of the speakers -- is available for \$150.

Act

Lower the carbon emissions of your house of worship and your home

Zero Carbon[®] Home

Register for the Zero Carbon Home webinar, June 18, 7 pm

Can you take a home built in the 1970's and retrofit it to achieve net zero emissions? Even if you can eliminate your carbon emissions, is it affordable? How do you decide which projects to do and how to pay for them?

David Green has succeeded in his 1970's era house in Dover. His secret formula? Four HITS:

- **H**eat pumps
- **I**nsulation
- **T**riple pane windows

· Solar photovoltaic

In the webinar David will walk you through his four year journey to net zero: his decisions to use certain technologies and avoid others; how he maximized utility rebates, tax credits, and other incentives; and how he calculated the cost savings and return on investment.

Join us to hear about his experiences and how you can be a better steward of creation, reduce your carbon footprint, and make money doing it! And every registrant will get a free copy of his e-book: Zero Carbon.

For more information and to register, go to bit.ly/MassIPLZeroCarbon



Recap:

Accelerating Heat Pumps: Bringing Sustainable Heating and Cooling to Congregations Soon and in our Time

This May 20 webinar by the Jewish Climate Action Network and MassIPL drove home this important point: "Widespread conversion to heat pump heating is absolutely essential to any path to reducing carbon pollution. Prepare your house of worship and lead your community away from fossil-fuel heating and cooling."

One possible path called **GeoMicro Districts** was described by Audrey Schulman of HEET. In this system a utility, would build and operate a system of pipes and wells which would distribute ground temperature water in a geographic district. Homes and commercial buildings in the district would connect to the water and use it as the energy source for a ground-source heat pump which would provide heating and cooling in the buildings. EverSource Gas is planning to build three pilot projects in MA. For more information on the concept, go here: <https://heetma.org/energyshift/>

Another path is to replace existing heating systems with Air-Source or Ground-Source heat pumps, which are already on the market and widely available. Steve Breit (Heat Smart Alliance) explained "Heat Pump Community Coaching: Become the Scout" which addresses the challenge that most homeowners are unfamiliar with these proven system. Community coaching hopes to accelerate the uptake of residential heat pump technology by providing a trusted, independent source of information and encouragement. Become a coach - many are needed! See: <http://heatsmartalliance.org/>

A recording of the session will be available soon at [the JCAN webinar page](#).



Congratulations Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton! The largest house of worship solar installation in Massachusetts breaks ground.

This 302 kw project will fully offset the electricity usage at CBE and also provide affordable community solar power for 15 low-income households. The renewable energy produced by the four parking lot canopies will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 268 tons annually, equivalent to the emissions from 52 cars.

Visit CBE's website <https://www.bethelohim.org/solar-project> for more details about the project and www.bethelohim.org/solar-faq for information on how low-income households can qualify for discounted renewable electricity.

Mobilize

Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world

Last month's newsletter introduced the idea to "build back better": to use future stimulus programs and efforts to restart the economy to accelerate the transition to a green economy, and build a more equitable society.

This webinar will be another of the conversations



CLIMATE & COVID-19

Explore and understand the relationship between climate change and Covid-19

- Impacts of Covid-19 and climate on communities of color
- Why it is critical to combat climate change and protect our health
- Lessons learned and solutions for a post-covid world

Join the webinar on **Wednesday June 10 from 4:00pm-5:30pm**, featuring presentations from **Dr. Francesca Dominici and Dr. Jonathan Levy of the Harvard School of Public Health**

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SABA IJADI
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PRESENTED BY CODMAN SQUARE NDC



exploring this connection.

To register and for more information, email fairmountclimate@dbedc.org

MassIPL Broadens the Faith Climate Voter Campaign

MassIPL is a strong supporter of this campaign from the national IPL organization to encourage voters to get to the polls this fall. If you haven't taken the pledge yet, go [here to take the pledge now](#).

But we wanted to know what more we could do. So when national IPL executive director Sue Stephenson called MassIPL president Jim Nail in April he volunteered to be matched with another state IPL who might need additional help. She liked the idea so much, that she invited all 40 state IPL chapters to collaborate on promoting voter turnout in 6 focus states: Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin.

I pledge to be a #FaithClimateVoter



We plan to participate in texting and calling campaigns in the fall and are looking for more volunteers.

If you or your congregation is interested in volunteering to help the Campaign in one of the 7 focus states, please [fill out this form](#) and the campaign will plug you into volunteer activities you can help with.

Inspiration

Don't leave your broken heart at the door
 Bring it to the altar of life
 Don't leave your anger behind
 It has high standards
 and the world needs vision
 Bring them with you
 and your joy and your passion
 Bring your loving
 and your courage and your conviction
 Bring your need for healing

and your powers to heal
There is work to do
And all that we need to do it is here

Rev. Angela Herrera



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