The Regeneration Project is an interfaith ministry devoted to deepening the connection between ecology and faith. Our goal is to help people of faith recognize and fulfill their responsibility for the stewardship of creation. We do this through educational programs for clergy and congregations that achieve tangible environmental results and impact public policy.

MISSION

Andrew Gunther, Ph.D. • Union of Concerned Scientists
Marty Krasney • Writer, Consultant
Fred Krupp • Environmental Defense Fund
Michael Lerner • Commonweal
Gretchen Long • National Parks Conservation Association
William Reilly • Formerly Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Evelyn Tucker • Forum on Religion and Ecology

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Amy Rao • Chair
The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham • President
Will Parish • Secretary
Joe Sciotino • Treasurer
The Rev. Woody Bartlett
Hunter Lovins
Sam Schuchat
Jenepher Stowell

Thank you to Rev. Clare Butterfield and Tom Huntington who served on our board through 2008.

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The Regeneration Project is approaching its tenth year and as I think about the progress, I am amazed at how far we have come. We have lots of work to do, but we are on our way to becoming the premier resource for congregations and people of faith motivated by the religious and moral imperative to protect our global climate. The Interfaith Power and Light campaign made headline news when it was mentioned repeatedly on the floor of the U.S. Congress and by key legislators as part of a religious coalition of support for the climate bill. We didn’t win that battle, but change is coming and we are on the frontier with a program that will transform the way people of all faiths think about energy -- where it comes from, how it is used, and how that affects us all.

The economy turned downward at the end of the year and brought into focus the parallel efforts that will both help to save Creation and simultaneously lift the economy. Creating jobs through energy efficiency, developing new clean technologies, and using solar, wind, and geo-thermal resources already available to us will regenerate both our economy and our planet. The time is now. I believe 2009 will be our year to succeed and bring to fruition all that we have worked for over the past decade. As my friend, Peter Goldmark says, “the dogs have caught the car.” We have been pursuing climate legislation for a long time and now is our chance to provide leadership in getting the US off its dependence on fuels from Hell (oil and coal) and onto fuels from Heaven (wind and sun).

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham

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Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham

Left: The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham
Cover: Forever, by Diane Andrews Hall, oil on wood
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

2008 brought more growth in our Interfaith Power and Light campaign, exciting new programs and new state affiliates. But the overarching focus for the year was on investing in the future. As a result, The Regeneration Project’s organizational infrastructure is stronger, and we are better prepared to sustain an expanding program, a larger network, and ultimately to make a greater impact.

The most critical investment in the future we made was our five-year strategic plan. This plan, with a time horizon of 2013, both crystallizes our vision for the future and provides us with a roadmap to get there. In order to achieve climate protection by fully engaging the power of the U.S. faith community, we intend to have an IPL affiliate established in all 50 states. The plan was produced in a nine-month collaborative process that included all of TRP’s board members and staff, major funders, and state IPL leaders.

Our growth manifested itself in a very concrete sense when we outgrew our two shared offices in San Francisco’s beautiful Presidio. Though we miss the park setting and great views, we are enjoying our new suite with room to grow in downtown San Francisco, just one block from the BART station. Finally, we added a new full-time staff position to work with state affiliates and help start new programs.

2008 also saw the launch of new programs, including an online carbon calculator geared to congregations, and a contest for the “biggest [carbon] loser.” We increasingly focused on policy impact, strengthening ties with legislators and generating thousands of calls and letters in support of clean energy and capping carbon emissions. Finally, we added three new state affiliates: Alabama, Kansas, and Nebraska which have each brought their unique spirit and perspective to our growing movement.

A heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and supporters, without whom this growth would not be possible.

Amy Rao
Chair, Board of Directors

Susan Stephenson
Executive Director

INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT IN THE NEWS

Religion Takes Steps Toward Saving Environment

Green, meet God

Group Encourages Local Churches to Focus on Energy Conservation

Utah Faith Communities Discuss Climate Change

San Francisco Cathedral Goes Green

Faith Leaders Urge Climate Curbs

Bridgeview [Illinois] Mosque Goes Solar

Omaha Churches Power Up Their Efforts to Protect the Environment

Fighting Global Warming: A Spiritual View
THE INTERFAITH POWER
28 State Affiliates and 10,000 Participating Congregations

Through their campaign, Joining Hands Across New Mexico, New Mexico IPL collected over 1,200 outlines of hands from adults and children with drawings expressing what each person hopes to protect by working to address climate change. Many drew trees, animals, plants, water and loved ones beside words of commitment or prayer. New Mexico IPL then presented the hands to state leaders, conveying public concern for the future of the planet and calling for policy actions on climate change.

Ohio IPL was the only faith-based group to testify on behalf of the Ohio Renewable Portfolio Standard, one of the most aggressive electricity KWH standards in the country, mandating a 22% energy efficiency improvement and 25% renewable energy by 2025. The bill passed and was signed into law on May 1, 2008. Ohio IPL was recognized by the governor as a notable, new voice to speak out on the issue.

In 2007 and 2008, California IPL hosted the Energy Oscars, an event recognizing its most outstanding congregations in the categories of Energy Efficiency, Green Building, Education and Advocacy. Oscar winners walk the green carpet and receive awards to display in their houses of worship. Celebrating success gives California IPL and its members the hope and inspiration to continue to strive for new achievements. Pictured here is The Rev. Cn. Sally Bingham presenting the Green Building “Oscar” to Sister Rosemary McKean of the Presentation Conference and Retreat Center in Los Gatos.
In 2008 Maine IPL awarded five faith communities with small grants to assist with energy conservation and carbon reduction projects in their places of worship. They fielded applications from across the state and selected communities proposing the most innovative and practical ways for their faith group to reduce heating and lighting use. Grant recipient Ann Kendall of The First Universalist Church in Dexter is shown here installing a fabric covered fiberglass board to insulate their church office and vestry.

In the two years since its inception, Connecticut IPL’s This Old House of Worship has taught teams of leaders from 50 congregations about energy management, taking into account the unique issues faced by many faith buildings, including intermittent use, high ceilings, tight budgets and often old, leaky buildings. Strategies learned in the course have typically led to 5-20% energy savings for participating congregations. Pictured here are two parishioners checking the efficiency of their furnace.

Each year IPL leaders from across the country come together for training and networking and to share best practices at our annual conference. In 2008, we gathered in Washington, DC in May, finishing with a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

The mission of the Interfaith Power and Light campaign is to be faithful stewards of creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. We work to protect the earth’s ecosystems, safeguard human health and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.
OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMS

COOL CONGREGATIONS

Cool Congregations is a creative and fun earth stewardship program that invites both congregants and congregations to measure and then reduce their carbon footprint.

In 2008, Cool Congregations was rolled out nationally as one of our signature programs. Sarah Webb, who developed the curriculum with Iowa IPL, conducted trainings in states around the country, laying the foundation for Cool Congregations nationwide.

In 2008, we also launched CoolCongregations.com, an online carbon calculator specially tailored to faith communities.

To kick-off the new site, we began a year long contest to award two $5,000 prizes - one to the congregation with the lowest emissions per congregant and a second for the “biggest loser” of carbon emissions.

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ADVOCACY

In order to build a clean energy future, we need policy change at a local, state and national level. Interfaith Power and Light engages at all levels of government to ensure that our shared values of caring for creation are reflected in our public policies.

In 2008, IPL increased its advocacy efforts. State IPLs lobbied in their state capitols, campaigned to stop new coal-fired power plants, petitioned for a strong regional climate plan in the West, and advocated for federal renewable energy incentives, fuel economy standards, and caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

Our strategic plan identified public policy as a major area of focus, and we are working to leverage new tools and resources – including a national database of 40,000 people of faith – for a just, equitable, and effective climate policy.

ShopIPL.org is our online store for congregations specializing in energy-saving products. The site offers a variety of discounted products including lighting and appliances to our members.

2008 brought the addition of Sears appliances to our inventory, giving faith communities access to a wide variety of Energy Star rated refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, air conditioners and washer/dryers.

ShopIPL.org is available to congregations and individuals nationwide. A portion of the proceeds from each purchase goes back to support the IPL in that member’s state.
The Regeneration Project gratefully acknowledges gifts and grants received in 2008.

FAITH COMMUNITIES
Gifts of $100 and above

Church of Christ – Union, CA
Church of the Resurrection – Pleasant Hill, CA
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
• Simpsonville, SC
Episcopal Church of the Advocate
• Carrboro, NC
First Presbyterian Church – Palo Alto, CA
Ladera Community Church
• Portola Valley, CA
Lafayette Christian Church – Lafayette, CA
Lutheran Office of Public Policy
Montclair Presbyterian Church – Oakland, CA
Orinda Community Church – Orinda, CA
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
• Huntington, IN
Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township NJ
Preservation Center – Los Gatos, CA
Region 1 ELCA Alaska Synod

FINANCIALS
2008 Statement of Activities - Year Ending December 31

INCOME

88% 12%
Foundation Grants $1,186,212
Contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Businesses and Faith Communities $159,088
TOTAL INCOME $1,345,300

EXPENSES

National Program $422,286
Grants to IPLs $230,500
Alaska IPL Program $81,155
California IPL Program $134,771
Development $85,472
Administration $131,535
TOTAL EXPENSES $1,085,719

Cumulative net assets at the end of 2008 were $961,268. Of this $308,500 is allocated for grants to state IPLs in 2009.
INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT
IN YOUR STATE

ALABAMA • www.alipl.org
ALASKA • www.akipl.org
CALIFORNIA • www.interfaithpower.org
COLORADO • www.coloradoipl.org
CONNECTICUT • www.ctipl.org
GEORGIA • www.gipl.org
GREATER WASHINGTON • www.gwipl.org
HAWAII • www.hipl.org
IOWA • www.iowaipl.org
ILLINOIS • www.faithinplace.org
KANSAS • www.kansasipl.climateandenergy.org
KENTUCKY • www.kentuckyipl.org
MAINE • www.meipl.org
MASSACHUSETTS • www.mipandl.org
MICHIGAN • www.miipl.org
NEBRASKA • www.nebraskaipl.org
NEW MEXICO • www.nm-ipl.org
NEW YORK • www.nyipl.org
NORTH CAROLINA • www.ncipl.org
OHIO • www.ohipl.org
OREGON • www.emoregon.org/power_light.php
RHODE ISLAND • www.riipl.org
TENNESSEE • www.tn-ipl.org
TEXAS • www.txipl.org
UTAH • www.utahipl.org
VERMONT • www.vtipl.org
VIRGINIA • www.vipl.org
WASHINGTON • www.earthministry.org/programs/waipl

Top: ShopIPL Energy Efficiency Product Display
Center: Drought Tolerant Landscaping at Congregation Beth El in CA
Bottom: Susan Stephenson and Allis Druffel at National Lobby Day in DC