President’s Message

Looking back over 2010, I recognize the many challenges that we faced: recession, terrorism, the greatest oil disaster in this country, a coal mine explosion, unnecessary loss of lives and the increasing signs of runaway global climate change. The climate situation has reached a crisis, but I want to reassure our readers and supporters that while crisis often means danger, it can simultaneously bring opportunity. If we use this opportunity correctly and don’t waste it, we will come together with the shared purpose of saving God’s Creation from harmful human activity. We will look for solutions to save the entire communion of life. We will do it working together in partnership with scientists, environmentalists, educators, health professionals and many others. We are all bound together by a moral responsibility that we share, which is to leave a safe and healthy future for our children.

When I traveled to the Gulf of Mexico shortly after the oil disaster, I was struck with a powerful reminder that drilling deeper and deeper below the ocean and thus taking great risk with nature and human lives is not the solution to our energy needs. That kind of risk, taken because profit was given priority over human lives and nature, should never occur. We know better. Working with our partners around the country, and with you, our friends and supporters, we will build a movement that will save us from catastrophic climate change and protect God’s awesome Creation. Thank you.

In faith,

Sally G. Bingham
The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham
President & Founder
Building a Movement

2010 was a remarkable year with both successes and setbacks. Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) engaged hundreds of clergy in our Valentine’s Weekend Preach-in on Global Warming, inspired hundreds more congregations to join the 10% Challenge to Save Energy on 10/10/10, and planted the seeds for a food and faith initiative to help our congregations make the connection between our food choices and climate change.

The IPL affiliate network continued its trajectory of rapid growth, with five new states coming on board, bringing us to a total of 38 affiliates by year’s end. Our 10,000 member congregations reach four million potential new converts to the climate cause.

The momentum crescendoed as we came within reach of passing a national cap on carbon pollution through the Congress. The Senate’s failure to bring this policy to fruition was a major blow that will go down in history as a tragic mistake. Even after the BP oil disaster in the gulf, we witnessed renewed attacks on the EPA and the Clean Air Act, casting a long shadow over the year’s initial promise.

In response to this setback, IPL is focusing our efforts on building a bigger, louder, more powerful, and more diverse movement. IPL’s organic growth is a good sign, but we must redouble our efforts if we are to overcome the power of the fossil fuel industry and achieve a safe climate for our children.

People of faith are needed more than ever to build understanding and help us come together to act on the best of American values, including stewardship of Creation and care for the less fortunate. With your support, Interfaith Power & Light is on the vanguard of building a more powerful and passionate movement for a clean energy future, and lasting change.

Onward and upward!

Amy Rao
Chair, Board of Directors

Susan Stephenson
Executive Director

Media Highlights

A Greener Calling: In an unprecedented show of unity, a global contingent of faith leaders are joining forces to preach the gospel of green

The Washington Post
Everything we can do to control [energy] costs means that more people will be fed.

Scientific American
Can Faith Slow Climate Change?

The Wall Street Journal
Minister Preaches a Green Message

The Times-Picayune
BP’s Gulf oil spill is a sin, visiting clergy say after touring the coast

The Wichita Eagle
Kansas group helps churches reduce energy costs

Washington Jewish Week
We are turning away from God’s command

Los Angeles Times
Prop 23 battle marks new era in environmental politics

AJC
King would have fought coal plants
Making Georgia Congregations “Power Wise”

Georgia IPL recently launched a new program called Power Wise to help faith communities reduce their energy use. With a team of energy professionals, Georgia IPL provides project management from start to finish. In addition, they can provide funding through energy improvement matching grants to help congregations pay for the recommended improvements. So far, the response has been overwhelming. In 2010, they provided 26 energy audits and awarded grants totaling $43,000 to eight houses of worship. Below, North Springs United Methodist Church receives a Power Wise Energy Audit.

Energy-Saving Lighting in New Mexico

New Mexico IPL partnered with the local utility company to distribute energy-saving compact fluorescent lighting to congregants in faith communities and to food pantry program recipients. More than 30 faith communities were reached with distribution of more than 13,000 bulbs to nearly 4,000 families for a reduction of 530,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions and approximately $6,000 in energy bills for one year. Pictured below, Rev. Roger Perkins of Church of the Holy Spirit, Gallup and Rev. Martin Bayang of All Saints Episcopal Church in Grants receive CFL bulbs.

Youth Weatherization Project in Illinois

In partnership with the Chicago Department of the Environment, Illinois IPL coordinated a Youth Weatherization program in which young people in church youth programs are trained to install low-cost weatherization kits and then to install them in the homes of their neighbors, mostly elderly, in exchange for a small stipend. The youth learn to install weather stripping, window plastic and more and their neighbors appreciate the extra warmth and savings on their energy bills. The young people are from African-American congregations on Chicago’s south and west sides. In 2010, over 700 kits were installed and about 90 young people were trained, including the young men at the 6th Grace Presbyterian Barbershop Rap mentoring program (photos left). In this program the young men get haircuts from students at a south side barber college and then receive mentorship and training from men in their congregation.
**Victory for Climate Protection in California: Defeating Prop 23**

California IPL was part of an unprecedented coalition to defeat Proposition 23 on California’s November 2010 ballot. This proposition would have suspended California’s landmark climate and clean energy law, AB 32. Prop 23 was the biggest referendum ever in the country on climate and clean energy – and the voters overwhelmingly chose to address climate change and move forward with the state’s burgeoning clean energy revolution. Among the faith communities that helped to defeat Prop 23 was a group of rabbis and Jewish community leaders in the Los Angeles area (pictured above). They integrated the initiative into their sermons, distributed information at their temples, and hosted events.

**Earth Day Service in Arkansas**

On Earth Day 2010, volunteers from Arkansas IPL member congregations joined together to perform basic weatherization measures at Simone’s House, a non-profit women’s shelter, and on the facilities of two congregations in low-income sections of Little Rock. Building envelopes were tested with a blower door before and after the work was done.

**Energy Efficiency Workshops for Seniors in Colorado**

Colorado IPL received a grant from the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office to conduct energy efficiency workshops for seniors. Energy Savers ties in with our mission to help the poor and vulnerable, as seniors living on fixed incomes have to choose between food, medicine and paying their power bills. Presenter Betty Goebel reviews her notes while Energy Savers workshop attendees work on their individual energy plans.
Interfaith Power & Light Programs & Campaigns

Campaigns

IPL engages faith communities and individuals in collective action, from education on climate change, to energy saving activities, to policy advocacy. Our 2010 campaigns included the Valentine’s Day Preach-in on Global Warming, the 10% Challenge to Save Energy on 10-10-10, and advocacy to support new EPA protections addressing hazardous coal ash waste from power plants. In addition, we took 75 faith leaders to Washington to let their representatives know that addressing global warming is an urgent moral concern. In all, over 100 lobby visits were made, 300 congregations cut their energy use, 500 sermons were preached, and 22,000 letters were sent to government decision-makers urging strong climate and clean energy policies.

Programs

Cool Congregations is IPL’s online and offline carbon footprint-shrinking program for congregations and congregants. Through the IPL online carbon footprint calculator specially made for congregations, faith leaders can measure the carbon output of their activities and see it in relation to other faith communities. The program provides suggested resources for carbon-cutting activities, and allows the footprint to be tracked over time as reductions are made.

The Cool Congregations for Households program allows congregants to get in on the game. Through an intensive training session, congregational members are walked through the process of measuring their footprint and identifying the best ways to reduce it. They then make a pledge to reduce by whatever percent they think is doable – and report back to their congregation in a year. It tends to uncover congregants’ competitive streaks, as families compete against each other intensely to be the “biggest loser” of carbon emissions.

More greenhouse gas emissions come from the food industry than from all transportation combined. With this in mind, IPL laid the groundwork for Cool Harvest, our new program to help congregations make the connection between our food choices and climate change.

While food rituals are central to religious life, and faith communities have a traditional focus on feeding the hungry, relatively little attention has been paid to where that food is coming from or what its impact is on the planet. Through the Cool Harvest program, faith communities are getting educated on their carbon “foodprints” – from seed to harvest to transport, and how the healthiest choices for the planet also tend to be the healthiest choices for the individual.

Carbon Covenant is IPL’s program that links congregations and individuals in the U.S. with those on the front lines of climate change in the Global South. These faith communities have initiated projects to mitigate global warming and support their communities by addressing the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the developing world: deforestation. They are protecting forests, fighting illegal logging, teaching alternative livelihoods that are sustainable, and reforesting degraded lands.

Visit www.co2covenant.org to find out more about the inspiring work faith communities in Ghana, Cambodia, Cameroon, and Tanzania are doing to regenerate their communities while curbing global warming, and how you can help.
Thank you to our 2010 Donors

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Rev. Earl W. Koteen
Lynn and Nick Nicholas

2010 Statement of Activities
Year Ending December 31

Income
Beginning net assets $1,304,142
Foundation grants $1,182,843
Individual contributions & other income $293,378
2010 Total Income $1,476,221

TOTAL FUNDS $2,780,363

Expenses
National Program $756,818
Regrants to State IPLs $374,985
Alaska IPL Program $46,705
California IPL Program $224,128
Development $84,558
Administration $113,476
TOTAL EXPENSES $1,600,670

Cumulative net assets at the end of 2010 were $1,179,693. Of this, $475,000 is allocated for regrants to state IPLs in 2011.