



Dear friends,

**Beacon Hill Hears the Faith Community Call
for a Price on Carbon Pollution**



Over 225 citizens, elected officials, economists, activists and faith leaders from across the state packed a state house hearing room on January 14th to show their support for legislation to put a price on carbon pollution. The hearing was held by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE), Senate Assistant Majority Leader Michael Barrett (Lexington) and Representative Thomas Golden, Lowell.

Vince Maraventano of **MassIPL** urged the committee to favorably report out H.2810, *An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions*, saying that it "embodies the social justice values so critically important to us as people of faith. Its rebate structure ensures protection of low- and moderate-income households ... and it provides investments, including direct financial assistance, for low-income households and communities."

Testimony from Rabbi Dan Slipakoff of **Temple Israel, Boston** said, "Our sages ask us 'If not now, when?'...the time to act is now as we face this devastating climate emergency". Sister Marie-Tess Browne, SCN, of **St. Katherine Drexel, Roxbury** testified about the 2017 Nor'easter which sent 8 feet of floodwaters into her Quincy neighborhood. She was evacuated in a rubber dinghy and 150 people including her 92 year-old neighbor were left homeless. She pointed out that H. 2810 would "improve the overall health of Black and Hispanic Children in Boston who have much higher rates of asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits than their peers of the same race...." Rev. Dr. Peter Lovett, of **Christ Church United, U.C.C. Lowell** testified that "The stimulation to the clean energy sector that H.2810 would provide will further advance Lowell's impressive growth in that area", adding that "Lowell is closely watching the progress of this bill."

The TUE Committee must vote on advancing H.2810 by February 4th!

Call House Chair Golden, Senate Chair Barrett and members of the TUE committee, to report H.2810 out with a favorable report!

MassIPL Opens Search For Our New Executive Director



The executive committee has been evaluating our needs and directions in order to determine the experience, qualities, and focus of our next Executive Director. We are looking for a leader who can help us integrate our work in addressing the carbon footprint of faith buildings with our goals of broadening the climate movement and strengthening the faith voice in climate activism here in Massachusetts. We have begun circulating the job description and posted it on our web site [here](#).

Please forward it to anyone you know who may be a good candidate and have them submit a resume and cover letter describing how they could help

MassIPL achieve this goal to EDSearch@massipl.org.

MassIPL Awarded the Christenson Award by Old South Church in Boston



We are honored that the Christian Service and Outreach committee of Old South Church chose to recognize us with their annual Christenson Award. The committee stated: "We are profoundly grateful for your work supporting congregations in lowering their carbon emissions and lowering their energy consumption, providing education regarding climate change and advocating for policies to ensure a sustainable future ... Thank you for the vital work you do in our community. We look forward to identifying other ways that members of our congregation can support your work in the years ahead." Accompanying this honor was a donation to support our work in 2020.

We are deeply grateful for this recognition, but even more so for the leadership of Old South Church in the climate fight and for being a strong partner in pursuing a more sustainable and just world.

Thank you!

Take part in Interfaith Power & Light's Faith Climate Action Week April 17-26



**Faith Climate Action Week
April 17-26, 2020**

Faith Climate Action Week is Interfaith Power & Light's annual program of climate-themed worship services that spans a whole week of activities in celebration of Earth Month. For this year's theme "Love Made Visible" we will engage in sacred activism to protect the people we love and care about who are most affected by climate change — low-income communities, communities of color, the elderly, and future generations. Other activities of the week include "For Love of Trees", inviting congregations to plant trees and bless them using the ceremony included in the kit. Join us for the National Climate Prayer on Earth Day at 12 noon local. Download the National Climate Prayer [here](#).

Go to www.FaithClimateActionWeek.org to find more information on how to participate, to view resources, and plan events.

Take the Faith Climate Voter Pledge!



You pledge to vote. We remind you to keep your word. It's so easy. And it works.

With the presidential primaries moving into high gear, we urge you and your congregation to participate in the Interfaith Power & Light Faith Climate Voter Campaign. Research has shown that voters who prioritize climate change as a critical issue vote at a lower rate than other citizens. This campaign seeks to improve voter turnout to elect candidates who share our priority. Working with houses of worship of all faith traditions, IPL will register people to vote, send reminders, ensure everyone knows where to vote, and help get people to the polls come election day.

As people of faith and conscience, we are called to care for each other — especially the most vulnerable among us — and to be the voice for the voiceless. Many of the youth who marched and rallied in the Climate Strikes are not even old enough to vote. It's incumbent on us to vote with their futures in mind.

Please take the pledge to vote with the climate in mind today.

Connect With Other Climate Activists

The climate change activist community in Massachusetts is strong — and stronger together! Plan to join these events to learn from and share support with other advocates for bold action to address the climate emergency.

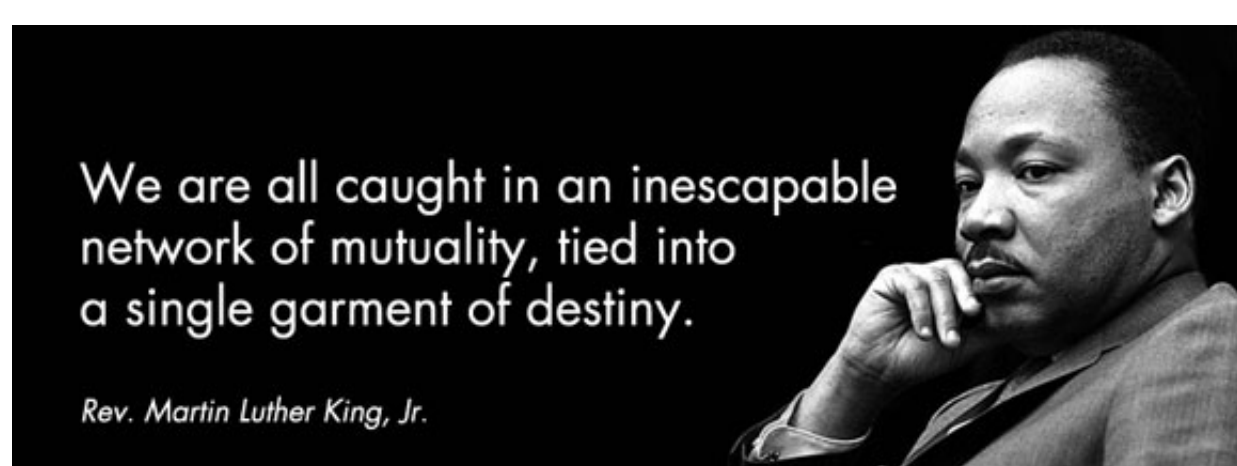


The **Massachusetts Climate Action Local Environmental Action 2020** conference takes place on **Saturday, March 7** at Northeastern University. If you're looking for the skills you need to strengthen your work to learn more about issues facing the climate and environmental movements, or don't know where to start taking action, this is the conference for you. Register at <http://www.localenvironmentalaction.org/>.



Temple Israel's annual **Shabbat for Environmental Justice** will feature the **Honorable John Kerry** as a guest speaker. The service will take place on **Friday, February 28** at 6:00 pm, at Temple Israel, 277 Longwood Avenue, Boston.

Inspiration



Peace and blessings,

Your friends at Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light