

Dear friends,

### New Carbon Pricing Bills in MA Legislature — Co-sponsors Needed by February 1st

**HD. 2370 AN ACT TO PROMOTE  
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS**  
REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER BENSON (D-37<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLESEX)



The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently reported that global warming is accelerating faster than expected, and that we have only 12 years in which to avoid irreversible climate change. They have urged governments to put a price on carbon pollution.

Two bills have been filed in the Massachusetts legislature to do just that:

**HD. 2370 An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions** sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Benson, and **SD.1817 An Act to Combat Climate Change** sponsored by Sen. Mike Barrett.

The Benson bill would invest 30% of all revenue, \$400 to \$600 million per year in a Green Infrastructure Fund, (GIF) to pay for local clean transportation, renewable energy projects and climate resiliency projects. At least 40% of the GIF must be spent on projects that benefit low income people and communities. The bill sets aside \$1 million for transitional support to displaced workers. 70% of all funds will be rebated to households and businesses with low to middle income households coming out ahead on average.

Under the Benson bill the carbon pollution fee would start at \$20 per ton and increase to \$40 per ton or more if Massachusetts falls behind mandated emissions reductions. It mandates a carbon fee on methane leaks from natural gas distribution systems. [Read more here.](#)

The Barrett bill gives the governor options on how to price carbon. It allows him to refund all carbon fees, (a revenue-neutral approach); to rebate some of the fees, (a revenue positive approach), or to adopt a cap and trade approach. If the governor chooses a revenue-neutral approach it sets fairness rules for the rebate of funds. If a revenue positive approach, it requires most revenues to be spent on public transportation, with some going to fund electric vehicle incentives, environmental justice initiatives and public-school aid.

Ask your state representative and senator to co-sponsor the Benson and Barrett bills. [To find your legislator, click here.](#)

More than 280 clergy and faith leaders have signed the MA Interfaith Call for Carbon Pricing. [Click here to add your name!](#)

Read the [Interfaith Call with charter signatories here.](#)

### MA Interfaith Power & Light Solar for Faith Communities Seminar



Save the Date

Tuesday evening, March 26, 2019  
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
435 Central St., Acton, MA 01720

Presenter: Jim Nail, President MAIP&L  
Details to follow at: [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org)

### Community Clean Energy Projects — Save with Community Solar



The Community Clean Energy Project (CCEP) model works with local organizations and businesses to bring clean and efficient energy to Massachusetts municipalities. The CCEP in Worcester helps residents and businesses become more energy efficient, and access community solar energy projects. Opportunities to pilot new energy technologies are also available.

For more information go to: [communitycleanenergyproject.org](http://communitycleanenergyproject.org) or contact [ccep-worcester@e4thefuture.org](mailto:ccep-worcester@e4thefuture.org).

### Be Cool and Efficient with Heat Pumps — Some Rebates Ending Soon!



**Air-source heat pumps** (ASHPs) use the temperatures of the outdoor air to heat or cool buildings. Advances in technology over the past few years have made air-source heat pumps an efficient source of heating in cold climates like Massachusetts. Models on the market today can operate efficiently even when it is below zero Fahrenheit.

**As of February 1, 2019, rebates for up to \$25,000 are available to non-profits, businesses and affordable housing, but applications must be submitted by March 20, 2019.** Learn more about [Air Source Heat Pumps here.](#)

[Read about MA Clean Energy Center ASHP rebates here.](#)

Direct questions to [ASHP@masscec.com](mailto:ASHP@masscec.com) or call 617-315-9300 and Press '2' for Air Source Heat Pumps.

Rebates for ASHPs for single family homes have also increased under the MassSave program.

**Ground-source heat pumps** (GSHPs) can provide cost-effective, energy-efficient space heating and cooling, hot water and process heat by utilizing the nearly constant temperature underground to transfer heat between the ground and your facility.

GSHPs afford the greatest energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions of any heating and cooling technology. High installation costs are offset by long-term energy cost savings compared with electric heat, oil, propane, or even natural gas heating, plus highly efficient cooling. Customers served by a public utility are eligible for rebates up to \$25,000 for small-scale systems and up to \$250,000 for commercial scale systems.

For more information [click here.](#) For questions on the Clean Energy Center Ground-Source Heat Pump program, contact the MA CEC at [GSHP@masscec.com](mailto:GSHP@masscec.com) or (617) 315-9357.

Would your house of worship like to lower your carbon pollution and energy bills? Request an *Environmental Stewardship Assessment* from MA Interfaith Power & Light by contacting Vince Maraventano at [vince@MIPandL.org](mailto:vince@MIPandL.org) or 617-244-0755.

### Faith Climate Action Week — April 5-14, 2019



Have you made your plans for Faith Climate Action Week yet? [Save the date for April 5-14, 2019.](#)

The kits will soon be ready for you to order. This year we will find joy and rejuvenation in the natural world and reconnect to why we love and protect our planet. When we protect the climate, we can help both our communities and our natural world thrive. This is our premier event to connect our religious values with climate action and get climate sermons preached from the pulpit!

In addition to our sample sermons on caring for Creation and the climate, we'll have resources and links for the national prayer, music, postcards for our U.S. Senators, how to lead an outdoor experience, and more to help involve and educate your congregation on protecting the climate.

[Please click here to reserve a copy of your 2019 Faith Climate Action Week kit today.](#)

Meanwhile, [explore the website](#) for inspiration.

### Faith Science Alliance Conference — February 8th



One year ago, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and Dr. Philip Duffy of the Woods Hole Research Center called a meeting of faith leaders and scientists to explore opportunities to address the ecological and moral emergency of climate change in Massachusetts. The enthusiasm for this idea became clear on May 23rd, 2018, when 600 people signed an open letter calling on the leaders of Massachusetts to address the climate crisis with the boldness and urgency it requires, with substantive and immediate action.

The Alliance is holding an Open Plenary Meeting for scientists and leaders of faith communities.

**Faith Science Alliance Conference**  
February 8, 2019 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Simboli Hall Room 100, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry  
9 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135  
Rev. Bryan Hehir, keynote speaker

More details coming soon. Save the date and RSVP for the event here: [www.faithsciencealliance.org](http://www.faithsciencealliance.org).

For questions or to get involved, email [faithsciencealliance@gmail.com](mailto:faithsciencealliance@gmail.com).

### Climate Change, Extreme Weather & Vulnerability: An Interfaith Summit — March 10



Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2 pm to 6 pm  
Old South Church,  
645 Boylston St.,  
Boston MA 02116

Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)

To RSVP, and to view a working draft of the agenda, please visit [www.climatecrew.org/summit](http://www.climatecrew.org/summit).

### 2nd Jewish Climate Conference: The Time is Short, The Task is Great



Sunday, March 24, 1 pm-7:30 pm  
Temple Reyim  
1860 Washington St.  
Newton MA

This half-day conference brings the Jewish community together to explore surmounting challenges and mobilizing communities to act.

Early bird sign-up at [bit.ly/2FKEtZt](http://bit.ly/2FKEtZt)  
[Jewishclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:Jewishclimateaction@gmail.com)  
[www.jewishclimate.org](http://www.jewishclimate.org)

### Reflections of the Month



There is no life in the sea,  
No creature in the river,  
Nothing in the heavens,  
That does not proclaim God's goodness

There is no bird on the wing,  
No star in the sky,  
Nothing beneath the sun,  
That does not proclaim God's goodness.

*Anonymous*

Love has bridged the high-rises  
of despair we were about to fall  
between. Love has been a penlight  
in the blackest, bleakest nights.  
Love has been a wild animal, a  
poultice, a dinghy, a coat.  
Love is why we have hope.

*Anne Lamott*

"It always seems Impossible until it is done"

*Nelson Mandela*

Peace and blessings,

Your friends at Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light