

Dear friends,

## **House Energy Bills Inadequate — Demonstrate at State House Thursday at Noon!**

Massachusetts' current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires utilities to increase the amount of electricity generated by renewable energy by 1% per year. In June the Massachusetts Senate passed a bill increasing the rate to 3% per year which would have gotten us to 100% renewables by 2047. On July 13th the Massachusetts **House passed H4738 requiring much slower growth**. The House bill mandates 2% increases effective July 2019 but dropping back to 1% in 2031.

350 MA and other environmental organizations will be **demonstrating in front of the State House on Thursday July 19 at Noon** to demand stronger climate legislation this session. Andrew Gordon of 350 Massachusetts said the RPS choice was "unconscionable." Claire Miller of Toxics Action Center said she is "shocked" at House inaction on climate change. Amendments by various lawmakers to upgrade the RPS, protect ratepayers from paying for pipelines, and ensure environmental justice were squelched by House leadership.

All but the smallest solar projects are on hold in 230 communities across the Commonwealth. Over 3,000 Massachusetts solar jobs have been lost since the latest round of net metering caps went into effect. Net metering caps dramatically slow the growth of solar energy in the Commonwealth. The Senate bill eliminates solar net metering caps, exempts community shared solar from the net metering caps, and increases net metering rates for publicly-assisted housing (among many other energy reforms). **The House failed to act on net metering caps.**

Currently solar energy systems serving the 85% of Massachusetts residents who live in condos, apartments, low-income housing or have a shaded roof receive 40% less for their net metering credits than residents who are lucky enough to own unshaded solar roofs. Full net metering credits must be provided for low-income people and community solar systems. **The House failed to equalize net metering rates!**

**The House also failed to act on carbon pricing and environmental justice.** The House and Senate are expected to appoint a conference committee to negotiate the differences between the House energy bills and the Senate bill.

Call and email your representatives and ask them to tell the conference committee members to:

- Ensure fair and equitable access to the benefits of solar energy for everyone in Massachusetts
- Accelerate Renewable Portfolio Standard Increases to 3% per year;
- Eliminate Net Metering Caps; and
- Codify Environmental Justice into Law.

Read more [here](#).

### The Tie that Binds: Creation Care & Interfaith Dialogue



**Saturday, July 21 & Sunday, July 22, 2018  
Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center  
660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA 01845**

Featuring Saturday afternoon panel discussion plenary with interfaith environmental leaders:

- IbrahimAbdul-Matin
- Rev. Norman Comtois
- Rabbi Judy Kummer
- Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, moderator

Saturday Evening Concert with Rev. Fred Small and Sunday Afternoon Workshops

Register at: [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)

Questions: Call 978-682-8815 or email: [thestaff@rollingridge.org](mailto:thestaff@rollingridge.org)

### Worcester Catholic Environmental Stewardship Conference



## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIOCESE OF WORCESTER, MA**

**September 23, 2018, 1:00–4:30 pm  
College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Campus Center  
1 College St. Worcester, MA 01610**

Opening Prayer Service and Comments  
His Excellency, **The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus**, Bishop of Worcester

Why is this a Catholic Issue?  
**The Rev. Father William Campbell**, VP of Mission, Holy Cross

Scarcity and the Economics of Pollution  
**Dr. Katherine Kiel**, Professor of Economics, Holy Cross

Environment and the Role of Government  
**Matthew Beaton**, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Panel Discussion among Parish leaders.

Sponsored by Diocese of Worcester: <http://environment.worcesterdiocese.org>

### Global Climate Action Summit September 12–14 in San Francisco

This September 12-14, mayors, governors, business leaders, religious leaders, and NGOs from around the world are gathering in San Francisco for the Global Climate Action Summit. Many of us will be taking this opportunity to push for faster action on climate. [A Join us and take part in the summit's faith-rooted affiliated events](#)



The Global Climate Action Summit is being convened by California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Patricia Espinoza, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The goal is to accelerate climate action and ambition in advance of 2020. This is critical because not only has the United States pulled out of the Paris agreement, but the commitments made in Paris are not sufficient to achieve the stated goal of keeping warming "well below" the 2-degree Celsius threshold that scientists tell us is the absolute upper limit our world can withstand without catastrophic impacts.

That's why IPL and our faith partners are hosting a Multi-Faith "Service of Wondering and Commitment" at Grace Cathedral, along with a series of faith-rooted affiliate events designed just for faith community leaders and members that will also take place during the second week of September.

Click [here](#) to find out more and pre-register for the GCAS faith-rooted affiliate events.Â

There is no better way to show what can be done than to lead by example — so we will be building a list of the U.S. congregations and religious institutions taking concrete action to reduce carbon pollution to present at the summit — just as we did in Paris. Want to make sure your faith community is on the list?

Take the Paris Pledge [here](#).

It will take immense, collective action to bend the emissions trajectory downward and we must begin now. It is abundantly clear that leadership is not coming from the federal government. It will come from our cities, our communities, our churches, our mosques, our temples — the real front lines of this movement. Thank you for your leadership.

### **PLEASE DONATE TODAY**

Donate by going to [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) and clicking on the red **Donate** button.

*Peace and blessings,*

*Your friends at Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light*