

Dear MIP&L members and friends,

## Faith Leaders Urge Political Action on Climate Change



At Mass. Interfaith Power & Light's thirteenth annual meeting on November 11th at St. Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, four faith leaders shared their views on responding to the call for action sounded by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* — *Caring for Our Common Home*. Calling the encyclical "the most important document written in our lifetime" **Patrick Carolan**, Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network emphasized Francis' statement that "We human beings above all need to change."

The importance of becoming engaged politically was also emphasized by Carolan, **Rabbi Katy Allen**, President of the Jewish Climate Action Network, **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal**, President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ and **Christiana Leano**, Director of Global Outreach for the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM). Antal cited the role of civil disobedience in defeating the Keystone XL pipeline and mentioned that both he and Carolan went to jail to protest it. He also urged people to tell the leaders of their congregations and faiths to emphasize climate change in their worship and in the lives of their communities.

As the crucial **COP21 negotiations begin in Paris on November 30th**, actions can be taken at many levels, including:

- Pray for a strong universal climate treaty and for communities affected by climate disruption by joining the [#Pray4cop21 online Prayer Chain](#) between now and the end of COP21 on December 11th.
- Tell your state legislators to capture the social and public health costs of fossil fuel emissions by putting a price on carbon, by [clicking here](#). Read a compelling article by James Hansen on the significance of carbon fee and rebate to a global solution by [clicking here](#).
- Tell the governor and your state legislators to provide more clean energy from wind and solar sources, and support the Mass Power Forward campaign by [clicking here](#).
- Honestly face what stands in the way of actually changing your life, and support the efforts of others in your faith community to do the same, by participating in [4 Steps for the Planet](#).
- Tell your rabbis, imams, ministers and priests to regularly address climate change during communal prayer and worship.

For an Encyclical Climate Action kit, (free in English and Spanish) [click here](#).

## MASSACHUSETTS FAITH LEADERS TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF PRICING CARBON



In a dramatic show of grassroots support for putting a price on carbon, hundreds of people turned out at hearings of the Joint Committee on Utilities, Telecommunications and Energy on October 27th. Senators Mike Barrett, (D-Lexington) and Marc Pacheco (D-New Bedford) have both filed bills to put a price on carbon. The Barrett Bill, S1747, would provide rebates to taxpayers for all carbon fees collected. The Pacheco Bill S1786, would bring transportation and heating fuels within the current cap and trade system and retain 20% of all revenues to fund measures to further reduce fossil fuel emissions.

**Vince Maraventano** Executive Director of Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light, **Rev. Ray Selker** of St. Anthony's Shrine, Boston, **Rabbi Katy Allen**, President of the Jewish Climate Action Network, **Rev. Reebee Girash** of Eliot Church of Newton, and **Rev. Stephen Ayres** of Old North Church in Boston, all testified in support of pricing carbon to capture its social and public health costs.

The last 6 months have seen major statements by the Pope of diverse faiths on the importance of acting on climate change. "If Protestant leaders can agree with the Pope, rabbis can agree with imams, and Black church leaders can agree with the National Association of Evangelicals on climate change, I hope and pray that the governor and the legislature can agree on these important bills," Maraventano told the committee. "The design of the particular carbon pricing mechanism is far less important than the costs of failure to adopt any ... mechanism. We must not let the perfect be the enemy of what is not only good, but also what is necessary," he added.

Climate change most hurts those who contribute the least to it—poor people and people of color. "There is a moral imperative to make the systemic changes needed to prevent this climate injustice," Maraventano testified. Rev. Ayres said that the General Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts endorsed pricing carbon in 2013.

Legislators, economists, business people, civic groups and environmentalists also testified. For more on the issue [click here](#). Read the [Washington Post's](#) article on similar initiatives in Vermont, Oregon and Washington.

## ENTER THE COOL CONGREGATIONS CHALLENGE BY DECEMBER 15TH — WIN \$1,000



Has your faith community taken big steps towards addressing climate change this year? Congregations that have finished an energy efficiency, renewable energy, or grounds and water conservation project this year are eligible to enter our Cool Congregations Challenge! Is your project still in the planning stages? Enter in our planning category! The Cool Congregations Challenge is a contest hosted by Interfaith Power & Light that awards prizes of \$1,000 to congregations that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models in response to climate change. [Click here](#) to download an entry guide, and to enter. **Deadline is December 15.**

## Carbon Pricing Forum on December 3



A community forum on carbon pricing in Massachusetts

for Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge residents

The world's leading economists agree that putting a price on carbon is the single best way to tackle climate change and reduce carbon pollution, and we're working to make Massachusetts the first state in the nation to pass this groundbreaking policy. If you're curious about carbon pricing or interested in getting more involved in the campaign, come to a forum in Arlington on December 3! You'll have the chance to ask questions and hear directly from experts like economist Marc Breslow. RSVP and get all the details [here](#).

## Community Shared Solar Round Table

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 6:00 PM  
All Saints Parish Church, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline, MA



Community Shared Solar (CSS) provides houses of worship, homeowners and businesses with the ability to buy solar power. CSS is a great option for those unable to install solar panels due to the size, orientation or shape of their roof. Learn about the benefits of CSS projects and some of the challenges they face.

To register [click here](#).

## Jobs, Justice & Climate Rally

Saturday, December 12th 2015 – 1 PM at Boston Common



DEC 12 BOSTON COMMON 1-3 PM

mass mobilization for local solutions to the global climate crisis

[www.jobsjusticeclimate.org](http://www.jobsjusticeclimate.org)

With 2015 on track to be hottest year on record, organized labor, immigrant rights, climate justice & racial justice groups will come together on Boston Common on December 12th to call for climate solutions that create secure union jobs & strengthen community power. For more information [click here](#).



## Iroquois Thanking Prayer

"We return thanks to our Mother, the Earth, which sustains us with.

We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.

We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.

We return thanks to the sun that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness,

and Who directs all things for the good of Her children."

— *Iroquois Prayer, adapted by Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace*

## PLEASE DONATE TODAY



Mass. Interfaith Power & Light provides a faith based response to global warming by helping people and faith communities to lower their carbon footprints and by advocating for public policies that fulfill our moral responsibility to create a sustainable future.

Please help us carry out this critical mission by going to [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org), clicking on the DONATE button and making a secure, fully tax deductible donation.

*If not us who? If not now, when?*

*Peace and blessings,*

*Your friends at MIP&L*