



California
Interfaith
Power &
Light

Moving Forward with Faith: Leading by Example

Congregational Emissions Reduction Report
2011-2012

Faith Communities – Leading with Hope

In 2011 and the first half of 2012, California Interfaith Power & Light has witnessed a strengthening and expansion of the faith community's commitment to the principle of caring for Creation.

Despite federal inaction on climate issues, there is hope. There is an undeniable movement forward from multiple sectors of society, recognizing climate change as a reality and working to lessen its impact. Like a train that has left the station, actions toward a healthier, more sustainable future are gaining momentum. And the faith community – with CIPL members in the lead – is at the forefront of these efforts.

This is what makes action grounded in faith so powerful – it works with a sense of community, confidence, and trust that our work will make a difference for future generations.



Green Gulch Farm Zen Center's new student center, built on "passive house" principles, helps to reduce carbon emissions. All actions - individual and communal - add up!

Protecting Creation Together

Each year, CIPL surveys its member congregations to find out what new energy-saving measures they have employed.

In 2011, their actions prevented more than 24,600,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions.

That's the equivalent of:

- 1,252,903 gallons of gasoline consumed
- 25,990 barrels of oil consumed
- CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of 1,394 homes for one year
- CO₂ emissions from burning 61 railcars worth of coal

Since 2002, CIPL member congregations have prevented 116,824,275 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.



“External” measures such as tree planting, shown here at First Presbyterian San Bernardino, help absorb emissions while beautifying the community.



Action Item:

Water-saving devices are readily available and growing in the popularity they deserve. Check into:

- Low-flow toilets
- Low-flow faucet heads
- Waterless urinals
- Native or drought-resistant landscaping

Check ShopIPL.org for many of these devices.

To St. Francis, all of Creation was our brother or sister. This project uses the resources of brother sun to light up our church and school.

— Pastor Ray Mallett, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church



Skylights in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe flood the building with light without the use of electricity.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

C IPL members' energy efficiency measures saved 15,430,792 kilowatt hours in 2011 and an estimated \$2.4 million was saved on energy costs.

Temple Judea in Tarzana is committed to the principle of “tikkun olam,” to repair the world, which is beautifully expressed in their new and re-built sanctuary and administrative buildings. Sustainable materials were employed, including 25% Fly Ash concrete, recycled stone countertops, a cool roof system and bamboo flooring approved by the Forest Stewardship Council. Other efficiency measures too numerous to list include energy-efficient lighting, occupancy sensors, programmable dimming and lighting control panels, a state-of-the-art HVAC system, and low-flow lavatories and sinks.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hermosa Beach reflects the Franciscan principle of caring for all of Creation. With the goal of being as energy-efficient as possible before going solar, the church employed energy-efficient lighting, skylights, efficient windows, the use of natural ventilation, low-flow toilets and Energy Star appliances. Attention to conservation extended outside the buildings, with drought-resistant landscaping and permeable gravel to reduce run-off and storm water pollution to the ocean. The crowning touch was the 65-kilowatt solar system that powers much of the church's needs.



80% of congregations surveyed had audits performed on their facilities to see how they could reduce their carbon footprint.

Drought-tolerant landscaping and/or organic gardens are becoming more common, with 60% of congregations surveyed having one.



Did You Know...

CIPL has updated its Solar Resource Guide, an overview for congregations. It has great tips on financing options, referrals to solar installers, and narratives from congregations that have gone solar. Check it out on the CIPL website at www.interfaithpower.org.

The San Jose Diocese Solar Energy Initiative is an outstanding achievement that strengthens our goal of encouraging the Catholic community and all people of faith to examine how we use and share the Earth's resources.

— Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, San Jose Catholic Diocese



Jan Freed's individual vision of solar become a communal one at Temple Sinai Glendale.

Renewable Energy

In 2011 we witnessed a continued trend in congregational use of renewable energy, especially solar. Currently there are a number of CIPL members planning solar installations. CIPL is supporting our congregations in exploring solar through our “Solar Nights”, where congregations come together to hear from others who have installed solar, and to meet solar installers who have worked with congregations and can provide bids. Find out more by contacting CIPL.

As part of the San Jose Catholic Diocese Solar Energy Initiative, **Holy Family Church** in San Jose was chosen to be one of six sites featuring solar power. In its first year of operation, the 185 kilowatt system produced 266,000 kilowatt hours of electricity equaling two-thirds of the electricity used by the parish. This clean energy not only prevented 500,000 pounds of CO₂ from being emitted, it also reduced the church’s electrical bill by roughly \$18,000, a 25% reduction from previous years. The success of the initial six solar sites has laid the foundation for phase two of the project, now in the planning stage, in which solar will be installed on another group of Catholic facilities.

There was communal celebration in Glendale as **Temple Sinai** completed its 30 kilowatt solar installation in January 2012. Jan Freed, a member of Temple Sinai, approached his leaders, citing the religious and financial reasons for solar energy use. Soon the whole congregation was on board and now enjoys energy from the sun as well as an estimated \$1,200 a month in savings. Says Freed, “Our business as a religious community, if there is one, is to do what’s right. What a great joy to find so many at Temple Sinai who enthusiastically supported that view!”



The beautifying of Turk and Lyon streets brought the community around St. Cyprian's together.



Fresno's Earth Day event, held at Unitarian Universalist Fresno's sustainable campus, brought in close to 1,000 people.

Education

From teaching about climate change science to hosting film screenings and discussions and sponsoring community events, CIPL members are active in bringing alive the faith value of caring for the Earth.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in San Francisco took a creative, communal approach in educating its members and the larger community about stewardship. The church spearheaded an initiative to transform the hard concrete sidewalks on the corner of Lyon and Turk to a permeable, green landscape. Not only did this project beautify the neighborhood, it also allows rain to filter to the aquifer below, reducing the burden of the city sewer system and saving money. At every step of the way, from holding a fundraiser to recruiting University of San Francisco students to gather research on permeable sidewalks, the project enjoyed community collaboration.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno is gaining wide recognition for its environmental efforts on many fronts. In addition to building a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certified church, the congregation focuses on education for its members and the wider community. In 2011, UU Fresno hosted speakers, sponsored workshops, and co-hosted an Earth Day celebration with the Fresno Earth Day Coalition that attracted close to 1,000 people. The event provided fun activities and loads of information on clean energy vehicles, e-waste recycling, local organic food, green businesses and even a solar cooking demonstration.



Hopeful
Signs

Over 1,000 congregations signed up for Interfaith Power & Light's 2012 National Preach-In on Global Warming, and California had the most sign-ups – 135! Sermons are one of the most effective tools of education and action – encourage your congregation to give more!

California IPL has been critical in mobilizing the faith community to help pass California's landmark legislation on climate and energy.

Religious leaders are making the moral case for taking care of our environment while we put people back to work at clean energy jobs.

We need the faith community's active involvement to...allow California to continue to lead the way to a clean energy future.

— California Senator Fran Pavley



CIPL holds a California Lobby Day each June, bringing faith leaders to Sacramento to advocate for important climate and energy legislation. June 2011 advocates are pictured here.

Advocacy

While individual and congregational actions are important to live our values, in order to effectively curb global warming we need large-scale policy change. CIPL's annual visits to our state and federal legislators help to make the "faith case" for just policies that clean up our energy sources, protect lives, and create a more sustainable future. There have been two big steps forward in the past year:

Historic California Clean Cars Standards

In January, 2012, the California Air Resources Board approved the strongest national suite of standards that will clean up the cars we drive through 2025. CIPL led the charge from the faith community for these standards, submitting letters from California faith advocates as well as a sign-on letter from nearly a dozen faith organizations. California's strong policy stand helped change national law. The state was at the negotiating table with the automakers and the White House, resulting in new federal mileage standards of 54.5 miles per gallon.

Federal EPA's Industrial Carbon Pollution Standards

For the first time in history, the Environmental Protection Agency, in accordance with the Clean Air Act and a U.S. Supreme Court directive, proposed regulations that will limit carbon pollution from new power plants. Interfaith Power & Light supported this action, demonstrating support from the faith community in the form of clergy testimony at public hearings, legislative visits, and written comments to the EPA urging that greenhouse gases be regulated as a danger to human health.

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For more information about Energy Star for Congregations, visit:
www.energystar.gov

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