



MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

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January 2022

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Inspiration

Dear friends,

A new year brings many new things. And for MassIPL it brings a new logo and a new look! The new logo puts our mission front-and-center in all our communications while giving it a fresh appearance. We hope you like it!

While many resolutions fall by the wayside soon after January 1, don't let that happen to your resolution to continue to fight for climate and environmental justice!

This newsletter gives you many opportunities to act on that resolution in many areas of your life: adopting one or more of the '10 Ways To Confront the Climate Crisis', learning more about 'electrification', advocating for important issues now being debated at the Federal and state level.

Happy New Year!

The MassIPL Team

Pray

Connect environmental justice to your faith tradition through prayer, worship, and reflection

Join The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest, January 10 - 14

The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest is a free, (mostly) online, collaborative festival by and for people who want to activate Jewish values to move the needle on climate change. Anchored in the holiday of Tu BiShvat, the Fest combines theory, practice, and action that to

can carry in your personal, professional, and volunteer lives throughout the year.

The Fest is a combination of **MainStage events** curated by our program committee (including representatives from Hazon and Dayenu), and a groundswell of **community-produced events** from Fest partners and experts.



Register for The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest



Get Your Faith Climate Action Week Ideas and Resources

Now is the time to plan to be part of the national IPL Faith Climate Action Week, April 22 - May 1. The national Interfaith Power & Light web site offers a number of suggestions and a resource kit so your congregation can join with all the other IPL member congregations across the country who will take part.

[Click here for your Faith Climate Action Week resources.](#)

Act

Lower the carbon emissions of your house of worship and your home



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Try These 10 Ways to Confront the Climate Crisis

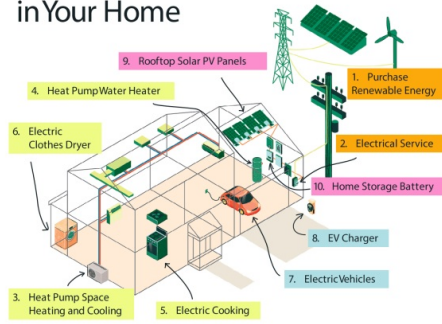
Likely you are making resolutions about what you can do in 2022 to lower your own carbon footprint, engage in legislative action, and support your favorite climate advocacy organizations. We highly recommend [this article from The Guardian](#) because it focuses not on adding more things to your to do list, but offers wisdom for how to renew and re-energize yourself for the long term. We especially like #10 "Don't Neglect Beauty" and #2 "Pay Attention To What Is Already Happening".

Two New Resources To Guide You Toward Electrification

Electrification is the key to lowering our carbon footprints: substituting electricity for fossil fuels to heat our homes and hot water, as well as to power our cars. Paired with increasing amounts of solar, wind, and other renewable sources of electricity on the grid, adopting technologies such as heat pumps and electric cars lessen our carbon emissions.

These technologies are more and more common

Where to Electrify Everything in Your Home



but may be unfamiliar to you. These two sites provide great resources to quickly learn about them so you will be ready to make the switch at your home or house of worship when it comes time for a new vehicle or to replace heating and cooling equipment:

- **Electrify Everything In Your Home** This guide from Rewiring America steps you through the 10 places you can electrify your home and provides a checklist to help you prioritize which actions to take when. PS. Most of these actions are appropriate for your house of worship, too!
- **Normal Now** Don't let the charming, light-hearted

tone of this site distract you from the great information about the capabilities, benefits, and electric car models available. Not ready for pure electric yet? The site also lists hybrids and plug-in hybrids.

Mobilize

Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world

Support EPA's Plan to Limit Methane Emissions

Here's a way to slow global warming now. It is quick and does not cost a lot. Methane (natural gas) traps over 80 times more heat in the short term than carbon dioxide. Much of this pollution comes from leaky natural gas pipelines, wells, and other facilities the oil and gas industry refuses to monitor or clean up.

Let's do something about it. Sign [this petition](#) that Climate Reality is sponsoring to support the EPA's proposal to take action to dramatically reduce methane emissions from both existing and new wells and infrastructure nationwide. To make a more impactful comment, go to: [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Urgent action needed here in Massachusetts: make your voice heard on key climate justice bills!

Important climate justice bills are awaiting action in the Massachusetts legislature. *If they aren't reported out of committee by February 2, they die.* Here are four priority bills you can help move toward passage:

1. Is **100% green energy** for electricity, heating, and transportation in Massachusetts' future? The [100 % Clean Act](#) (H.3288/S.2136) lays out clear steps and a just transition.
2. How will we **reach our crucial Massachusetts climate goals** and pay for the steps needed to achieve them? The [Green Future Act](#) (H.3292) provides practical and equitable solutions.
3. **Climate justice, housing justice, and economic justice go hand in hand.** The [Building Justice with Jobs Act](#) (note current bill numbers: H.3365/S.2226) will put thousands of people to work retrofitting one million Massachusetts homes over the next decade to make them safer, healthier, and more energy efficient.
4. **If you need to set it on fire, it isn't renewable.** The [Biomass Burning bill](#) (H.3333/S.2197) prohibits labelling woody biomass as a renewable resource.

All four of these bills are still pending before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE Committee).

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Contact TUE Co-Chairs Senator Mike Barrett** (Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov) and **Representative Jeffrey Roy** (Jeffrey.Roy@mahouse.gov) and urge immediate action on these bills.

2. **Contact your own Massachusetts senator and representative** and ask that they communicate their strong support for these bills to Sen. Barrett and Rep. Roy. (If you don't know your legislators or how to reach them, click [here](#).)

Massachusetts' leadership is desperately needed in the struggle for climate justice, and the legislature won't lead unless they hear from us, their constituents. Don't let the moment pass—act now!

Join with our partner Mass Power Forward to advocate even more effectively for climate justice!

Mass IPL is a proud member of **Mass Power Forward**, a coalition of organizations fighting for climate justice. Mass Power Forward is championing **six key bills**, which center racial equity and promote green jobs, clean energy, air quality, and more. To even be considered by the full legislature, these bills must be voted out of the legislative Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy (TUE) by February 2nd. As the clock is ticking, here is the plan for January:

Monday, 1/10 6:30-8:30pm - Legislation and Lobby Day Training : Learn about how we'll pass meaningful climate legislation this session as well as how to participate in the MPF Lobby Day January 27! **Register here**.

Thursday, 1/13 6:30 - 7:30pm - Racial and Climate Justice Training : Focusing on racial justice as well as providing more information about the January 27th lobby day. **Register here**.

Monday 1/17 - Friday 1/21 - Lobby Meetings in Key Districts : Email MassIPL Organizer Miriam at mcohen@massipl.org if you are a constituent of a member of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) and are interested in joining a virtual group meeting with your legislator! (Click [here](#) to find your representative and senator and [here](#) to see who is on the TUE.)

Thursday 1/27 - PUSH to Get Our Bills out of Committee : A virtual lobby day with MPF: the final push for the TUE committee to vote our bills out of committee so that the full legislature can pass them! **Register here**.

Please email Miriam at mcohen@massipl.org with any questions.



2022 Climate Policy Briefing, January 25, 2022, 2:00 pm

We have unfinished work in Congress with the Build Back Better Act and its essential investments in climate action. We also expect some new opportunities to advance climate action, both in Congress and through agency rule-making processes.

IPL Federal Policy Associate Jonathan Lacock-Nisly and Organizing Director Bill Bradlee will provide a 2021 climate analysis and an update on our policy priorities going into 2022.

Inspiration

Quiet friend who has come so far,

feel how your breathing makes more space around you.
Let this darkness be a bell tower
and you the bell. As you ring,

what batters you becomes your strength.
Move back and forth into the change.
What is it like, such intensity of pain?
If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine.

In this uncontainable night,
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,
the meaning discovered there.
And if the world has ceased to hear you,
say to the silent earth: I flow.
To the rushing water, speak: I am.

--Rainer Maria Rilke, *[Let This Darkness be a Bell Tower](#)*



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