



Friends,

Who could be blamed in times like these for wanting to stick their head in the sand?

Almost every day there's more disturbing news-- hate crimes against Jews and immigration bans on Muslims, the resuscitation of the Dakota Access Pipeline, the latest chapter of Russiagate, funding cuts that would all but gut the EPA.



But we're hoping you won't. Now is the time to remember that we are called to live with hope rather than despair.

One way we can do this is by reaping the rewards of battles we have already won. Here's an example:

Remember those times we asked you urge your state legislators to strengthen and extend the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy standards? Some of us did this *many times* in the last several years. We also went to Lansing, published Op Eds, and stood up for the moral importance of protecting our Earth through sensible energy policy.

[And then, in November, we finally won. :\)](#)

We didn't just win abstract energy goals: among other things, we won the continuation of utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs. These are the programs that require utilities to help homeowners, businesses, *and congregations* save energy by offering guidance and free energy efficiency products.

In partnership with Consumers Energy, we've already brought this program to over 200 congregations across the state. On average, these congregations are getting \$1,000 of free upgrades and can expect to save \$500/year on energy. Not too shabby, eh?

And we're doing it again, for the third year in a row. There is no catch. We fought hard for this, and we won. So reap the rewards of this victory!

**Sign up today** if your congregation:

- is located in the Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Flint or Saginaw areas
- is a Consumers customer
- hasn't participated in the program before

Or reach Jennifer at [projectmanager@miipl.org](mailto:projectmanager@miipl.org) or 248-463-8811. Pass it along!



**Sign up online**

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We asked, you answered. Thanks to everyone who participated in our **2017 conference survey!** We got a lot of useful suggestions that we WILL use in our planning.

One message came through especially clear: learning *first hand* about what congregations are doing to green their buildings and integrate Creation care into their congregational lives is really important to you. So we're building the conference around that theme.

We're still looking into some of the keynotes you suggested... Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more details!

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### **In other news:**

**Our [Carbon Fast for Lent calendar](#) is now available**, and it's not too late to get started! We hope that this Lenten season will be a time not merely for "giving something up," but for a more fundamental transformation-- a shifting of the heart that brings us into right relationship with the Earth and all Creation. Join us for the fast!

## Carbon Fast for Lent



**Green Living Science, a Detroit nonprofit, can help your metro Detroit business or congregation start recycling!** They'll provide an on-site assessment and connect you with a recycling vendor, a dumpster, and pick-up service for a single stream recycling program. Contact [info@greenlivingscience.org](mailto:info@greenlivingscience.org) or (313) 871-4000, ext. 3, for more.



**Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit** doesn't just hold a fabulous annual conference. They also host events to help keep participants connected throughout the year, including a **monthly film + discussion series on the 4th Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30** at the MSU Detroit Center. The event is free and free parking is available at the MSU lot on Simpson and Woodward.



**Interfaith Action for Human Rights is continuing its Banner Project--** an initiative meant to foster solidarity with Muslims and to enable non-Muslim congregations to take a stand against Islamophobia. **Banners are available for sale here.**



The **Michigan Battle of the Buildings** is seeking participants for its annual **"Biggest Loser" competition** that recognizes buildings for energy waste reduction. Building operators can register for the Battle from now until March 31. Awardees are chosen on the basis of energy improvements made in the previous calendar year.



**Building Operator Certification (BOC) Training is coming to Marquette, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Okemos this spring.** Maximize your facility's energy efficiency potential and enhance your job skills by earning this nationally-recognized credential. **View the BOC website** for more information and **register here.**

**The Governor's Energy Excellence Awards are here again!** Nominations (including self-nominations) must be submitted by March



31. Awardees from all building sectors have a record of achievements in energy excellence, especially firm, meaningful actions to stop energy waste. [Submit your nomination here.](#)

**Don't forget to check out our new initiative!**

Build your business's Triple Bottom Line with [MIGreenLine](#), your direct line to energy solutions.

**Saturday, April 22 is Earth Day.** Have a program or event you think our supporters would be interested in? [Email Leah.](#)

**Upcoming events:**

3/27/17: [Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit's monthly film screening](#) and discussion, *Before the Flood*, 6:30-8:30pm at the MSU Detroit Center.

3/29/17: [Hope for Creation - Climate Ready Kalamazoo](#), 7-8pm, Schneider Hall, WMU.

4/29/17: [People's Climate Mobilization](#), Washington, DC.



**Resources**

Check out our free resources-- from energy efficiency manuals to study guides on the spiritual foundations of earth care.

[Resources »](#)

**Love Our Work?**

Your support enables us to help faith communities become more sustainable through action, education, and advocacy.

[Donate »](#)

**Become an Advocate**

We have a moral responsibility to protect the Earth and love our neighbors. Help us make systemic change!

[Advocate »](#)

**Connect with Us**



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