



Déjà Vu, All Over Again

Friends,

Sometimes advocating for the protection of our air, land, and water feels like being in a time loop-- am I right? We ask our lawmakers to enact legislation to keep our communities and our Earth healthy. Crises emerge, and we do it again, with a renewed sense of urgency. Bills that prioritize profit over people are introduced, and it feels like we're right back at the drawing board.

Catastrophic situations like the Flint water crisis and the hazardous air quality in Southwest Detroit are heartbreaking reminders that our work is always incomplete.



So how do we keep up our spirits on this long and hard road? How do we

bolster our resolve and continue the work?

Nourishing our spirits while helping the long arc of our moral universe bend toward justice is vital. In the words of Thomas Merton, "to allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands... destroys the fruitfulness of our own work because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."

Taking time to connect with the wisdom of our religious traditions and the support of our spiritual communities are great ways to do this. Tapping into the "root of inner wisdom" through prayer, through rest and reflection, and through fellowship can help us find strength, refresh our spirits and gain perspective.

In the past year, we've asked you to reach out to your lawmakers about the moral importance of clean energy on numerous occasions. And we'll continue to make those asks this year, in spite of the repetitiveness, because we know your efforts are making a difference.

Last year bills were introduced in the House and Senate that would have done away with Michigan's highly successful energy efficiency and renewable energy standards. One would have changed the definition of "renewable energy" to include the burning of tires and other hazardous waste. Another would have killed Michigan's growing solar energy industry in our state by removing the producer-side benefit of net-metering.

And guess what? These bills didn't get passed. They are still in various stages of amendments and discussion because people like YOU have kept up the steady drumbeat of opposition. (For a detailed look back at 2015, see this excellent [summary](#) by the MI Energy Innovation Business Council.)

This victory, while partial, is evidence of our effectiveness. Here are two ways you can join us in carrying on the good fight this year:

1. [Sign up for our Advocacy list](#) so you will be notified about opportunities to help the cause.
2. Come to our "[Own Your Power](#)" [clean energy advocacy forum](#) on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 6:30-8:30 at Royal Oak First United Methodist Church. Learn

about energy-related issues and how you can be a more effective advocate. Rep. Julie Plawecki, a member of the House Energy and Natural Resources committees, will be our Keynote Speaker. We're bringing food, so please [RSVP!](#)

Yours in faithful solidarity,



Leah Wiste, Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator



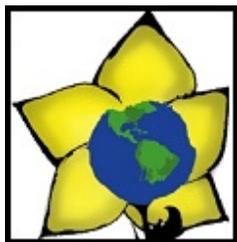
Engage with the spirituality of Lent and build sustainable habits by joining our Carbon Fast! We've created a calendar that suggests actions you can take each day to reduce your carbon footprint. The goal is that by committing ourselves to sustainable actions, we will integrate the intention to be better stewards of the Earth. Lent begins this year on Feb. 10. [Sign up to do the Carbon Fast](#) with other Michigan IPL supporters or just [download the calendar](#).



Live in Greater Farmington? Want to make your home more energy efficient but don't know where to begin? Invite Michigan IPL and Consumers Energy to your house of worship for a [free energy efficiency workshop](#). We bring food and prizes, you bring questions! Contact Leah, outreach@miipl.org, to become a host.



[Join the 2016 Battle of the Buildings!](#) This is a great way for houses of worship to show leadership on sustainability and demonstrate how your congregation puts faith into action.



"Faith and Climate Justice," a series of conversations about earth care, will be held Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, at First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo from 7-8:30pm. Clergy from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions will discuss religious teachings on Earth care and how religious communities can contribute to the great work that lies ahead. Contact Cybelle Shattuck for more information: scybelle@umich.edu.

Create a sustainability plan for your congregation! The US Green Building Council Students invite you to their [conference](#) (in Grand Rapids Feb. 19-21) for one-on-one help in sustainability planning. As a member of a congregation, your registration is FREE. Contact Leah, outreach@miipl.org, 248-376-4603, for more information.



Events:

[Citizens' Climate Lobby Detroit Group Start Workshop, Saturday Feb. 13 from 10:30am-2pm at Cass Corridor Commons, Detroit.](#)



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.

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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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