



Faith in Action: Congregations Caring for Creation through Energy Efficiency

Last year, Michigan IPL brought \$220,000 in energy efficiency upgrades to 122 houses of worship across the state. Not only will these congregations spend less on utilities, they can also put more into their missions and take pride in knowing that they are being better stewards of God's Creation.



In a state that still relies on coal-fired power plants to produce more than half of its electricity, this is no small thing. We estimate that the gas and electricity savings these houses of worship will achieve are equivalent to the CO₂ emissions created by burning 471 tons of coal. And the overall greenhouse gas emissions savings are equivalent to taking 100 cars off the road for a year.

In 2016, we're glad to be continuing the work. **If your house of worship is located in the Saginaw, Muskegon, or Grand Rapids areas, and is a Consumers Energy customer, contact us to get your free energy assessment and efficiency upgrades (an average value of \$2,000): 248-537-9175 or director@miipl.org.**



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.



The Gospel in the Ecological Crisis: A Training for Christian Clergy will be held June 6-10 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The Center for Earth Ethics is offering this training free of charge (and providing room and board) for faith leaders who wish to address the impacts of climate change in their congregations and communities. [Apply to participate by March 11.](#)



Join the [2016 Battle of the Buildings contest](#) by March, 31! This is a great way for houses of worship to show leadership on sustainability and demonstrate how your congregation puts its faith into action. Peoples Church of E. Lansing, Aldersgate United Methodist of Midland, and Calvary Christian Church of Swartz Creek have already signed up.



As a testament to its deep commitment to Creation care, [Madonna University](#) plans to install a 140kW solar array this spring. This is a part of a nation-wide effort by the University's founders, the Felician Sisters, to dramatically increase its use of renewable energy. Michigan IPL co-founders Fr. Charles Morris and Mark Clevey are leading the charge for solar energy at the university. We'll bring you more as the project progresses!



Great things happen when households, congregations, schools and communities take steps to own their power! Our friends at [Souldardity](#) are working with residents of Highland Park to install community-owned solar street lights. Read more about their exceptional work [here](#). "Let there be light," indeed!

Upcoming events:

Lynn Henning speaks on "The Environmental Impacts of Factory Farms and Their Pollution," Monday March 7, 5:30pm at the University of Michigan. Includes dinner, [RSVP required.](#)

[Solar Presentation at the Ypsilanti District Library will be held on April 23, 10am-12pm.](#)

Michigan Geothermal Energy Association's 2016 Conference will be held at Soaring Eagle Resort (Mt. Pleasant) on April 26-27. Questions? Email johnsarver3@gmail.com.



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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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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