A Note From Bob Chapman

Allow me to introduce myself! I am less than a month in as Executive Director but I am no stranger to Michigan IPL. As director of WARM Training Center (now EcoWorks), I remember meeting with Fr. Charles Morris in the early days at his East Lansing office. WARM later collaborated with Michigan IPL on energy efficiency projects during Julie Lyons Bricker’s tenure as Michigan IPL’s Executive Director. I always thought of Michigan IPL as a sister organization in the struggle to champion energy efficiency and renewable energy as effective alternatives to simply building more power plants to heat, light and cool our society.

My 35 years of energy-related work is fueled by the conviction that “green is for all.” Energy choices at the individual, state and national levels have social justice implications. I agree with the 2,000 year old sentiment that faith without works is dead. Show me what you do and I will tell you what you believe. Michigan IPL has a simple yet profound challenge: to give tools and voice to those who strive to put their faith statements into action concerning being in right relationship with the earth.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Michigan IPL’s Executive Director, grateful for the hard, good work that has gone on before me, impressed with the dedication and skill of the current staff and Board, and determined to work with them to make a long lasting impact. I need-- we need-- your help and prayers. Please feel free to reach out to me any time.

Peace,

Bob

Advocacy Update-- More Action Needed

On Thursday of last week, the House Energy committee voted to approve a new energy plan. The plan will now go to the full House for a vote, while the Senate Energy committee works on its own version of the legislation.

Thanks to the efforts of people like you, the bills have undergone significant transformation since they were proposed by House Energy committee Chair Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) in March. On a positive note, the current legislation does not repeal the highly successful Energy Efficiency Standard (which has, among other things, helped fund utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs for houses of worship, homeowners and small businesses).
This represents a step in the right direction, but the current plan doesn't go nearly far enough. By replacing the current Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy "Standards" with softer, less-enforceable "goals," it fails to hold utilities accountable. And by urging a very modest increase in our use of renewable energy-- about 5% over the next decade-- the plan cements our continued overreliance on fossil fuel-based energy sources and the pollution it entails.

Many of you responded to the Advocacy Alert we sent last week. As the full House prepares for a vote, it is especially critical now to educate those Representatives who are not members of the House Energy Policy committee.

Please take this opportunity to reach out-- or reach out once again-- to your lawmakers and ask them to support an energy plan that aggressively supports clean energy, curbs carbon pollution, and helps ensure a healthier Michigan.

Conference Materials Now Online

Missed our Green & Grow Your Congregation conference on October 9? Went to the conference but didn't get to see all of the workshops you wanted to see? Check out some of the presentations on our website, and check out the write-up by GreeningDetroit.com.

Save the Date!

On December 12, Michigan IPL will join Earth supporters from across the state at the Michigan Climate March. Join us as we take to the streets and tell the State of Michigan: Keep fossil fuels in the ground and finance a just transition to 100% renewable energy! RSVP for the event HERE and join on Facebook HERE.

Cool it.

Check out National Geographic's special issue on climate change - some great information and some amazing photos!

Upcoming Events

Michigan Energy Forum, Ann Arbor, 11/12

GLREA Annual Meeting, Dinner and Award Ceremony, Grand Rapids, 12/5

Michigan Climate March, Ann Arbor, 12/12

Resources

Check out a list of our free online resources for congregations. From energy efficiency guides to study manuals that help faith communities engage with the spiritual dimensions of earth care.

Love Our Work?

Become a member! See our membership benefits (including discounts on energy efficiency products). Or, make a tax deductible donation in any amount.
Become an Advocate
In 2015, Michigan's renewable energy standard will expire. Sign up to stay informed about policy and advocacy opportunities.