



July e-Newsletter



Upcoming Solar 101 Workshop: Is Solar Right for Your Congregation?

The cost of solar has fallen dramatically in recent years, making it a sound financial investment, even in cloudy, northerly Michigan. And, of course, congregations generating clean energy "from the heavens" use less fossil fuels and reduce their

negative impact on creation.

Though we're aware of only about a dozen churches who have successfully installed solar panels in Michigan, we've been able to take away lessons from their experiences. We want to share what we've learned with you!

Here are just a few of Michigan's solar churches:

Come to our **Solar 101 Workshop for Congregations** to learn more. This session will answer:

- Is my facility a good candidate for solar power?
- How much does it cost and how can my congregation pay for it?
- How much could my house of worship save on electric costs every year?

You'll get to talk with solar experts and installers and members of churches who have taken the solar plunge. We are offering this workshop on two dates:



Campus Chapel, Ann Arbor



Ferndale First United Methodist Church



Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids



First Presbyterian Church of Saline

Thursday, July 26, 9:30am-1pm Gesu Catholic Church 17180 Oak Dr, Detroit	Monday, August 6, 9:30am-1pm Pilgrim Baptist Church 18474 Binder St., Detroit
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[The Workshop is FREE and lunch will be served. RSVPs required.](#)

Gesu Catholic Church recently installed a solar array. After the July 26 workshop, there will be an opportunity to go to the roof and view the panels. This will require some level of physical fitness and will involve climbing a ladder.

Stay tuned for a third workshop dedicated to **solar financing** coming up in Detroit in September, date and location TBD.

***NOTE that some of the date/location details for the Solar 101 workshops have changed since we announced them in our June e-Newsletter.**

These events are made possible with support from:



Solar Faithful

The City of Ann Arbor is committed to significantly reducing its carbon emissions by encouraging local building owners to use energy wisely and invest in renewable energy. To meet its goal of generating 2.4 Megawatts of solar energy each year-- enough to power over 400 houses-- the City is looking for congregations to join the effort.

On Wednesday, July 25 from 7-8:30pm, we are co-hosting an info session on Solar Financing for Houses of Worship at the Campus Chapel (Ann Arbor).

This info session will explain Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), which enable houses of worship or other nonprofits to finance solar installations with the help of an investor. Entering into a PPA and working with an investor enables a house of worship to benefit from the 30% federal investment tax credit that otherwise is only available to private, tax-paying entities.

This event is free and open to all and specifically tailored for nonprofits and houses of worship.

[RSVP here.](#)

Line 5 Update

Line 5 is a 65-year-old oil pipeline that lies exposed and dented on the bottom of the Mackinac Straits, across which it transports nearly 23,000,000 gallons of oil a day. A Line 5 oil spill would be catastrophic to our Great Lakes-- the largest bodies of



fresh water on Earth-- and would spoil our health, recreation, and way of life for generations.

We cannot allow Enbridge, with the support of the Dept. of Environmental Quality and the Governor, to play Russian roulette with the Lakes we treasure and depend on.

In April, we gathered a group of faith leaders in Lansing to deliver [a letter with more than 700 signatures](#)

to the Governor and Attorney General, demanding, on behalf of people of faith and people of conscience, that Line 5 be shut down.

But in spite of letters like these, hundreds of individuals speaking out against Line 5 at Pipeline Safety Board hearings, and the thousands of written comments that have been submitted, our decision makers refuse to hear the voice of the people.

The next frontier in this fight is legal action.

The [Straits of Mackinac Alliance](#) is a citizen group that is "challenging the Dept. of Environmental Quality's recent decision to allow Enbridge to install more screw anchors on Line 5 without doing a full review of the risks and alternatives." This legal action is step toward shutting down the pipeline.

[To support this effort, make a donation.](#)

Peoples Climate Movement

Since 2014, the Peoples Climate Movement (PCM) has brought together hundreds of thousands of people to demand climate action and build alignment for a powerful, intersectional climate movement.



This movement seeks not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but to bring about a more fundamental transformation of our economy and society. PCM envisions:

- a world where our private and public **leaders prioritize the protection of our planet**
- a world where **a just transition to a clean and renewable energy economy** creates millions of new, good jobs that can be unionized and provide family-sustaining wages
- a world where **job creation benefits everyone** – especially displaced and workers of color

This year, Michigan IPL and a number of sister organizations are working with PCM to mobilize around the theme: "Climate, Jobs and Justice." Save the date for these two upcoming events:

- **September 8: [Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition Summit in Flint](#)**
- **October 6: Caring for Creation Festival in Marquette**

To change everything, it takes everyone!

So you've made your House of Worship Energy Efficient... What next?

If you've already taken steps to make your building more energy efficient, you know the benefits: you're saving money on your bills, the space is more comfortable, and you feel good knowing that your congregation is doing its part to care for the Earth.

Why not spread the good news about energy efficiency to your congregants? Homeowners and renters alike can benefit from the free energy efficiency programs provided by their utilities. AND, when your congregation signs up for the House of Worship Rewards program through Consumers Energy, you can earn up to \$2,000 by encouraging your members and friends to take advantage of these programs.

Congregants save money on energy --> Your congregation earns a cash reward

It's a win-win.

I just want to say that the Consumers Energy team helped my family tremendously by putting new lights in my bathroom and outside my house, which improved the light very much. I



also appreciate Consumers Energy for changing the faucet heads in my kitchen and bathroom. I personally want to say, "Thank you, Consumers, from the bottom of my heart for what you did for my household. It means a lot."

- Shawn, member of Victorious Believers Ministries congregation

Here's how it works:

1. Your congregation hosts an energy efficiency workshop (led and sponsored by Consumers Energy).
2. You encourage congregants and friends to schedule their free home energy analysis with Consumers Energy.
3. Based on the number of referrals, your congregation earns up to \$2,000!

Victorious Believers Ministries Church of God in Christ (Saginaw) is just the latest congregation to benefit from this program. Be like Victorious Believers!

[Sign up for House of Worship Rewards.](#)

Detroit Drainage Fee Resources

Detroit houses of worship may be interested in the US Green Building Council Detroit Chapter's upcoming Lunch and Learn:

**Strategies for Reducing
Stormwater & Fees for
Commercial Buildings**
Wednesday, July 18 from 11am-
1pm
Next Energy (481 Burroughs),
Detroit

[Get tickets here.](#)



Agenda:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration and Lunch
- 11:20 a.m. Detroit 2030 District Update
 - CONNIE LILLEY, Director
- 11:30 a.m. Stormwater Charges & Financial Incentives for Commercial Buildings
 - LISA WALLICK, Stormwater Management Group Manager, DWSD
- 12:15 p.m. Shared Practices that Reduce Bills and Build Communities
 - ODAY SALIM, Exec Director & Managing Attorney, Great Lakes Environmental Law
 - CEARA O'LEARY, AIA, Sr Designer/Project Director, Detroit Collaborative Design Center & Associate Director, Master of Community Dev Program, U of D Mercy
- 12:45 p.m. Q & A
- 1:00 p.m. Adjourn

  
Lisa Wallick Oday Salim Ceara O'Leary

In case you missed it, we have posted the **presentations and DWSD handouts** from the April Just Water conference on our website. [These resources](#) tell you about:

- the new DWSD drainage fees
 - grants and credits available through DWSD
 - why stormwater management is an urgent matter in Detroit
 - and what green infrastructure-- a way of mitigating stormwater runoff and the associated fees-- looks like
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LiTES Program: Rebates & Training on Advanced Lighting Controls

[Next Energy's Lighting Technology Energy Solutions \(LiTES\) program](#) aims to reduce the energy footprint in small and medium commercial buildings by accelerating the adoption of advanced lighting controls. Program participants:

- Get exclusive utility incentives for advanced lighting controls
- Receive training on advanced lighting controls



Free Energy Audits Available for Houses of Worship in Grand Rapids

The US Green Building Council West Michigan Chapter is offering a limited number of FREE building audits to small businesses and non-profits to help them save energy and save money. [Apply here.](#)



Upcoming Events

7/18/18: Lunch and Learn: Strategies for Reducing Stormwater & Fees for Commercial Buildings, Next Energy (Detroit), 11am-1pm. [Get tickets here.](#)

7/25/18: [Solar Financing for Houses of Worship](#), Campus Chapel (Ann Arbor), 7-8:30pm.

7/26/18: Workshop: How to Know if Solar is Right for Your Congregation, Gesu Catholic Church (Detroit), 9:30am-1pm. [RSVP required.](#)

8/6/18: Workshop: How to Know if Solar is Right for Your Congregation, Pilgrim Baptist Church (Detroit), 9:30am-1pm. [RSVP required.](#)

9/8/18: [Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition](#) Summit, Flint. Details TBD.

10/6/18: Caring for Creation Festival, Marquette. Details TBD.

Do you have an event other members of the Michigan IPL community might be interested in? Let us know: admin@miipl.org, 248-537-9175.