

Leah Wiste

From: Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light <director@miipl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 12:50 PM
To: Admin
Subject: April e-Newsletter



Friends,

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help buy our staff a new laptop. We didn't make our fundraising goal, but we were able to replace 1 old machine, which has been a huge help. Thank you! (The [opportunity to contribute to the cause](#) is still available, if you feel so moved.)

Here's a look at a few things we've been up to and and a few things that are to come.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leah'.

Greta Thunberg: Our leaders have the climate crisis under control



If only... April fools!

Solar Update



In February, we organized a Solar Lobby Day with Vote Solar, the Climate Witness Project, and other simpatico organizations. Over 100 citizen

lobbyists came out to educate lawmakers about solar energy, what's threatening it in Michigan right now, and how we can make Michigan a more solar friendly state.

We had a good contingent of people speaking from faith perspectives, including Michigan IPL Board members, members of Haslett Community Church's green team, and a number of folks from West Michigan.

Solar updates:

- Sen. Tom Barrett has reintroduced a bill that would prevent solar panels from raising property taxes. [Last year's legislature almost unanimously approved this bill, but it was vetoed by Gov. Snyder.](#)
- There is talk that the [Energy Freedom bill package](#) that did not pass in the state House last year could get revived in some form, but as far as we know, it has not been picked up.
- [An administrative law judge has recommended that DTE Energy's "solar access fee" \(a monthly charge for people with rooftop solar\) be denied.](#) We await the final decision from the Public Service Commission on this and other parts of DTE's requested rate hike.

Earth Day Sermon Contest



In honor of Earth Day-- April 22, 2019-- we are once again holding a Sermon Contest!

A winning Earth Day sermon addresses how your religious tradition calls your community to respond to the climate crisis. We especially encourage connecting the health of our water, the health of our air, the health of our soils—all elements of our sacred, living Earth—with struggles for justice.

This contest is open to clergy and laypeople from *all traditions*. Prize TBA.

Sermons must be delivered in April or May and submitted by **May 31.**

[Check out our website for Guidelines, the 2018 Winning Sermon, and sermon resources.](#)

Find more Earth Day celebration resources, including Faith Climate Action Week (4/5-14), [here](#).

Work with Us!



[We're looking for a few good people!](#)

Outreach Coordinator (August 2019-July 2020)

[Christ the King Service Corps](#) (Detroit) is a faith-based community of full-time volunteers based in Northwest Detroit. Its mission is: "Living simply in a community of faith, we reach out in service to all people in our neighborhood, regardless of race, religion, age or status, to instill hope and create a brighter future for the city of Detroit and its residents."

Michigan IPL is excited to be a host site for a CKSC member from August 2019-July 2020 (timing flexible)! Find Michigan IPL's Outreach Coordinator position description on the [Service Sites](#) tab.

CKSC is accepting applications on a rolling basis from college graduates of *all faith traditions*.

Summer 2019 Internship

We are seeking a Communications Intern for this summer! Interns will receive a modest \$500 stipend. We are reviewing applications on a rolling basis. Internship start/end dates and weekly time commitment are flexible. [See our website for details.](#)

Volunteers

We are currently in need of a volunteer who is able to look up contact info for houses of worship online. This will help us reach out to congregations for our [Light the Way](#) energy efficiency program.

If you're interested, or have other skills you'd like to contribute, contact Jennifer: 248-463-8811 or projectmanager@miipl.org.

Earn a Cash Reward for your Congregation



You've probably done some energy efficiency work at your house of worship-- to be better stewards of the Earth, to be better stewards of your congregation's financial resources.

House of Worship Rewards is your opportunity to spread the benefits of energy efficiency to the members of your congregation *at their homes*. Ebenezer Ministries (Burton) just brought in \$500 for getting 50

members and friends signed up for Consumers Energy's free Home Energy Analysis.

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 \$5,000!

[Learn more and sign up.](#)

Michigan Poor People's Campaign Trial and Fundraiser



[Photo](#) from Facebook by Valerie Jean.

Thirteen of us who were arrested last spring for nonviolent direct action-- wrapping the MDEQ in caution tape and declaring it a crime scene-- begin our trial in Lansing on May 14!

The trial is an opportunity to shine a light on the ordinary and extraordinary injustices our communities experience-- are experiencing

today-- with a special focus on water. Support and learn more about our effort by joining us for spaghetti dinner, music, videos, and solidarity!

**Poor People's Campaign Fundraiser and Outreach Dinner
Saturday, April 6, 5-8pm
IBEW Local 58 (Detroit)**

[Get tickets or make a donation.](#)

The venue is accessible and on site parking is free.

Indigenous Water Walkers Arrive in Lansing



[Photo](#) posted by [@cody.bigjohn](#) on Facebook.

On Saturday, March 30, Sarah Jo Shomin, Nancy Gallardo, and Cody Bigjohn Jr. completed their walking journey from Mackinaw City to Lansing-- [over 300 miles](#)! We congratulate this indigenous trio for completing this journey and thank them for their prayerful efforts to protect water and Shut Down Line 5.

Line 5 update:

- On March 28, Attorney General Dana Nessel [issued an opinion](#) that the legislation that allows for a Line 5 tunnel is unconstitutional.

Gov. Whitmer ordered state agencies to halt all tunnel-related action.

Action Alert: Oppose the Expansion of Detroit Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility

US ECOLOGY is a hazardous waste facility in Detroit, near the Hamtramck border. In spite of a track record of environmental violations, the plant is seeking approval from the MI Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to dramatically increase the amount of toxic chemicals it accepts, treats and stores on site.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has expressed that the proposed expansion is both safe and legal and plans to rubber stamp their approval.



However, according to the [Coalition to Oppose the Expansion of US ECOLOGY](#):

The facility has violated EPA regulations on the poisonous chemicals it can dump into public sewers over 150 times since 2010 and dumps up to 300,000 gallons of waste into public sewers every day. These violations

are a serious threat to public health, not just for the largely low-income and African American residents living nearby, but for all Southeast Michiganders who depend on the local water supply.

If the company cannot limit the toxins they discharge now, why is MDEQ ready to approve a massive increase?

Robert Wagner, the Deputy Program Director for the MDEQ, said that their agency doesn't have the authority or scope to monitor health data or the cumulative effect of the chemicals. In fact, no one has been monitoring the health of the residents during the generations in which chemicals have been brought to the site. Poisonous chemicals and radioactive frack waste threatens public health and the water supply in Southeast Michigan.

Help protect our waters and the health and wellbeing of Detroiters by sending a comment against the Expansion of US ECOLOGY to the MDEQ. DEADLINE: Friday, April 12.

Send your comments to:

Mr. Richard A Conforti
email: confortir@michigan.gov
mail: Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division / Michigan Department of Environmental Quality / P.O. Box 30241 / Lansing, MI 48909

Upcoming Events

5/1/19: [Michigan Commercial & Industrial Energy Conference](#), Firekeepers (Battle Creek), all day.

5/2/19: Voices for Earth Justice [Interfaith Prayer Breakfast with Rev. Faith Fowler](#), Congregational Church of Birmingham, 8am.
Early bird tickets on sale through April 10. Michigan IPL supporters can use the code "MIPL" for a discount.

5/6/19: [Just Water: A Hands-on Conference on Building Better Faith-Based Approaches to Storm Water Runoff](#), Hartford Memorial Baptist Church (Detroit), 6-9pm.

Love our Work?



Michigan IPL relies on your generous gifts to do it!

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[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

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