

Leah Wiste

From: Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light <director@miipl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 8:05 AM
To: Leah Wiste
Subject: August e-Newsletter



Friends,

After 5 great years in our Southfield office, Michigan IPL has moved to a new space: the Peace & Justice Hive at St. Peter's Church in Detroit!

We're excited to be in a community with other nonprofits—like [We the People Detroit](#), [Geez Magazine](#), and the [Meta Peace Team](#)—who share our commitment to creating a cleaner, healthier, more just world.

Please join us in celebrating the new space!

Officewarming Party!
Wednesday August 21 from 6-8pm
1950 Trumbull St (at Michigan Ave), Detroit

[Let us know if you can make it to the party so we can make sure to have enough punch and nibblies.](#)

We hope to see you there!





Leah Wiste
Executive Director
mobile: 248-376-4603

We are Hiring!

Join our team as an Energy Programs Outreach Specialist:

- help recruit houses of worship for our [Light the Way energy efficiency program](#)
- 20 hrs/week
- \$18-20/hr
- temporary, independent contractor

Relationships with congregations in Flint, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and/or Lansing are a plus. The contractor can work from anywhere.

[For details and to apply, check out the Energy Programs Outreach Specialist job description.](#)

We hope to hire for this position ASAP! Open until filled.

Paris to Pittsburgh: Order Your Free Screening Kit by Aug. 31

From coastal cities to the Midwest, Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change, in spite of inaction at the federal level. This film, from *Paris to Pittsburgh*, chronicles these inspiring stories.



Inspire your congregation to action by screening and discussing the film *Paris to Pittsburgh*.

[Sign up for your FREE screening kit here.](#)

Hosts will receive:

- a DVD or streaming link
- faith-based discussion questions
- a toolkit for event planning

Hundreds of congregations across the US have already watched this film. Help us get even MORE people of faith talking about climate action by hosting a screening in your community!

Order by Saturday August 31.

Speak Up for Energy Affordability, Community Ownership and Healthy Communities

In June, over 200 people came out to the public hearing in Detroit about DTE Energy's 15-year energy plan, released this spring.



Folks who gave testimony expressed overwhelming opposition to DTE's plans, which include building another massive fracked gas plant (in addition to the one currently under construction in St. Clair).

The proposal to invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure with a 50-70 year lifespan flies is wildly irresponsible, given the aggressive emissions reductions targets-- [50% in the next 11 years](#)-- we need to meet in order to limit (not avoid) the worst climate impacts.

Slow retirement of coal-fired power plants, meanwhile, continues to have disastrous impacts on community health, especially in communities like River Rouge, home to some of the oldest and dirtiest power plants in the country.

As the 600,000 DTE customers who were without power after a storm in late July can attest, the utility's [poor reliability makes its record-breaking rate hikes even harder to justify](#).

Will you stand with Michigan IPL and your fellow Michiganders in opposing this plan?

[Say NO to DTE's dirty energy plan and YES to health, affordability, and community power!](#)

Follow the link above to submit your comment to the Public Service Commission, the state body that regulates utilities.

Be Like St. Margaret's



How can YOU act on climate AND benefit your congregation?

Members and friends of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Parish in St. Clair Shores signed up for home energy assessments with Consumers Energy and earned \$2,000 for the church-- money that helps ensure the grounds reflect the spectacular beauty of God's Creation.

[Be like St. Margaret's and earn a cash reward of up to \\$5,000.](#)

Michigan IPL Northern MI Chapter's Inaugural Event a Smashing Success

On June 26, our new Northern MI Chapter held its very first event, Answering the Call: An Interfaith Response for Climate Action, in Bay View near Petoskey.



The planning team included members of Jewish and Unitarian congregations and individuals from multiple Christian traditions. Rich Baumgartner and David Arnosti from Haslett Community Church (Lansing area) made the trip to all the way up to Bay View to present about their congregation's green team and process of installing solar panels.

This is what inspiring and equipping others looks like!

If you would like to get involved in the Northern MI Chapter, email Leah at director@miipl.org.

Ford Rejects the Gutting of the Clean Car Standards

In early July, we returned to Ford HQ with our letter + 4,000 signatures from people of faith and conscience to remind the company about the stakes of the Clean Car Standards-- the fuel economy and emissions rules that stand to make a huge difference in our nation's ecological footprint.

Emma, the youngest member of our group (pictured at right), will be 33 in 2050. Will we have made the changes necessary to achieve net zero emissions by then? Having this little one as a part of our group was a poignant reminder of all that is at stake in doing this work.



Late last month it was announced that Ford and three other automakers struck a deal with California to reject the Trump administration's attempt to gut the Clean Car Standards.

While we still have work to do to push automakers to achieve and exceed the original Clean Car Standards they supported in 2012 (more than 50 mpg average by 2025), this is a big step forward and it shows the influence that the faith community can have in pushing businesses to do the right thing.

[Read the rest of national IPL's news release here.](#)

Solar Resources

We get a lot of questions from congregations about solar energy-- more than we can field, sometimes! Here are a couple of resources you may find useful:

- [Michigan Saves: How to Pick a Solar Installation Company](#)
 - Michigan IPL's [Guide to Going Solar for Houses of Worship](#)
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Upcoming events

August 21 - [Officewarming Party](#), St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Detroit), 6-8

September 25 - [Conference: Rise Up & Drawdown](#), DeVos Place (Grand Rapids), 8:30am-5pm

October 23 - [Sustainable Detroit Forum](#), Cobo Center (Detroit), 9am-5pm

November 8 - [Conference: Building a Collective Voice of Moral Leadership](#), Marygrove College (Detroit)

Love our Work?



Michigan IPL relies on your generous gifts to do it!

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[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

1950 Trumbull St | Detroit, MI 48216

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