

## Leah Wiste

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**From:** Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light <director@miipl.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** Leah Wiste  
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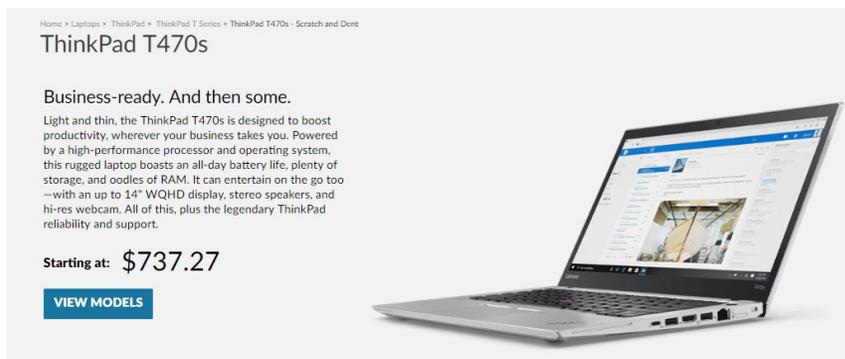
Greetings friends,

This Valentine's Day, we write with an opportunity for you to practice agapic love! (That is, not the chocolates and roses kind of love, but the charitable, virtuous kind :) )

We're doing really good stuff, as you'll see below, but we need your help to do it better. Our second-hand laptops have served us well for over 5 years, but the time has come for them to be recycled into new life.

### [Can you spare a few bucks to help Team Michigan IPL buy 2 new-ish laptops for our staff?](#)

We're looking at refurbished or scratch and dent Lenovos like this one. (Click the image to see the specs.)



Our goal is to raise \$1,500 for 2 computers. [You can pitch in here!](#)

We so appreciate your support!

All the best,



Sean + Jennife

Team Michigan IPL

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## Don't Let DTE Kill Rooftop Solar - Lobby Day 2/19



In December, St. Peter's Church (Detroit) welcomed a 10kW solar array! From their perspective, installing solar panels was a way to show gratitude for God's creation, to take a step towards climate goals, and because they felt the church should be a leader in the effort to provide for the generations to come.

**But if DTE has their way, churches like St. Peter's-- and folks like you me-- won't be able to afford solar panels.**

Rooftop solar and community-owned solar are threatening to the business models of investor-owned utilities like DTE Energy. They have proposed to pay solar energy producers a fraction of the current retail rate AND impose a monthly fee.

**DTE will kill rooftop solar unless we intervene. We can't afford more roadblocks on our transition to clean, renewable energy.**

**[RSVP for our solar lobby day in Lansing on Tuesday, Feb. 19.](#)**

Educate your lawmaker about the issue and share your perspective about why solar is good for the Earth and good for congregations!

*P.S.: On January 25, we sent a letter to Gov. Whitmer about this issue, signed by more than 100 faith leaders. You can read our letter [here](#) and see Gov. Whitmer's response, received on February 13, [here](#).*

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**Lenten Fast-- this year it's about Water!**



## Lenten Fast fo

For the past several years, we've put out a Carbon Fast for Lent calendar, which has suggested 1 activity a day to help you reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This year, we are replacing our traditional Carbon Fast with a Lenten Fast for Water.

Why? Because here in Michigan-- a state surrounded by 20% of the world's fresh surface water-- one of our most urgent struggles is to protect water and ensure water access access for all, especially the least of these.

We are not suggesting you fast *from* water, obviously. But just as our traditional Carbon Fast suggested activities to help you emit less CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, the Fast for Water is meant to help you learn about and be less wasteful of this precious, natural gift.

**[Get the Lenten Fast for Water.](#)**

If you prefer the traditional Carbon Fast, click the link above for the list of last year's CO2-related activities.

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## **Work with us!**



We are looking for a few good volunteers (duties include work you can do from home) and have 2 Summer Internships available. [Check out the details on our website.](#)

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## **Ford Clean Cars Advocacy**



This fall, we testified at the EPA/NHTSA meetings to advocate for strong fuel economy standards. We brought a [letter signed by thousands of people of faith](#) to the Ford Motor Company headquarters in Dearborn, asking the company to adhere to the standards it agreed to in 2011 without loopholes. And we coordinated actions with other IPLs in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

On January 17, we joined a [press conference at the Detroit Auto Show](#) where Rabbi Moshe Givental, Michigan IPL Board member, spoke of the interconnected web of life: "When we poison any one part, it reverberates to the rest. When we pollute our air, water, or soil, we also poison our neighbors and ourselves. Just as taking out gears from a car would cause it to crash."

If you would like to get involved in the Faith to Ford campaign, check out these [ideas and resources](#).

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## **Water is Life Declaration**



Photo taken at St. Peter's Church by Valerie Jean.

The faith outreach committee of the Detroit-based People's Water Board is still seeking faith leader signatures on its Water is Life declaration.

[Read the declaration and add your name.](#)

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### **Upcoming Events with Voices for Earth Justice**

**[Presentation: Water is a Sacred Trust](#)**, February 17 at 1pm at St. Bonaventure Monastery (1740 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit).

**[Class: Introduction to Organic Sustainable Gardening](#)**, February 19 at 12pm at Hope House & Gardens (15894 Greydale Street, Detroit).

**[Wonder Walk](#)**, February 24 at 2:30pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens (Ann Arbor).

[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

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