

Leah Wiste

From: Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light <director@miipl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Leah Wiste
Subject: January e-Newsletter



Friends,

There is an overwhelming amount of good stuff afoot, including many opportunities for action. Read on!

I thank Patrick Gubry for his help putting this e-newsletter together!



Leah

Leah Wiste
Executive Director
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Support Clean Car Standards - Sign the Letter



Last year, we organized people of faith and conscience to pressure Ford Motor Company to keep its promise and uphold the Clean Car Standards (aggressive targets on fuel economy and emissions reductions). Thanks in part to our efforts, Ford is among a handful of automakers working with the state of California against the EPA's efforts to roll back the 2012 standards.

Now we need YOUR help to demand that General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Toyota follow suit and do the right thing: invest in engineers to develop innovative fuel-efficient vehicles rather than lawyers to fight against clean car standards.

In the US, the transportation sector is the biggest emitter of CO₂. This means that we MUST impose stronger emissions and fuel economy standards if we're to have a chance of stabilizing our climate.

[Please sign our letter to the CEOs of GM, FCA and Toyota to urge them to support Clean Car Standards.](#)

Work For Me DTE - Add your Voice!



Big update on DTE Energy's 15-year plan:

Just days before Christmas, Administrative Law Judge Sally Wallace issued a [recommendation](#) that the Public Service Commission reject DTE's disastrous 15-year energy plan! She based her recommendation on the fact that DTE's plan lacks sufficient provisions for health, affordability, and community-owned clean energy.

This was a major step forward and bodes well for the Michigan Public Service Commission's final decision on DTE's plan, which we can expect in February.

The Work for Me DTE campaign has already submitted more than 2,500 comments to the Public Service Commission calling for the rejection of the plan—and now is the time to keep up the pressure!

[Please stand with thousands of Michigan residents to demand that DTE create a new 15 year plan \(IRP\) that prioritizes health, affordability, and community-ownership.](#)

The link takes you to a pre-filled, editable comment form. Please take a moment to make your voice heard! **It does not matter whether you're a DTE customer.** As MI's largest utility, DTE's energy plans affect us ALL.

The World is Alive: Webinar series to be hosted in Detroit



The world is alive and humans are just a part of it-- what does this mean for activism?

In this [3-part webinar series](#), Bayo Akomolafe invokes the wisdom of his native lands in West Africa: “The times are urgent, let us slow down.” Reading this humbling vocation to “slow down” as an invitation to rethink our imaginations of activism, justice and power, and attend to the more-than-human processes in and around us, Bayo will present his concept of postactivism.

We will gather in person at the Sheffield Center, 12048 Grand River (at Wyoming), Detroit, to view and discuss the webinars. Bring a dish for a potluck lunch. Free childcare will be provided. More details to come!

The webinar begins promptly at 12pm each day. Doors open at 11:30am. The webinars are 90-minutes each and we will plan for a 1-hour discussion.

- Sunday, Feb. 9: "Composting the Human"
- Sunday, Feb. 16: "Staying with the Trouble"
- Sunday, Feb. 23: "Making Sanctuary: Other Places of Power"

If you're interested and have questions, contact William Copeland, williamwholenote@gmail.com.

If you're not in Detroit, or can't make the screenings, you can also [purchase the webinar series](#) and participate where ever you are.

Eco-Chaplain Directory



We are excited to announce that this year we are launching an "Eco Chaplain Directory"!

We hope that this directory of chaplains can be a resource to faith communities seeking emotional and spiritual support as they address our destabilized climate and the impacts of environmental injustice.

Please complete this application to be considered for inclusion in the directory.

We intend to launch the directory in February, so act soon if you wish to be included!

Lenten Fast 2020 – Plastic



Each year, Michigan IPL creates a Lenten Calendar to help you reflect, learn and take action on some dimension of sustainability and your faith. This year, we have created a Plastic Fast.

[Download the Plastic Fast for Lent Calendar.](#)

As a spiritual practice, fasting sharpens our intentions. Like a pebble in our shoe, the nagging feeling of hunger—or the discomfort of forgoing something we usually take for granted—is a persistent reminder to commit and recommit to inner transformation. While many of us grew up “giving something up” for Lent, only to gleefully indulge in the forbidden item when the season passed, we hope that this fast will be more than a temporary exercise in deprivation and will help you make lasting changes in your everyday practices and mindset.

Why plastic?

- If we continue to produce and discard plastic at the expected rates, our oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.
- As a byproduct of fossil fuels, plastics are the fastest growing and second largest source of industrial greenhouse gas emissions (according to the Center for International and Environmental Law).
- Throughout its life-cycle—from production through the hundreds (if not thousands) of years after its disposal—plastic harms wildlife and human health. Among humans, this harm is experienced first and worst by communities of color, low-income communities and other vulnerable populations.

A big shout out of gratitude to Nicky Marcot (@everydayhopemama on Instagram) for putting this Fast together!!

Interfaith Reading in Kalamazoo: We Are the Weather



Hope for Creation, an interfaith group in Kalamazoo, **invites congregations to join in reading and discussing Jonathan Safran Foer's [We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast](#)** this February and March, as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library's annual Reading Together program.

We Are the Weather holds special significance for faith communities. Its author weaves together his family's Jewish traditions, his quest to understand how belief begets action, and a passionate plea for individuals and communities to engage in actions that mitigate the life-threatening impacts of climate destabilization.

To help congregations discuss these important themes, Hope for Creation has created a discussion guide for faith communities. [Learn more here.](#)

The author will give a presentation at Chenery Auditorium (714 Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo) on [Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm.](#)

Pro tip: Even if your congregation isn't in Kalamazoo, you could still read and discuss the book together! Just sayin.'

The Report: Organize a Congregational Screening



The Report is a compelling, true-story chronicle of the CIA's torture program (euphemistically known as "enhanced interrogation"). Michigan IPL and the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) invite faith communities to screen the film and discuss the moral issues of justice, humane treatment, and government accountability it brings to light. [View the trailer here.](#)

[Sign up for your FREE screening kit and discussion guide.](#)

Note: You'll notice this film is outside of our usual lane of climate/energy/water/Earth. We're working with the NRCAT on this because we share their fundamental concern for justice and the need to create right relationships with all people-- issues that are at the heart of this film.

With climate instability come increased conflict and the displacement of people. Our federal government and military's responses to these circumstances have the potential to be catastrophic (especially given the xenophobic populism that has been on the rise throughout the West). It's up to us to stay informed and exercise our moral voices on these issues.

Intern Spotlight: Emma Pittsley



This fall, we were blessed with an exceptional intern who helped make our November conference a success! But we were so swept up with the planning, we didn't stop to tell you about her. Her name is Emma Pittsley :)

Emma grew up playing in the beautiful woods of Michigan and loves nature, hiking, trees, rivers, and any activities that gets her outside. Emma received her Bachelor's in Religious Studies, with a concentration in Non-Profit Leadership, from Michigan State University (Go Green!).

After moving to Chicago to start her career, Emma worked on the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions and Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago. In the fall of 2019, she helped plan Michigan IPL's sustainability conference, connecting back to her Michigan roots where she plans to return in 2020. By drawing from a variety of interdisciplinary, philosophical, and theological perspectives, Emma desires to uncover interfaith intersections that might lead to a more sustainable and peaceful world.

Thank you for all that you did for Michigan IPL, Emma!

Emma is now looking to move from Chicago back to Michigan to continue her career closer to home. If you or your organization is looking to hire someone with great organizational skills and a passion for interfaith work, reach out to us at director@miipl.org and we can put you in touch!

Faith Climate Action Week



Save the dates - [Faith Climate Action Week](#) is April 17th - April 26th. In these ten days during Earth Month, IPL congregations focus on how we can all take action to protect our climate. This year's theme is Love Made Visible: Engaging in Sacred Activism to protect the people we care about who are most affected by climate change.

Sign up to download materials when they become available [here](#), and if your congregation plans holding an event please consider register it [here](#).

Detroit 2030 District House of Workshop kick off meeting.

Detroit 2030 District House of Worship

January 30, 2020

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join us for our 2020 Kick-Off Meeting
and Green Initiative Workshop
Detroit Unity Temple
17505 Second Ave, Detroit

Guest speakers:

Karanja Famodou - Ryter Cooperative
Alan Deal - Performance Engineering



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FREE for Houses of Worship members
\$20 for nonmembers. Pay by cash or check at door.
RSVP by January 24th to detroit@2030districts.org

Please note: If you wish to sign up your House of Worship in the Detroit 2030 District FREE before the meeting please, contact us or sign up at www.2030districts.org/Detroit under **Become a Member - Building Owner Form**

Join the [Detroit 2030 District](#) Kick-Off meeting for Houses of Worship on January 30th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Other Upcoming Events

January 24-25 - [United Methodist Water Justice Summit](#), Cass Community United Methodist Church (Detroit)

February 27 - [Detroit 2030 District energy challenge kick off](#), TCF Center (Detroit), 4-6:30pm

March 12 - [Michigan Climate Action Summit](#), Michigan Union (Ann Arbor), 9am-3pm

March 22 - Solar Summit, Haslett Community Church (Haslett), Save the date - details forthcoming

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[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

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