



California
Interfaith
Power &
Light

Growing Impact Shrinking Footprint

Congregational Emissions Reduction Report 2010





Mission Statement

The mission of California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL) is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

This ministry intends to protect the Earth's ecosystems, public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.

Many Faiths, One Cause

Creation is sacred and our religious teachings provide insights on stewardship and care.

Reflecting on the sacred writings from our various faith traditions can guide us toward right relationships with God, the human community and all of Creation.

Below are examples of this common theme in our diverse religious traditions.

To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one's own in the midst of abundance.

Buddha

You shall not pollute the land in which you live... you shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell.

Numbers 35:33-34

We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**Unitarian Universalist
7th principal**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

Revelation 4:11

As for the earth, we have spread it out, set firm mountains on it, and made everything grow there in due balance.

Qur'an 15:19

Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise we cannot eat money.

Cree Indian Proverb



The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Psalms 24:1

Let there be peace in the heavens, the Earth, the atmosphere, the water, the herbs, the vegetation, among the divine beings and in Brahman, the absolute reality. Let everything be at peace and in peace.

Only then will we find peace.

Atharva Veda



Members of San Diego CIPL Working Group

Our Impacts are Growing

Since 2000, California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL) member congregations have joined together in a common mission: responding to the moral crisis of global warming. We believe that first and foremost, we have a responsibility to model good energy stewardship. This report shows the many ways our member congregations are doing this.

Through energy efficiency, green building retrofits, solar installations and advocacy, CIPL congregations are helping put California at the forefront of the new clean energy economy.



Protecting Creation



Camp Stevens youth in the garden

Fewer Carbon Emissions = A Healthier Planet

Q: How many pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have CIPL member congregations prevented?

A: More than **27,600,000 pounds** of CO₂ in 2010.

That's the equivalent of:

- 🌱 1,275,515 gallons of gasoline consumed
- 🌱 26,460 barrels of oil consumed
- 🌱 CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of 1,381 homes for one year
- 🌱 CO₂ emissions from burning 62 railcars worth of coal

Since 2002, CIPL member congregations have reduced CO₂ by **92,185,635 pounds**.



“At Church of Our Saviour, we recognize that God has given Creation into our care for future generations. Our prayerful goal of being faithful stewards of all the earth and its resources informs our mission.”

Rev. Richard Helmer



St. Francis in the garden at Church of Our Savior.



Take Action

According to the California Energy Commission, the state’s water-related energy use consumes 19 percent of the state’s electricity and 30 percent of its natural gas. Conserving water is a great way to reduce energy use and related emissions. Water-saving devices are readily available and quickly pay for themselves.

Check into:

- Low-flow toilet
- Low-flow faucet heads
- Waterless urinals
- Native or drought-resistant landscaping – it’s beautiful and saves water and money!

Check ShopIPL.org for low-flow faucet heads and other energy-saving devices.

ShopIPL.org



Energy Efficiency

CIPL members’ energy efficiency measures saved **15,641,477 kilowatt hours** in 2010 and an estimated \$2.4 million on energy costs.

Church of Our Savior, Mill Valley was the first religious institution in Marin County to go carbon neutral through PG&E’s ClimateSmart program, which plants trees and captures methane equivalent to the electricity and gas usage.

Rector Richard Helmer and the Creation Care team first did all they could to minimize emissions, investing in efficiency by focusing on energy and waste. The church has undergone a complete lighting retrofit. It also closely monitors and reduces its energy use, uses only non-disposable kitchen items, and is involved in a robust recycling program. The remainder of its emissions are offset through ClimateSmart, making Church of Our Savior carbon neutral.

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in the Valley, North Hollywood

has looked carefully at water consumption and the role water plays in its carbon footprint. The congregation uses a tankless water heater and several low-flow toilets. MCC in the Valley is replacing its asphalt pavement with permeable concrete, which reduces runoff and allows groundwater recharge. There is an organic garden with composting and the congregation uses non-disposable kitchen items.

Several years ago, MCC in the Valley took a unique action, making the Earth a member of the church – and in a real sense, the congregation extends pastoral care to the Earth. Rev. Dr. Robert Shore-Goss explains,

“We explore new ways of expanding our care, individually and communally, realizing what Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘We must be the change we wish to see in the world.’”



Rev. Shore-Goss at MCC in the Valley





Renewable Energy

In 2010, a growing number of CIPL member congregations began exploring renewable energy options and solar panels in particular. CIPL hosted two solar nights-evening events where any interested in going solar could learn from each other and hear presentations from solar installers. CIPL also provides information and referrals on solar and a financing guide on the website.



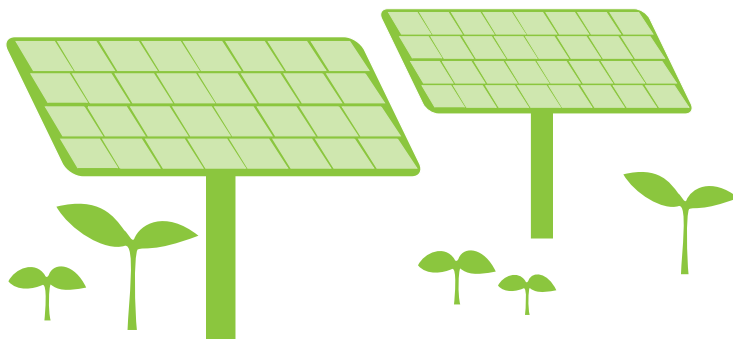
Tassajara Zen Mountain Center Solar

When it comes to reducing carbon emissions, providing a visible example to your community of your environmental values, and caring for the Earth, solar energy truly sets a shining example!

Nestled in the Santa Lucia mountain range lies **Tassajara Zen Mountain Center**. The facility has been practicing environmental stewardship and sustainability for 40 years, both of which are expressions of Zen practice. Off the grid, Tassajara was initially dependent on diesel and propane generators. The community implemented facility-wide conservation practices to reduce load and then invested in a 21 kilowatt solar voltaic system. The solar now generates 100% of the center's electrical needs to sustain up to 160 people.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Saratoga is a long-time advocate of environmental stewardship, dating back to 1993 with a year-long program emphasis on "Caring for God's Creation." The church started with a vibrant educational program, trips to conservation areas, projects with children, and tree plantings. In 2010, Prince of Peace installed a 21 kilowatt solar system, designed to cover 95% of its current electrical needs. This system, along with energy-efficient lighting, low-flow toilets, recycling, composting and water conservation efforts, makes Prince of Peace a great example of complete energy stewardship.



In 2010, Camp Stevens in Julian, installed their fourth set of solar panels. In addition, they added a third solar water heating system for on-demand hot water.

As part of its rebuilding efforts after a destructive 2007 wild fire, Camp Stevens also reforested its grounds with 5,000 new Coulter Pines and Incense Cedar trees.

Now that's going green!



Prince of Peace Lutheran Solar

Education

Pastor Wallace Shepherd had an epiphany when he realized that environmental issues are justice issues. He knew that the most significant thing he could do for his church members would be to lead by example.

In 2010, **Second Baptist Church**, Santa Barbara increased their energy efficiency and reduced energy costs by 50%. Second Baptist began their efforts with an energy audit performed on the building which led to energy efficient lighting installations and the exchange of older office equipment for more energy efficient models.

And the church didn't stop there. The whole congregation got in on the act: members were encouraged to adopt the same measures in their homes. Second Baptist involves new members too, including energy saving information in their new member packet.

Second Baptist was awarded a CIPL Energy Oscar in 2010 for their excellent efforts.

In 2010, a CIPL Energy Oscar was given for the first time to a congregation that is doing exemplary work in the area of Youth Leadership. **Irvine United Congregational Church** received the award for its emphasis on youth environmental education and action.

In addition to encouraging simple carbon-reducing measures such as walking to church, the children, guided by Associate Pastor Elizabeth Griswold, created and tend an organic garden and also use non-disposable dishes in Sunday School. Their summer-long program, "ABC's of Living Green: Caring for God's Creation" highlighted nature with each letter of the alphabet.

For Earth Day, the children created a brochure educating parishioners about environmental issues. The congregation also started an initiative for high-school-age members to become climate ambassadors in their local schools, bringing the values of Earth stewardship out of the church and into the larger community.



Onja Brown-Lawson and Pastor Wallace Shepherd with plans for Second Baptist's solar powered and energy-efficient senior housing project

"At Second Baptist, we can say that God has awakened us to a higher understanding of what it means to be a steward. This will help motivate people in the future to be more mindful of our Creator and our purpose in taking care of this garden of Eden for generations to come."

Pastor Wallace Shephard
Second Baptist Church



Rev. Elizabeth Griswold with children in the garden



Shrinking California's Carbon Footprint

CIPL member congregations know that our actions alone are not enough to stem the tide of global warming – we need a concerted societal effort, and the only way to achieve that is through public policy change. CIPL member congregations have proven once again that they are ready to bring the voice of the faith community to public policy debates. From legislative office visits to letter writing campaigns, congregations are speaking up for effective and equitable climate policy in California.

And, we are getting results. Here are two recent victories:

Strongest Renewable Energy Standards

in the Nation: After an almost three-year process, the California legislature and governor approved a bill that requires 33% of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020. The new law is the strongest in the nation, and makes our state a world leader in renewable energy development. As we have with energy efficiency and cleaner car standards, we hope California can set a strong example for the nation to prove that our energy mix can be much cleaner.

Defeat of Prop 23: In November 2010, Texas oil companies funded a proposition that would have blocked the implementation of parts of California's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. CIPL and many of its congregations were active in the campaign to defeat this proposition. CIPL formed a religious leaders advisory committee to defeat Prop 23 and got the message out to millions of voters of faith. Prop 23 lost by the widest margin of any proposition on the ballot.

“California IPL has been critical in mobilizing the faith community to help pass California’s landmark legislation on climate and energy.

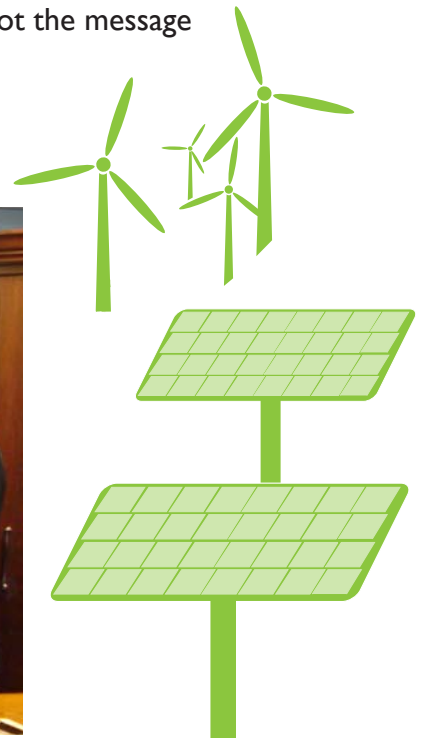
Religious leaders are making the moral case for taking care of our environment while we put people back to work at clean energy jobs.

We need the faith community’s active involvement to...allow California to continue to lead the way to a clean energy future.”

California Senator Fran Pavley



Los Angeles area rabbis and Jewish community leaders taking part in No on 23 efforts



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The Regeneration Project

www.interfaithpower.org

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