



California
Interfaith
Power &
Light

Welcome Packet
for
Member Congregations

Implementing the CIPL Covenant

Welcome to California Interfaith Power & Light!

Your congregation may choose to participate in any and all of the following areas. This packet includes corresponding numbered sections for ideas for implementation of these goals.

1. Engage in an ongoing process of education with your congregants concerning environmental stewardship, energy production and usage in relation to global warming
2. Conduct an energy audit of your buildings to identify sources of energy waste and the potential financial savings of energy related improvements
3. Make energy efficiency improvements to your congregation's buildings
4. Utilize renewable energy by purchasing green power, installing solar panels, or contributing to a wind turbine fund
5. Analyze, reduce, and offset your greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of becoming carbon neutral congregation
6. Support public policies that contribute to our goals
7. Celebrate! (Not a requirement, but certainly encouraged.)

This resource is intended to help you get started and to remind you of ways to get involved, but it is not exhaustive. Our website – www.interfaithpower.org – includes additional and expanded resources in each of these categories and we hope you'll refer to it frequently. We also highlight congregations, tips and other materials and hope they will inspire and encourage you and your faith community.

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Coordination

As you know, coordinating your congregation's efforts is crucial to the successful implementation of educational and energy-saving initiatives. It's best to have a group of people within your congregation dedicated to these issues, so the work does not fall onto just one or two people.

We suggest:

1. Identify **one main contact/CIPL liaison** and put this person in direct communication with the outreach director at CIPL for your region.
2. Create a Green Team or Creation Care Committee (or whatever name you choose!)
 - A committee is best when it includes 5-8 active and engaged members of the congregation and a diversity of age, gender, vocation, etc. Consider including a youth or young adult in your team as well as the head clergy or a representative of congregational leadership.
 - Gather regularly, once a month. These meetings will ensure that you stay updated on the latest clean energy policy efforts as well as any projects within your own congregation.
 - Using the other resources in this packet and online, the team can create a work plan or a timeline for their suggested projects and efforts and be in touch with other administrative leaders in the congregation about how to make the work plan a reality.
 - This committee can also support one another and serve as a community group for fellowship and fun. As a way of expanding education and energy, the group could attend CIPL events or other activities together, do a book study of *Love God Heal Earth* or host a local food potluck.
 - An expanded guide on the formation of a Green Team can be found on CIPL's website under Resources. We also provide green team trainings throughout the year and we hope that you will be able to join us for one of these events.



Church of the Presentation members at their e-waste collection event.



Rev. Sally Bingham and representatives from Mary Immaculate and Holy Family churches, 2010 Energy Oscars



Bishop Gabino Zavala with community members at the launch of Los Angeles Archdiocese Creation Sustainability Ministry

Education

CIPL is passionate about educating congregations and people of faith about energy and climate issues and providing resources about how people of faith can respond. There are resources on our website and we hope that education will be an ongoing part of your congregational commitment to the CIPL covenant.

Becoming a member of CIPL provides a good opportunity to increase education in your congregation about faith-based responses to climate and energy issues with the hope that this will open space for positive action. Following this list of ideas and resources is a one-page resource on global warming/climate change. See the bibliography for additional educational resources and the basic global warming info page that follow this list of ideas.

1. Sermons and children's sermons

These are great opportunities because the whole congregation is gathered and listening.

- There are sample sermons and ideas in the *Preaching for the Planet* film on the national IPL website (InterfaithPowerandLight.org).
- Encourage your clergy to participate in the "National Preach-In on Global Warming." This campaign takes place annually in mid-February near Valentine's Day weekend and you will receive informational alerts by email or learn more at the national IPL webpage.

2. Adult education series, workshops, youth and children's education

These educational programs in your faith community provide space for more in-depth discussion of themes and underlying values and beliefs in your tradition.

- **Book group**
Love God Heal Earth is a great resource for a book group. It includes writings from faith leaders from many traditions – a great discussion starter.

- **Youth education**
For young children, the *ABCs of Living Green* includes a short lesson for each letter of the alphabet. Some congregations have incorporated this program in their summer programs. <http://syracuseculturalworkers.com/poster-abcs-living-green>

For Teenagers, high schools can book an inspiring and hopeful presentation by The Alliance for Climate Education. www.acespace.org

Check out the IPL national website for recommended books and films.

- **Youth Activities**
It's a great idea to involve the young people of your congregation in your environmental initiatives. In fact, in some houses of worship, the youth are leading!

Gardening: youth of all ages can participate in creating and maintaining an organic garden, including composting and education about food, ecology, and climate change.

Recycling program: Bottles and cans can be gathered in your faith community and taken to a local recycling station in exchange for money to assist an existing congregational activity.

Join in on a community tree-planting on your grounds or in the local community or in a coastal clean-up day.

3. Congregational Communication

Newsletters, worship bulletins and other congregational publications are especially important to let your congregation know about efforts within your community, highlighting how much energy you are saving with CFLs and other energy efficiency measures, discussing religious reasons for taking action, addressing any current advocacy and public policy issues.

4. Speakers Bureau

CIPL may be able to provide speakers for your events or for speaking/preaching in a worship or religious service.

5. CIPL e-newsletter

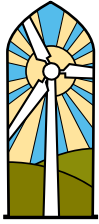
This is a great way to stay informed of the latest news and resources! Keep us updated with your contact info.

Success Story: Muslim Green Team of the South Bay

The Muslim Green Team of the South Bay is a leader in the Muslim American grassroots environmental movement. Their goal is to educate and equip the Muslim community to live greener lives, and to demonstrate to the general public the Islamic environmental message. The Muslim Green Team has held annual Eco-Fairs in Santa Clara with a focus on reducing environmental waste, an underestimated contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. This truly extraordinary event, provides a chance for the entire community to join together and learn about e-waste disposal, composting, reducing water consumption and more. This past year, the event featured a children's art project focused on the environment, a recycling fair where members could recycle hijabs, electronics, and more. The Eco-Fair also featured an interfaith panel with diverse speakers discussing their faith community's environmental stewardship traditions. One of the major projects of the Muslim Green Team is tackling the plastic bag problem by designing reusable bags for the whole community.



Educational resources on the web



Interfaith Power & Light

www.InterfaithPowerandLight.org

Interfaith Power & Light is the national home of CIPL and 37 sister state IPLs. Here you can find information on national campaigns and programs, federal climate and energy policy, as well as more about how the faith community is engaging in other parts of the country.

Christian

- National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs
www.nccecojustice.org
The Eco-Justice Program office of the National Council of Churches works in cooperation with the NCC Eco-Justice Working Group to provide an opportunity for the national bodies of member Protestant and Orthodox communions to work together to protect and restore God's Creation.
- The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change
www.catholicsandclimatechange.org
The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was launched in 2006 to help the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Catholic community address climate change and its impacts.
- Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN)
www.creationcare.org
Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) is a ministry that seeks to educate, equip, inspire, and mobilize Christians in their effort to care for God's creation, to be faithful stewards of God's provision, and to advocate for actions and policies that honor God and protect the environment.

Jewish

- COEJL
www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc_resources.php
COEJL is the leading Jewish environmental organization in the United States. Since its founding in 1993, COEJL has helped tens of thousands of Jews make a connection between Judaism and the environment.

Muslim

- Muslim Green Team
<http://muslimgreenteam.org>
Muslim Green Team is the first Muslim American grassroots environmental movement. Their goal is to educate and equip the Muslim community to live greener lives, and to demonstrate to the general public the Islamic environmental message.
- Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Studies
<http://www.ifees.org.uk/>

Unitarian Universalist

- Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations Green Sanctuary Program
www.uua.org
The UU Green Sanctuary program helps UU congregations green their facilities and connect earth care to spirituality.

Other Denominations

Many denominations have specific environmental resources. Please check the Resource page at www.interfaithpower.org to find more information.

Global warming — some basic information

Adapted from: Union of Concerned Scientists – www.ucsusa.org/global_warming. CIPL has found UCS resources to be extremely helpful in education on global warming science.

What is Global Warming?

Think of a blanket, covering the Earth. When carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions are released into the air, they act like a blanket, holding heat in our atmosphere and warming the planet. Overloading our atmosphere with carbon has far reaching effects for people all around the world — more extreme storms, longer droughts, deadly heat-waves, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification that affect the very base of the food chain.

What causes global warming? We do.

The most significant contributor to global warming is the burning of fossil fuels to drive cars, generate electricity, and operate our homes and businesses. Tropical deforestation, also by human hands, is another major contributor because when these forests are burned they release huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere and are no longer able to absorb CO₂ emissions.

Who can reduce global warming? We can.

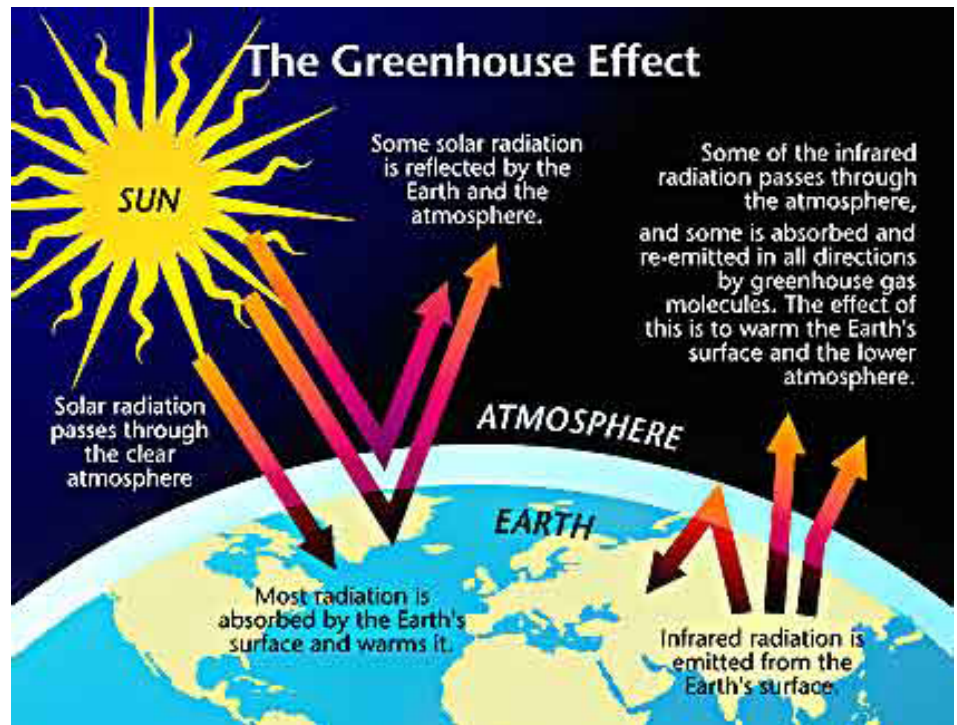
To address global warming, we need to significantly reduce heat-trapping emissions. As individuals, we can help by watching our electricity use, buying more efficient cars, and taking other steps to reduce our own consumption of fossil fuels. But we can also help by calling for government decision makers to reduce the threat of global warming by:

- Placing limits on the amount of carbon polluters are allowed to emit;
- Investing in clean and efficient energy technologies, industries, and approaches;
- Expanding the use of renewable energy;
- Increasing the efficiency of the cars we drive; and
- Taking other steps to transform our energy system to one that is cleaner and less dependent on oil and other fossil fuels.

Two short videos

“5 frequently asked questions about global warming” and “How do we know that global warming is human caused?”

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/science/faq-videos.html#video-1



A Challenge We Can Meet

Global warming doesn't just mean balmy February days in northern climes. It also means increasingly hot days in the summer, more extreme weather, and a host of negative impacts that are already under way and are expected to intensify in the coming decades.

- More heat waves will likely increase the risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths.
- Cities and towns along the nation's major rivers will experience more severe and frequent flooding.
- Some areas will likely experience more extensive and prolonged droughts, with serious consequences for agricultural productivity.
- Some coastal and low-lying communities will literally be under water. The areas that remain will become more vulnerable to storms as dunes erode and wetlands flood.
- Around the world, island nations and countries just above sea level like Bangladesh will experience massive out-migration as their land mass is lost and/or becomes uninhabitable.
- Many families and businesses, who have made their living from fishing, farming, and tourism could lose their livelihoods, and others who love hunting, boating, skiing, bird-watching, and just relaxing near lakes, streams, and wetlands will see some of their favorite places irretrievably changed.

We Must Act Now

The scientific consensus is in. Our planet is warming, and we are helping make it happen by adding more heat-trapping gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO₂), to the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuel (oil, coal, and natural gas) alone accounts for about 75 percent of annual CO₂ emissions from human activities. Deforestation—the cutting and burning of forests that trap and store carbon—accounts for about another 20 percent.

Procrastination is not an option. Emissions reductions must begin immediately. Scientists agree that if we wait 10 more years, the problem will be much more difficult to address and the consequences for us will be that much more serious.

Common Sense Solutions

Fuel-efficient vehicles. Renewable energy. Protecting threatened forests. These common sense solutions won't only reduce global warming, many will save us money and create new business opportunities.

If we get started today, in our own faith communities, we can model the solutions and help move our society toward a clean energy future. The steps we need to take are common sense. And, more often than not, they will save money. The cost of inaction, however, is unacceptably high: our children's future.

Conduct an Energy Audit & Create an Action Plan

1. Cool Congregations

Our online tool at www.coolcongregations.com is a great first step! It will quantify your congregation's current energy use and your carbon footprint. The Cool Congregations calculator asks questions about your congregation, transportation, waste and recycling, energy use and the source of your energy. Before you begin, review the PDF checklist at www.coolcongregations.com/calculator/ to help you gather the information you will need to answer the questions. Cool Congregations will also allow you to track the reductions in your carbon footprint as you take energy-saving actions.

2. Energy Audit by your utility

For your energy audit, your local utility company will often provide free walk-through or discount energy audits. Call your local energy provider and ask for the audit they provide to small businesses and be sure to ask for an "in-person" audit.

3. Kill-a-watt

Kill-a-watt is an energy-monitoring device available for loan from CIPL or purchase at ShopIPL.org. It can help you find appliances and charging devices that may be using excessive energy in your congregation or your home.

4. Professional energy audit

Another option is to use a professional energy auditing company, which will give you a more thorough picture of your congregation's energy use. These energy auditors can do a room-by-room examination, a door-blower test, and a thermographic scan. Practice smart consumer habits by asking for references and contacting the Better Business Bureau to find out if there are any complaints registered. Sites that provide information on finding an auditor include:

http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11180

www.energystar.gov

In addition, there are some companies listed on the CIPL website under Resources. You can also contact CIPL for assistance in finding a local auditor that has worked with congregations.

5. Action plan

After you have done a basic or in-depth audit, it will be important for your "green team" or designated person(s) to create an action plan including initial no-cost and low-cost improvements that are quick and easy. It should also include longer-term goals and projects that will require budgeting information and decision-making leadership.

- Congregations may choose to prioritize actions that can be done in the next 2-3 months, some that may take 6 months to a year and others that become a priority for the coming year or few years.

Success Story: First Unitarian Church of Oakland

As part of the church's Green Sanctuary effort, an energy audit of church facilities was conducted in the spring of 2010. The resulting FUCO Energy Audit and Efficiency Retrofit Report identified and quantified opportunities for energy, greenhouse gas, and cost savings. Ben Thompson of Peralta Energy Group donated this valuable service. The church members raised funds to implement the best measures, and the church is working to implement them. The total annual dollar savings if all measures are put into practice is \$2,409, at a total cost of \$1,800 for a payback on investment of nine months. The greenhouse gas reduction, if all suggested actions are performed will be approximately 9,509 pounds of CO₂ reduced from gas savings, plus 4,234 pounds of CO₂ reduced from electricity savings.

Energy Efficiency

I. “Putting Energy into Stewardship: A Guide for Congregations”

This guide from EPA Energy Star for Congregations is full of tips for lighting, heating and AC, office equipment, water heaters and water conservation, kitchen and food service equipment. After conducting a Cool Congregations calculation, this guide is a great place to begin your work on energy efficiency. Download it at www.energystar.gov/congregations and you can call 1-888-STAR-YES if you have any questions.

Some basic energy efficiency ideas

- **Shop IPL**

Replace incandescent lighting with efficient lighting such as compact fluorescent lighting, T-8's, etc. and replace older appliances with Energy Star appliances at www.ShopIPL.org

- **Seal your building “envelope”**

Install double paned windows designed to protect against extreme hot and cold and replace old, inefficient insulation.

- **Water-Efficiency Measures**

20% of energy in California is used just to move water around the state. Water-efficiency measures such as low-flow toilets or waterless urinals not only reduce water use but also save energy.

ShopIPL.org



2. Take it home! Energy efficiency in homes of members

Ask members of your congregation to commit to reducing their home energy use and CO₂ emissions. Create a congregational campaign to reduce your carbon footprints by 10% or ask members as part of their stewardship commitment to reduce energy emissions along with their stewardship funds given to the congregation. Ask your CIPL contact person about our Cool Congregations program, which helps congregants support each other in shrinking their household carbon footprints. The Energy Star website, www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement and our Top 10 list are other great ways to get members in the congregation saving energy.

Success Story: Second Baptist Church, Santa Barbara

After a delegation tour to Washington, D.C. with Representative Lois Capps, Pastor Shepherd of Second Baptist came back transformed into a “Green Pastor.” Knowing that the best way to spread the news of energy efficiency to his congregation was to “lead by example,” his church received an energy audit and lighting retrofit, resulting in a 50% reduction in lighting utility costs. Onja Brown-Lawson, Second Baptist’s education coordinator, led classes focused on energy, food and water. She compiled educational resources for the congregation, including the Community Environmental Commission’s guide to home energy savings, which all members of Second Baptist are encouraged to use. At present, the congregation is planning an energy-efficient six-unit senior housing complex on their grounds, which will include solar.



Onja Brown-Lawson and Pastor Wallace Shepherd with the designs of the new senior housing complex.

Renewable Energy

1. Purchase green power through your utility

There are a few municipal utility districts in California that offer the option to purchase green energy such as solar and wind. Purchasing green energy builds demand within the utility for greater reliance on cleaner energy sources. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District are two of the larger public utilities that offer a green energy choice to ratepayers.

2. Install solar panels on your congregation

Installing solar panels is a great way to support clean energy, lower your utility bill and demonstrate your congregation's commitment to sustainability. Several CIPL members have installed solar panels and are happy to discuss their process.

3. CIPL's Solar Financing and Resource Guide

CIPL provides a *Solar Financing and Resource Guide* on our website and we seek to offer informational nights and conference calls annually.



Solar Panels on First Chinese Baptist in San Francisco

Success Story: St. John's, Oakland

About six years ago the Ecology Group began an analysis of the operational carbon footprint for the church and they instituted a revised educational effort around recycling, improved the kitchen water heating efficiency, bought and used green products, and did all of the other easy fixes possible to lower the church's footprint.



A "Greening Fund" was started in hopes of installing solar. Parishioners got involved by supporting the future purchase of panels by small pledge efforts during educational/social "fun" raising events.



Solar installation at St. John's Episcopal, Oakland

After attending a CIPL Solar informational night and learning more about how Solar Richmond helps provide job training and opportunities in underserved communities, St. John's was determined to utilize the nonprofit in their project. Solar Richmond helped the congregation in evaluating the site and giving the options for panel array size and placement. They also helped with layout, analysis for projected initial installation cost, tax savings options, and pay back (return on investment) methods. St. John's competitively selected an installer, Sun Light & Power, and the panels were installed in February and ready to go by March, 2010. For the first year, the congregation's cost of electricity (not including the installation cost) will be very close to zero. Because St. John's had seed money from the "Greening Fund" they were able to internally finance the balance using a variety of small, low interest loans from members of the church. The loans will be totally paid off in five years. With a projected operational life of thirty years for the solar array, the congregation is quite pleased with their investment!

Analyze and Offset

Before and after your congregation takes steps to reduce your energy use and increase efficiency, you can use Cool Congregations to measure and analyze your carbon footprint. Then, you can become carbon neutral by purchasing carbon offsets for the remainder of your carbon emissions.

I. Carbon Offsets

A carbon offset absorbs or avoids the release of a specified amount of carbon through a contribution to a positive environmental program, like building wind turbines or planting trees.

Native Energy www.nativeenergy.com

CIPL has partnered with Native Energy to develop community-supporting renewable energy projects, such as wind energy on Native American land. Using funding from offsets, Native Energy invests in renewable energy projects that reduce global warming pollution by reducing the amount of power generated by burning fossil fuels. So, for every kWh of wind power added to the grid, one kWh less is generated by fossil fuel plants.

Carbon Covenant www.co2covenant.org

Another option that supports faith communities in the developing world is our Carbon Covenant program. This is a great way to educate your congregation about the very real impacts of global warming on vulnerable communities.

Through carbon covenant relationships, Interfaith Power & Light congregations are supporting positive and community building environmental projects initiated by faith communities in Cambodia, Tanzania, Ghana and Cameroon. Their projects are directly addressing the number one source of carbon emissions in the developing world: deforestation. They are protecting forests from illegal logging and poaching; promoting alternative, sustainable livelihoods; and reforesting degraded lands. Current projects are led by Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Buddhist communities.



Carbon Covenant reforestation project in Ghana



Native Energy Project: Alex Little Soldier Wind Turbine – Rosebud Sioux South Dakota

Public Policy and Advocacy

Throughout many sacred texts, there is a call to the faithful to act and speak up on behalf of vulnerable communities and to care for the gifts of the Earth. We at CIPL believe that faith compels us to speak out on matters of the environment for the sake of the community. Faith-based advocacy is most powerful when members from across the faith community unite to speak on behalf of policies and issues in a non-partisan manner, based on shared values.

The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and freedom from religion. This does not mean that a faithful response to the issues before our nation's decision-makers must be stifled. Rather, it is vital to the democratic process that people of faith and all people of good will engage in the creation of "a more perfect union." Collaborations across faith communities have a rich history of working together for social change. Diverse communities of faith have successfully advanced civil rights and policies that improve the health and wellness of communities, and our continued work as communities of faith is necessary in responding to the crucial issue of global warming and its effect on the health and well-being of all people.

Policy advocacy around legislation or action to advance specific issues is our right in a democratic society. Non-profits and congregations can and should be involved in this type of advocacy. This differs from political and electoral campaigns for elected officials. Non-profits (including congregations) cannot support or oppose candidates for public office, or be involved in partisan activity.

Advocacy for non-profits/501(c)(3)s

What is a 501(c)(3)? A 501(c)(3) organization is simply a nonprofit organization (usually incorporated) that has applied for and obtained recognition of tax exemption by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Under the tax code, houses of worship are classified as 501(c)(3)s and are explicitly allowed to lobby within the parameters of federal law. Churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship use the "insubstantial part test," meaning lobbying must be an insubstantial part of their overall budget and activities.

Remember that all policy advocacy is not lobbying. Advocacy only becomes lobbying when you are specifically advocating for or against a particular piece of legislation (i.e., Senate Bill 12). General policy advocacy (i.e., asking your senator to support climate protection) is not limited. Also, advocating for implementation of a law once it has already passed (i.e., actions taken by the Air Resources Board to enforce laws) is not lobbying.

If you have questions, more information is available on the Alliance for Justice website at www.afj.org. CIPL staff is also happy to talk about this with you.

Advocacy Ideas:

1. Get to know your legislators. Find out who represents the community of which your congregation is an important part. Your state and national representatives will have an impact on policies that respond to environmental stewardship issues.
2. Work with CIPL to schedule a meeting with some of your representatives. It is easier than you think to meet with a representative or their staff to tell them that your faith community is actively involved in responding to climate change and that you encourage them to support policies that reduce CO₂ emissions and support green jobs and healthier communities.

3. Organize a letter writing campaign or event on a crucial policy issue. Read your monthly e-newsletters from CIPL to find out about upcoming policy issues that require action and advocacy. When there is an important issue before our policy makers, we will provide resources for online actions and letter writing campaigns as well as educational events and information. We'll keep you up to date on policy opportunities, and we'll work with all of our member congregations to advocate effectively for healthier and cleaner communities.
4. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, news blogs, and online discussions. Polls show that letters to the editor are the most read portion of newspapers. Remember to state your point logically, clearly, and concisely – in no more than 150 words. Support your ideas using quotes and examples, but keep statistics to a minimum. End with a strong argument or call to action.

Success Story: Proposition 23

CIPL was part of an unprecedented coalition to defeat Proposition 23 on California's November 2010 ballot. This proposition would have suspended California's landmark climate and clean energy law, AB 32. Prop 23 was the biggest referendum ever in the country on climate and clean energy – and the voters overwhelmingly chose to address climate change and move forward with our state's burgeoning clean energy revolution. Prop 23 was defeated by the largest margin of any of the California propositions, with 61% of the electorate voting "No."



Here's what the Los Angeles Times wrote about Proposition 23: "No environmental campaign in U.S. history can boast the level of activism in California this year: Prop 23 opponents mustered 3,200 volunteers and made 2.8 million phone calls to voters." CIPL organized a Religious Leaders Advisory Committee to defeat the proposition, including Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders. In the Los Angeles area, a group of rabbis was particularly active. Following a Prop 23 informational meeting at University Synagogue, the rabbis integrated the initiative into their sermons, distributed information at their temples, and hosted events. We are proud that this campaign included religious leaders and faith communities from many traditions who spoke out on our moral responsibility to address climate change, and the negative effects of pollution on vulnerable communities.



Los Angeles area rabbis and other Jewish leaders at a No on Prop 23 gathering at University Synagogue.

Celebrate!

A crucial aspect of all good work is to celebrate success. Our organization invites all members and friends to our **annual Energy Oscars** event where we celebrate the successes of outstanding congregations. This event is inspirational and hopeful about all of the ways faith communities are responding to climate change and caring for Creation.

Your congregation can also find opportunities to celebrate. Earth Day has been an annual time when people focus on what is going on in our environment and what more we can do, but it can also be a time to celebrate. Each religious tradition also has special holidays for celebrating earth, harvest, and new life – any of these could become a great opportunity to celebrate your congregational efforts.

Ideas for Celebrations

- **Eco-fair or Earth Day celebration**

Include art projects using recycled materials from the congregation, provide a drop-off point for electronic waste and CFL recycling, watch a film on climate change issues and provide a letter writing station for letters to editors or to legislators. Invite community neighbors and turn it into a block party. Make the event fun with music, art and good local food!

- **Celebrate a success**

Provide opportunities within religious services, during announcements or other times to recognize people who are helping with energy efficiency projects and to point out improvements to your buildings.

- **Plan a nature walk, picnic, hike or camping trip**

Celebrate the gifts of Creation by spending time in/with them. Your congregation may have someone who knows a lot about local birds or trees and plants – encourage them to share their knowledge and create an opportunity for a fun gathering. If your tradition allows for it, worship outdoors during a warmer time of year.



CIPL member congregations celebrate! Clockwise from top left: Muslim Green Team EcoFair, Christ Church celebrates new solar panels, First Chinese Baptist celebrates nature and Trinity celebrates 10-10-10!