



## **ETHICAL ENERGY**

The newsletter of  
Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light  
[www.WisconsinIPL.org](http://www.WisconsinIPL.org)  
[Like us](#) on FaceBook!  
[Become a Friend](#) of WIPL!

**November, 2011**

---

### **In This Issue:**

- Remember WIP&L This Holiday Season
  - Events:
    - Environmental Justice: A Human Rights Issue
    - EPA Community Meeting and Forum on Milwaukee's Valley Coal Plant
    - Looking Ahead: February Preach-In Valentine's Day Weekend
  - Action: Sign the League of Women Voters Clean Air Promise
  - News:
    - Climate Negotiations Have Begun in Durban, South Africa
    - Pope urges international agreement on climate change
- 

### **Remember WIP&L This Holiday Season**

For those of us committed to doing something about the threat of climate change, these are challenging and paradoxical times.

The evidence for human-caused climate change continues to grow stronger and record-breaking droughts, floods and storms make all too clear that we are already feeling the effects. But at the same time, much of the public and many political leaders reject the evidence and refuse to take action. Even basic protections against air pollution from burning fossil fuels are under attack in Congress.

The witness of people of faith -- declaring that climate change is a moral and spiritual issue, calling for action, and leading by example -- is needed now more than ever. The mission of Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light is to lift up and support that witness by and for Wisconsin's religious communities and their members.

As you make your holiday plans, please consider a gift to Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light. If you give \$100 or more, you will receive a free copy of [Love God, Heal Earth](#), a collection of statements by religious leaders of many faiths edited by the Rev. Canon Sally Bingham, founder of Interfaith Power and Light. You can also generate donations to WIP&L for free by shopping online at [iGive](#).

Checks can be mailed to the address at the end of this newsletter. Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light is a registered 501(c)3 organization.

---

## EVENTS

### **Environmental Justice: A Human Rights Issue**

An Interfaith Environmental Justice Educational event

Sunday December 11, 2011, 2:00-4:30 pm

Islamic Society of Milwaukee, 4707 S. 13th St. (13th and Layton), Milwaukee.

The event will begin with an interfaith panel with Dr. Daniel N. Weber (Jewish perspective), Senior Scientist at the Children's Environmental Health Sciences Core Center in Milwaukee, Sr. Janet Weyker (Christian perspective), Executive Director of the Eco-Justice Center in Racine, and Huda Alkaff (Muslim perspective), Director of the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin.

Kimberly Wright, Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, will give a presentation on "Making Environmental Justice a Reality."

A Cleaner Valley Coalition panel discussion will follow. The Cleaner Valley Coalition is a coalition of health advocacy groups, civil rights organizations, faith groups, grassroots organizations and local service providers and individuals working to improve the air quality for all Milwaukee residents by cleaning up the coal plant in the Menomonee Valley.

The event will conclude with exhibits and refreshments.

Admission is free. [RSVP](#) before Friday December 9, 2011 is appreciated. To RSVP, please click [HERE](#), go to <http://islamicenvironmentalgroup.org/events/>, e-mail [interfaith.earth@yahoo.com](mailto:interfaith.earth@yahoo.com), or call 262-335-6533.

Sponsors include: Eco-Justice Center, Interfaith Earth Network of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin, Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Midwest Environmental Advocates and Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light.

### **EPA Community Meeting and Forum on Milwaukee's Valley Coal Plant**

Monday, Dec 12, doors open at 6 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee

The Valley coal plant is one of the dirtiest plants in the state, yet sits in Wisconsin's most populated city. The community has grown deeply concerned over the increase in cases of asthma and respiratory illness in children in Milwaukee, particularly within the African-American, Latino and lower-income communities.

The Cleaner Valley Coalition is taking its message to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a powerful community conversation about environmental justice, health effects from poor air quality, and the EPA's critical role in cleaning up local polluters like the Valley power plant. There will be an opportunity to provide personal statements to head EPA officials; written testimony will also be accepted. [RSVP](#) [Event flyer](#) (English and Spanish)

Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light is a member of the Cleaner Valley Coalition, which includes health advocacy groups, civil rights organizations, grassroots organizations, local service providers and concerned individuals. Facebook: Search "Cleaner Valley Campaign" / Twitter: @CleanerValley / Web: [www.cleanervalleycampaign.org](http://www.cleanervalleycampaign.org) / For more information: Virginia Zerpa, [vdzerpa@gmail.com](mailto:vdzerpa@gmail.com), 414-737-5153

## Looking Ahead: February Preach-In Valentine's Day Weekend

In February, hundreds of faith leaders of different religious traditions from around the country will use the weekend closest to Valentine's Day as a time to express their love of Creation and their concern about climate change. [Sign up now](#), to participate and IPL will send you a variety of resources as soon as they become available. [Learn more](#).

---

### **ACTION: Sign the League of Women Voters Clean Air Promise**

*I Promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths, I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.*

The League of Women Voters is promoting this Clean Air Promise as a way to show support for EPA proposals to update clean air standards based on several studies, and to respond to efforts to weaken these standards. To sign the pledge, go to [www.peoplenotpolluters.org](http://www.peoplenotpolluters.org) -- and you will also have the opportunity to send a message to Gov. Walker and your representatives in Congress.

---

## NEWS

### **Climate Negotiations Have Begun in Durban, South Africa**

UN climate negotiations started up again on Nov. 28 in Durban, South Africa. For more information, and to sign a postcard to President Obama in support of climate justice (sponsored by the National Council of Churches and member denominations), go to: <http://www.doitindurban.org/index.html>

### **Pope Urges International Agreement on Climate Change**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI urged international leaders to reach a credible agreement on climate change, keeping in mind the needs of the poor and of future generations. ([Read more](#).)

---

>>>>> **Forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues!** >>>>>

#### **Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light**

750 Windsor Street -- Suite #301, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

PH: (608) 837-3108 / [info@WisconsinIPL.org](mailto:info@WisconsinIPL.org) / <http://www.WisconsinIPL.org>

Dr. Peter Bakken, Executive Director

If you no longer wish to receive e-mail from us, please click [here](#).

powered by  
 capwiz xc