



Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
A faith-based response to global warming

Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News

August 2017

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Come to *Building Local Resilience - Inspiring Climate Action!* Conference

VT Interfaith Power & Light's 2017 conference, *Building Local Resilience - Inspiring Climate Action!*, is going to be great. Plan to come! Along with Deb Markowitz as our Keynote Speaker, we have a number of fantastic leaders for the six workshops, great food, wonderful sponsors, music and more! It will be on Saturday, Oct. 21st at First Congregational Church in Manchester.

Registration will begin very soon with either online registration through VTIPL's website or a paper registration form.

A page on VTIPL's [website](#) about the conference has Deb Markowitz's photo & bio, and the list of workshop topics. The conference flyer is in an attachment at the end of the page. The workshop topics are:

- Building resilient communities
- Climate legislation advocacy
- Climate science update
- Effective community organizing
- Help with building energy efficiency
- Watershed stewardship

Congregations Invited to be Conference Sponsors

We invite congregations to help VTIPL by being conference sponsors with a donation of \$50.00 or more. The names of sponsoring congregations will be included in printed materials. If your congregation would like to sponsor, please click [here](#) to let us know. To be listed in the conference materials, contact VTIPL by September 30th.

Everyone's Economic Opportunity in Climate Action - Panel & Conversation

Though climate change is an urgent environmental challenge, it also offers big economic development opportunities for Vermont. A series of panel discussions with conversation on this topic is being held around the state, hosted by VT Businesses for Social Responsibility and VT Natural Resources Council. These events are free and open to all, and refreshments are provided. RSVP and get more information [here](#).

The first two events will be:

Thursday, August 24th, 6 - 8 pm, Montshire Museum, Norwich

Tuesday, September 12th, 6 - 8 pm, 118 Elliot, Brattleboro

Churches and Sacred Places Retreat: Grand Isle Lake House, Sept. 21-22

Many congregations statewide and nationally are struggling with maintaining their houses of worship while their membership declines. Preservation Trust of Vermont offers this retreat to help faith communities learn about funding

opportunities, ways to attract new partners, and to explore how to better maintain historic places of worship. More information is on the [website](#). Click to [register](#).

Action for Ecological Justice Conference, St. Michael's College, Sept. 30

Dr. Carolyn Woo, former CEO and President of Catholic Relief Services, will be the Keynote Speaker at this conference at St. Michael's College in Colchester on Sept. 30th. It includes sessions on ecological justice, economics, science, public policy, organizing & advocacy, spirituality & religion, and food & farming. The conference is open to all and students are admitted free, however, registration is required. The \$35 general admission fee includes breakfast and lunch. Information about the sessions, registration, and much more is at the [website](#). Click [here](#) for the conference flyer.

One Person's Carbon Tax

One of VTIPL's supporters from Middlebury, David Andrews, decided to impose a carbon tax on himself to offset his use of fossil fuels. He keeps track on a spreadsheet of gas purchases for his car, amount of LP gas and home heating oil used, and his air travel. He charges himself 10 cents/gallon for fuel and charges for the number of miles of air travel. At the end of each quarter, he totals it up and has been donating the amount to VTIPL. It's a wonderful model and way to be accountable for fossil fuel use. And VTIPL very much appreciates the donation - *thank you, David!* For more information, [contact him](#).

Paris: We're Still In!

On the National Interfaith Power & Light website, you can sign onto the petition to say: "My household/my faith community will continue to work to protect creation regardless of what the U.S. federal government does. We are still committed to fighting global warming, we are keeping the faith, and we're still in!" Here's the [petition](#).

Climate Change in the American Mind

This [report](#) from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication has some encouraging key findings including: 70% of Americans think global

warming is happening, and 58% understand that it is mostly human caused -- the highest level since their surveys began in Nov. 2008.

Raise a Paddle Video

Scroll down a little at the website to watch this 11.5 minute [video](#) *Raise a Paddle: a journey from the Pacific Islands to the tar sands*. It's a moving story of indigenous people from the Pacific Islands going to northern Alberta to see the destruction that the tar sands operations have caused there and to visit with the indigenous people of that region.

Three NY Times Articles on Climate

- Scientists Fear Trump Will Dismiss Blunt Climate* [Report](#) by Lisa Friedman
- In Sweltering South, Climate Change Is Now a Workplace Hazard* [article](#) by Yamiche Alcindor
- Utility Helps Wean Vermonters From the Electric Grid* [article](#) by Diane Cardwell

VTIPL helps people of faith and spirit to better understand the climate crisis and to take action to care for Earth.

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light

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