



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

Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News

February 2019

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Faith Climate Action Week - National IPL annual event

In 2019, Faith Climate Action Week will be from April 5 -14. This annual event from National Interfaith Power & Light is the time when leaders in congregations across the country are preaching about global climate change, and congregations are holding events and taking action to reduce the use of fossil fuels. The materials for 2019 Faith Climate Action Week will be available soon at this [website](#).

Vermont Coalition Releases 2019 Climate Action Plan

VTIPL is part of a coalition of 25 organizations that released the "Climate Action Plan for 2019: A Blueprint for Progress" soon after the start of this year's legislative session. The blueprint has six main proposals to help Vermont reverse direction so our carbon emissions begin falling again,

instead of rising, as they have been for several years. To make progress, however, we all need to be speaking with our legislators, and letting them know how important it is to take strong action on climate. We need to keep asking them to support the climate legislation being released this session. Legislators usually respond when they're hearing support for legislation from many of their constituents. In past years, they haven't been hearing from enough of us. Let's change that this year! Click [here](#) for the 2019 Climate Action Plan.

Report Says Carbon Pricing Wouldn't Hurt Vermont's Economy

An important report commissioned by the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) was released to the legislature in mid January. The JFO engaged Resources for the Future, a premier academic research firm, to carry out the analysis and produce the report. They found that, when combined with other measures such as investment in renewable energy, a price on carbon wouldn't hurt Vermont's economy or Vermonters with low income; it would provide a boost. See the [report](#) for details. It has a "Key Findings" page and a 10-page Executive Summary.

Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown

Local farmer and climate activist Laurel Green will lead this two-hour workshop on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm at First Congregational Church in Manchester. This workshop is designed to shift the conversation around global warming and is useful to anyone interested in climate crisis issues. It's meant to give people an encouraging place to stand and a clear idea of what actions they can take to contribute to reversing global warming. The Pachamama Alliance developed the workshop in collaboration with the Drawdown Project. It includes several short videos, listening exchanges, and group activities. Earth Matters-350VT Manchester sponsors the event. It's free and open to all. Contact [Annie](#) for more info.

With Vermont's Emissions Spiking, Strong Climate Action is Needed

This *Boston Globe* article covers how Vermont's carbon emissions have been rising since 2011, to the surprise of many, and what officials and individual Vermonters are doing to reverse the trend. Read it [here](#).

Ecocide, the 5th Crime Against Peace

In this TEDx Talk, Polly Higgins tells about when she first thought, "The Earth is in Need of a Good Lawyer", and how this changed her life. She went on to spend much of her time researching this, working to ensure through law that Earth has a right to live. In the 19-minute video, she speaks of a law to protect the sacredness of all life, a legal duty of care, and much more. Watch the [video](#).

The Green New Deal: Movements (Finally) Get Visionary Again

In this *YES!* magazine article, George Lakey speaks of an emerging bold vision of a better world. Vermont's "Vision for Vermont" Summit is mentioned. He's cheering on the broad, inclusive movements forming around the country. Click [here](#) to read it.

The Key to Winning Victories Against Big Oil? Perseverance

Bill McKibben gives the students much credit for their perseverance in calling for Middlebury College to divest from fossil fuels. And last month, Middlebury announced that it was divesting its holdings in fossil fuel companies. Read the [article](#) in The Guardian.

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

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