



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

Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News - December 2021

May There be Peace on Earth



Photo courtesy Paula Willoquet.



VTIPL end-of-year Film Event, *Mission: JOY*, Thursday, December 16!

Two spiritual giants. Five Days. One life-changing film.

Join VTIPL on December 16, at 7:00 p.m. to close out the year on a joyful note with our virtual screening and community discussion of the film, *Mission: JOY*. Described as deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, the documentary shines a light on the enduring friendship of His Holiness the Dalai Lama & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, two spiritual leaders who transcend religion. These self-described "mischievous brothers" are wonderful examples of how to create joy in a world that was rarely easy for them, offering wisdom to help us all live with more joy and love, despite differences and difficult circumstances.

Inspired by the bestseller, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, the film showcases exchanges between these Nobel Peace Prize winners that led to that book. Viewers go behind the scenes in the Dalai Lama's residence in Dharamsala, India, where these icons recount stories from their incredible journeys. The film culminates in The Dalai Lama's 80th birthday party. With affection, mutual respect, and a lot of teasing, these amazing humans impart lessons gleaned from their experiences, from ancient traditions, and from neuroscience-backed wisdom demonstrating the importance of living with joy amidst life's challenges. "*Mission: JOY* is an antidote for the times." If you took advantage of IPL's recent offer to view the film on your own, please join us for a viewing in community and share the joy!

Our post-screening conversation will be led by The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church and VT IPL Vice-President.

Register ASAP to receive an email confirmation and link to the event.

[Register.](#) Download our event e-flier to share with organizations & friends at [VTIPL's website.](#)

Pres. Biden Issues Executive Order, Mandate Net-Zero Emissions by 2050

VTIPL is thrilled to share this recent news which is a major step forward!

The Guardian today reports, "The US government will be a net zero contributor to the climate crisis by 2050 by slashing the planet-heating emissions from its operations and transitioning to an all-electric fleet of cars and trucks, according to a new executive order signed by Joe Biden. The federal government is the largest land owner, energy consumer and employer in the US and it will 'lead by example in tackling the climate crisis', the White House said, by eliminating greenhouse gases from its activities. Under the order signed by Biden on Wednesday, the government will cut its emissions by 65% by the end of this decade, before reaching carbon neutrality by 2050." [The Guardian full story.](#)



IPL Build Back Better Policy Update - Contact Your Senators

(From IPL's Federal Policy Associate
Jonathan Lacock-Nisly)
"The Build Back Better Act has passed the House! That's thanks to

your advocacy, and thanks to our champions in the House successfully tying Build Back Better to the bipartisan infrastructure bill in negotiations. Build Back Better now sits in the Senate, where negotiations continue between Democratic leadership and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), likely to be the last vote needed in a split Senate. IPL and our partners are pushing to get the bill passed before the end of the year, and Senate Leader Chuck Schumer (D-

NY) has endorsed that timeline. But time is getting tight, and the Senate has a long list of priorities for the final weeks of the year. Now is the moment to contact your senators one more time and ask them to pass this vital legislation this year.” Please also contact your friends in other states to share this appeal and the links to communicate directly with their senators who may need convincing. **Email senators** [using this link](#). Read [IPL's December Washington Report](#).

Vermont's First Climate Action Plan Adopted by Council

On December 1, Vermont's Climate Council adopted the state's first-ever statutorily required Climate Action Plan. The plan will help Vermont meet the emissions reductions requirements outlined in the Global Warming Solutions Act passed last year and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Council was charged with crafting a plan to meet Vermont's legally required climate pollution reductions, while advancing equity and building resilience to the impacts of the climate crisis across Vermont. The initial Climate Plan was adopted in an affirming 19-4 vote including the support of several members of the Scott Administration. You'll recall that last year, Governor Scott vetoed the GWSA, but the legislature overrode that veto thanks to many of you who responded to VT IPL's Action Alerts and prompts by other organizations to contact lawmakers. That resulted in the administration being required to embark on this state-embedded, ongoing process. Read the Climate Action Plan [Summary](#). Read Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' [report](#). Read [Vermont Natural Resources Council assessment](#).



Climate Solutions Caucus Town Hall

Vermont's Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus is hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, December 15, at 7 p.m. to share its reactions to the new Climate Action Plan,

discuss plans for the upcoming legislative session, and to hear directly from

Vermonters about which climate policies should be prioritized in 2022. The event will include regional breakout rooms led by legislators from your county. [Register for Town Hall.](#)

Revealing the Truth About Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Friday, Dec. 10

On Friday, December 10, at 12 Noon, the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication presents a program with journalist Chris Mooney who will discuss a months-long *Washington Post* investigation into the world's climate-warming emissions. The research found that countries are dramatically under-reporting their climate impact - by as much as 13 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually. The *Post* drew on satellite and atmospheric analyses, independent scientific inventories of greenhouse gases, and a dataset built by the newspaper to hold the entire world accountable for what it is truly emitting. [Register here.](#)



**Sierra Club - Rail Action Priorities.
December 15, 7 p.m.**

Next Wednesday, join the Vermont Sierra Club in a discussion with Christopher Parker of the Vermont Rail Action Network. The program will discuss upcoming rail operations and priorities for 2022. [Register.](#)



***Taking the Pulse of Mother Earth* - Fritjof Capra & Leonardo Boff. Dec. 16**

Taking the Pulse of Mother Earth: Threats and possible solutions through ethics and spirituality is the title of this special end-of-the-year Earth Charter event. Capra and Boff will take stock of the current situation humanity faces and possibilities to change course. Join the conversation on Thursday, December 16, at 2 p.m. E.T. Fritjof Capra is an Austrian-born American physicist and systems theorist perhaps most known for his work in deep ecology. He is a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, CA, and on the faculty of Schumacher College. Leonardo Boff is a Brazilian theologian, philosopher writer, and former Catholic priest known for actively supporting Latin American liberation theology of which he is considered a founder. Boff serves as Professor Emeritus of Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, and Ecology at Rio de Janeiro State University. Simultaneous English and Spanish interpretation provided. VT IPL Coordinator Donna Roberts has had the pleasure of interacting with Leonardo Boff and was honored to translate an essay about the Earth Charter which he co-authored with Earth Charter Director Mirian Vilela. [Register here.](#)



Paul Winter Solstice Concert.

December 17-19

Every December since 1980, seven-time Grammy® winner Paul Winter and his colleagues have celebrated the Winter Solstice at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, with a feast of music and dance from cultures around the world. This year,

the 42nd Annual Winter Solstice Celebration will be a comprehensive retrospective, available to a worldwide audience. *Solstice Saga*, Paul Winter's Winter Solstice Celebration will highlight iconic performances from the first four decades of this legendary event. This one-of-a-kind video will premiere livestreamed via Stellar on December 17-19. After the premiere, *Solstice Saga* will be released as a video on-demand. Learn more and buy [tickets](#).

You may be receiving by postal mail a year-end appeal letter from VT IPL summarizing our 2021 activities, and inviting you to consider a donation to support our ongoing work. We are grateful for gifts of all sizes which allow us to continue offering faith-based responses to the climate crisis.

Thank you so much for your interest in and support of our work this year and in the future!

[Donate Now](#)

We hope you and your families enjoy a restorative, peaceful end of 2021 and a healthy year ahead.



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

