



The edible path at Willowell Foundation, Monkton. Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts.

Thank You for Voting with the Climate in Mind!

- Senate Passes Inflation Reduction Act with Historic Climate Investments
- Guide for Potential EV Buyers
- VIA's Abolish Slavery Prop 2 Campaign. Aug. 11, 6 p.m.
- VTIPL Co-sponsors Summit with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe. Sept. 11-14
- Congregational Watershed Workshop, Hanover, NH. Sept. 11
- Consider Planning a Sacred Waters Event
- IPL Faithful Voter Reflection Guide
- Preservation Trust Retreat: Sacred Places. Sept. 13-14
- VTIPL Seeks New Board Members

Thank you from VTIPL!

We'd like to begin this month's news by thanking our community members for keeping top of mind climate action and climate justice when you voted yesterday, and as we head toward the November elections. Your vote makes a difference, and VTIPL's work is now more important than ever!



Senate Passes Inflation Reduction Act with Historic Climate Investments

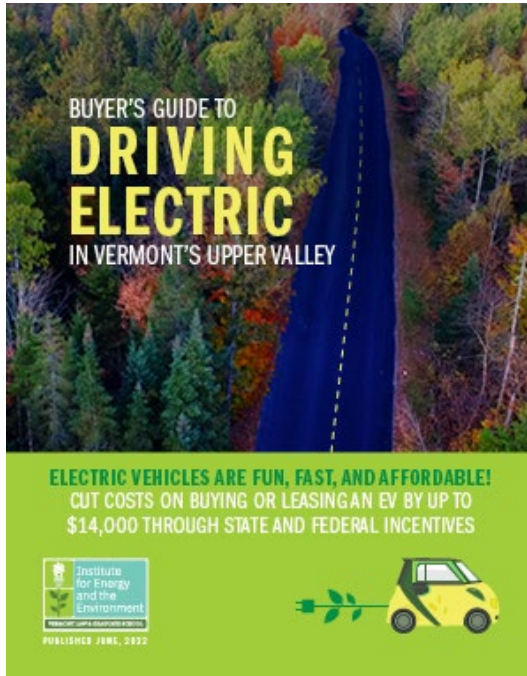
Interfaith Power &
Light applauds the

recent U.S. Senate vote passing the most significant climate bill in history - the Inflation Reduction Act. The bill puts our nation on the path to cut climate pollution emissions up to 44% by 2030 and create millions of good-paying clean energy jobs. It also prioritizes environmental justice and reduces energy bills for working families. The \$369 billion in energy and climate investments represent the single greatest U.S. investment to tackle climate change.

While the faith community has been advocating for passage of climate and clean energy investments for the last two years and celebrates this victory, we also acknowledge that the Inflation Reduction Act includes troubling provisions around fossil fuel expansion and other seemingly false solutions that will continue to place frontline communities at risk. And IPL is concerned about a proposed side deal including drastic permitting changes in must-pass legislation Congress will take up this fall. We will work to address those provisions of the bill while opposing any weakening of our environmental review process.

IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot states, "Budgets are moral documents, and where we choose to invest as a nation is an indication of what we value....the Senate chose to take moral leadership and demonstrate that they value the health of our families and communities; jobs that can provide good wages; clean air, water, and soil; environmental justice for historically marginalized communities; and care for our common home.... We applaud and celebrate passage of this critical legislation in the Senate, and now call

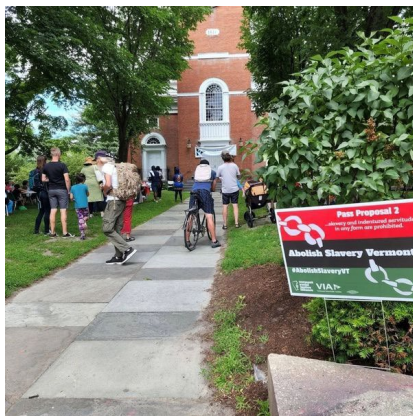
on the House of Representatives and President Biden to act swiftly to pass this bill because climate can't wait." Read IPL's [press statement](#).



Guide for Potential EV Buyers

Are you considering buying an electric vehicle? If so, the *Buyers Guide to Driving Electric in Vermont's Upper Valley* is a new resource that you could find very valuable. The Guide is a project of the Institute for Energy and the Environment of Vermont Law & Graduate School. It aims to help community members learn about EVs, and how they can be a key part of a sustainable lifestyle. The Guide was created with support from The Vermont Community

Foundation. A downloadable PDF is available. Access the [Guide online](#).



VIA's Abolish Slavery Prop 2 Campaign. Aug. 11, 6 - 7:30 pm

This Thursday, Vermont Interfaith Action with its partner Vermont Racial Justice Alliance kicks off the second phase of its Prop 2 campaign with *Abolish Slavery VT Launch 2.0*. This virtual event will feature a research report about the history of Vermont's constitution and slavery, and testimonies from those who have pledged to

vote in favor of Prop 2. According to VIA, "The constitution currently outlines three grounds for exceptions to the abolition of slavery: 1) for those under age 21, 2) for those bound by their own consent, and 3) for those bound for payment of debts, damages, fines, costs or 'the like'. This year, Vermonters have the opportunity to change our state constitution and ABOLISH SLAVERY: NO EXCEPTIONS when we go to the polls to vote on November

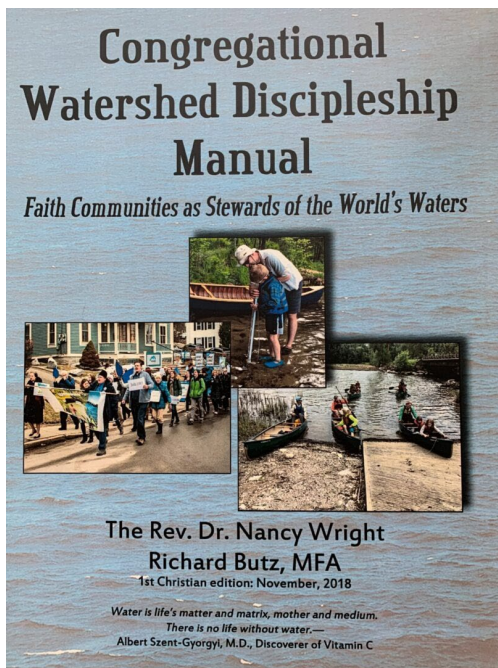
8th, 2022." Register for the Zoom event [here](#). You will be emailed a unique Zoom link to join the event. For security purposes, you're asked not to share the second link with others. Learn about VIA and the [Campaign here](#).



VTIPL Co-sponsors Green Summit with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe - Sept. 11-14

VTIPL is co-sponsoring a very special four-day virtual gathering next month with Faith in Place and other IPL affiliates. Please join us for the Green Team Summit, *Rooted Together*. This year is the 7th Annual Green Team Summit which aims to connect like-minded people, build climate resilience, and explore the intersection of justice and healing work. From Sunday, Sept. 11 through Wednesday, Sept. 14, the Summit's six sessions offer participants opportunities to engage with faith and environmental leaders from around the world.

The Summit's opening keynote features Dr. Katharine Hayhoe with a live Q & A exploring her book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. Dr. Hayhoe is an accomplished atmospheric scientist and a remarkable communicator who has received multiple awards including the American Geophysical Union's Climate Communication Prize and the U.N. Champion of the Earth Award. She is honored in prestigious lists such as Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People and FORTUNE magazine's World's Greatest Leaders. Her TED talk, "The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it" has nearly four million views. We hope to see you during the free Summit! Review [Summit details and register](#). [Summit Agenda](#).



Congregational Watershed Workshop, Hanover, NH. Sept. 11

In her new position as Pastor of Creation Care for the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, VTIPL Vice-President The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright will present the first in a series of Watershed Stewardship Workshops in Hanover, NH, on Sunday, September 11. Pr. Nancy says, "Caring for water orients a congregation in a new way to its spiritual, social, cultural, and ecological community, while helping it develop ties to other congregations

and groups in the area to foster watershed health. When a congregation cares for its local watershed, it can promote awareness and action to ameliorate worldwide water justice issues, including those compounded by climate change and the feminization of poverty." The two-hour workshop will include explanations of watersheds, water rituals, info about local collaboration, and reflections on the meaning of "living water." All Christian and interfaith communities are welcome. Sunday, September 11, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hanover, NH. To inquire, contact Pr. Nancy [by email](#). For more information about other Watershed Workshop dates and locations, visit the New England Synod [website](#).

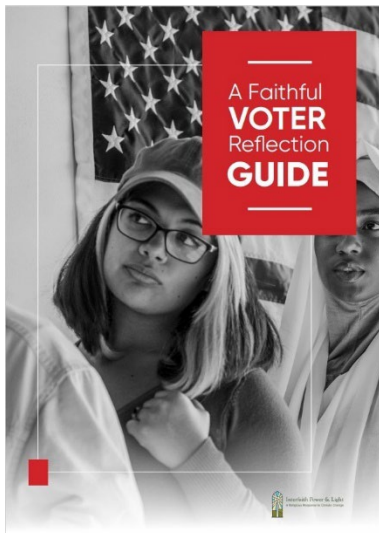


Consider Planning a Sacred Waters Event

This fall, VTIPL is unable to offer our communities our signature *Celebrating Sacred Waters* activity which has taken place at Shelburne Bay Park.

This is due to recent shifts in key personnel of the major co-sponsoring organizations with which we collaborate on the annual event. We hope to resume the beloved gathering next year. In the meantime, why not plan your own event or activities honoring and celebrating water or nature in your special place? VTIPL has resources to help with planning such as our

Watershed Manual for interfaith and Christian congregations. Brainstorm about what you might like to do with your Green Team or Creation Care committee, or simply come together with others who care about water, the climate, and our natural world. Contact local or regional organizations working on environmental issues, the climate crisis, water quality, protection, and care. Go canoeing or kayaking, take a group nature hike near a waterway, plan a blessing or other ritual to acknowledge the importance of water. What would be meaningful for your group in your place? Have fun! If you do *Celebrate Sacred Waters*, please let us know what you did and how it went. For ideas and inspiration, go to VT IPL's website to review the downloadable [Watershed Manual](#).



Faithful Voter Reflection Guide On the heels of this week's elections, we want to remind you that National Interfaith Power & Light has available a multi-issue *Faithful Voter Reflection Guide* to help educate and inform us all about the issues of the 2022 elections. Free, digital versions are available to download; printed versions can be purchased. The Guide is to stimulate the conversations we need to renew our democracy. [Download digital guide.](#) [Order printed guide.](#)

Preservation Trust Retreat: Sacred Places, Sept. 13-14

Preservation Trust of Vermont is organizing a retreat at the spectacular Grand Isle Lake House for a gathering intent on identifying potential grants and other funding for projects while learning how to re-envision, save, and use your sacred place. Churches, synagogues, indigenous sacred sites, and other sacred places play a critical role in the health and wellness of our communities. These spaces often provide overflow shelters for our most vulnerable citizens while acting as gathering places for all sorts of events. Yet these spaces can be challenging to maintain. In collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places, a non-denominational nonprofit organization, the retreat will explore partnerships for sacred places and new uses for under-utilized

sacred buildings. The retreat runs Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. through Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. [Register by August 29.](#)

VTIPL Seeks New Board Members

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light is seeking to add new members to our Board at this time when the world needs all hands on deck to work toward solutions to the global climate crisis. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining our group of dedicated advocates keen on drawing the links between the climate, faith, and ethics, and who believe, like we do, that the climate crisis is, at heart, a spiritual crisis, we'd love to connect with you. To learn more about our organization's work, please have a look [at VTIPL's website.](#) To express an interest and learn more about what's involved with serving on our Board, please send us an [email.](#) We look forward to hearing from you!

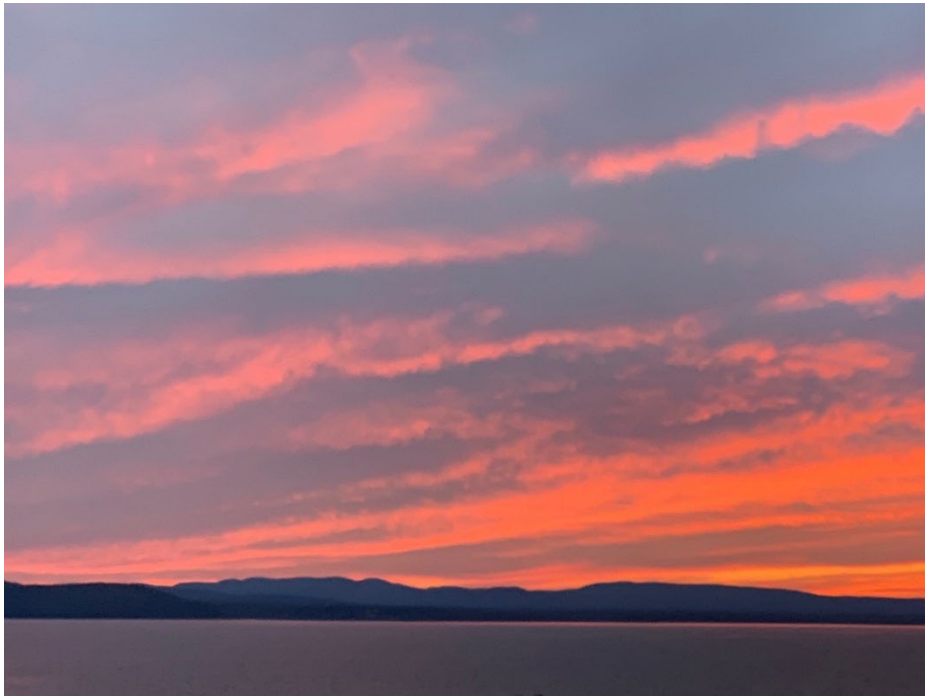


Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work providing a faith-based response to the climate crisis. We are so grateful!

[Donate Now](#)



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