



Fall splendor. Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts.

Thank You for Voting with the Climate in Mind!

- Inflation Reduction Act's Direct Pay to Nonprofits, Congregations & Town Hall on IRA with Vermont Delegation - October 18
- ACORN Energy Co-op's New Community Solar Investment Opportunity
- Solar-Powered Florida Community, "Our Lights Stayed On"
- VTIPL Autumn appeal: Give & We'll Have a Tree Planted for You
- FORUM2022 Science, Spirituality, Solidarity* - October 20
- Interfaith Power & Light at COP 27 Webinar - October 25
- The Letter - A message for our Earth* Film Brings to Life *Laudato Si'*
- Faith in Place Green Team Summit recordings
- Renewable Energy Vermont's REV22 - October 27 & 28
- Reflections on Hurricane Ian* by VTIPL Coordinator Donna Roberts

Inflation Reduction Act & Direct Pay to Nonprofits, Congregations

We hear a lot these days about the Inflation Reduction Act (including a so-called "dirty side deal") the new federal legislation aimed at helping lessen the effects of climate change and health disparities, while reducing inflation. One important program for our readers features \$30 billion in clean energy tax credits which, until recently, did not apply to non-profits including faith communities. Now, a "direct pay" program extends benefits to 501(c)3 organizations, including congregations, providing easier access to clean energy funds and tax credits when installing solar panels, wind turbines, or other eligible technologies on an eligible property. This not only reduces financing costs, but also opens the way for more community-owned solar. The clean energy tax credit will remain at 30% for ten years. The direct payment feature also provides an additional 20% for low-income and affordable housing projects; the tax credit could cover 50% of the cost for these projects. For more information, see the Environmental and Energy Study Institute's [guide](#).

Town Hall on IRA with Vermont Delegation - October 18 - 12 to 1:00 p.m.

Join Vermont Businesses For Social Responsibility and staff from the offices of Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Congressman Welch to explore what the IRA means for climate action, healthcare reform, and economic development in Vermont. [Register here](#).



Solar-Powered Florida Community, “Our Lights Stayed On”

(Published by the Rocky Mountain Institute on 10/5/22.) By Ryan Foelske

“My family and I survived our first hurricane. Hurricane Ian passed right over our head and pummeled the west coast of Florida with high winds for 6-10 hours. The storm ravaged our local area in Southwest Florida and is expected to rank among the 10 worst in US history, measured by the cost of the destruction.

And while the Hurricane knocked out power to more than 4 million Florida customers — and more than a half million are still without power as I write this — our lights only flickered, and then stayed on. Fortunately, we live in a master-planned community focused on sustainability and resiliency.” Read [full article](#).

ACORN Energy Co-op's New Community Solar Investment Opportunity

ACORN Energy Co-op is excited to announce that shares are now available in its fourth community solar project, Acorn Energy Solar 4. AES4 will be a 150 kW solar array on the capped former municipal landfill located on Observatory Road in Hinesburg. The project is open to Vermont residents with an electric meter in the Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) service territory. Investors will receive the project’s net metered credits on their VEC bills, and ultimately take ownership of the project. More information and a schedule of virtual informational meetings on the next three Thursdays are on their [website](#).



VTIPL Autumn Appeal: Give & We'll Have a Tree Planted for You

This is a great time to donate to Vermont Interfaith Power & Light. A longtime VTIPL donor is matching new gifts to our organization and donations that are increases from past gifts received by November 1. To demonstrate VTIPL's gratitude and

support of natural solutions to the climate crisis, for each gift of \$30 or more received during this period, VTIPL will have a tree planted for you with the help of the Arbor Day Foundation. Please consider giving via the Donate Now button below or on our [website](#). You can also send a check payable to VTIPL to P.O. Box 3095, Burlington, VT, 05408. For more information, please send us an [email](#). Thanks for your support!

[Donate Now](#)



FORUM2022 Science, Spirituality, Solidarity, Weaving Interconnections

Science, Spirituality, Solidarity: Weaving Interconnections, is a call to action on the global crisis facing humanity and all life on Earth. Co-sponsored by national Interfaith Power & Light, the virtual event takes place October 20 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. EDT. FORUM2022 presents an overview of how climate change is affecting our planet and how each of us individually and collectively can impact current industrial and governmental practices and policies to bring about rapid restoration of our biosphere. Presenters from the fields of religion, science, agriculture, ancient and indigenous wisdom, the arts, and more, will expand on our intimate relationship with the environment and emphasize the interconnectedness of all life. The keynote will be a dialogue between Bill McKibben and Dr. Vandana Shiva. Other speakers include Ray Archuleta, Diana Beresford-Kroeger, Dave Ford, David Helvarg, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Patricia Kombo, and Dr Kelsey Leonard. Interfaith

Prayers will be offered by Rev. Sally Bingham, founder of Interfaith Power & Light, Imam Saffet Catovic, Pandit Shukla Ji, and Rabbi David Rosen. Presented by the Temple of Understanding in collaboration with Marble Collegiate Church. [Register.](#)



COP27 Interfaith Power & Light Webinar - October 25, 7 p.m.

Next month, national Interfaith Power & Light will participate as an observer organization at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. IPL's goal is to ensure that world leaders hear the moral voice as they debate strategies and ambitions to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. "Our witness is crucial, and we want to make sure that you're up-to-date on the issues, understand how you can participate, and have a chance to ask your questions." Please join IPL and others for a COP27 Webinar, on Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m. EDT to learn more about our goals at the international climate gathering and how you can support the faith voice from home. [COP27 Webinar registration.](#)

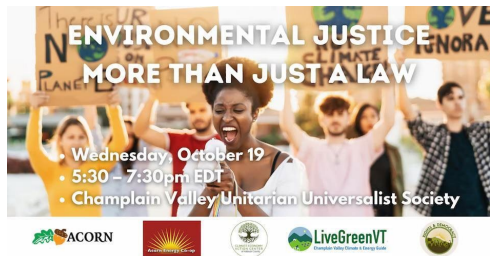


The Letter - A message for our Earth, New Film about Laudato Si'

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical "letter" to all people of Earth, not just Catholics, about the environmental crisis, and our responsibilities to each other and our common home. It entered mainstream

climate discourse, becoming widely read by people of multiple backgrounds and faiths. Now a new film takes us on a journey to meet four people who were invited to an unprecedented dialogue with the Pope. Coming from Senegal, the Amazon, India, and Hawai'i, they bring perspectives and

solutions from the poor, the indigenous, youth, and those representing wildlife into a conversation with the Pope. The documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there with moving personal stories, and the latest information about the planetary crisis. The film was created by the team that produced the spectacular, *My Octopus Teacher*. Tomás Insua, executive director of the Laudato si' Movement and the film's executive producer, explains, "This letter's message comes from a deep reflection, listening to his predecessors, leaders from other denominations, and numerous scientists, philosophers, theologians and civic groups." [View trailer.](#) Watch film. [Watch film.](#)



Environmental Justice: More than Just a Law - Oct. 19

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Middlebury S.148. "An act relating to environmental justice in Vermont," was

signed into law on May 31. This panel will cover what the law mandates, the roles of Vermont state agencies in putting the law into practice, and how community groups can support and help achieve its goals. The climate crisis and the pandemic have highlighted disparities in food, transport, and technology access, housing, and energy affordability, and how some Vermont populations and communities are more impacted than others. The discussion aims to divulge more about Vermont's new environmental justice law and to discuss how, individually and collectively, we can work together towards its fulfillment. Panelists include: State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale; Jen Myers, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity; Lindsey Berk, ACORN. The in-person event takes place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and includes refreshments. Childcare provided.



REV2022 *Our Clean energy Future in a Changing World* - October 27 & 28

For the first time since the pandemic, the annual Renewable Energy Vermont conference is taking place in person. Join the event in Burlington, on October 27 & 28 to learn

about the latest in renewable energy. REV2022's agenda includes: Industry veteran Alicia Barton's Thursday keynote discussing, *The Future of New England's Electric Grid*; Thursday evening's reception with statewide candidates; Friday's Womxn in Energy Networking Lunch, and multiple panel discussions. [Register.](#)



Faith in Place Green Team Summit Recordings Available – K. Hayhoe Comments

VTIPL was proud to co-sponsor the recent Faith in Place Green Team Summit which featured a keynote by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, award-winning climate communicator and author of the recently published, *Saving Us...the Facts are not Enough*. Here are a few excerpts from her talk,

which can be reviewed via the link below.

“Our brains are wired not to react to fear if we don’t know how we can act on it....Fear & anxiety will cause us to withdraw, to freeze, to give up, rather than take action.” Studies show that “70% of Americans, 86% of young people, and 83% of mothers are worried about climate change; while 50% of us are hopeless and don’t know where to start.” As for faith communities, “Hispanic Catholics and Native Americans think climate change will harm them personally,” but “not White Catholics...a situation “similar to Evangelicals.” Despite all of this worry, concern, and hopelessness, most people are not talking about climate change. Dr. Hayhoe says we must talk about it! Before starting a conversation, she suggests taking a personal inventory. What do we have in common? “Find a common interest or activity” (Are we both parents? Do we both like skiing, gardening, etc.?) and use that as a starting point. An example: “Did you know that climate change is affecting (x activity) in this way?” Common ground is key. “We must connect with our head, heart, and hands.”

Hayhoe also spoke about Hope.” Real hope comes when we accept what’s at risk, that success is not inevitable, and maybe it’s not even probable. Active hope is a practice. It’s something we do rather than have.” Hayhoe quoted youth activist Greta Thunberg, “The one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere.” Access [Summit Recordings.](#)

Reflections on Hurricane Ian by VTIPL Coordinator Donna C. Roberts

(Read the [full essay on our website.](#))

Many of us have watched in horror as family and friends in Florida experienced the impacts of Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm, among the strongest in U.S. history. Thankfully, my family there is safe.

I lived in southwest Florida for 12 years - the first four on Sanibel Island - having moved there from Montréal in late 2001. My rationale was to attend graduate school at Florida Gulf Coast University, a college founded on and grounded in sustainability. All undergrads were required to take the Colloquium, a course in ecological literacy. I studied environmental sciences with a focus on international environmental education. Led by extraordinary and passionate professors, I trekked through cypress swamps (carefully avoiding alligators!) to learn about ecosystems and counted plant species in plots in an Oak Hammock - my favorite outdoor classroom. A few years later, I took my own students there. We also visited Babcock Ranch, which at the time was being developed as a sustainable community of the future. As you have read in this newsletter, residents of Babcock Ranch survived Hurricane Ian with barely a flicker of lights during the storm's peak.

(VTIPL's website includes Donna's reflection in its entirety. Please feel free to share your thoughts or to continue the conversation by sending her an [email.](#))



Sanibel Island. 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!



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