



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



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts.

November is Native American Heritage Month

- COP27: Loss & Damage Deal Struck, National IPL with Faith Community in Egypt & Post-COP27 IPL Webinar
- VTIPL Help for Congregations: Green Teams & Speakers Bureau
- IPL's Cool Congregations Challenge - a Chance to Win \$1000
- Americans Unaware of Scientific Near-Consensus on Climate Change
- The Passing of Ecological Economics Pioneer Herman Daly
- Schumacher Center Lecture Features Kate Raworth & Recording
- VPIRG's Keep Vermont Cool Climate Action & Advocacy Tour
- Register for VECAN Annual Conference Starting Dec. 10
- Giving Tuesday – Give to Creation
- Native American Heritage Month – Abenaki & PBS Film Resources including *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry it On* tonight

Thank you for voting with climate in mind in the recent mid-term elections!

COP27: Loss & Damage Deal Struck, IPL with Faith Community in Egypt

You have likely read a great deal about COP27, this year's United Nations Climate Conference in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, in recent weeks. The big news is that wealthy countries agreed - in sessions that ran over the projected end of the conference - to pay for the loss and damage suffered by poorer nations due to the climate crisis to which these nations have contributed little. A *New York Times* article of 11/20/2022 stated, "The decision regarding payments for climate damage marked a breakthrough on one of the most contentious issues at United Nations climate negotiations." Read more in the [NYT Article](#).



Our national Interfaith Power & Light organization had a strong presence at COP27. At the annual conference intended to review worldwide progress on climate change, the faith community spoke in sessions, held prayer circles, and questioned commitments of the U.S. government. IPL hosted *Faith Communities Leading on Climate*, and posted daily blogs about general activity at COP27 and the faith perspective at the gathering. In this video, national IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot shared some final thoughts as COP27 wound down. [Rev. Hendershot at COP27](#).

Please join IPL for a **webinar on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. ET** for a wrap up of COP27, to learn about the accomplishments of the faith community and highlights of the international conference. [Register for Webinar](#).

VTIPL Help for Congregations: Green Teams & Speakers Bureau

Green Teams

As one of our renewed areas of organizational focus, VTIPL is encouraging congregations to begin a care for creation committee, climate justice committee or green team to focus on the congregation's efforts and possibilities, or to have a wider community focus. Or both! These teams provide resources to "green" their congregation's worship, education, property care, and advocacy. The groups can also help mobilize congregations for more effectively addressing climate change, environmental degradation, climate justice, and more. VTIPL can assist congregations in creating these teams/committees based on excellent models and resources from such organizations as Green Faith, Faith in Place, Earth Ministry, Lutherans Restoring Creation, and national Interfaith Power & Light. Workshops or Zoom meetings with your congregation are also possible. Read more on our website including some favorite [resources](#). Contact us for more [information](#).

Sermons & Workshops

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light's interfaith board members and coordinator are available to give sermons, talks, and workshops on several topics, including water stewardship, best practices for mitigating climate change, establishing a congregational Green Team, Christianity and Environmental Care, Judaism and Environmental Care, Eco-Justice, eco-spirituality, science and religion, sustainability, climate justice, and more. You do not need to be a member of VTIPL to take advantage of this offer, but, of course, membership is encouraged. A nominal honorarium is requested but is not a requirement. Contact VTIPL Coordinator Donna Roberts with [specific requests](#). Learn more on [our website](#).



IPL's Cool Congregations

Challenge - a Chance to Win \$1000

The Cool Congregations Challenge is IPL's annual national contest to

recognize "Cool Congregations" that are becoming energy efficient and sustainable role models within their communities. There are six entry categories: Energy Saver; Renewable Role Model; Sacred Grounds; Community Inspiration; Cool Congregations Planner; and Electric Vehicle Leader. Three runner ups in each category will receive \$500, with \$25 Lowe's gift certificates going to the first 50 qualified entries. Projects can take place inside the worship space or other buildings, on the grounds, in congregants' homes, or in the community. Due to COVID, the timeframe for eligibility in the

Challenge includes projects completed in 2020, 2021, and 2022. The deadline is December 15. Download your entry guide which includes all of the details, a flyer to get your green team excited about entering, inspirational stories of past winners, and links to the entry form. Access the form on [VTIPL's website](#).

Americans Unaware of Scientific Near-Consensus on Climate Change

According to the respected Yale Program on Climate Change Communications, only 20% of Americans “understand that nearly all climate scientists (more than 90%) are convinced that human-caused global warming is happening.” Meanwhile, 67% say they “rarely” or “never” discuss the issue with their family and friends. Only 20% say they hear people they know talk about it at least once a month. The conclusion: climate change is a low priority for most Americans. What can we do? Talk about it! Why not make this the year you when you start a conversation about climate at the Thanksgiving dinner table? A recent opinion piece in *The Hill* refers to informing the public about climate change as a communications failure. "Of course, much of this public ignorance and confusion is due to decades of fossil fuel industry propaganda. But the environmental advocacy organizations, their funders and the Obama and Biden White House share some of the blame: They have never mounted a campaign at scale to get the truth to the public." [The Hill article](#). Access [Yale report](#).



The Passing of Ecological Economics Pioneer Herman Daly

We acknowledge the recent passing of Herman Daly, at 84, a pioneer in designing economic models that integrate ecological and societal well being. A recent UVM Gund panel was part of an international webinar

honoring Daly. The event explored how to sustain Daly’s approaches to economics “for a planet brimming with peril and potential”. The panel featured Gund Fellows Jon Erickson (keynote speaker during VTIPL’s Spring Conference), Joshua Farley, and Rigo Melgar, along with leading ecological economists Kate Raworth, Juliet Schor, and Peter Victor.



Schumacher Center Lecture with Kate Raworth & Recording

Planetary Economics: New Tools for Local Transformation with Kate Raworth; Challenging Old Economics in Classrooms.

Visionary ecological economist and author Kate Raworth presented the 42nd Annual Schumacher Lecture recently. "As an Oxford University Lecturer, Kate focuses on making economics fit for the twenty-first century. College students...have grown increasingly skeptical of standard economics textbooks. She calls the typical market-centered introduction to economics via supply and demand 'a very political act', rendering ecological and social harms as mere 'externalities.' Raworth credits the work of the late Herman Daly, author of *Steady State Economics*, as a more sane starting-point."

[Recording of lecture.](#)

VPIRG's Keep Vermont Cool Climate Action & Advocacy Tour

VTIPL was thrilled that so many pro-climate Vermont politicians were elected during the

recent midterms.

Over the next several weeks, VPIRG's Keep Vermont Cool team, legislators, partners and special guests will travel across Vermont for a *Climate Action and Advocacy Tour*! Each event will include a brief election recap and climate update, advocacy training, meet and greet with legislators and partners, music, food, and more. This is a chance to connect with other Vermonters who care about climate action. See the [Tour schedule.](#)



Register for VECAN Annual Conference Starting Dec.10

The 15th Annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network Conference starts December 10, and is again free and open to all. The six-day online event starts Saturday, December 10, then resumes Monday, December 12, and runs

through Friday, December 16. VECAN reminds us that in Vermont and globally, we continue to fall behind in accelerating the equitable transformation required to avoid the worst consequences of a warming world. This year's conference will help ground participants in opportunities Vermonters can take to help to cut costs and carbon while building an equitable clean energy transition. [Register.](#)

Giving Tuesday - Give to Creation

While VT IPL always appreciates your gifts, our Earth needs a lot of help right now. Instead of consuming more this week and next, the busiest shopping period of the year, consider how you might walk a bit more lightly on the planet. To mark Giving Tuesday next week, why not give something to help Creation heal? Walk instead of drive if you can. Volunteer for a cause you care about. Contribute to an organization that plants trees or to Abenaki Helping Abenaki featured in the following article. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day to encourage people to do good. There's much that we can do and BE for our sacred Earth.

November is Native American Heritage Month

Abenaki Helping Abenaki

VT IPL acknowledges the historic and ongoing contributions of indigenous peoples in Vermont and across the world to safeguard and live in reciprocal relationships with Earth and all creatures. We can all learn a great deal from these ways. As VT IPL has often collaborated with Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation, we offer some information and links to the Tribe and their non-profit organization.

"The mission of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation is to strengthen our government; to build our community, and ensure sustainability;

to protect our customs and traditions; and to continue to promote our culture and celebrate our heritage while sharing it with those around us. The Nulhegan Abenaki tribe is nestled among the lakes, rivers, and forests of N'dakinna's northern range and headquartered in the Northeast Kingdom at Barton, VT. We are one of the largest Abenaki Tribes still in existence today."

[Learn more about the Abenaki.](#)

We also highlight Abenaki Helping Abenaki (AHA), a non-profit organization with the mission of "preserving the culture, community awareness, charitable endeavors, and outreach of the 'Nulhegan Band'. AHA provides educational resources to meet the unique educational and culturally-related academic needs of the Nulhegan Band and other Native American students. AHA also supplies community members with healthy food and necessary essentials in times of need. AHA is committed to educating Nulhegan Band citizens and other Native Americans on traditional, organic, agriculture and sustainable living." [Learn about and give to Abenaki Helping Abenaki](#)



PBS Programs & Native American Heritage Month

PBS offers a number of wonderful programs in honor of Native American Heritage Month. **Tonight, November 22**, the PBS series, *American Masters*, features a documentary about Oscar-winning indigenous artist, musician, social activist, and

educator, *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*.

[Watch trailer here.](#)

According to PBS, "We celebrate by listening and learning to Indigenous and native voices from across the continent. You can learn more about the diverse experiences of Native Americans and Alaska Natives with this collection of documentaries." [Access PBS collection & stream films here.](#)

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

Happy Thanksgiving!



Photo courtesy Gerald Lee Hoffman

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