



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



*Sacred Centerpiece at VTIPL Equinox Event*

## Green Mountains, Blue Water

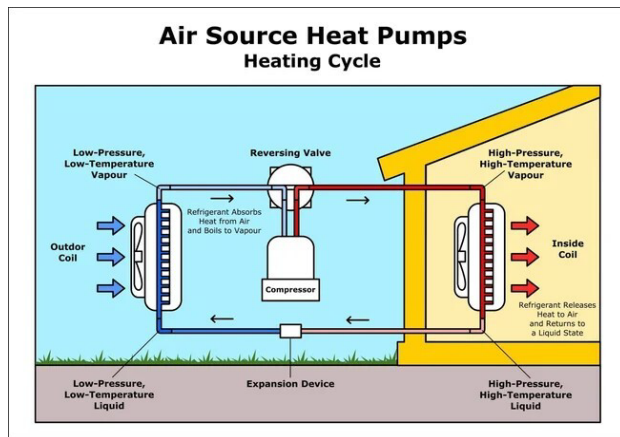
- VTIPL Heat Pumps for Faith Communities Virtual Event, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
- TODAY Holy Heat Pumps! National IPL Webinar, October 25, 1 p.m.
- Climate Concert at Dorset Church to Benefit VTIPL, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.
- VTIPL Equinox Event at Rock Point - a Review
- Religious Leaders May be Key to Breaking Climate Action Gridlock
- Pre-COP28 National IPL Webinar, November 14, 4 p.m.

- Roadblocks to Renewable Energy in Vermont - REV

- Ongoing - Creation Care, Green Teams & EcoSpirituality Meetings

### ***A Message from Vermont Interfaith Power & Light on the Devastating Situation in the Middle East***

Our hearts are breaking as we witness the suffering and loss of human life in Israel and in Gaza. We pray that a ceasefire is called, humanitarian aid delivered, and a two-state pathway created with the U.S. as a broker. There can be no sustainability or solutions to the climate crisis without peace and justice for all of Creation.



### ***-VTIPL's Heat Pumps for Faith Communities Virtual Event, Thurs., Nov. 2, 7 p.m.***

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light is pleased to invite everyone to a webinar, *Heat Pumps for Faith Communities*. Webinar facilitator VTIPL President Ron McGarvey, an energy expert himself, asks: Have you ever wondered

*Photo by Donna C. Roberts*

- how heat pumps work?
- how can they get heat from cold Vermont air?
- if we can use heat pumps to replace current fossil fuel heating systems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- about the experience of VT faith communities that have installed heat pumps?

These are some of the questions to be addressed in this webinar aiming to help faith community members, and anyone, become more familiar with heat pump technology, how it might apply to their buildings, and learn about financial incentives for installing heat pumps. You will also hear experiences and lessons learned from experts and members of Vermont faith communities which have installed heat pumps.

Presenters include:

**Phil Bickel**, Program Manager, Efficiency Vermont, an expert on heat pump technology and financial incentives;

**Ellen Maloney**, Chair of the Green Team at the United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, and Chair of Dorset Town Energy Committee. The Dorset Church is an early adopter of heat pumps for their building;

**Jon Davis**, Team Member of the Building Hope for the Earth Project at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro. St. Michael's is undertaking a major project to enable their church to achieve Net-Zero energy use, and is currently installing heat pumps for the sanctuary and rectory; and **Andy Kelley**, Project Manager, Fellowship Hall Energy Project, at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Hartland which installed heat pumps to replace its oil-fired furnace.

Register for the webinar and bring your questions about using heat pumps to heat and cool your buildings while reducing your congregation's carbon footprint. The webinar is free but donations to VT IPL are greatly appreciated; see the Donate link below. [Register for Webinar.](#)



*View from Rock Point.*

### **TODAY! 1 p.m. Holy Heat Pumps! National IPL Webinar, October 25.**

Join National Interfaith Power & Light to learn how to finance heat pumps at your congregation using federal funds to lower the costs. How we cool and heat our buildings is a significant part of how we address the climate crisis. When it comes to Heating,

Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, heat pumps are a crucially important technology in the transition away from fossil fuels. The webinar will explain how heat pumps work and how to lower the costs for installation at your congregations with the new government funds available to congregations. Panelists include Colby May and Jim Brown from Energy for Purpose to explain the types of heat pumps and their applications in various settings, John Agan, a policy analyst from the Department of Energy to provide updates on federal funding for both types of heat pumps, as well as certified zero-emissions Cool Congregations' member Jim Fritz at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa, will share how they installed air-source and ground-source heat pumps that together with their solar, help them achieve zero emissions. [Register for IPL Webinar.](#)

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*pianist David Fuerzeig*

**-Climate Concert at Dorset Church to Benefit VTIPL, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.**

We are thrilled that the *Play Every Town-252 Concerts for a Cooler Climate* featuring pianist David Fuerzeig on Saturday, November 4, at United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, will benefit Vermont Interfaith Power & Light. In this very

meaningful tour, Fuerzeig aims to play concerts in 252 communities throughout the state to raise awareness about climate change. In this concert, the Dorset Church Choir and Tom Salmon will join Fuerzeig. The Dorset Church has an impressive commitment to lessening its carbon footprint and mitigating the climate crisis. Admission to the concert is free, but donations will be collected for VTIPL to support our work. The Dorset Church is located at **143 Church St. in Dorset, VT**. For more information, please call 802.867-2260 or [Email Dorset Church](#).



*Little Eagle Bay during Equinox Event*

**VTIPL's Finding Balance in Times of Darkness: An Equinox Lament and Celebration of Earth\_\_ a Review**

Some 30 friends came together on a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Rock Point for VTIPL's *Finding Balance in Times of Darkness: An Equinox Lament and Celebration of Earth*. We're pleased to share some photos from that lovely September 23.





*VTIPL Vice-Pres. Pr. Nancy Wright presenting at Rock Point*

We are grateful to everyone who took time out of their busy lives to simply BE together in community, to contemplate, honor and share our griefs for all that is being and has been lost in the climate crisis, along with our hopes and intentions for creating a better world. VTIPL thanks Rock Point for hosting us at its magnificent site among the great trees and on the shores of Lake Champlain so that we could truly immerse in nature.



*l. to r. Donna Roberts, Rev. Dick Hibbert, Prof. Rebecca Gould, Pr. Nancy Wright*

We are profoundly grateful to VTIPL Board Member and Middlebury College Professor Rebecca Kneale Gould for her leadership of our Event Planning Committee during the many months meeting to envision, conceive, and organize the Equinox event. Many thanks to VTIPL Board members Rev. Dick Hibbert and Vice-Pres. Pr. Nancy Wright for giving their time and energy to serve on the Committee,

as well as Coordinator Donna Roberts. One of the most wonderful moments was when VTIPL Board member Sister Laurian Seeber, pictured below, pondered aloud whether trees might actually be angels....



*VTIPL's Rev. Dick Hibbert & Ruah Swennerfelt.*

We look forward to gathering with you in the future in-person to share time again in the glorious natural world. We are so blessed in Vermont to have such abundance. May we continue to care for and appreciate these gifts. See our website for more [Event Photos](#).



Sr. Laurian Seeber, VTIPL Board member.



Pope Francis. Photo credit: Franco Origlia/Getty Images

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### **-Religious Leaders May Be Key to Breaking Climate Action Gridlock**

By Kristoffer Tigue, October 6, 2023 (from *Inside Climate News*)

"Religious beliefs may play an important role in whether someone believes humans are warming the planet by burning fossil fuels, new polls found.

The findings come as Pope

Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church, released his latest papal letter, rebuking the 'irresponsible lifestyle' of Westerners and chastising those who try to delay efforts to address the climate crisis or deny its very existence. Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident,' Francis wrote in his exhortation, urging world leaders to do far more to address global warming ahead of the COP28 climate talks next month. 'No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest.'" [Read full article.](#)

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**-Pre-COP28 National IPL Webinar  
November 14, 4 p.m.**

As we approach the pivotal gathering of world leaders at COP28, the United Nation's international climate conference in Dubai, many of us will have questions about the gathering and

what we hope can be accomplished. VTIPL and National Interfaith Power & Light want to provide insights and knowledge to help you understand the critical discussions and actions surrounding the global challenge of climate change and how we can take action. Join IPL to learn more about COP28, the role of the faith voice, and what you can do to support this work from home.

[Register for Webinar.](#) We're also happy to share [COP28 Resources.](#)

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**-Roadblocks to Renewable Energy in Vermont**

Thanks to Renewable Energy Vermont for sharing the following with our readers. To meet Vermont's legally binding commitments under our State's Global Warming Solutions Act, "we must electrify the transportation and thermal sectors. This will create new electricity demand which must be met with electricity from new renewable sources. Without this, we will not be doing enough to reduce our total greenhouse gas emissions. Despite that, Vermont today ranks 48th nationally in the share of its electricity consumption that is generated within the state. Solar installations are lagging in Vermont while growing nationwide. Over the last half-decade, REV members have faced an increasingly adversarial approach from the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) towards renewable development. As a result, the permitting process has become less predictable, more time-consuming, and costlier without any discernable public benefit.

REV members fully support a permitting process for renewable energy projects that protects the public interest and our natural resources. But the current process is failing Vermonters." [Full REV Report.](#)

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**Ongoing Gatherings for Creation Care & EcoSpirituality**

Join those who have Green Teams or want to create one, and who foster Creation Care. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, VTIPL's Vice-president, leads these meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Drop ins welcome! To receive the link, write Pr. Nancy with "Creation Care

Zoom Meeting" in subject line. [Email.](#)



## Connecting with Spirit in Nature

EcoSpirituality gatherings meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. These virtual gatherings focus on EcoSpirituality as a way to stay connected with those who value a spirituality grounded in appreciation of the natural world. For a link to join, please send Pr. Nancy an [email](#).

Offerings are co-sponsored by VT IPL and the Green Team of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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*Thank you for supporting Vermont Interfaith Power & Light. We are grateful to collaborate with you on behalf of the human community and all of Creation.*



[Donate Now](#)

