



Faith Climate Action Day Press Conference (Photo courtesy Erika Faulkner)

Green Mountains, Blue Water

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Singing & Marching to the Statehouse (Photo courtesy Erika Faulkner)

Faith Climate Action Day

On February 28, 2024, VT IPL, along with our partner organizations Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA, which has recently identified climate as a priority issue for the organization), Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), and Vermont Conservation Voters, held a Faith Climate Action Day of activities at the Statehouse in Montpelier. The day began with a briefing for participants on effective lobbying

and our legislative priorities. We practiced singing "For Beauty of Meadows," which we sang as a group as we marched up to the statehouse. There we had a press conference. Then, we broke into smaller groups to meet with Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, and Senate Pro Tem Phil Baruth. Visit our [website](#) for more images and even some videos.



At the Statehouse (Photo courtesy Erika Faulkner)



VTIPL Members meet with Senate Pro Tem Phil Baruth

Flood Safety Act (S213)

On Faith Climate Action Day, a group of VTIPL members met with Senate Pro Tempore Philip Baruth. During our conversation he asked us to do all we can to facilitate the passage of S. 213 described below.

So, tell your Senator(s): Last week, the Flood Safety Act (S.213), was unanimously voted out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy, and the bill could be headed for a full Senate vote before Town Meeting Day week.

S.213 would take important steps toward safeguarding Vermont's communities

from climate-induced flooding through protections of our wetlands and river corridors, and improvements to dam safety. Here is an article by VT Digger's Emma Cotton.

MONTPELIER — Last July, as the skies pelted Vermont with record amounts of rain, rivers across the state grew in volume and velocity, ripping through backyards and downtowns. The floods damaged at least 4,000 homes and 800 businesses, and caused \$200 million in damage to public infrastructure. Seven months later, some residents are still displaced.

Under the golden dome, state lawmakers have spent much of the session considering how government policies might reduce the harm that future natural disasters cause to residents.

In the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, they're looking to redesign the system that governs how and where people can construct developments near rivers that could flood during extreme rain events. This week, the committee voted 5-0 in support of S.213, a bill that would require a state permit to build in river corridors — the river and surrounding land where water could meander during high flow times — starting in 2028. The bill,

which already faces opposition from Gov. Phil Scott, must pass through the Senate's money committees before the full chamber takes a vote.

Right now, regulations vary widely from one municipality to the ext. A major goal of the bill is to transfer responsibility for regulating development in river corridors from municipalities to the state, which can look at river systems and watersheds more holistically.

The legislation would also make smajor changes to the way the state regulates wetlands and dams. It would require the state to manage for a net gain of wetland acreage, and it would install measures to improve dam safety, such as strengthening oversight and setting up funding mechanisms for emergency and nonemergency dam maintenance and removal.

"The state is in a unique position to be able to look upstream and downstream through a whole watershed and develop a coherent, strategic way of addressing that watershed," said Sen. Chris Bray, D-Middlebury, who chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. "And so that's why we're proposing that the state take a more active leadership role in managing river corridors."

Emma Cotton
VT Digger 2/29/24

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light Seeks Coordinator

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Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL), [website](#), is a non-profit that provides a religious response to our climate crisis. Working with faith and spiritual communities throughout Vermont, VTIPL provides education, advocacy and financial assistance to help these communities reduce their carbon emissions.

VTIPL has an opening for a Coordinator. This is a part-time (12-15 hours per week), remote-work position at \$20-\$22 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience..

Go to our [website](#) for Desired qualifications and a complete job description
For questions or to apply, email info@vtipl.org



Solar Direct Pay 101: Federal Funding for Houses of Worship

Thursday, March 21, 12pm-1pm ET
on Zoom

[Register Here](#)

Join this webinar webinar about Direct Pay funding available for solar on buildings in the United States owned by non-profit organizations through the Inflation Reduction Act. You'll learn about program eligibility and criteria, questions to consider if this program is right for your house of worship and learn about the process of requesting payment from a congregation member who has done it!

[Register here:](#)

A Request from Montana Interfaith Power and Light

Montana Interfaith Power and Light requests your support by signing onto an amicus curiae in support of the 16 young Plaintiffs in the Held v. State of Montana case. The State of Montana has moved forward to appeal last August's ruling. We hope to have a full draft of the brief later this week, but have included a similar brief from the Juliana v. U.S. for you to view and get an idea of what might be included in the brief.



Please see the forwarded email below with more information about the case and resources. We have an organization sign-on form you can access here:

[Sign-in Form](#)

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I'm happy to share the draft of the brief to those wishing to view it before committing. Just let me know.

We hope many of your affiliates and National will help support these wonderful youth as they continue their fight for a clean and healthy environment for present and future generations.

Blessings,
Caleb Koebble



Climate Reality Leadership Training

**LEARN WHAT A
CLIMATE-CHANGED
FUTURE MEANS FOR
YOU**

You know climate change threatens our planet and our future. Now learn what you can do.

This spring, join former Vice President Al Gore and an all-star lineup of thought leaders, experts, and organizers in New York City for a Climate Reality Leadership

training exploring the climate crisis today and the road to a sustainable tomorrow.

Join us in New York for incredible conversations, skill sessions, and networking opportunities. You'll learn what climate change means for you and get the know-how and tools to make a real difference.

You'll also join a global community of nearly 50,000 Climate Reality Leaders, with chapters driving change across the US.

The training is free to attend. American Sign Language interpreting services will be provided and Spanish simultaneous interpretation will be available for some sessions. Habrá interpretación simultánea en español en algunas sesiones.

[Apply Now](#)

PARTNERS

broadway green alliance
center for climate integrity
Center for Coalfield Justice
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grid alternatives
ICLEI
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green faith
ohio river valley institute
Resilient Schools and Communities
Rewiring America
Yellow Dot Studios
The Wild Center
El Puente

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Young people interested in joining the climate movement or taking their skills to the next level.

Grassroots activists and community leaders looking to broaden their networks and deepen their impact.

Business leaders looking to understand challenges for their sector and embrace clean energy and real sustainability at their companies.

Local and state government officials and civil servants building resilient communities and clean energy economies.

Faith leaders connecting their beliefs and climate action.

Individuals ready to make a difference on climate.

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM ATTENDING?

A deeper understanding of the climate crisis and the solutions in our hands today.

Critical communications and advocacy skills to drive change.

The opportunity to drive policy change at local, state, and national levels.

A wide network of like-minded advocates from across sectors.

Opportunities to make a difference through Climate Reality campaigns and community chapters across the US.

An introduction to critical climate legislation in 2024 and how you can support key measures.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you a member of a frontline community, grassroots organization, or just a person concerned about the climate crisis? Are you located in the Northeast or Mid-Atlantic United States? Are you concerned you may not have the financial means to attend our training? If your answer to all of these questions is “yes,” please click here for more information about our scholarship program.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply Now](#)

Click here to download a
[One-Page Informational flyer](#)

“Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth” (from the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology)

After many years of collaboration among leading Islamic eco-theologians, scholars, and environmental practitioners from around the world, the United Nations Environment Assembly witnessed the unveiling of “Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth” on February 27. Translating into “balance” in English, Al-Mizan presents a comprehensive Islamic outlook on environmental moral responsibility and urges collective action to combat biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and planetary well-being. This landmark document’s development was led by the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences, endorsed by the Muslim Council of Elders and reviewed by more than 300 Islamic and international organizations, also outlines a path toward a more sustainable future guided by values of compassion, justice, and interconnectedness. We at the “Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth” honor the efforts of our partners at UNEP Faith for Earth in facilitating this historic collaboration, especially Iyad Abumoghli. We

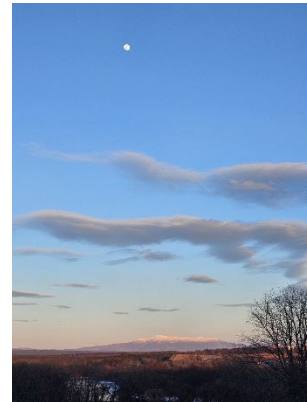


Photo courtesy Richard Hibbert

highlight in particular the significant contributions of our Forum Advisors, Fazlun Khalid, Ibrahim Ozdemir, and Fachruddin Majeri Mangunjaya.

Read this historic document and explore the [Al-Mizan website](#)

Learn about Al-Mizan from the perspective of Interfaith ecocide law [here](#)

See also: [“Muslims told: Work to save the planet. The Quran tells us so”](#)



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.



Photo courtesy Richard Hibbert

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