



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

Green Mountains, Blue Water



Photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

In This Issue:

- A Letter to Our Readers
- Vermont Voter Registration & Resources
- Faith Votes Resources from National IPL
- "Vote Faithfully" Election Engagement Toolkit
- VT IPL in the News!
- Anchoring in Sacred Place
- Lunch Break Book Club
- Join Our Board of Directors
- Apply for a Climate Action Grant

A Letter to Our Readers

As yellows, oranges, and reds find their way to the tips of tree branches here in Vermont, the upcoming election is on many people's hearts and minds. It feels as though much that is precious hangs in the balance. As a faith-based, non-partisan organization, **we stand for the values of a healthy planet and a sustainable future**, rather than specific candidates. We are spiritual leaders, environmental activists, and community members **guided by the moral imperative to act on behalf of our sacred Earth and Creation**, especially in this time of environmental degradation and worsening climate crisis. Over the next month, we're dedicating many of our efforts and outreach to offering ways of advocating and engaging those values. **We've created a new**

page on our website to share election and voting resources and materials. You can visit that page [here](#).

We invite you to join us this election season in our work of being in service to a healthy, habitable, and sustainable future—for Vermont and for the Earth.

Vermont Voter Registration & Resources

Visit the Vermont Secretary of State's website for information on voter registration, voter resources, accessible voting, and early / absentee voting.

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/>

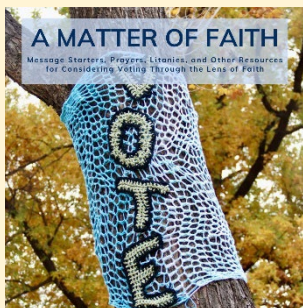


Photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

Voting Resources for Faith Communities from National IPL

"Help the people in your congregation and your life get ready to vote – and be informed about their entire ballot. They can get the trustworthy, nonpartisan information they need from IPL and BallotReady, who have partnered to provide everything on your ballot – in one place!" -- National IPL

Check out more resources and materials on IPL's [Faith Votes Campaign](#) website.



IPL's "Voting: A Matter of Faith"

Message Starters, Prayers, Litanies, and Other Resources for Considering Voting Through the Lens of Faith

"Whether you use it at a kitchen table, in a faith community, at a community forum, or at an event with political candidates, we hope it helps you reflect on what your faith tells you about

civic engagement and navigate the urgent, faith-centered responses that this election season inspires in your community."

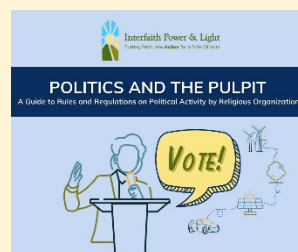
You can download the PDF [here](#).

IPL's "Politics and the Pulpit"

A Guide to Rules and Regulations on Political Activity by Religious Organizations

"As we prepare for another important election season, we want to ensure that faith communities across the country have the information they need to conduct election-related activities within the bounds of federal rules and regulations."

You can download the PDF [here](#).





"Vote Faithfully" Election Engagement Toolkit

from the Episcopal Church

From the toolkit: "Participating in our country's political life isn't just about casting our own vote – it requires working together so we can all vote and vote faithfully. There are many ways to get involved – from participating ourselves to supporting others in our congregations and communities...We can all play a role in getting "souls to the polls!"

Check out more offerings [on their website.](#)



Photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

VTIPL in the News!

We were thrilled to be featured in an article by reporter Kate Kampner which you can read in VT Digger!

"To Vermont faith groups, 'climate crisis is a spiritual crisis'"

"[VTIPL] works with close to 90 congregations and religious organizations in Vermont and funds climate change protection and education for many of them. It can help churches pay for weatherization, heat pumps and other equipment, and in 2023 the organization gave more than 200 free energy assessments statewide."

"Faith communities in Vermont are respected voices," Board President Ron McGarvey said. "They do their best to enact moral responsibility."

Read more [here](#).



Photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

Anchoring in Sacred Place: Harnessing our Love of Creation toward Action and Advocacy

One of our favorite things to do at VT IPL is to engage with our member congregations. We recently spoke to congregants at All Souls Interfaith Gathering about how Vermont Interfaith Power & Light works from a foundation of caring for the Earth as sacred in order to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. We had a great conversation about how communities can envision a stable climate, support each other to live in right and just relationship, and stay interconnected with a healthy, thriving, natural world.

[Visit our website](#) to learn about opportunities to engage your congregation!

Lunch Break Book Club!

Join VT IPL Coordinator and author, Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder, for our new **virtual book club!** Every quarter, we'll read and discuss a book about faith and ecology, exploring together the sacred work of caring for creation from different perspectives.



We'll begin with the book *Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crises through the Lens of Faith*, by Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener. We'll meet over Zoom from 12:00-1:00 pm ET on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays of October.

Please email chelsea@vtipl.org to sign up or for more information!

Join VTIPL's Board of Directors!

Join a dedicated team of creative thinkers, spiritual leaders, and climate advocates in caring for the Earth.

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL) offers a faith-based response to global climate change. With the support of more than 75 faith communities across the state, we seek to build a more sustainable future for Vermont and for the Earth as a whole.

We're excited to announce several openings on our Board of Directors! If you have a passion for affecting climate change, and a religious or spiritual connection to Earth stewardship, we'd love to speak with you.

Our board consists of active and dedicated community members who work to empower environmental advocacy, educate faith communities about caring for creation, and take action to ensure the health and well-being of our human and natural communities.

If you would like to learn more, please email Board President Ron McGarvey at rmcgar864@aol.com.



Apply to our Climate Action Grant Program!

Faith communities seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and reducing their carbon emissions are invited to explore VTIPL's Climate Action

Grant program. More information can be found [on our website](#).

If you would like to receive a **print copy of our newsletter** in the mail, please contact chelsea@vtipl.org.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for our **Volunteer Task Force**, please email chelsea@vtipl.org

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](#)



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