2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Year In Review
Message from our
PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of IPL,

With this annual report, we celebrate you and your commitment to climate and environmental justice! Because of your support, Interfaith Power & Light is the leading and largest interfaith environmental organization in the United States, with a network of 40 state and regional affiliates around the country.

People of faith and conscience play a pivotal role in taking action on the climate crisis. Our motivation comes from our spiritual values and our sacred calling to care for the earth and to stand with our most vulnerable neighbors wherever they may reside. We know that true change involves both personal and societal transformation. That’s why IPL provides both tools for reducing energy use and advocacy opportunities for lasting policy change.

With the passing of the most impactful piece of federal climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act, in 2022, IPL turned its attention to ways that we can support faith communities in accessing the federal funds being released to reduce their carbon pollution in their places of worship. Thousands of individuals have taken advantage of the webinars and resources we developed in order to assist faiths in “walking the talk” on climate solutions.

Even with the passage of the IRA and other pieces of federal legislation, we know there is much more to do if we are to limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius over preindustrial levels, as set forth by the Paris Climate Agreement. The EPA has been busy finalizing rules for light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, methane pollution, soot protection, and fossil fuel power plants, among others. IPL and our supporters have been there every step of the way, supporting the strongest possible standards for all of these safeguards.

As we look to 2024 and the work ahead of us, IPL will once again mobilize thousands of voters through our Faith Votes campaign, urging people of faith and conscience to vote their values on climate justice. This effort builds on the work in 2020 and 2022, of which you were an essential part. Your prayers, your actions, your advocacy, and your financial support make all the difference.

Thank you for all you do as part of the IPL community of supporters. By working together, our actions will transform the world.

With gratitude,

Rev. Susan Hendershot | President
Melissa Gavin | Board Chair

The IPL Board of Directors expresses gratitude to outgoing Board member, Nathan Willcox for his leadership and fundraising counsel, and his years of service and dedication to IPL.
In 2023, as EPA was updating its soot pollution standard, we mobilized people of faith to advocate for the strongest soot pollution limits possible to protect our communities and our neighbors. IPL, United Women in Faith, and Sisters of Mercy delivered a joint letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging the agency to strengthen its current proposal to limit soot pollution. The letter was signed by more than 700 faith leaders from 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Copies of the letter were delivered in person to EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and to regional EPA offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by PA IPL and GIPL.

"It is the moral responsibility of our nation, and our sacred trust as people of faith, to protect our ecosystems, advance environmental justice and public health, and address the climate crisis," the faith leaders wrote. "Our faith traditions compel us to care for our neighbors and prioritize the needs of those who are most vulnerable among us. For this reason, we call on the Environmental Protection Agency to set the strongest science-based soot pollution standard possible.”

Clean Transportation

In April, leaders from Interfaith Power & Light delivered a letter to Toyota’s US headquarters signed by more than 1,500 people concerned about Toyota’s history of anti-climate lobbying and the company’s failure to meaningfully invest in electric vehicles.

"There is a moral imperative to rapidly bring zero-emissions vehicles to market, and while much of the industry is finally making the transition away from gas-powered cars, Toyota refuses. We are here calling on Toyota to change," said Reverend Susan Hendeshot, President of Interfaith Power & Light.

In June, Interfaith Power & Light delivered two letters from more than 400 faith leaders and clergy across the country calling on President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan to establish the strongest possible light—and heavy-duty vehicle standards. These new standards, which have now been announced, will deliver massive emission reductions and life-saving relief to communities across the country.

Clean Transportation Organizer Ileagh MacIvers also held several webinars to help empower our supporters with knowledge about electric vehicle adoption, changing implementation, and too credits.

Methane Pollution Wins

Throughout 2023, IPL organized people of faith and conscience to support strong rules addressing methane pollution. The EPA’s final rules, which require industry to leak and limit flaring on methane operations, were released in December. People of faith, particularly in major oil and gas producing states like New Mexico, Texas, and Pennsylvania, have worked for years to protect those on the frontlines of oil and gas operations.

The EPA will finally regulate the existing older oil and gas infrastructure that contributes to the majority of methane pollution. The EPA estimates that the long-awaited rules will prevent 58 million tons of methane emissions between 2024 and 2038—equivalent to taking 28 million cars off the road every year.

The EPA methane rules also offer credibility for U.S. efforts toward the 155-country Global Methane Pledge, which commits to cutting global methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. Any win that encourages cooperation among nations is crucial to addressing a global climate crisis.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Cool Congregations

IPL recognizes the 125 congregations that entered IPL’s Cool Congregations Challenge for 2024. Collectively, they prevent 540 tons of carbon emissions annually!

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, MD, won the Renewable Role Model Award for developing a Community Solar project with newly installed solar on the roof of their congregation whose output exceeded their needs, so they’ve been able to provide electricity at reduced rates to a neighboring non-profit housing program and a number of low-income families. The Rev. Adele Crawford, head pastor of Warner, says, "Our faith tells us that we all must do our part to make a more just and sustainable world for generations to come.

Faith Climate Action Week

IPL’s annual 10-day program is creating a movement of people of faith preaching, teaching, and acting to heal the climate.

This year’s theme, “Common Ground: Cultivating Connections between Food, Faith, and Climate” will examine our responsibility to use agricultural practices that safeguard our Sacred Earth and how our faiths call us to respond with just solutions for all.

So good to know we are part of a larger effort to join faith with action on climate change! Thank you!

Susan Zach, Holy Spirit Parish, Stevens Point, WI

Check out the FCAW promo video!

Faith Climate Action Week
APRIL 13-28

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, MD

Photo from Laurel Harding, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, AZ Fans of the Earth, In 2023, they screened the film series "Current Revolution" and hosted a discussion.

"Photo from Laurel Harding, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, AZ"
CIPL 2023

In 2023, California IPL, currently a program of IPL's, began the process to become an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Twenty-two years ago, the IPL national organization was conceived of and grew out of California IPL. IPL national has since expanded to a network of 40 affiliates and a nationally distributed staff. IPL will now return the favor and invest in the next step in CIPL’s organizational evolution and growing our collective impact. IPL’s longtime executive director, Susan Stephenson, will lead the new organization.

COP28

IPL made its mark at COP28, the UN Climate Conference in Dubai, by actively engaging as an observer organization in negotiations and advocating for greater climate ambitions, equity, and justice.

Our delegation met with U.S. negotiators to push for more substantial commitments, and shared insights with the IPL community.

This development will provide a stronger presence and profile for IPL in the largest state in the union and the world’s 5th largest economy. By expanding CIPL’s capacity, we will be able to better leverage California’s uniquely influential environmental policymaking role, such as precedent-setting clean vehicles standards and an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions. We will also be able to expand CIPL’s inspiring new program equipping congregations in the climate-changed world to become solar-storage resiliency hubs.

IPL is incredibly proud of our network of state affiliates, including CIPL. We look forward to its next steps and witnessing its bright future.

To support CIPL, make your check payable to California IPL and mail it to 685 14th St., Oakland CA, 94612.

The Faith Pavilion

is supported by a vibrant coalition, encompassing over 50 faith organizations, as well as diverse global partners and supporters.

Our participation underscores the crucial role of faith perspectives in shaping climate solutions. Building on our past engagement, including hosting panels and advocating for policy at past COPs, IPL remains steadfast in holding the U.S. government accountable for its climate promises. Together, we continue to amplify the faith voice at home and on the global stage in the pursuit of a sustainable future.
**Financials**

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In 2023, IPL’s total income was $1,756 million and its total operating budget was $1,320 million. Of this, $1.6 million of operating expenses went to support for state and national programming with $338,250 being granted out to state affiliates, partners and congregations, $338,250 supported the California Interfaith Power & Light program and $1.32 million funded national programs and campaigns. Individual and congregational donations provided 10.6% of total funds raised. We are grateful to all of our donors for their generosity, which made this work possible.

**Staff List**

- Rev. Susan Hendershot, President
- Susan Stephenson, CPl Executive Director
- Annette Barcy, Communications Manager
- Bill Brubaker, National Organizing Director and State Affiliate Liaison
- Mush Baharabak, Chief Strategy and Programs Intern
- Jenny Chang, Chief Advancement Officer
- Rebekah Kakola, Online and Communications Manager
- Keith Kostik, Southern California Director, CPl
- Tiffany Hartung, Chief Strategy Officer
- Mike Kennedy, Faith Votes Campaign Manager
- Irefigh Master, Clean Transportation Organizer
- Madison Myth, Federal Policy Manager
- Broderick McMillan, Programs Manager
- Sarah Paulos, Community Engagement and Programs Director
- Jessica Qureshi, Communications Manager
- Gregory Stevens, Northern California Director, CPl

**Total Expenses**

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Interfaith Power & Light
Putting Faith into Action for a Safe Climate

SUPPORT IPL

Your support – your prayers, actions, advocacy, donations, and planned gifts – sustain the mission of IPL.

You can support any of our state affiliates by designating your gift for our re-grant program. Recurring donors help IPL ensure consistency of work and donations are both secure and convenient.

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linkedin.com/company/interfaith-power-&-light

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100 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20002
Interfaith Power & Light Oakland, CA Office
685 14th St., Oakland, CA 94612

Interfaith Power & Light partners with millions of people of faith and thousands of congregations to address climate change.

Our mission is simple: IPL inspires and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. You can give with confidence!

Make A Legacy Gift

• Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation • Charitable Remainder Trust • Bequest • Charitable Lead Trust • Real Estate Gift
• Stock Transfer • Donor Advised Funds

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