

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light

History and Mission

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light's (OhIPL) mission is to empower a religious response to climate change and to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. OhIPL focuses on tangible results in religious communities—putting faith into action.

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light has its roots in a coalition of Episcopal churches in California aggregated to purchase renewable energy. In 2001, California Interfaith Power and Light was established. The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham, an Episcopal priest, is the founder and President of the Regeneration Project and the Interfaith Power and Light campaign, whose mission is to deepen the connection between ecology and religion and empower communities of faith to respond to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, energy conservation, and use of renewable energy. There are now 40 states with Interfaith Power and Light affiliates.

In 2007, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light began as a project of the Ohio Council of Churches and an affiliate of The Regeneration Project's Interfaith Power & Light campaign. OhIPL was co-founded by Sister Paula Gonzalez and Keith Mills at a meeting during SOLAR 2007 in Cleveland, Ohio. The Ohio Council of Churches is primarily representative of Christian faith communities, with membership exceeding 6000 congregations statewide, however, OhIPL extends beyond the Christian faith community to all of faith including, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Baha'i, and others.

OhIPL provides resources and tools to the faith community including low-cost energy audits, information about utility and local energy efficiency programs and rebates, monthly e-newsletters, public policy action alerts, materials about scientific and faith perspectives on global warming, and educational trainings/webinars.

Green Energy Ohio awarded OhIPL the Non-Profit of the Year Award in 2009. Also in 2009, OhIPL provided "Cool Congregations" workshops at the Green Energy Ohio Regional Workshops, providing hands-on training in energy efficiency for members of faith communities.

Ohio Interfaith Power and Light (OhIPL) is organized around education, advocacy, and stewardship initiatives to engage the faith community in a religious response to climate change.

Education: OhIPL's education goals include a focus on how faith communities can champion, model, and promote clean energy and energy efficiency and be better stewards of God's creation.

Advocacy: OhIPL supports public policies that address climate change, energy efficiency, clean energy, and clean air. OhIPL encourages individuals to respond to action alerts, activities, and updates about public policy initiatives that address climate action.

Stewardship: OhIPL provides Energy Stewardship resources to congregations and individuals to help them reduce their energy usage. Ohio Interfaith Power and Light is reaching out to more congregations throughout Ohio to encourage energy efficiency and energy conservation. With the help of the Energy Stewards online energy use tracking tool and assistance with Energy Audits, Ohio's congregations can more easily improve the stewardship of their budget's energy dollars and of the earth by reducing energy waste and energy costs, while protecting the environment.

The OhIPL Advisory Council and OhIPL Board represent all regions of Ohio. Dr. Greg Hitzhusen, M.Div. is the Chair of the Leadership Team. The OhIPL website is www.ohipl.org.