



Interfaith Power & Light
A Religious Response to Global Warming

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five Congregations Awarded \$1,000 Each For Leadership on Sustainability
Interfaith Power and Light Announces 'Cool Congregations Challenge' Winners as Faith Communities Prioritize Energy Efficiency, Renewables, and Sustainability

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., March, 2019 —Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) is pleased to announce the five inspiring winners of the ***Cool Congregations Challenge***, which is a united effort by religious congregations across the country to address global warming by reducing their carbon footprint, and serve as models of sustainability to their members and communities. Winners were selected from five categories: Cool Planner, Sacred Grounds Steward, Energy Saver, Renewable Role Model, and Community Inspiration. Read more about the winners here <http://bit.ly/CCCWinners>

“These five congregations are casting a vision for the kind of world in which they want to live, and then carrying out that vision with practical actions that make a real difference in creating lasting solutions to climate change,” said Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of Interfaith Power & Light. “The projects that were selected demonstrate that faith communities are living out their calling to care for Creation, while also freeing up resources to invest in their mission and ministries in their communities.”

The Cool Congregations Challenge is an annual contest held by IPL that is open to congregations all over the country, from every faith tradition. Judging criteria included: a well-defined project with measurable benefits for the climate; creativity and resourcefulness in executing the project; congregant engagement in the project; and community inspiration. The faith communities represent many different religious backgrounds, but all share a common mission – to be good stewards of Creation by addressing global warming as a moral imperative. They do this through activities undertaken in their own facilities and on their grounds that reduce their overall carbon footprint.

The ***Cool Congregations Challenge*** shows that people of faith are united by concerns about climate change and are taking action – with or without support of government policies. The winners provide strong moral role models for their communities, and their activities have a ripple effect with people in their own homes. The five \$1,000 top prize-winners are listed below.



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Listed below are the five \$1,000 prize-winners

Community Inspiration

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Medfield, MA
26 North Street, Medfield, MA
<https://www.firstparishmedfield.org/>
Contact: Jeanette Ruyle jrulye23@verizon.net 508-479-0953

Energy Saver

Blessed Sacrament Church
305 E Street, South Charleston, WV
<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/>
Contact: Ted Streit ted@streitfamily.net 304-546-0581

Renewable Role Model

Unitarian Universalist Society
2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville, IA
<https://www.uusic.org/>
Contact: Deb Schoelerman dschoelerman@gmail.com 319-594-2373

Sacred Grounds

Binkley Baptist Church
1712 Willow Dive, Chapel Hill, NC
<http://www.binkleychurch.org/>
Contact: Karin Mills karin_linda@bellsouth.net 919-260-7989

Cool Congregations Planner

Lybrook Community Ministries
HCR 17 Box 1100, Cuba, NM, 87013
<http://www.lcmmission.org/>
Contact: James Therrien lybrookmission@gmail.com 620-330-2381

Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to global warming in congregations through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

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